

SHADY SIDE, MD¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The town of Shady Side, Maryland (38.83° N and 76.52° W) (USGS 2008) lies on a peninsula of land with the Chesapeake Bay on one side and West River on the other and is situated just south of Annapolis (about 20 miles) in Anne Arundel County. Shady Side is located about 33 miles from Baltimore, MD and 124 miles from Philadelphia, PA. The town has a total area of 7.9 square miles, of which 7.3 square miles is land and 0.6 square miles is water (SSPANd).



Map 1. Location of Shady Side, MD (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

The Shady Side Peninsula is surrounded by the Chesapeake Bay. “By the time of the arrival of Europeans in Anne Arundel County in 1649, the area had largely been abandoned by the Algonquin speaking inhabitants due to threatening raids of the warlike Susquehannocks to the north” (AAC/PB 2001). The area was called “the Great Swamp”, a portion of which was “Sedgefield,” after the native sedge grass growing in its marshy areas. The area was farming-

¹ These community profiles have been created to serve as port descriptions in Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for fisheries management actions. They also provide baseline information from which to begin research for Social Impact Assessments (SIAs). Further, they provide information relevant to general community impacts for National Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and information on minorities and low income populations for Executive Order (E.O.) 12898 on Environmental Justice.

² For purposes of citation please use the following template: “Community Profile of *Town, ST*. Prepared under the auspices of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center. For further information contact Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov.”

based until about 1870, when watermen from Long Island and Maryland’s eastern shore purchased land and settled near the abundant oyster beds in Herring Bay. In a short period of ten years, Deale’s economy changed from farming to maritime-based. When the post office opened in 1888, the area was renamed Shady Side. During the steamboat era of the Chesapeake Bay visitors traveled to the peninsula for summer vacations and summer homes became very popular (AAC/PB 2001; Anne Arundel 2003). While many visitors came to the area, permanent residents at this time were mostly watermen who made their living by fishing, crabbing, and oystering (AAC/PB 2001). Beginning in 1920, several former farms became summer communities and Deale residents began building and repairing boats, and renting rowboats to summer visitors. African Americans, both free and enslaved, made great contributions to the development of the Deale-Shady Side area, including through work in oyster processing (AAC/PB 2001). In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in sport fishing and recreational motor and sail boating activities, even as numbers of watermen have declined (AAC/PB 2001).

Demographics³

According to Census data (US Census Bureau 2000a), Shady Side had a total population of 5,559 in 2000, up 35.4% from a reported population of 4,107 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 50.4% were males and 49.6% were females. The median age was 37.4 years and 70.4% of the population was 21 years or older while 10.6% were 62 or older.

The population structure for Shady Side (Figure 1) shows the town had a spike in the number of both males and females between the ages of 30-49, with the largest age group between the ages of 40-49. There was also a dip in the population of both males and females between the ages of 20-29 in the year 2000.

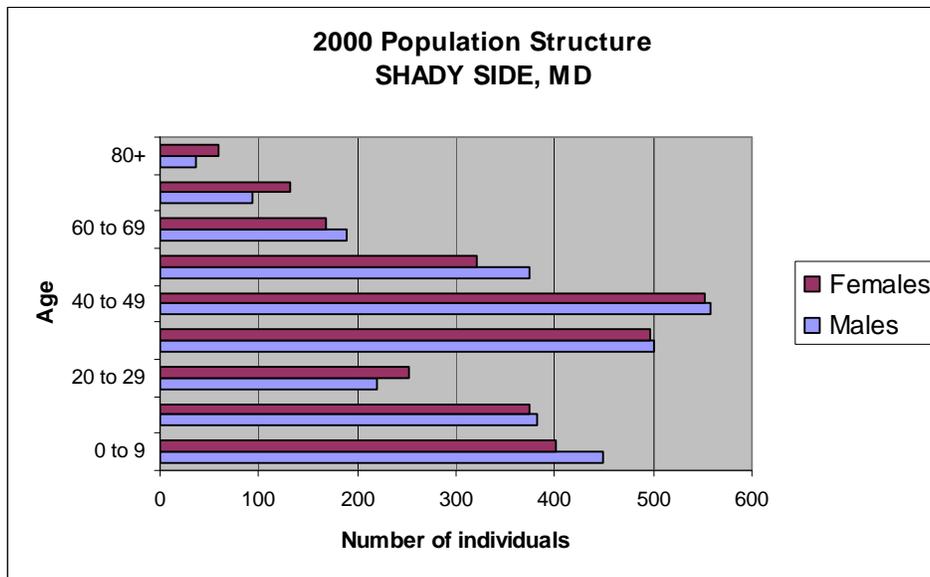


Figure 1. Shady Side’s population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

³ While mid-term estimates are available for some larger communities, data from the 2000 Census are the only data universally available for the communities being profiled in the Northeast. Thus for cross-comparability we have used 2000 data even though these data may have changed significantly since 2000 for at least some communities.

