

**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
1960 - 2000**

Planning Research Section  
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September 2003

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## SUMMARY

The metropolitan Miami area (Miami-Dade County, Florida) is a large and rapidly growing urban place. The Miami area since 1960 has been the destination for large numbers of foreigners, mostly Cubans, other Hispanics and Haitians. Two-thirds of the population growth in Miami-Dade is still attributed to migration. Natural increase has become more important in the past ten years as the volume of net migration has declined somewhat. Births declined by about 7 percent over the decade while deaths increased by about 5 percent. This resulted in a lower rate of natural increase but the level of natural increase for the past decade was much higher than in the previous decades.

The residents of the Miami area can be characterized as highly mobile as most of them moved here from somewhere else. They also continue to move at high rates within the County. Over the years, the area has been a favorite location for people moving from New York, New Jersey, California and Pennsylvania, but many other states have contributed as well. In 2000, 16 percent of those living in Miami-Dade County were originally from another state while 51 percent were foreign born. The latter constituted 43 percent of the foreign born population of the State. But even in 1960, the Miami area had a significant number of foreigners (about 12 percent of the population).

In 1980, the Miami MSA was the only one in the top 50 which had no majority group. Instead, there were three large minorities: non-Hispanic Whites, Hispanics and Blacks. This situation has changed in 2000 as evidenced by the most recent census. Hispanics constitute the largest of the three groups. Miami-Dade County was the first and only county in Florida with a Hispanic majority in 2000. In 1960, only about 5 percent of the population was Hispanic; by 2000, they constituted over 57 percent. In that year, non-Hispanic Whites dropped to 24 percent. From 1960 to 2000, Hispanics accounted for 90 percent of the population growth in Miami-Dade County. The Black share of the population also inched up in this period.

In 2000, the median age in Miami-Dade was up slightly over the past four decades. Miami-Dade's elderly share had grown but between 1990 and 2000 declined. The young adult group, 18-34 years of age, had grown substantially between 1970 and 1990. However, this proportion declined from 27.1 percent in 1990 to 24.1 in 2000.

Miami-Dade Countians have made significant advances in educational attainment. Many more people have completed high school and more have attended and graduated from college than was true in 1960. The relative improvement of Blacks surpassed other groups, although their educational levels still lag somewhat. For the first time, the proportion of Blacks with at least a high school diploma (63 percent) was higher than that of Hispanics (61 percent). However, the proportion of Blacks graduating from college (11 percent) remained lower than the Hispanic rate (18 percent) and lower than the total population (22 percent). Hispanics as a group upgraded their educational attainment in the 1970-1990 period, but showed a loss in 1990-2000 in the proportion of Hispanics with at least a high school diploma.

In line with national trends, Miami-Dade County's population displays some significant changes in marital status and living arrangements. There are more female-headed families and more children living with only one parent. These trends are evident among all major groups, although for Blacks they are more pronounced.

A demographer, viewing Miami-Dade County in 1960 would have been unable to predict the changes which occurred over the subsequent forty years. This was because the changes resulted from external phenomena, which are often unknown, and, if known, are unpredictable. It is difficult to foresee what the Miami area population will be like in the year 2025 and beyond as the area is still open to all of these external factors. Nevertheless, for many types of planning some picture of the future must be formed. Hopefully, this historical overview will help in that process.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
1960 - 2000

I. INTRODUCTION

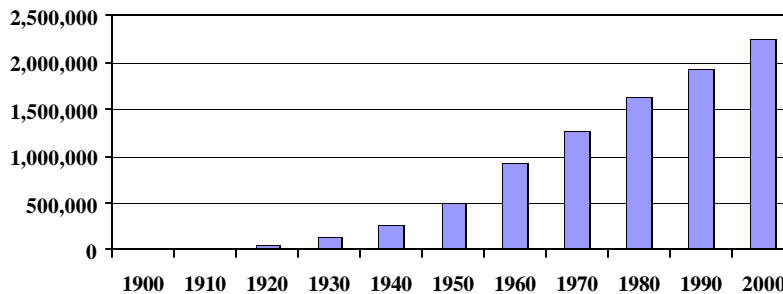
**Miami-Dade County is Florida's largest county**

Census 2000 reported that there were 2,253,352 persons living in Miami-Dade County on April 1, 2000. The County continued to rank as Florida's most populous, a position that it has retained since 1910. It was the eighth largest county in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Its population exceeded that of seventeen states and the District of Columbia.<sup>2</sup>

**The County continues to grow rapidly**

Historically, over its 166 years, the County has grown rapidly with only occasional pauses. From 1910 to 1960, it just about doubled in size every ten years. In the decade of the sixties, the County grew by 35.6 percent (333,000 new residents) to reach a population of 1,268,000 by 1970. Thirty years later, by 2000, the population had just about doubled again. Since 1960, the annual average population growth has exceeded 32,000 persons. This is the equivalent of the entire population of the City of Homestead (31,909 in 2000) moving in each year.

**Figure 1**  
**100 Years of Population Growth**  
**Miami-Dade County, 1900-2000**



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Decennial Census Reports.  
Miami-Dade County Department of Planning & Zoning,  
Research Section, 2002

<sup>1</sup>The largest counties were as follows: Los Angeles, CA; Cook, IL; Harris, TX; Maricopa, AZ; Orange, CA; San Diego, CA; and Kings, NY.

<sup>2</sup> Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

### **Why such rapid growth?**

Was it the availability of air-conditioning? The advent of railroads and expressways? The growth of frequent and affordable flights? The expansion of the economy? All of these had a role to play. In the early years, the growth of Greater Miami and all of South Florida was a result of sustained migration from other parts of the United States. Since 1960, immigration from other countries has played a dominant role in Miami-Dade. Over the past 40 years, net migration into Miami-Dade County has accounted for more than 70 percent of its population growth. The balance was accounted for by natural increase, the excess of births over deaths, in the resident population.

