



# “Can Metrics Bring Smart Growth to Life?”

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1997  
Passage of  
Smart  
Growth  
Legislation



# Broad Smart Growth Goals



- Support and enhance existing communities
- Preserve natural resources and agricultural areas
- Save on the cost of new infrastructure

# Maryland's Growth Goals

- No formal, specific State goals for Smart Growth.
- No benchmarks set at the time of passage.
- No comprehensive effort to measure progress.
- No discussion of what constitutes progress.

*If you don't know where you are going, how will you ever know if you get there?*



# Smart Growth Indicators Project

# Project Purpose

- In the absence of formal goals, develop some reasonable standards for how Smart Growth in Maryland could be measured.
- Determine if the state and its counties are making any *measurable* progress toward “Smart Growth”?
- Use “Indicators” to measure change over time and attempt to analyze the causes of this change.

# Project Goal

- Create a website that will track and provide access to Maryland's growth-related data in a format that is easy to read.
- Create a website that offers:
  - Open access and is easy to navigate
  - Clearly written (for non-technical people)
  - Easy to maintain and expand (time-series data)
  - County level and transit station level data
  - Broad range of indicators
  - Links to other data and policy sites

# Project Indicators

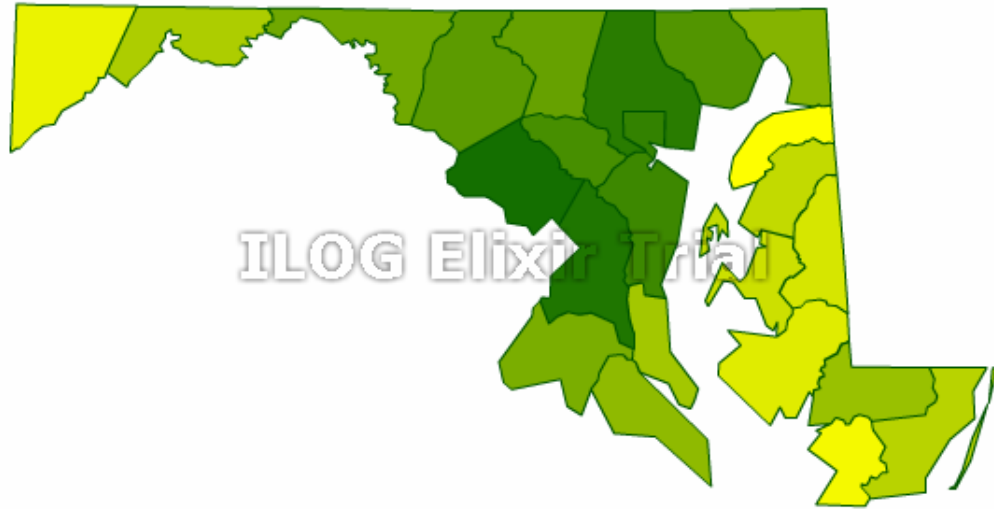
- For this project, there are eight indicator categories:
  - Population
  - Economy
  - Environment
  - Land Preservation
  - Infrastructure
  - Transportation
  - Housing
  - Land Use

# Sample Indicator Page

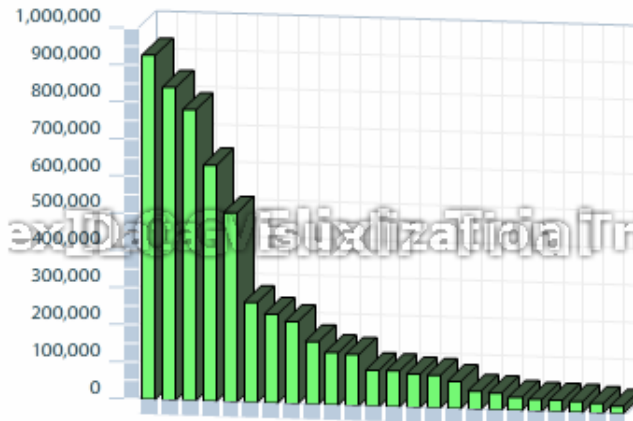
## Historic Population in Number of People

Year:

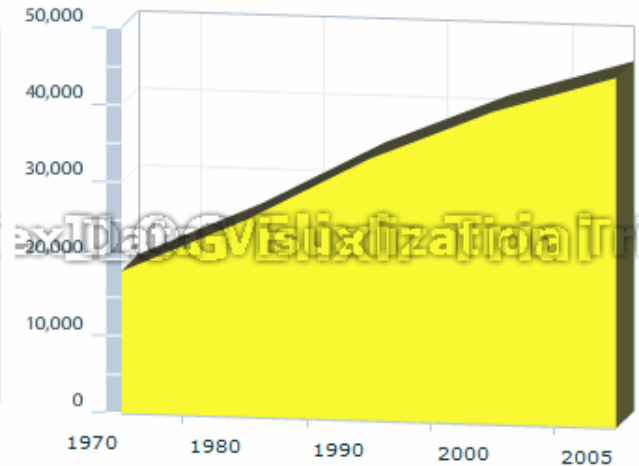
County	People
Montgomery	927,405
Prince Georges	842,764
Baltimore	783,405
Baltimore City	636,377
Anne Arundel	509,397
Howard	269,174
Harford	238,850
Frederick	220,409
Carroll	168,397
Washington	141,563
Charles	138,106
Cecil	97,474
Saint Marys	96,868
Wicomico	90,252
Calvert	87,622
Allegany	73,245
Worcester	48,599
Queen Annes	45,469
Talbot	35,630
Caroline	31,805
Dorchester	31,351
Garrett	29,863
Somerset	25,666



All Counties - 2005



Time Series - Queen Annes



# Sample Measurements

- **Population:** the state's population trends, household sizes, and migration patterns
- **Economy:** the health of the economy, numbers of commercial establishments, employment figures, earnings and income data, and poverty information
- **Environment:** sensitive lands, forested area, land types, agricultural lands, air quality, and the Chesapeake Bay
- **Land Preservation:** acres of land in the Rural Legacy Program, acres of land preserved, converted, or developed, agricultural land preserved, public lands, and land conservation program performance

# Sample Measurements

- **Infrastructure:** school funding, school capacity, construction dollars spent, bus miles, number of people walking, and sewer, water, and other infrastructure capacity
- **Transportation:** vehicle miles traveled, vehicle registrations, lane miles, transportation choices, and congestion analysis
- **Housing:** housing affordability, new housing units authorized for construction, housing ownership, housing vacancies, housing to jobs ratios, and residential sales inside and outside of the PFA
- **Land Use:** developed parcel location, development densities, vacant lands, and land uses across the state



Three states – New Jersey, Maryland and Oregon – are taking different approaches to this task.

- ✓ Dianne Brake, PlanSmart New Jersey
- ✓ Richard E. Hall, Maryland Secretary of Planning
- ✓ John MacArthur, Oregon Bridge Delivery

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