The majority of the population in Shady Side was white (87.2%) with 11.3% of residents black or African American, 0.5% Asian, 0.5% Native American, and none Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 1.3% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents traced their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: German (22.6%), Irish (19.4%), English (14.4%) and other ancestries (18.5%).

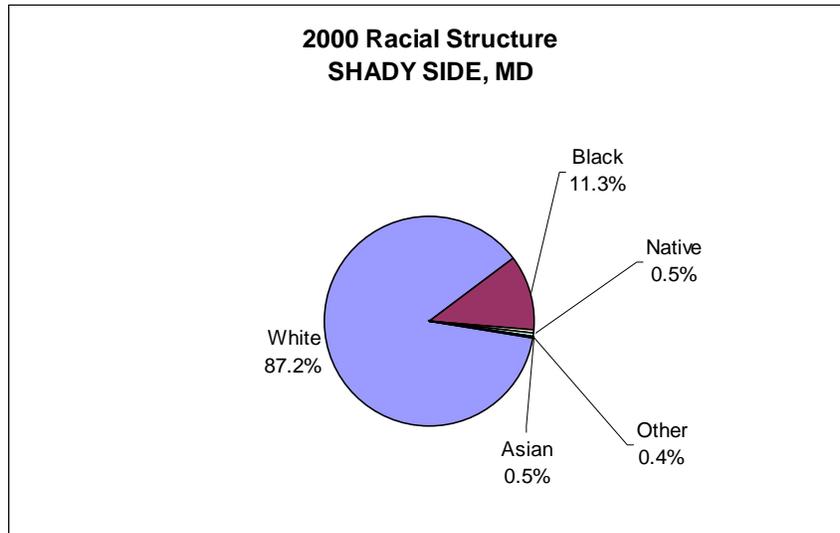


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

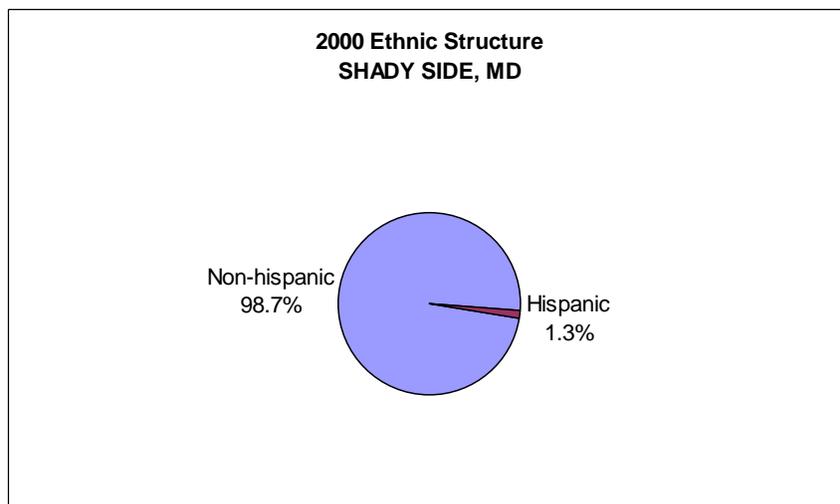


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

With regard to region of birth, 52.8% were born in Maryland, 43.8% were born in a different state, and 1.2% were born outside the US (all of whom were not US citizens).

For 95.2% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 4.8% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 1.0% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” (US Census Bureau 2000).

Of the population 25 years and over, 91.4% were high school graduates or higher, and 25.1% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Of the population 25 years and over, 1.8% did not reach ninth grade, 6.8% attended some high school but did not graduate, 34.3% completed high

school, 25.4% had some college with no degree, 6.6% received their associate's degree, 16.2% earned their bachelor's degree, and 8.9% received either a graduate or professional degree.