## **II. COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE**

Table 1 shows the components of population change in Miami-Dade County since 1960, the first census year following the Cuban revolution of 1959. Figure 2 displays this information in a bar chart where the contrasting patterns of net migration and natural increase are highlighted. It is clear that net migration follows no regular pattern and shows a loss of population in 1982 and 1983, and again in 1993. The loss in the early 1980s was the result of a severe economic recession in 1981-1982 coupled with widespread civic unrest following the racial riots of 1980 and the massive inflow of Cuban refugees from Mariel in the same year. The Mariel inflow shows up as a spike in 1982. The population loss in 1993 was the result of the impact of Hurricane Andrew.

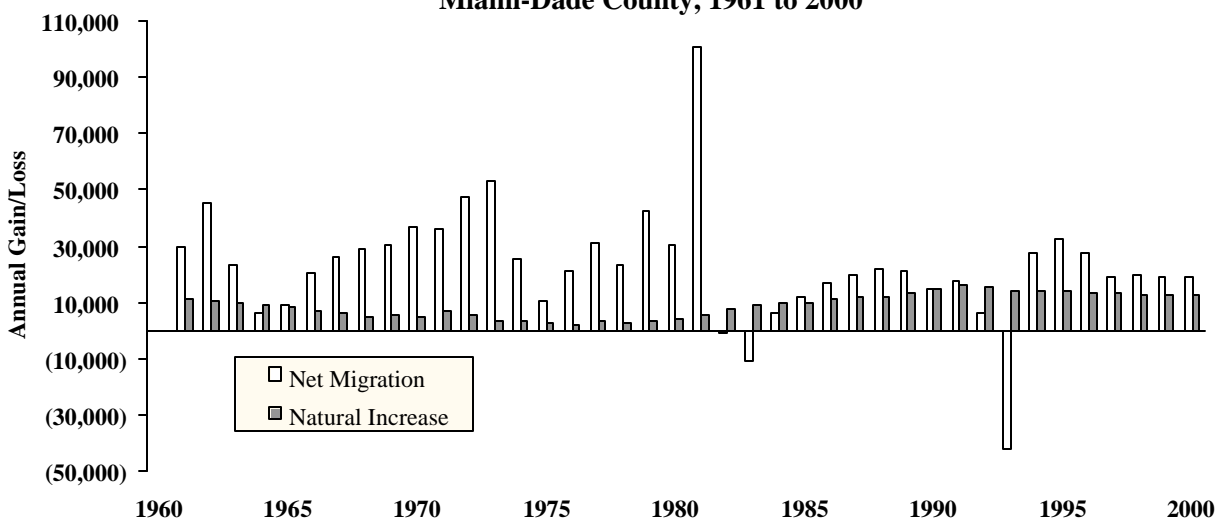


**Table 1**  
**Components of Population Change**  
**Miami-Dade County, Florida: 1960 to 2000**

Year Ending 31-Mar	Resident Population	Population Change	Net Migration	Natural Increase
1960	935,047			
1961	976,000	40,953	29,724	11,229
1962	1,032,000	56,000	45,322	10,678
1963	1,065,000	33,000	23,054	9,946
1964	1,080,000	15,000	5,930	9,070
1965	1,097,000	17,000	8,861	8,139
1966	1,124,000	27,000	20,174	6,826
1967	1,156,000	32,000	25,859	6,141
1968	1,190,000	34,000	28,832	5,168
1969	1,226,000	36,000	30,553	5,447
1970	1,268,000	42,000	36,803	5,197
1971	1,311,000	43,000	36,120	6,880
1972	1,364,000	53,000	47,519	5,481
1973	1,420,000	56,000	52,957	3,043
1974	1,449,000	29,000	25,387	3,613
1975	1,462,000	13,000	10,180	2,820
1976	1,485,000	23,000	21,032	1,968
1977	1,519,000	34,000	30,828	3,172
1978	1,545,000	26,000	23,170	2,830
1979	1,591,000	46,000	42,455	3,545
1980	1,626,000	35,000	30,598	4,402
1981	1,732,000	106,000	100,443	5,557
1982	1,739,000	7,000	-1,003	8,003
1983	1,737,000	-2,000	-10,985	8,985
1984	1,753,000	16,000	6,065	9,935
1985	1,775,000	22,000	12,267	9,733
1986	1,803,000	28,000	16,729	11,271
1987	1,835,000	32,000	19,882	12,118
1988	1,869,000	34,000	22,070	11,930
1989	1,904,000	35,000	21,502	13,498
1990	1,967,000	29,310	14,660	14,650
1991	2,001,032	34,032	17,844	16,188
1992	2,022,862	21,830	6,462	15,368
1993	1,995,292	-27,570	-41,971	14,401
1994	2,037,315	42,023	27,677	14,346
1995	2,084,205	46,889	32,712	14,177
1996	2,124,885	40,680	27,663	13,017
1997	2,157,208	32,323	19,074	13,249
1998	2,189,719	32,511	19,523	12,988
1999	2,221,630	31,911	19,038	12,873
2000	2,253,485	31,855	19,099	12,756

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Decennial Census Reports. Miami-Dade County Department of Planning & Zoning, Research Section, 2002.

**Figure 2**  
**Components of Population Change**  
**Miami-Dade County, 1961 to 2000**



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Decennial Census Reports. Miami-Dade County Department of Planning & Zoning, Research Section, 2002.

Natural increase has become more important in the past ten years as the volume of net migration has declined. Despite a slight decline in births (7 percent over the decade) and an increase in deaths (about 5 percent), the level of natural increase for the decade was much higher than in the previous decades.

However, two-thirds of the population growth in Miami-Dade is still attributed to migration. Any discussion of migration into Miami-Dade County has to take account of the influence of the foreign immigrants as opposed to movers within the United States. Expanding metropolitan areas in the United States (and elsewhere) typically attribute most of their growth to population shifts from rural areas, smaller urban places and perhaps declining metropolitan areas. But, the Miami area since 1960 has been the destination for large numbers of foreigners, mostly Cubans, other Hispanics and Haitians.

### III. MOBILITY OF THE POPULATION

In the Census, mobility is measured by capturing information on movement between residences. Table 2 shows the four possibilities for such movement by Miami residents in 2000, 1990, 1980 and 1970.

