

FIGURE 16.2: 2000 HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

See preceding text for explanation of difference between “household” and “family.” The percentage figures show the proportion of HOUSEHOLDS that fit each category. Note that “Average Family Size” (which is not shown here) will be slightly larger than “Average Household Size.” We show the latter category as this is more critical in determining housing needs.

	Total Households	Single-Person Households	Total Family Units	Families w/Children under 18 yrs	Average Household Size
UPPER PROVIDENCE	4,075	1,044	2,828	1,322	2.56
		25.6%	69.4%	32.4%	
Edgmont	1,447	414	988	401	2.47
		28.6%	68.3%	27.7%	
Marple	8,623	1,947	6,416	2,587	2.64
		22.6%	74.4%	30.0%	
Media Borough	2,782	1,368	1,113	414	1.85
		49.2%	40.0%	14.9%	
Middletown	5,524	1,576	3,745	1,604	2.45
		28.5%	67.8%	29.0%	
Nether Providence	5,007	1,086	3,755	1,725	2.62
		21.7%	75.0%	34.5%	
Newtown	4,549	1,238	3,183	1,255	2.50
		27.2%	70.0%	27.6%	
Delaware County	206,320	57,028	139,453	65,038	2.56
		27.6%	67.6%	31.5%	

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census and Delaware Valley Planning Commission, 2003.

The household characteristics for Upper Providence and most of the surrounding municipalities are similar to Delaware County as a whole. Media Borough, the principal exception to this observation, exhibits household characteristics that are typical of urban areas, with a relatively high number of single-person households (resulting in a smaller average household size) and a relatively low proportion of family units and families with children younger than eighteen. Examination of the County data reveals that Media is an extreme case: it has by far the smallest average household size in the County (the second smallest is in Brookhaven Borough, at 2.29 persons per household). Media excepted, the average household size figures fall within a fairly small range. Marple Township, at 2.64 persons per household, has the largest average household size in the immediate area. The largest average household size in the County is in Bethel Township, at 3.16 persons per household. As noted above, the proportion of family units tends

to be higher than the County average. However, it is a bit surprising to note that the percentage of families with children under eighteen is only slightly higher in Upper Providence (relative to the County), and a number of the surrounding municipalities actually have a lower proportion of such families.