Although religious percentages are not available through the US Census, according to the Association of Religion Data Archive (ARDA) in 2000 the religion with the highest number of congregations and adherents in Southern Anne Arundel County was the United Methodist Church, with 71 congregations and 33,235 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were the Catholic Church (20 with 107,463 adherents) and Southern Baptist Convention (30 with 12,763 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 26.6% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

In general for the South County area where Shady Side is located, the primary business has been agriculture. However, farming has been faced with challenges in recent years and tobacco farming has been replaced by soybean and corn. Some landowners within South County have sought alternatives to traditional farming such as sod farming, dog and horse breeding and aquaculture. According to the Chamber of Commerce, developing creative ways to continue the agrarian lifestyle of South County is critical in preserving the areas landscape (SAACC 2008).

In December 2005, a bill was passed and added to the Anne Arundel County Code (AACC) allowing watermen to conditionally use their homes to store their crab pots and fishing gear. Some of the conditions for storing gear are that the property owner must have a commercial fishing license, there is to be no out-of-season storage on piers, no adjacent property water view obstructions, and specified hours for on-site seafood sales (AACC 2005).

As of 2007 blue crab numbers in the Chesapeake had fallen 70% since the 1990s, and scientists continue (in 2008) to be concerned about a possible crash in the population. Poor water quality and overharvesting are considered causes of the decline; of particular concern is the number of female crabs being harvested by watermen. While the Chesapeake Bay's crabs are not likely to go extinct, crabbers are having a tough time making ends meet between the rising cost of fuel and an influx of imported crab meat; both Maryland and Virginia are seeking disaster funds to aid watermen and processors (MD DNR 2008).

As numbers of fish and shellfish in the Chesapeake decline, there are stricter fishing regulations and rules (Nitkin 2007, Kobell 2008). Recently, the State imposed additional regulations for catching female crabs (DNR 2008), upsetting local watermen who feel they have a difficult enough time making a living⁴ (Kobell, 2008).

Cultural attributes

The Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, Inc. operates the Captain Salem Avery House as a watermen's museum. The original house was built in 1860 by Captain Avery, a Long Island fisherman who came to the area to make his living off the Chesapeake Bay. The Heritage Society in general is active in the community and sponsors educational and social activities and overall seeks to "preserve, collect, document, and share local history and culture" (NEH 2007). The Society was awarded a Heritage Partnership award in 2007 from Four Rivers: The Heritage Area of Annapolis, London Town & South County (Four Rivers nd). The Society also hosts an Oyster Festival in October (SAAAC 2008; SSRHS 2008).

[Discovery Village](#) is a working waterfront that also offers research and educational programs that teach the public about the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and the watermen who still

⁴ Community Reviewer comment, Ruth Hazen, August 18, 2008, Collections Manager, Deale Area Historic Society.

work on the Bay. According to their website, “the Village is committed to creating a viable working waterfront for many of the local watermen who have plied their trade from this beautiful creek for generations. We believe that watermen represent the true values in America: hard work and integrity. We want the children who visit Discovery Village to know that fish come from watermen and not the supermarket.” The Village also hosts a Blessing of the Fleet in August (Burton 2002).

A boatbuilder on Parrish Creek in Shady Side completely restored a classic wooden oyster boat that was built over 40 years ago. The restoration of the boat (*Miss Edith*) will be used by Discovery Village for educational trips to teach students about the Chesapeake Bay’s ecology and the importance of commercial fishing to the area (Chowning 2006).

The annual South County Festival is held in June at Tracys Landing (about 7 miles from Shady Side) and features various activities and lots of food. The event is sponsored by the Southern Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce. There is also a Maryland Maritime Heritage Festival held in Annapolis every year (SAACC, 2008)

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

According to the 2000 Census⁵, 77.0% (3,216 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 2.2% were unemployed and 0.6% were in the Armed Forces.

According to US Census Bureau (2000), jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 0.6% of the jobs in Shady Side. Self-employed workers – a category where fishermen might be found – accounted for 238 positions or 7.7% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (14.2 %), construction (12.8%), public administration (12.4%), and retail trade (11.4%) were the primary industries.

