



**METROPOLITAN POLICY PROGRAM**

**THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION**

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**Latin American Immigrants  
in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area**

*Latin American Immigrants:  
Civic and Political Participation in the Washington DC-Metro Area*

**Woodrow Wilson Center  
November 1, 2007**

METROPOLITAN POLICY PROGRAM

# Washington DC's foreign-born population is characterized by:

**A very fast-growing immigrant population**

**Global origins**

**Suburban residence**

# Metropolitan Washington ranks 7th in number of foreign-born residents

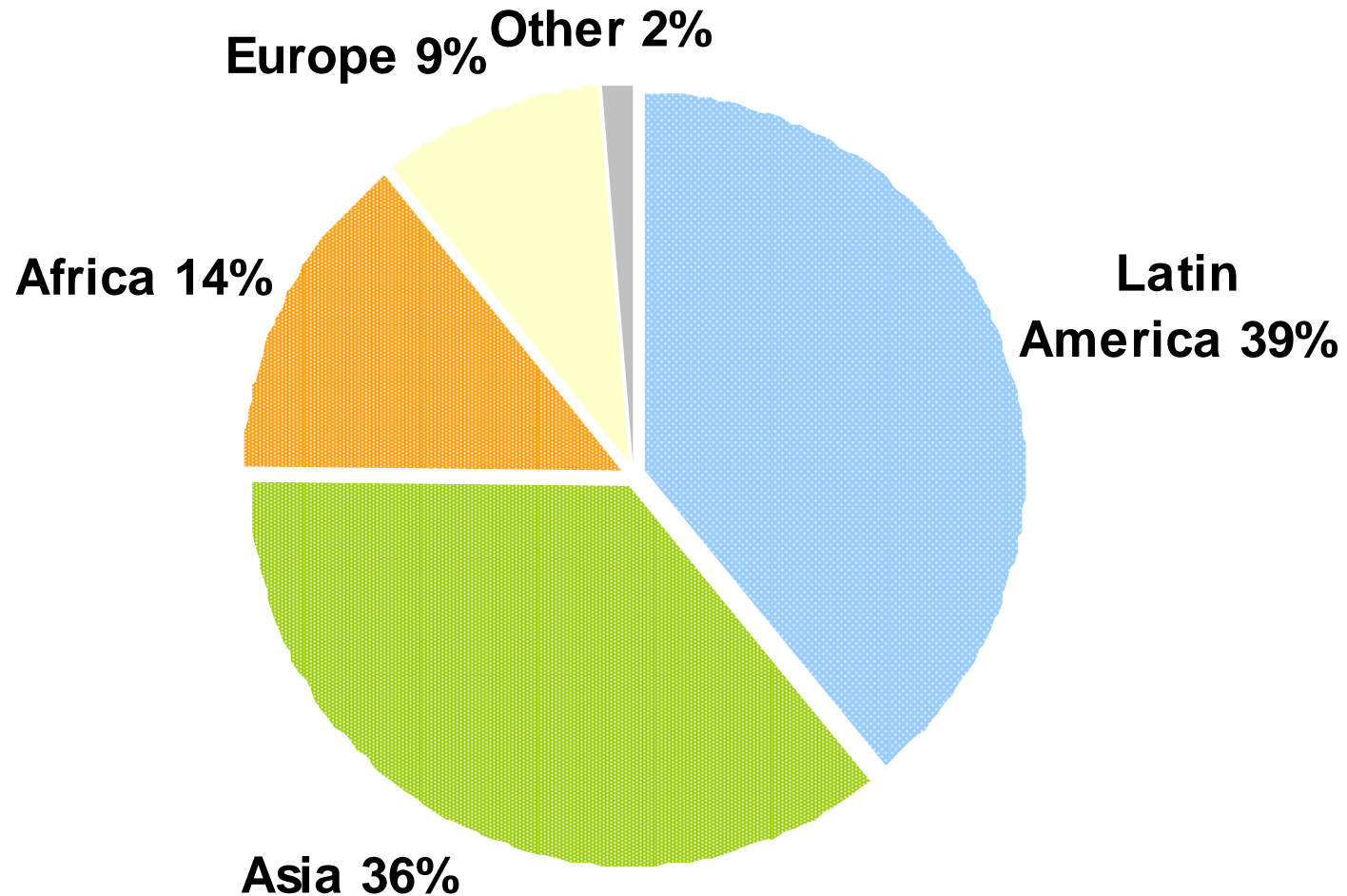
	<u>%FB</u>	<u>Millions</u>
New York	27.9	5,117,290
Los Angeles	34.7	4,407,353
Miami-Fort Lauderdale	36.5	1,949,629
Chicago	17.5	1,625,649
San Francisco-Oakland	29.5	1,201,209
Houston	21.4	1,113,875
<b>Washington</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>1,017,432</b>
Dallas-Fort Worth	17.7	1,016,221
Riverside-San Bernardino	21.6	827,584
Boston	16.0	684,165