**Table 2**  
**Residency of Movers**  
**Miami-Dade County, 1970 - 2000**

	Total Movers	Percent	Percent			
			Same County	Different County		
				Same State	Different State	Abroad
2000	1,049,455	100.0	66.1	4.4	9.8	19.7
1990	974,199	100.0	61.8	4.2	16.6	17.4
1980	808,600	100.0	56.9	5.3	23.9	13.9
1970	688,288	100.0	43.6	4.4	36.8	15.2

Note: Movers are persons age five years and over in the census year who reported living in a different house five years prior.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Demographic Profile, Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning, 2002. U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Selected Social Characteristics, CPH-L-80 Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1990. 1980 Census of Population "State of Residence in 1975 by State of Residence in 1980," PC80-S1-9 Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1983, and Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning tabulation of Summary Tape 3 for Florida. U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population: Census Tracts, Final Report PHC (1)-129 Miami, Florida, Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1973. Compiled by Miami-Dade County Department of Planning & Zoning, Research Section, 2003.

It can be seen that the largest proportion of total movers continues to be those moving within Miami-Dade County from one housing unit to another, and this proportion increased by 22.5 percentage points over the thirty years. The next largest is the portion that moved from abroad; this is a major component of Miami's growth. As a proportion of all movers, those coming from abroad have increased steadily. These in-migrants are not all foreign-born, but it can be assumed that the vast majority are. Movement to Miami-Dade County from within the State of Florida has been insignificant.

Next to the foreign-born, people from other states are the most numerous among movers to Miami-Dade, however there was a major decline from 1970 to 2000 in this component. The data displayed in Table 3 describes the top 15 states of origin for movers to Miami-Dade County in 2000 and compares their current ranking with 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990 rankings.

Aside from Florida, the top two states in 1970, 1980 and 1990 were New York and New Jersey. California passed New Jersey in the 2000 rankings, making it the second largest contributing state. New Jersey and Illinois followed, becoming the third and fourth largest contributing states in 2000.

For the 1995-2000 period, 50 percent of the Miami-Dade County residents who moved from within Florida came from neighboring Broward County, higher than the 31 percent reported in 1990 and 1980. Palm Beach and Hillsborough counties contributed about 8 percent and 6 percent respectively.

**Table 3**  
**State of Origin of Immigrants to Miami-Dade County**  
**1965-1970, 1975-1980, 1985-1990, 1995-2000: The Top Fifteen**

Rank	State	Number of Migrants				Percent of Top Fifteen	Rank in 1990	Rank in 1980	Rank in 1970	Rank in 1960
		2000	1990	1980	1970					
1	New York	27,584	43,300	71,700	53,200	28.4	1	1	1	1
2	California	12,988	16,000	8,500	7,500	13.4	3	5	6	10
3	New Jersey	11,059	20,300	26,000	13,500	11.4	2	2	2	3
4	Illinois	5,769	7,500	10,300	9,600	7.3	5	4	3	6
5	Michigan	4,824	3,000	4,500	4,900	5.9	13	12	9	8
6	Massachusetts	4,471	5,000	6,600	5,500	5.0	7	8	8	7
7	Texas	4,143	11,800	5,000	4,200	4.6	4	11	11	15
8	Georgia	4,032	6,200	7,600	8,500	4.3	6	6	4	4
9	Pennsylvania	3,709	3,800	10,900	8,100	4.1	10	3	5	2
10	Virginia	2,674	4,100	4,400	4,400	3.8	8	13	10	11
11	North Carolina	2,627	2,800	3,900	4,200	2.7	14	14	12	9
12	Maryland	2,559	2,700	5,900	3,600	2.7	15	9	14	18
13	South Carolina	1,944	*	*	*	2.6	*	*	*	*
14	Connecticut	1,773	*	*	*	2.0	*	*	*	*
15	Alabama	1,484	3,400	*	*	1.8	11	*	*	*

\*State was not top 15 in 1990.

Note: Does not include State of Florida, which contributed 30,300 in 1970, 42,900 in 1980, 39,000 in 1990 and 46,100 in 2000. Figures for 1980 include Miami-Dade and Monroe counties combined. All figures rounded to the nearest 100.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Public Use Microdata 1 Percent Sample, 2000, Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning, Research Section, 2003. Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning tabulation of 1980 census sample data from the Public Use Microdata Sample A, Florida/prepared by the Bureau of the Census, Washington D.C.: 1983. Data for 1970 from 1970 Census 4th Count Tape as compiled by Clyde B. McCoy, University of Miami, School of Medicine. Compiled by Miami-Dade County Department of Planning & Zoning, Research Section, 2003.

The people of the United States have long been noted as being highly mobile with one household out of each five moving every year. The Miami MSA is a prime destination for this mobile population. One measure of mobility over the long term is the place of birth of the population. In 2000, 70 percent of the residents of Miami-Dade County were born outside of Florida. About 16 percent were from another state, and a high 51 percent were foreign born, up from 45 percent foreign born in 1990. According to the recently released 2002 Census Bureau American Community Survey, the Miami-Dade percentage has now climbed to just over 51 percent. Statewide, a much smaller proportion, approximately 17 percent of the population was born abroad. Nationwide, 11 percent of the population was foreign born.

A further measure of the international character of Miami's population is the County's share of the State's foreign-born total. Forty-three percent of the foreign born population of the State of Florida (1,147,765 out of 2,670,828) resided in the Miami area in 2000, three times Miami's share of the State population total.