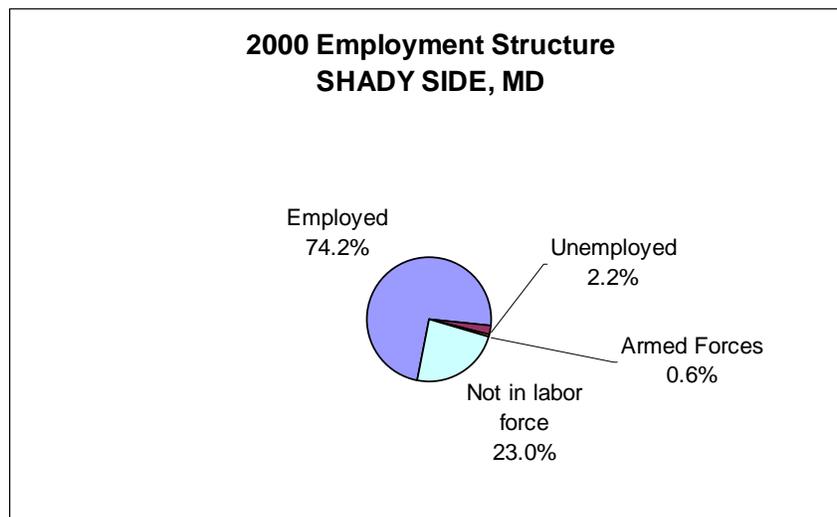


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

⁵ Again, Census data from 2000 are used because they are universally available and offer cross-comparability among communities. Some statistics, particularly median home price, are likely to have changed significantly since 2000.

Median 2000 household income in Shady Side was \$68,406 (up 34.7% from \$44,682 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and median per capita income was \$29,458. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 16.8% more per year than females.

The average family in Shady Side consisted of 3.10 persons. With respect to poverty, 3.9% of families, down from 4.2% in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and 4.5% of individuals were below the US Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239 through \$35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 13.0% of all families of any size earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000 Shady Side had a total of 2,306 housing units, of which 89.5% were occupied and 98.9% were detached one-unit homes. Nearly a fifth (15.7%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes accounted for 0.3% of the housing units; all of the detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$152,700. Of vacant housing units, 6.5% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 11.6% were renter occupied.

Government

Shady Side does not have a Town Hall or formal government structure, and relies on the County. Since 1964, Anne Arundel County has had a charter form of government in accordance with State law. It is composed of a legislative branch (County Council) and an executive branch that is headed by the County Executive. The County Executive and County Councilman are based in Annapolis, MD (Anne Arundel County 2003).

Fishery involvement in government

The Deale/Shady Side 2001 Area Plan notes: “Boats, seafood, and maritime industries coupled with a moderate amount of tourism and a slow, deliberate lifestyle and small-scale development are the main goals” (AAC/PB 2001). Both commercial and recreational fisheries are recognized as important culturally and economically (AAC/PB 2001). Anne Arundel County also has a Severn River Commission to deal with environmental issues throughout its watershed (Anne Arundel County 2003). And the Deale/Shady Side Area Plan includes improving wetlands for juvenile fish habitat.

Institutional

Fishing associations

“The [Maryland Watermen's Association](#) (MWA) is dedicated to the interests of all who derive beauty & benefit from Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Waters.” While the MWA focuses primarily on bay fishing issues, they also represent ocean fishermen where necessary. The MWA still broadly represent all those who work on the water in/of Maryland. The President of the Association also serves on the [Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council](#) which focuses on bay as well as ocean fisheries issues.⁶ The MWA is based in Annapolis, MD (about 20 miles from Shady Side).

Fishing assistance centers

Information on fishing assistance centers in Shady Side was either unavailable through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist.

⁶ Community Review Comments, Kelly Clements Barnes, Administrative Assistant, Maryland Watermen's Association, September 13, 2007

Other fishing related organizations

The Shady Side Peninsula Association is a non-profit umbrella organization consisting of elected officers from each community association located in Shady Side. The organization provides “a voice for the community on the peninsula as a whole, helping to assure that Shady Side remains a pleasant place to live and work” (SSPA nd). The Southern Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce office is also based in Shady Side and supports activities and business interests throughout the county (SAACC 2008).

[The Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#), a regional organization that works to protect the Bay, is using [Discovery Village](#) as the base station for an oyster restoration project.

