FIGURE 16.4: ETHNICITY

The charts below show the breakdown by principal ethnic group, with "Other" including American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islanders, those classified as "other" by the Census Bureau, and multi-racial individuals. For most Delaware County communities, Asians are the largest group within this "Other" category. Note that the sum of "White," "Black," and "Other" equals 100% of the total; as described in the text, Latino individuals may be of any race(s). Furthermore, no growth rate is indicated for the Latino population due to change in definition for this category between the 1990 and 2000 censuses.

	2000 Total Population	2000 White Population	2000 Black Population	2000 Other Population	2000 Latino Population
UPPER PROVIDENCE	**10,509**	**9,650**	**410**	**449**	**112**
		91.8%	**3.9%**	**4.3%**	**1.1%**
Edgmont	3,918	3,549	192	177	53
		90.6%	4.9%	4.5%	1.4%
Marple	23,737	21,980	261	1,496	156
		92.6%	1.1%	6.3%	0.7%
Media Borough	5,533	4,483	787	263	104
		81.0%	14.2%	4.8%	2.3%
Middletown	16,064	15,145	495	424	139
		94.3%	3.1%	2.6%	0.9%
Nether Providence	13,456	12,121	824	511	152
		90.1%	6.1%	3.8%	1.3%
Newtown	11,700	11,251	77	372	81
		96.2%	0.6%	3.2%	0.7%
Delaware County	550,864	442,448	79,981	28,435	8,368
		80.3%	14.5%	5.2%	1.5%

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

	Total Pop. Change 1990-2000	White Pop. Change 1990-2000	Black Pop. Change 1990-2000	Other Pop. Change 1990-2000
UPPER PROVIDENCE	**+ 8.0%**	**+ 4.1%**	**+ 39.5%**	**+ 93.9%**
Edgmont	+ 43.3%	+ 33.6%	+ 1,271.4%	+ 176.6%
Marple	+ 2.7%	- 0.5%	+ 41.8%	+ 77.9%
Media Borough	- 7.1%	- 11.0%	- 5.5%	+ 195.5%

Middletown	+ 13.7%	+ 17.2%	- 47.6%	+ 58.8%
Nether Providence	+ 1.7%	- 0.8%	+ 6.7%	+ 64.3%
Newtown	+ 2.9%	+ 1.6%	+ 40.0%	+ 55.0%
Delaware County	+ 0.6%	- 6.6%	+ 30.3%	+ 127.2%

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

The information above leads to the following observations.

The ethnicity of the Township and the surrounding municipalities is consistent with what may be observed nationally. The numerical dominance of the white population is typical of an established suburban community, as minority populations tend to be more prevalent in urban areas. Accordingly, the largest percentage of minority population among the municipalities shown is in Media: a small urban area.

Although the percentage of minority population is well below that of the County, we note again that the county's minorities are concentrated in urbanized areas such as the City of Chester and the communities adjacent to the City of Philadelphia, such as Yeadon, Upper Darby, and Darby.

The Township, the surrounding municipalities, and the County have yet to experience the rise in Latino population observed in many other areas.

Of the seven municipalities included in the chart, only Media Borough declined in population between 1990 and 2000.

Three of the included municipalities (Marple, Media Borough, and Nether Providence) experienced a numerical decline in their white popluation. This was also the case for Delaware County as a whole.

Three other municipalities (Edgmont, Newtown, and Upper Providence) had increases in total population and white population, but the percentage increase in the white population was less than the overall increase. This indicates that these communities are growing *and* becoming more ethnically diverse.

Of the communities shown, only Middletown Township is becoming less ethnically diverse (i.e., the majority white population increasing more rapidly than overall growth rate).

Ethnic diversity may make for a more interesting community, but a diversity of educational backgrounds and employment experience is more critical, as this kind of diversity enables the supply of skills needed to fill the range of jobs necessary to support a vital community.

Educational Attainment – The Census Bureau collects data on level of education achieved by persons twenty-five years old and older.