**Table 4**  
**Continent/Country of Birth of Foreign Born**  
**Miami-Dade County, 2000**

Continent/Country	Population	Percent of Continent	Percent of Total
<b>Caribbean</b>	<b>688,760</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30.6</b>
Cuba	525,841	76.3	23.3
Haiti	71,054	10.3	3.2
Dominican Republic	36,870	5.4	1.6
Jamaica	34,450	5.0	1.5
Trinidad and Tobago	6,487	0.9	0.3
<b>Central and South America</b>	<b>375,676</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>16.7</b>
Nicaragua	86,108	22.9	3.8
Colombia	81,377	21.7	3.6
Honduras	34,689	9.2	1.5
Peru	27,823	7.4	1.2
Venezuela	25,376	6.8	1.1
Mexico	20,916	5.6	0.9
Argentina	16,596	4.4	0.7
Ecuador	13,447	3.6	0.6
Brazil	13,078	3.5	0.6
Guatemala	11,744	3.1	0.5
El Salvador	10,966	2.9	0.5
Chile	9,470	2.5	0.4
Panama	7,860	2.1	0.3
Costa Rica	5,718	1.5	0.3
Bolivia	2,981	0.8	0.1
Guyana	2,791	0.7	0.1
<b>Europe</b>	<b>44,067</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Spain	8,546	19.4	0.4
United Kingdom	4,958	11.3	0.2
Germany	4,299	9.8	0.2
Italy	3,555	8.1	0.2
Poland	3,459	7.8	0.2
Russia	3,053	6.9	0.1
France	3,037	6.9	0.1
Hungary	1,246	2.8	0.1
Romania	1,190	2.7	0.1
Ukraine	1,131	2.6	0.1
Portugal	1,081	2.5	0.0
Austria	919	2.1	0.0

(Cont.)

<b>Asia</b>	<b>28,638</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>
China	4,712	16.5	0.2
Philippines	4,290	15.0	0.2
India	3,838	13.4	0.2
Russia	3,053	10.7	0.1
Israel	2,361	8.2	0.1
Pakistan	1,908	6.7	0.1
Vietnam	1,635	5.7	0.1
Iran	1,172	4.1	0.1
Lebanon	1,113	3.9	0.0
Puerto Rico	49,557	---	2.2
Canada	5,386	---	0.2
Other (including not specified)	182,687	---	8.1
<b>Total Foreign Born:</b>	<b>1,147,765</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>50.9</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3, Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning, Research Section, 2003.

In 2000, the major component of the foreign-born population in the Miami area (and the reason why this group was so big) was the 526,000 Cuban refugees who settled in Miami, primarily in the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's. In 2000, the Cuban-born population was the largest single Hispanic group, accounting for 46 percent of the foreign born population in Miami-Dade County. Additionally, there were substantial numbers from other countries, such as Nicaragua (86,108), Colombia (81,377), and Haiti (71,054).

This "internationalization" of Miami-Dade County was well underway in 1970 as evidenced by the 307,391 foreign born counted by the census in that year (24.2 percent of the total population). And, as in 1980, the bulk of these were Cubans, a total of 185,411 or 60.3 percent of the foreign born. Nevertheless, there were sizeable contingents from several other countries including about 10,000 from Poland, 20,000 Russians, 8,000 from Canada, about 7,000 from the United Kingdom, and an equal number from Germany, plus 18,000 from "Other America." This latter category comprised peoples from the Caribbean basin and South and Central America.

In 1980, in the six months after the April 1 census count, Miami-Dade County experienced the Mariel Cuban refugee influx which contributed to a 100,000+ increase in population. Adding to Miami-Dade's cultural diversity in the 1980's were waves of immigrants from Central America, largely Nicaraguans. Haitians also added to the diversity of the population with an estimated 25,000 (mostly undocumented) arriving during 1980 alone. They continued to trickle in throughout the decade and Haitians are estimated to total about 95,000.

In 1981-82 on the heels of the huge increase in 1980, there appeared to be a net out-migration from the County, and in 1982-83 the total population actually declined slightly. Since then, normal growth resumed and during the second half of the decade, averaged about 32,000 persons per year. Long-term projections show Miami-Dade County continuing to grow, reaching 2.4 million by 2005, and 2.5 million in the year 2010.

This sudden flood of refugees in 1980 was large and unexpected, but it was not inconsistent with the pattern of population growth in Miami-Dade County over the past 30 years. Immigration (the principal component of population growth) has often fluctuated widely from year to year, and will probably continue to do so.

Even in 1960, there was a sizeable foreign contingent in the Miami area with some 112,600 enumerated as foreign born (12 percent versus 5.5 percent for the State). Then, as now, those born in Cuba constituted the largest segment of the foreign born (20.5 percent). Nevertheless, there were almost twice as many foreign born from Europe and the USSR as there were from Cuba.

#### IV. RACIAL AND ETHNIC CHANGES

Miami-Dade County was the first and only county in Florida with a Hispanic majority (57 percent) in 2000. The County's 1.3 million Hispanics increased by 44 percent, from 0.9 million in 1990 and accounted for almost half of the Hispanic population of Florida. The proportion of Hispanics within Miami-Dade County exceeded the national level (12.5 percent) in every municipality except Islandia, Florida City and Indian Creek Village, and the first is a paper city without any residents.

In 1960, only about 5 percent of the population was Hispanic and 80 percent was non-Hispanic White. By 1970, Hispanics were still less than a quarter of the population, but in 1980 they were more than a third. At that time, non-Hispanic Whites had declined to under 50 percent. The 1990 Census reinforced this well-established growth trend for Hispanics by disclosing a 64 percent increase since the previous decennial census, bringing the total to just over 49 percent. Non-Hispanic Whites continued to decline to 32 percent of the total. Non-Hispanic Blacks did not show this kind of dramatic growth but their share inched up to just above 19 percent in 1990.

Census 2000 revealed a slowing in the three-decade rate of growth of Hispanics in Miami-Dade. While Hispanics constitute a majority of the population (57.3 percent), their growth rate declined from 64 percent between 1980 and 1990 to 36 percent between 1990 and 2000. The non-Hispanic White component of Miami-Dade's population continued to decline to 24 percent of the total. Non-Hispanic Blacks essentially maintained their share at about 19.0 percent.

The large change in the Hispanic population has been overwhelmingly the result of immigration. But, as the base gets larger, more of the natural increase will also be attributable to Hispanics. Regardless of the source, between the censuses of 1960 and 2000, Hispanics accounted for 94 percent of the total population growth. Over the forty-year period, Blacks contributed 22 percent to total County growth (the two groups together becomes more than 100 percent of the total growth since non-Hispanic Whites actually declined and there is some Black/Hispanic overlap). For Blacks, natural increase has been a more significant component of growth than it has for Hispanics. In recent years, however, the Haitian influx has been a major contributing factor.