While not located in Shady Side, [Arundel Habitat for Humanity](#) is a Christian housing ministry that provides homeownership opportunities to low-income families currently living in substandard or inadequate housing. The organization builds and renovates houses in partnership with families across Anne Arundel County and the Brooklyn/Curtis Bay area of Baltimore City. Their office is based out of Arnold, MD which is about 22 miles from Shady Side.

The crab research program, called “Crab Restoration and the Bay” (CRAB), is a combined effort by the [University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute’s Center of Marine Biotechnology](#) (COMB), the [Maryland Watermen’s Association](#) and other regional and local businesses. The project collects spawning female crabs and monitors and manipulates conditions to better understand ideal situation for the crabs and spawning. Researchers hope the hatchery effort will answer questions about the blue crab’s environment, physiology and molecular structure that will enable managers better manage the struggling wild fishery.

Physical

Shady Side has about half a dozen marinas which offer many boat services. These marinas are: Leatherbury Point, Parrish Creek Marina and Boatyard, Backyard Boats, Advanced Marine Svc Incorporated, Clarks Landing Boat Sales, and Chesapeake Yacht Club (Marinas.com 2008). The [Yacht Club](#) offers fuel, pump out services, and a pool to members as well as hosting various events which include lobster and oyster feasts. According to an article in National Fishermen, there is at least one commercial boat builder in Shady Side on Parrish Creek. The owner once made most of his income from crabbing and oystering before retiring to the boatyard three years ago (Anonymous 2006).

Shady Side is situated off Route 468 in Maryland on a peninsula on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Shady Side is approximately 20 miles from Annapolis, 35 miles from Washington DC, and 142 miles from Philadelphia, PA by car. The nearest public use airport is in Edgewater, 5 miles from Shady Side and Baltimore-Washington International Airport is 26 miles away (Anne Arundel County 2003). Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services offers a South County bus connection called SCOTS which services Annapolis and the western shore area (including Shady Side) (City of Annapolis 2002). A regular bus route from Annapolis to Deale/ Shadyside and other points in South County also exists (Anne Arundel County 2003).

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁷

Commercial

Maryland federal landings data, which come primarily from Ocean City, are reported with a county and port. State entered data are reported under “MD unclassified” and Potomac River data are reported with county and port - the port code being the name of a river or a creek rather than an actual port. Thus no Shady Side landings, or even complete Anne Arundel County landings, can be disaggregated for report here.

Similarly, only federally-permitted vessels are in the federal permit database. Vessels which are permitted at the state level only will not appear in the tables below. Thus there are no home ported vessels listed for Shady Side.

Recreational

There are several charter fishing operations in Shady Side. The larger charter companies include: [Bay Lady Charter Fishing](#) and [Shady Side Charters](#). Shady Side area anglers also likely participate in the state-wide Maryland Fishing Challenge, a six month ongoing event where anglers can claim a variety of prizes in exchange for tagged fish they capture (DNR 2008).

Subsistence

Information on subsistence fishing in Shady Side was either unavailable through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist.

FUTURE

In September-October 2008 the County Council will complete its General Development Plan for the county which will have relevance to Shady Side. In addition, future issues may arise relating to the 2005 Bill passed through the County Council that allows commercial fishermen to keep fishing gear in their yards. Such issues relating to commercial fishing gear and private rights may become more important as tourism expands and property values rise.⁸

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⁷ In reviewing the commercial landings data several factors need to be kept in mind. 1) While both federal and state landings are included, some states provide more detailed data to NMFS than others. For example, shellfish may not be included or data may be reported only by county and not by port. 2) Some communities did not have individual port codes until more recently. Before individual port codes were assigned, landings from those ports were coded at the county level or as an aggregate of two geographically close small ports. Where landings were coded at the county level they cannot be sorted to individual ports for those earlier years, e.g., prior to 2000. 3) Where aggregated codes were used, those aggregate codes may still exist and be in use alongside the new individual codes. Here the landings which are still assigned to the aggregate port code cannot be sorted into the individual ports, so port level data are only those which used the individual port code. 4) Even when individual port codes exist, especially for small ports, landings may be coded at the county level. Here again it is impossible to disaggregate these to a port level, making the port level landings incomplete. 5) In all these cases, the per port data in this profile may under report the total level of landings to the port, though all landings are accounted for in the overall NMFS database.

⁸ Pers comm, Beth Jones, Legislative Assistant, Anne Arundel Council, August 15, 2008, ph. (410) 222-1401

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