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 2005

# Washington DC's foreign-born population, 2006

Rank	Country	Estimate	Percent
	Total Foreign Born	1,063,033	100.0
<b>1</b>	<b>El Salvador</b>	<b>133,191</b>	<b>12.5</b>
2	India	62,311	5.9
3	Korea	58,934	5.5
<b>4</b>	<b>Mexico</b>	<b>43,633</b>	<b>4.1</b>
5	Vietnam	43,215	4.1
6	Philippines	40,517	3.8
7	China	40,422	3.8
<b>8</b>	<b>Guatemala</b>	<b>33,843</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Bolivia</b>	<b>32,344</b>	<b>3.0</b>
10	Ethiopia	27,703	2.6
<b>11</b>	<b>Peru</b>	<b>27,676</b>	<b>2.6</b>
12	Other Western Africa	25,270	2.4
<b>13</b>	<b>Honduras</b>	<b>22,763</b>	<b>2.1</b>
14	Iran	20,443	1.9
15	Nigeria	20,277	1.9

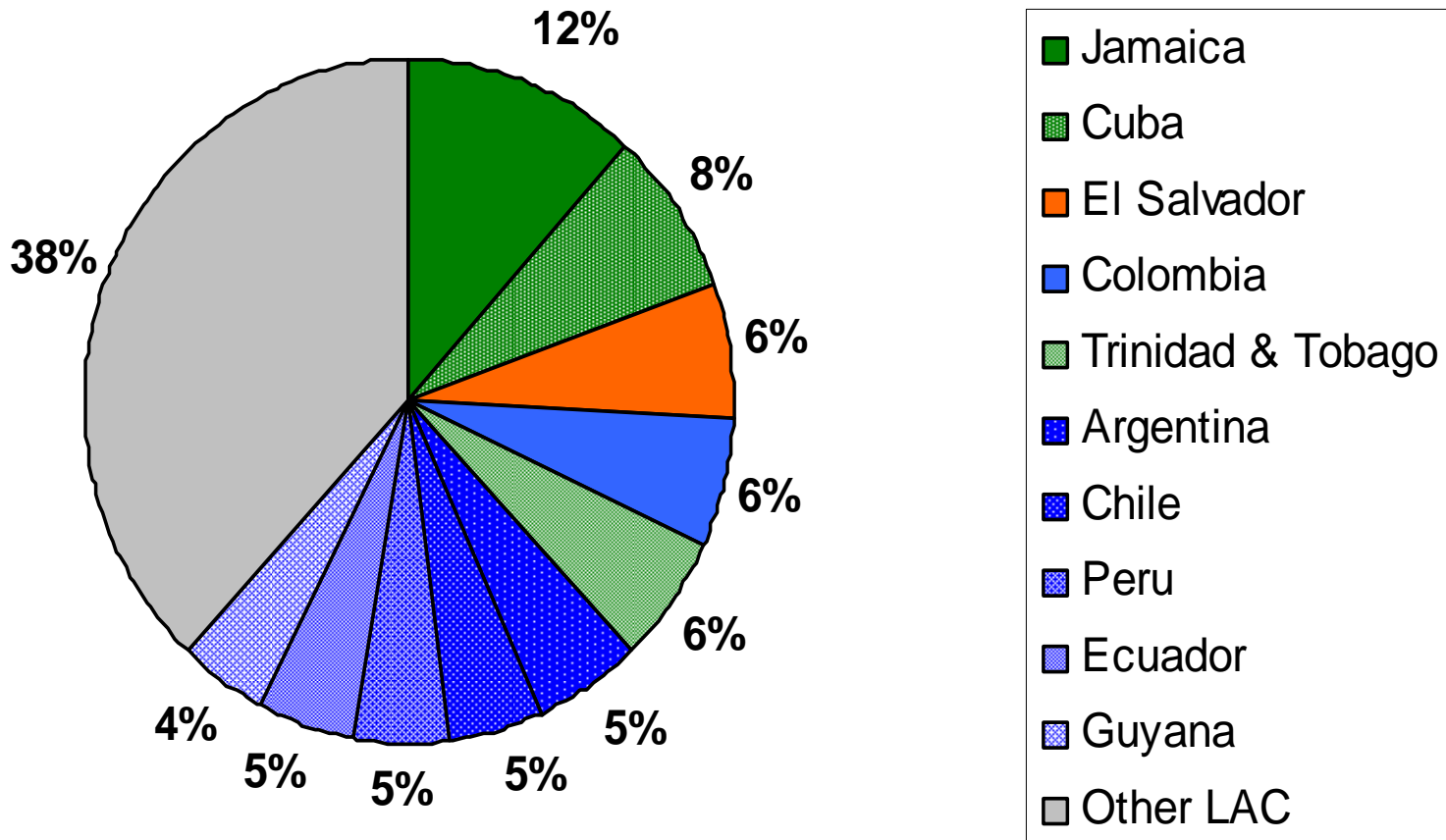
# Latin American immigrants are the largest regional origin group in the metro area



Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 2006

# In 1980, birth countries were primarily South American and Caribbean

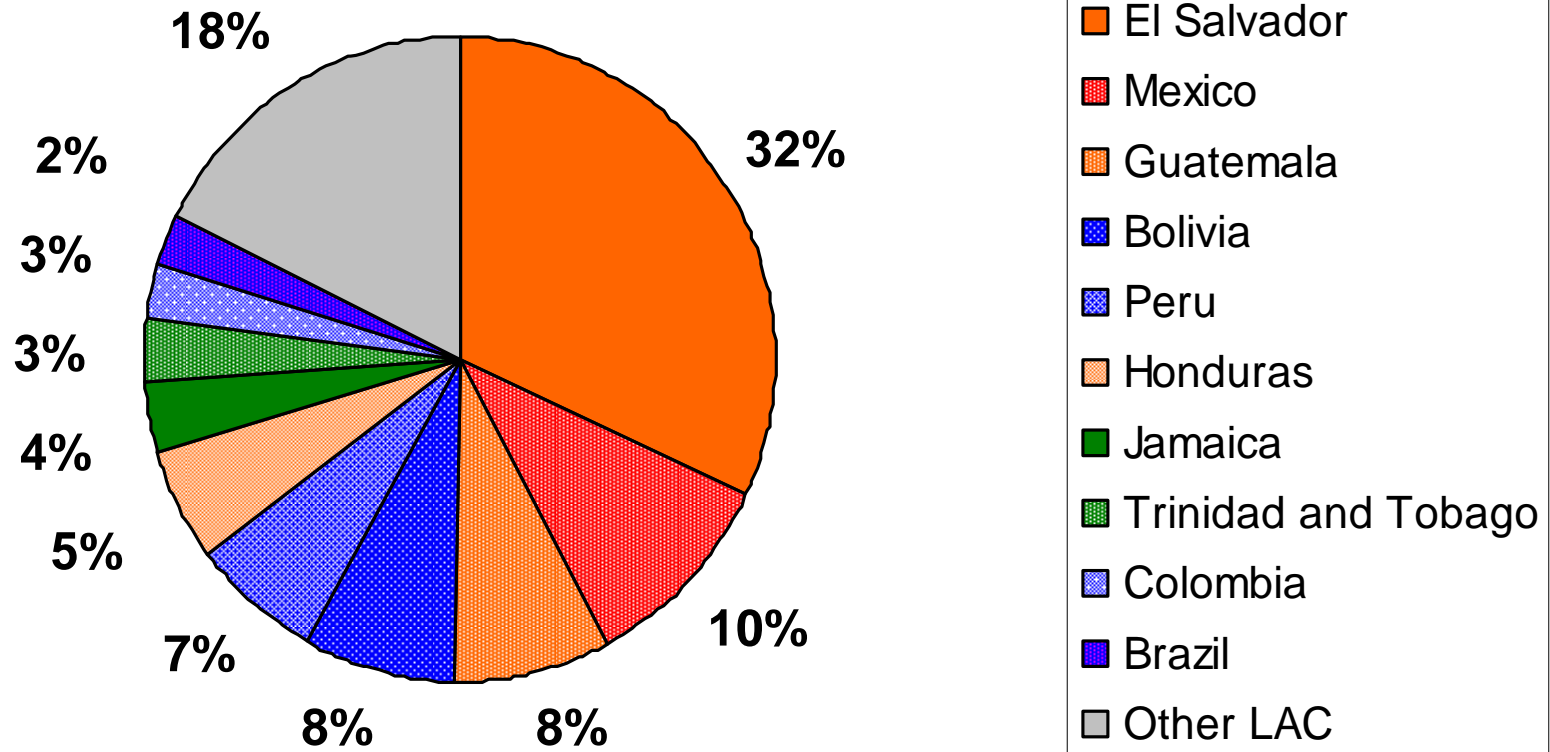