Given that immigration is so important to the growth of the Hispanic population, developing projections becomes an uncertain exercise. The actions of the Cuban government, the political situation in Central and South America or the immigration policies of the United States are not easily quantifiable factors in any projection model. Yet, these are vital considerations with

respect to the future growth of the Hispanic population. That this population will grow appears to be certain. Even without immigration, the large existing base is now generating a substantial natural increase.

The Black population also could expand greatly due to immigration. Many thousands of Haitians, both in Haiti itself and living in the Bahamas are potential migrants to South Florida. Again, only a very speculative approach can be taken in assessing the ultimate influence this might have on Miami-Dade's population. The projections show continued increases in the proportion that is Hispanic, little change in the Black proportion and a declining relative and absolute number of non-Hispanic Whites.

**Table 5**  
**Population by Race and Hispanic Origin**  
**Miami MSA, 1960-2000**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Hispanic Origin</b>	<b>Black Non-Hispanic</b>	<b>White &amp; Other Non-Hispanic</b>
1960	935,047	50,000	137,299	747,748
1970	1,267,792	299,065	186,369	782,358
1980	1,625,781	580,994	271,749	773,038
1990	1,937,094	953,407	369,621	614,066
2000	2,253,362	1,291,737	427,140	534,485
<b>Percent</b>				
1960	100.0	5.3	14.7	80.0
1970	100.0	23.6	14.7	61.7
1980	100.0	35.7	16.7	47.6
1990	100.0	49.2	19.1	31.7
2000	100.0	57.3	19.0	23.7

Note: Persons of Hispanic heritage were not separately designated by the U.S. Census in 1960. The number provided is an estimate by the Research Section, Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning. In the 1970 census, the identifying characteristics for Hispanics was the Spanish language while in the 1980 and subsequent censuses a self-identification method was used. Thus, the Hispanic figures are not strictly comparable over the three censuses.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning, Research Section, 2003. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1960, Vol. I Characteristics of the Population, Part II, Florida; Census of Population: 1970, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Final Report PC(1)-11 and Economic Characteristics, Final Report PC(1)-C11 Florida; Census of Population: 1980, Vol. I Characteristics of the Population, PC 80-1-B11, Florida, Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office. Census of Population and Housing: 1990, Public Law 94-171, Florida. Compiled by Miami-Dade County Department of Planning & Zoning, Research Section, 2003.



While the Miami area is known for the predominance of its Hispanic component in the ethnic mix, it is still very much a cosmopolitan area. This is evidenced by the large numbers of people in Miami-Dade County who claim non-Hispanic foreign ancestry (not necessarily foreign born). As can be seen from Table 6, Hispanics as a category, and especially Cubans, constitute the largest block of those claiming foreign ancestry but very substantial numbers of people list their ancestry as being European or Russian. As expected, all of the Hispanic groups demonstrated large increases while virtually all of the European groups declined, especially the Germans, English, Irish and Russian.

**Table 6**  
**Persons of Foreign Ancestry**  
**Miami-Dade County**  
**1980-2000**

	2000	1990	1980
Cuban	650,601	561,868	407,253
Other Hispanic	203,009	168,179	115,847
Puerto Rican	80,327	68,634	44,656
Colombian	70,066	53,582	19,000
Nicaraguan	69,257	74,244	7,000
Mexican	38,095	23,193	13,238
German	57,478	114,502	131,040
Italian	52,545	55,754	57,123
Irish	51,094	86,910	124,689
English	44,587	89,020	170,804
Russian	25,811	48,890	44,909
Polish	22,028	41,110	48,516
French	21,715	35,743	47,024
Scottish	9,604	15,736	4,936
Dutch	6,901	11,036	3,786
Hungarian	6,451	12,060	10,866
Swedish	5,421	8,205	4,038
Portuguese	5,055	3,856	1,795
Greek	4,835	6,636	4,685
Norwegian	3,960	4,609	1,866
Ukrainian	2,864	3,176	2,916
Other Ancestries	1,560,987	1,224,448	385,745

Note: Foreign ancestry was a self-classified question in the sample portion of the census. It represents the ethnic background with which a person identifies and has no necessary relationship to nativity, parentage, or language. More than one ancestry may be listed.

Note: The 1980 Nicaraguan and Colombian populations are estimates by the Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning, Research Section, 2003. U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Selected Social Characteristics: 1990, Miami-Dade County, Florida CHP-L-80 Census of Population: 1980, Vol. I, Characteristics of Population, PC 80-1-C11, Florida; Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office. Compiled by Miami-Dade County Department of Planning & Zoning, Research Section, 2003.

## V. AGE STRUCTURE

Table 7 shows the age distribution of Miami-Dade's population for the five census years 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000. The median age in Miami-Dade has been consistently higher than the United States, but the figure has edged up for the nation over the past decade, from 32.9 to 35.3, narrowing the gap with Miami-Dade where there was an increase from 34.2 to 35.6. The slightly lower national median is due to the United States having proportionately more young people and fewer older people, but this pattern has changed somewhat in the last decade. Whereas Miami-Dade's 2000 population under 18 years of age was increased from 24.2 to 24.8 percent, the over 65 population decreased from 14.0 to 13.3 percent of the total. This is a drop of almost 1.0 percentage point for the 65 and over group and an increase almost 1.0 percentage point for the under 18 group since 1990. Comparable figures for the nation were 25.7 percent for the under 18 years, and 12.4 percent for the 65 years and over group. Miami-Dade and the nation depict an unchanging proportion of under 18 years of age.

Given the decrease in the elderly (65+ years) share and the increase in the youth (<18 years) share, the rise in the median age comes as a surprise. This was due to a large shift in the population aged 18 to 64 years. The proportion of those aged 18 to 34 years declined by 3 percentage points (from 27.1 to 24.1) and the proportion aged 35 to 64 years increased by 3 percentage points (from 34.7 to 37.8). Despite the decline in the proportion of those aged 18 to 34 years, their number increased by about 17,000 persons. In contrast, the number of those aged 35 to 64 increased by 179,000 persons.