## Latin American Immigrants, 1980



Source: 1980 Census

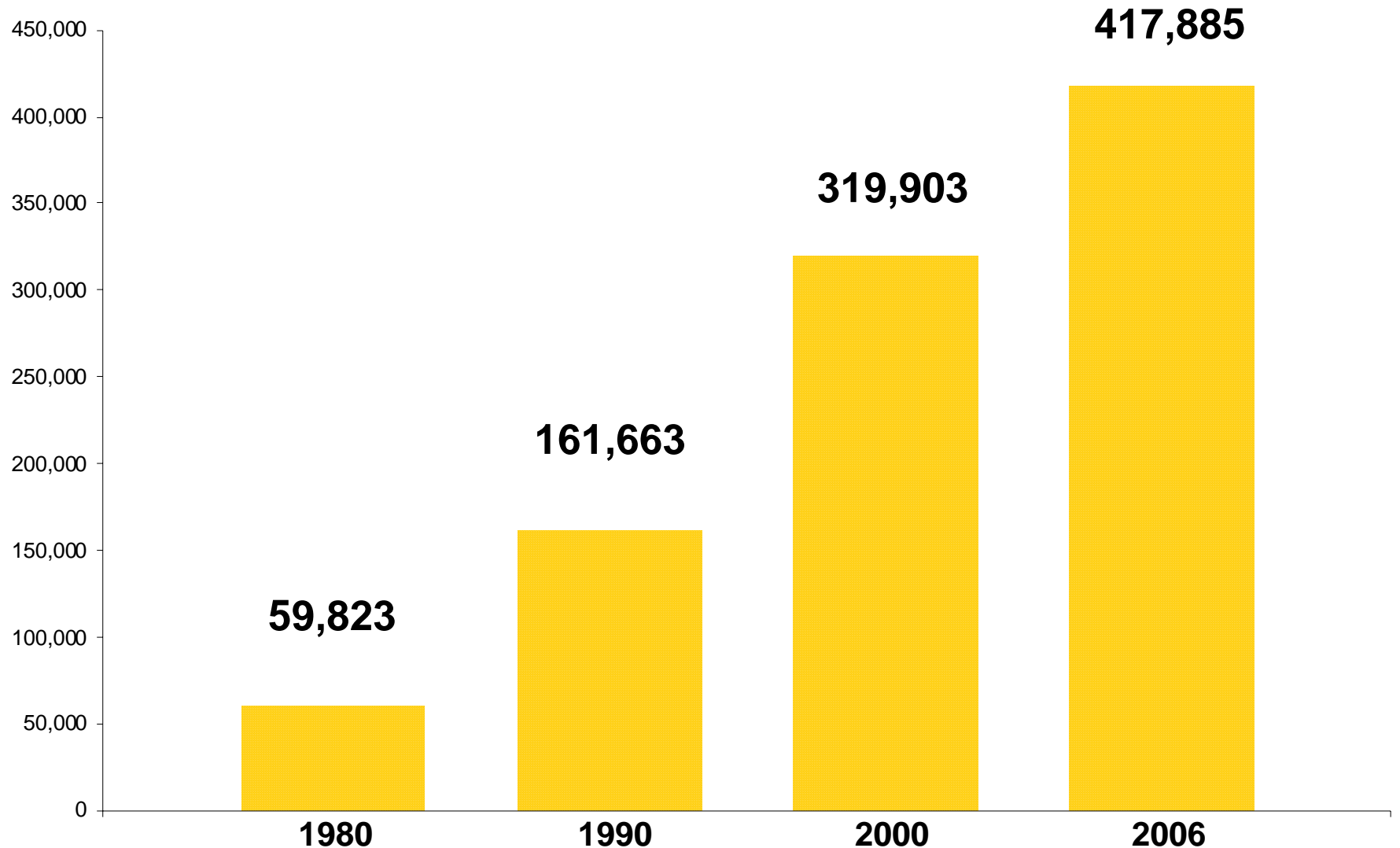
# By 2006, most were from Central America