**Table 7  
Population By Age  
Miami-Dade County, 1960-2000**

<b>Age</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>1970</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
0-5	111,675	107,240	113,554	167,314	145,752
6-9	67,723	86,957	82,598	103,826	127,826
10-13	64,017	90,834	87,286	96,755	129,112
14-17	49,110	86,588	106,569	100,115	126,478
18-19	19,730	38,833	54,285	54,680	60,153
20-24	51,851	89,329	133,480	139,196	144,721
25-34	124,921	146,844	240,793	331,676	337,433
35-44	140,829	156,572	192,847	278,043	361,966
45-54	118,352	158,402	187,495	212,098	282,766
55-64	93,849	134,439	171,595	182,585	206,558
65+	91,628	172,717	255,286	270,806	300,552
18+	642,522	897,136	1,235,774	1,469,084	1,694,149
18-34	196,502	275,006	428,561	525,552	542,307
35-64	353,030	449,413	551,937	672,726	851,290
Total	935,047	1,267,792	1,625,781	1,937,094	2,253,362
Median Age	33.3	34.1	34.7	34.2	35.6
<b>Percent</b>					
0-5	11.9	8.4	7.0	8.6	6.5
6-9	7.2	6.9	5.1	5.4	5.7
10-13	6.8	7.2	5.4	5.0	5.7
14-17	5.5	5.9	6.6	5.2	5.6
18-19	2.1	3.1	3.3	2.8	2.7
20-24	5.5	7.0	8.2	7.2	6.4
25-34	13.4	11.6	14.8	17.1	15.0
35-44	15.1	12.3	11.9	14.4	16.1
45-54	12.7	12.5	11.5	10.9	12.5
55-64	10.0	10.6	10.6	9.4	9.2
65+	9.8	13.6	15.7	14.0	13.3
18+	68.7	70.8	76.0	75.8	75.2
18-34	21.4	21.7	26.4	27.1	24.1
35-64	37.8	35.4	33.9	34.7	37.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning, Research Section, 2003. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1960, Vol. I Characteristics of the Population, Part II, Florida; Census of Population: 1970, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Final Report (PC (1)-C11 Florida; Census of Population: 1980, Vol. I Characteristics of the Population, PC 80-1-B11, Florida; Census of Population: 1990, General Population Characteristics, Sec I, CP-1-11, Florida Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office. Census of Population and Housing: 1990, Summary Tape File 1-A, Florida, 1992. Compiled by Miami-Dade County Department of Planning & Zoning, Research Section, 2003.

## VI. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Over the forty years from 1960 to 2000, Miami-Dade Countians made significant advancements in educational attainment, as Table 8 verifies. In 1960, more than half the adult population (25 years of age or more) had less than a high school education. Only a little more than 5 percent had four years of college. By 2000, this situation had changed dramatically with a drop to 32 percent having less than high school. The proportion with a college degree more than quadrupled to 21.0 percent. There was also a substantial change in the percentage of those having some college. In 1960, this figure was 11.5 percent while in 2000 it reached 23.9 percent.

Relative to the total, Blacks greatly improved their educational status. In 1960, almost 62 percent had attended elementary school only. By 2000, this proportion was reduced to 18 percent. Black high school graduates comprised only 13 percent in 1960, but 27 percent in 2000. In college attainment, very significant gains were made both in the overall numbers and the shares in these categories. There were a mere 1,157 college graduates among Blacks in 1960, while this number had reached over 29,092 in 2000.

Hispanics also registered some improvement in educational attainment. Data for 1960 are not available as the number of Hispanics was small. Between 1970 and 1990, there was general upgrading of educational attainment, but the changes were not as great as those for Blacks. The pattern of educational attainment displayed by Hispanics more closely paralleled the community average. Over the three decades, the Hispanic educational profile was reshaped somewhat to more closely resemble the overall pattern of educational attainment. Even though the proportion of Hispanics with only an elementary education was halved and the proportion of high school graduates increased by 16 percent, Hispanics still had a relatively greater number with only elementary school and lower proportion of college graduates.

**Table 8**  
**Educational Attainment: Miami-Dade County**  
**Persons 25+ Years Old**  
**1960-2000**

	<u>Total Persons</u>									
	1960		1970		1980		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Elementary School	180,029	33.2	217,742	29.0	244,258	23.3	228,426	17.8	219,066	14.7
High School: 1-3 yrs.	114,346	21.1	133,541	17.8	133,239	12.7	219,856	17.2	260,287	17.4
High School Graduate	155,534	28.7	226,859	30.2	319,136	30.4	296,444	23.1	332,997	22.3
College: 1-3 yrs.	62,055	11.5	89,693	11.9	176,133	16.8	296,109	23.1	356,040	23.9
College Graduates	29,773	5.5	83,025	11.1	175,795	16.8	240,460	18.8	323,399	21.7
Totals:	541,737	100.0	750,860	100.0	1,048,561	100.0	1,281,295	100.0	1,491,789	100.0

	<u>Blacks</u>									
	1960		1970		1980		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Elementary School	38,757	61.7	36,522	44.8	40,704	29.4	39,036	18.0	31,283	12.4
High School: 1-3 yrs.	12,608	20.1	21,042	25.8	29,391	21.2	56,355	26.0	61,273	24.3
High School Graduate	8,364	13.3	16,680	20.5	37,765	27.3	54,160	25.0	68,799	27.3
College: 1-3 yrs.	1,954	3.1	3,804	4.7	19,026	13.7	45,598	21.0	61,717	24.5
College Graduates	1,157	1.8	3,459	4.2	11,519	8.3	21,409	9.0	29,092	11.5
Totals:	62,840	100.0	81,507	100.0	138,405	100.0	216,558	100.0	252,164	100.0

	<u>Hispanics</u>									
	1960		1970		1980		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Elementary School			73,930	43.1	141,853	38.3	171,156	21.1	176,576	19.6
High School: 1-3 yrs.			19,901	11.6	37,162	10.0	118,069	14.6	172,734	19.2
High School Graduate			43,514	25.3	95,303	25.7	296,444	36.6	190,481	21.2
College: 1-3 yrs.			17,146	10.0	46,072	12.4	133,747	16.5	197,643	21.9
College Graduates			17,211	10.0	50,407	13.6	91,081	11.2	163,132	18.1
Totals:			171,702	100.0	370,797	100.0	810,497	100.0	900,566	100.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000, Summary File 3, Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning, Research Section, 2003. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1960, Vol. I Characteristics of the Population, Part II, Florida; Census of Population: 1970, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Final Report PC(1)-C11 Florida; Census of Population: 1980, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Part II, Florida, PC80-1-C11. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office. 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3. Compiled by Miami-Dade County Department of Planning & Zoning, Research Section, 2003.

## VII. MARITAL STATUS AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Table 9 displays the marital status of persons in Miami-Dade County for five census years from 1960 to 2000. The proportion of both males and females who are married has fallen steadily. The change was more pronounced for males (-17 percentage points) than for females (-16 percentage points) as the former dropped. In parallel with the decline in married couples, a marked increase in the numbers and proportions that were divorced or remained single. In 1960, only 5 percent of females 14 and above were divorced; by 2000 13 percent had that status. The male proportion tripled from 3 percent in 1960 to 10 percent in 2000.

These marital trends are also reflected in Table 10, which displays data on family composition. There, a steady decline in the proportion of married-couple families can be seen. Both Blacks and Hispanics demonstrated this social change, but the percent of married couple Black families was much lower than for the population at large. Corresponding to this phenomenon, there was a doubling in the percent of female-headed families. This was true for all groups, but again, the change for Blacks has been dramatic. More than a fifth of Black families were female headed in 1960 and this jumped more than 23 percentage points to 44 percent by 2000. In previous censuses, Hispanics showed a smaller proportion of families headed by a female. However, this proportion increased to 21 percent in 2000.

The majority of female-headed families for all groups include children. In 1960, 52.3 percent of all female-headed families included children under 18; the figure was about 61 percent for non-Whites. Both these percentages rose over the years, but much more so for Blacks. Among all families with children under 18, the female-headed share increased from 10.4 to 26.8 percent (figures not shown in table). By 2000, about 47 percent of all Black families with children under 18 were female headed. Comparable figures for total families and Hispanic families were 27 percent and 22 percent respectively.

Families headed by males alone also increased in both absolute and relative terms, but the percentages were low.

The final set of data in the series dealing with marital status and living arrangements is presented in Table 11. This has to do with households and their members. Essentially, a household unit is one or more persons occupying a housing unit. They may contain one or more families, a family and one or more unrelated individuals, a single individual or a small group of individuals.

**Table 9**  
**Marital Status of Persons By Sex**  
**Miami-Dade County, Florida**  
**1960-2000**

	<u>1960</u>		<u>1970</u>		<u>1980</u>		<u>1990</u>		<u>2000</u>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
All Ages	456,815	478,232	602,084	665,708	767,882	857,899	928,411	1,008,683	1,088,895	1,164,467
15 Years and Over*	332,764	358,941	457,680	526,044	609,828	708,408	727,705	817,759	865,771	955,069
Single	73,064	55,228	117,112	104,636	170,960	154,896	233,048	198,967	275,699	238,097
Married	236,906	239,383	306,379	312,784	376,763	381,428	388,043	382,345	471,322	473,906
Widowed	11,730	46,129	15,327	74,220	18,990	101,838	20,343	104,902	21,307	102,796
Divorced	11,064	18,201	18,862	34,404	43,125	70,246	64,612	101,339	81,549	124,839
<b>Percent</b>										
All Ages	49.0	51.0	47.0	53.0	47.0	53.0	48.0	52.0	48.3	51.7
54 Years and Over*	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	22.0	15.0	26.0	20.0	28.0	22.0	32.0	24.0	32.0	25.0
Married	71.0	67.0	67.0	60.0	62.0	54.0	53.0	46.0	55.0	50.0
Widowed	4.0	13.0	3.0	14.0	3.0	14.0	3.0	13.0	3.0	11.0
Divorced	3.0	5.0	4.0	7.0	7.0	10.0	9.0	12.0	10.0	13.0

Note: Figures for 1960 and 1970 are for persons 14 years and older.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning, Research Section, 2003. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1960 Detailed Population Characteristics, Florida; Final Report PC (1)-11D. Census of Population: 1970, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Final Report PC (1)-C11; Florida and Census Tracts, Miami, Florida PHC (1)-129. Census of Population: 1980, Detailed Population Characteristics, Florida, Vol. 1 PC80-1-1D11; Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office. Census of Population and Housing: 1990, Summary Tape File 1-A, Florida, 1991. Compiled by Miami-Dade County Department of Planning & Zoning, Research Section, 2003.

**Table 10**  
**Family Composition**  
**Miami-Dade County, Florida**  
**1960-2000**

	All Families	With Own Children Under 18	Married-Couple Families	Families - Male Householder	Female Householder	
					Families	With Own Children Under 18
<u>1960</u>						
Total	249,042	127,704	217,262	6,500	25,330	13,249
Non-White	29,572	17,316	22,177	1,196	6,199	3,776
<u>1970</u>						
Total	328,519	158,441	277,198	10,651	41,270	22,134
Black	39,677	25,792	26,720	1,836	11,121	N/A
Hispanic	74,833	44,698	64,369	2,474	7,990	3,951
<u>1980</u>						
Total	422,762	188,643	330,472	19,208	73,082	39,613
Black	63,161	39,691	34,887	5,049	23,225	15,953
Hispanic	155,202	77,690	124,439	6,499	24,264	12,293
<u>1990</u>						
Total	481,263	246,244	342,515	35,377	103,371	64,848
Black	88,445	52,073	42,043	9,380	37,022	23,282
Hispanic	247,536	130,309	181,536	18,891	47,109	27,291
<u>2000</u>						
Total	548,493	262,752	370,898	43,924	133,671	70,316
Black	102,527	58,441	46,871	10,233	45,423	27,656
Hispanic	333,724	159,786	235,342	27,166	71,216	34,879
<b>Percent</b>						
<u>1960</u>						
Total	100.0	51.3	87.2	2.6	10.2	52.3
Non-White	100.0	58.6	58.6	4.0	21.0	60.9
<u>1970</u>						
Total	100.0	48.2	84.4	3.1	12.6	53.6
Black	100.0	65.0	67.3	4.6	28.0	N/A
Hispanic	100.0	59.7	86.0	3.3	10.7	49.4
<u>1980</u>						
Total	100.0	44.6	78.2	4.5	17.2	54.2
Black	100.0	62.8	62.8	8.0	36.8	68.7
Hispanic	100.0	50.1	81.1	4.1	15.5	50.7
<u>1990</u>						
Total	100.0	51.2	71.2	7.4	21.5	62.7
Black	100.0	58.9	47.5	10.6	41.9	62.9
Hispanic	100.0	52.6	73.3	7.6	19.0	57.9
<u>2000</u>						
Total	100.0	47.9	67.6	8.0	24.4	52.6
Black	100.0	57.0	45.7	10.0	44.3	60.9
Hispanic	100.0	47.9	70.5	8.1	21.3	49.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning, Research Section, 2003. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1960 Detailed Population Characteristics, Florida; Final Report (PC (1)-11D). Census of Population: 1970, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Final Report PC(1)-C11; Florida and Census Tracts, Miami, Florida PHC (1)-129. Census of Population: 1980, Detailed Population Characteristics, Florida, Vol. 1 PC80-1-1D11; Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office. Census of Population and Housing: 1990, Summary Tape File 1-A, Florida, 1991. Compiled by Miami-Dade County Department of Planning & Zoning, Research Section, 2003.



Aside from the completely homeless and a small number in unusual accommodations, people live in either housing units or group quarters. About 98 percent of all persons reside in housing units, and this has remained constant over time. The average number of occupants per housing unit in Miami-Dade County declined from 1960 to 1980 but turned up in 1990, still being below the 1960 and 1970 level (see Table 11). This has been the result of two phenomena: smaller families and the occurrence of more single person households. This latter group comprised about 7 percent of all persons in households in 1960, and climbed to more than 11 percent in 1990. The share of households made up by families has dropped over the four censuses.

**Table 11**  
**Household Status and Relationships of Persons in Households**  
**Miami-Dade County, Florida**  
**1960-2000**

	1960		1970			1980			1990			2000		
	Total	Non-White	Total	Black	Hispanic	Total	Black	Hispanic	Total	Black	Hispanic	Total	Black	Hispanic
Persons in Households	917,448	135,035	1,244,337	185,192	297,341	1,602,690	277,022	577,563	1,904,375	388,453	945,121	2,207,391	439,847	1,275,029
Family Householder	245,695	28,915	328,519	39,546	74,833	422,762	63,161	155,202	481,263	88,445	247,536	548,493	102,527	333,724
Nonfamily Householder	62,630	7,054	99,507	9,922	7,511	187,068	21,390	37,264	211,092	31,876	72,267	228,281	36,281	103,787
Single Person HH	60,633	6,907	86,286	7,866	6,187	157,466	17,118	30,565	172,164	25,340	57,237	180,980	29,192	79,927
Spouse	214,255	21,732	277,198	26,439	63,928	330,472	34,579	126,443	342,515	41,501	183,802	370,898	46,632	238,816
Other Relatives	365,679	69,800	506,839	102,709	145,656	599,990	143,822	241,335	761,869	201,415	385,944	243,522	17,695	62,996
Nonrelatives	29,189	7,534	32,274	6,586	5,413	62,398	14,070	17,319	107,636	25,216	55,572	139,817	17,332	52,910
Persons in Group Quarters	17,599	3,958	23,455	4,474	1,876	23,091	3,412	3,431	32,719	9,540	8,286	45,971	15,634	16,708
Persons Per Household	2.98	3.75	2.91	3.74	3.61	2.62	3.26	3.00	2.75	3.23	3.04	2.84	3.19	3.03
<b>Percent</b>														
Persons in Households	98.1	97.2	98.2	97.7	99.4	98.6	98.8	99.4	98.3	97.6	99.1	98.0	96.2	98.7
Family Householder	26.8	21.4	26.4	21.4	25.2	26.4	22.8	26.9	25.3	22.8	26.2	34.5	23.3	26.2
Nonfamily Householder	6.8	5.2	8.0	5.4	2.5	11.7	7.7	6.5	11.1	8.2	7.7	29.4	8.2	8.1
Single Person HH	6.6	5.1	6.9	4.3	2.1	9.8	6.2	5.3	9.0	6.5	6.1	23.3	6.6	6.3
Spouse	23.4	16.1	22.3	14.3	21.5	20.6	12.5	21.9	18.0	10.7	19.5	16.5	10.6	18.7
Other Relatives	39.9	51.7	40.7	55.5	49.0	37.4	51.9	41.8	40.0	51.9	40.8	10.8	4.0	4.9
Nonrelatives	3.2	5.6	2.6	3.6	1.8	3.9	5.1	3.0	5.7	6.5	5.9	6.2	3.9	4.1
Persons in Group Quarters	1.9	2.9	1.9	2.4	0.6	1.4	1.2	0.6	1.7	2.4	0.9	2.0	3.6	1.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3, Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning, Research Section, 2003. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1960 Characteristics of the Population, Vol 1, Part II, Florida; Census of Population: 1970, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Final Report PC (1)-C11; Florida and Census Tracts, Miami, Florida PHC (1)-129. Census of Population: 1980, Detailed Population Characteristics, Florida, Vol. 1 PC80-1-1D11; 1990 Census of Population, General Population Characteristics, Florida, Sec. 1, CP-1-10, Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office. Compiled by Miami-Dade County Department of Planning & Zoning, Research Section, 2003.