## Latin American Immigrants, 2006



# Washington's Latin American population has grown by 600 percent in 25 years, twice as fast as the total immigrant pop

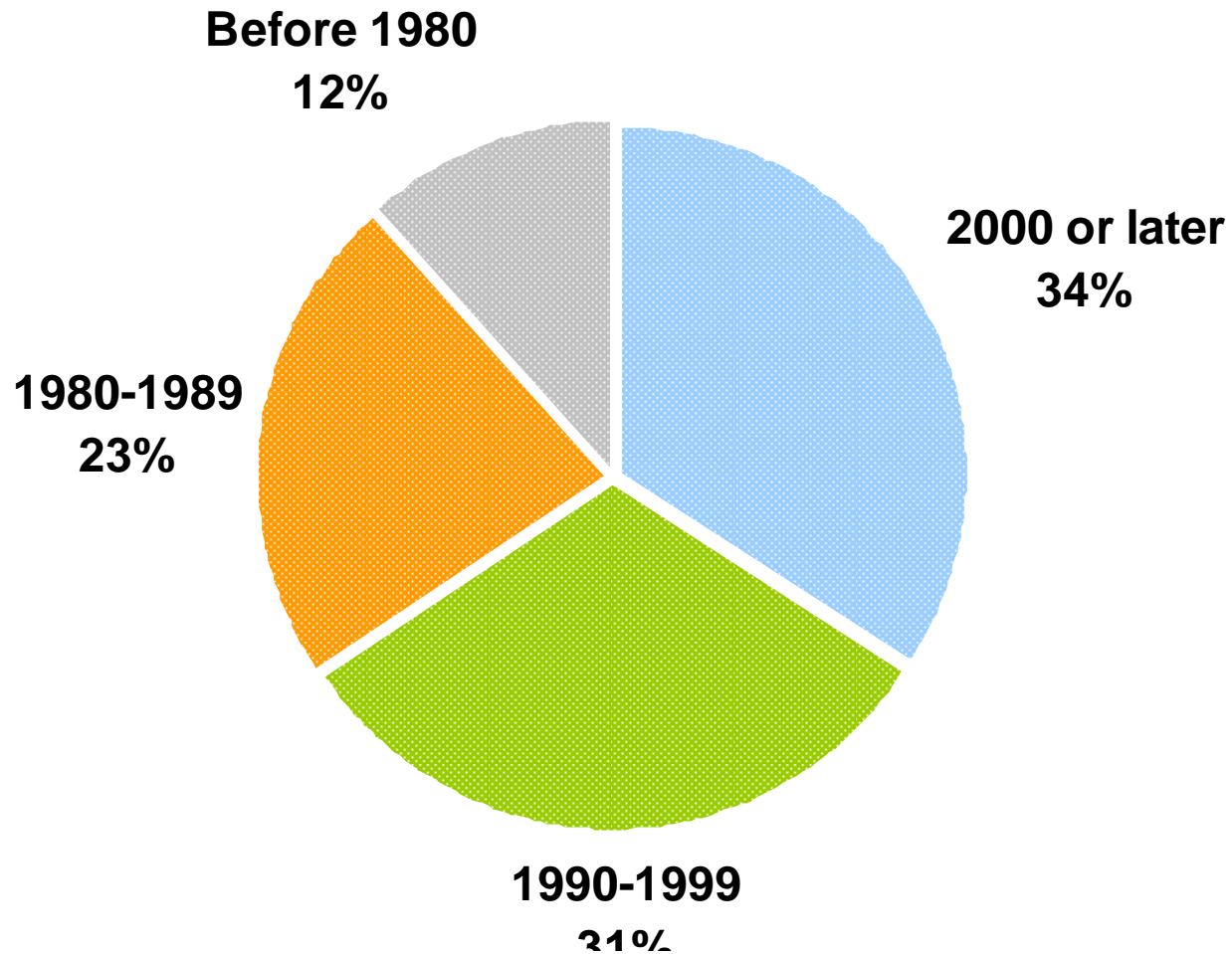
Latin American Immigrants in the Washington Metropolitan Area, 1980-2006



Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 2006

# One-third of all Latin American immigrants in Washington arrived in the United States since 2000

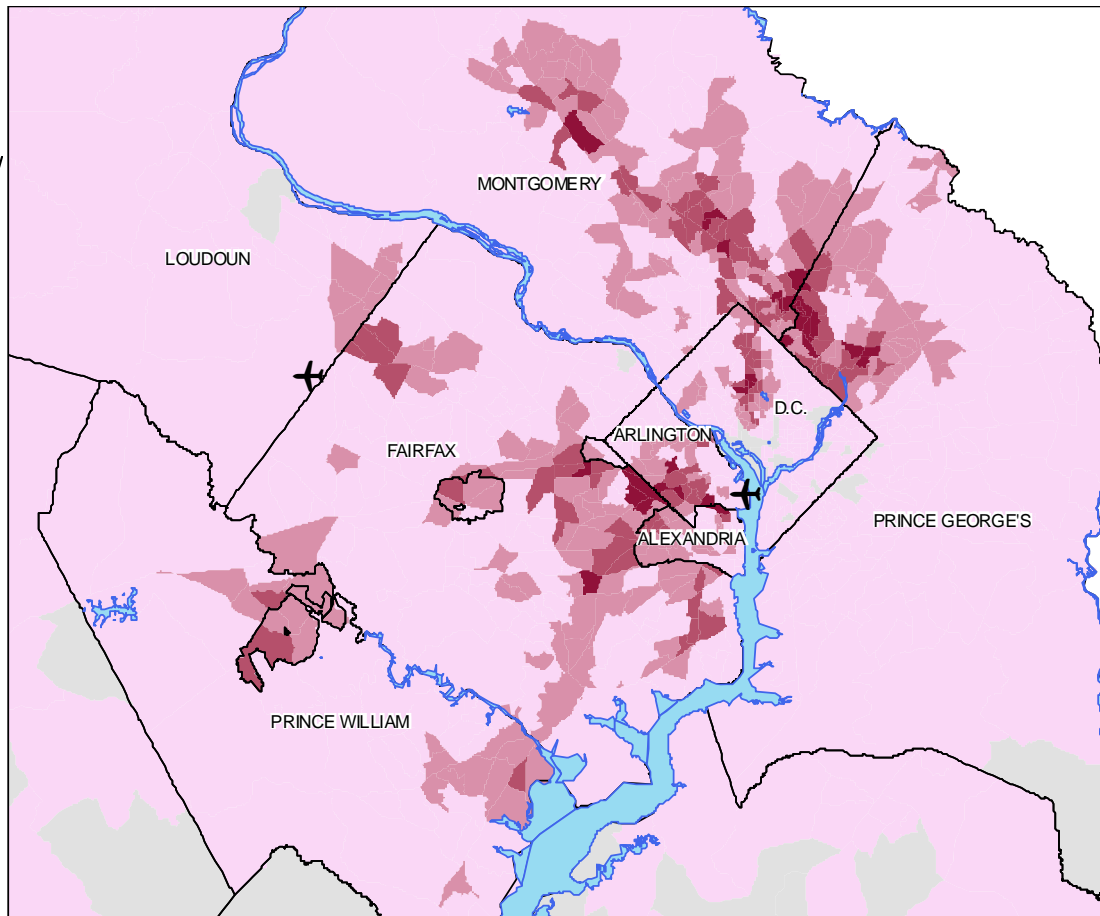
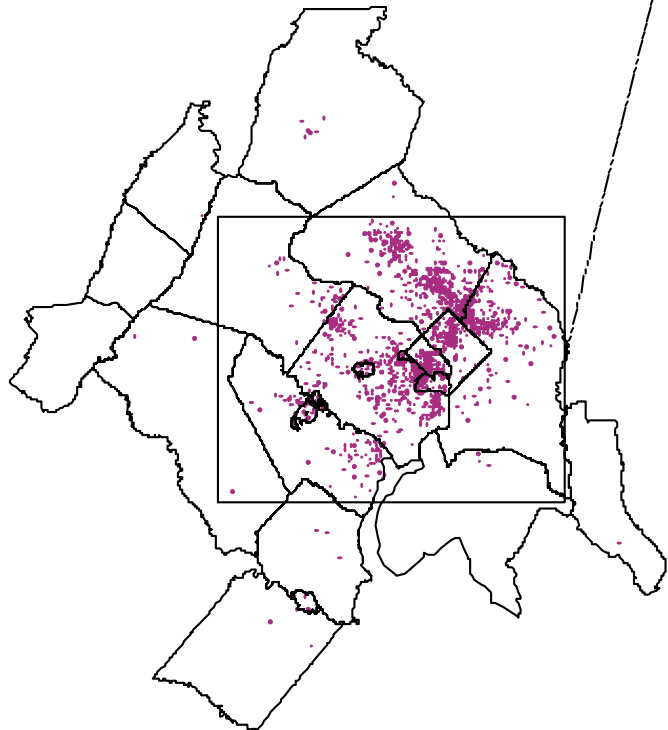
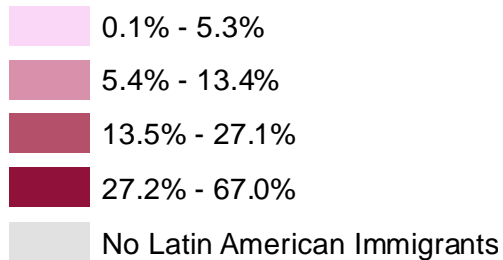
Period of Entry to the United States, Latin American Immigrants, 2006



Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 2006

# Latin American immigrants have settled in the core of the region and the inner suburbs

Percent of Total Population that is Latin American Immigrant

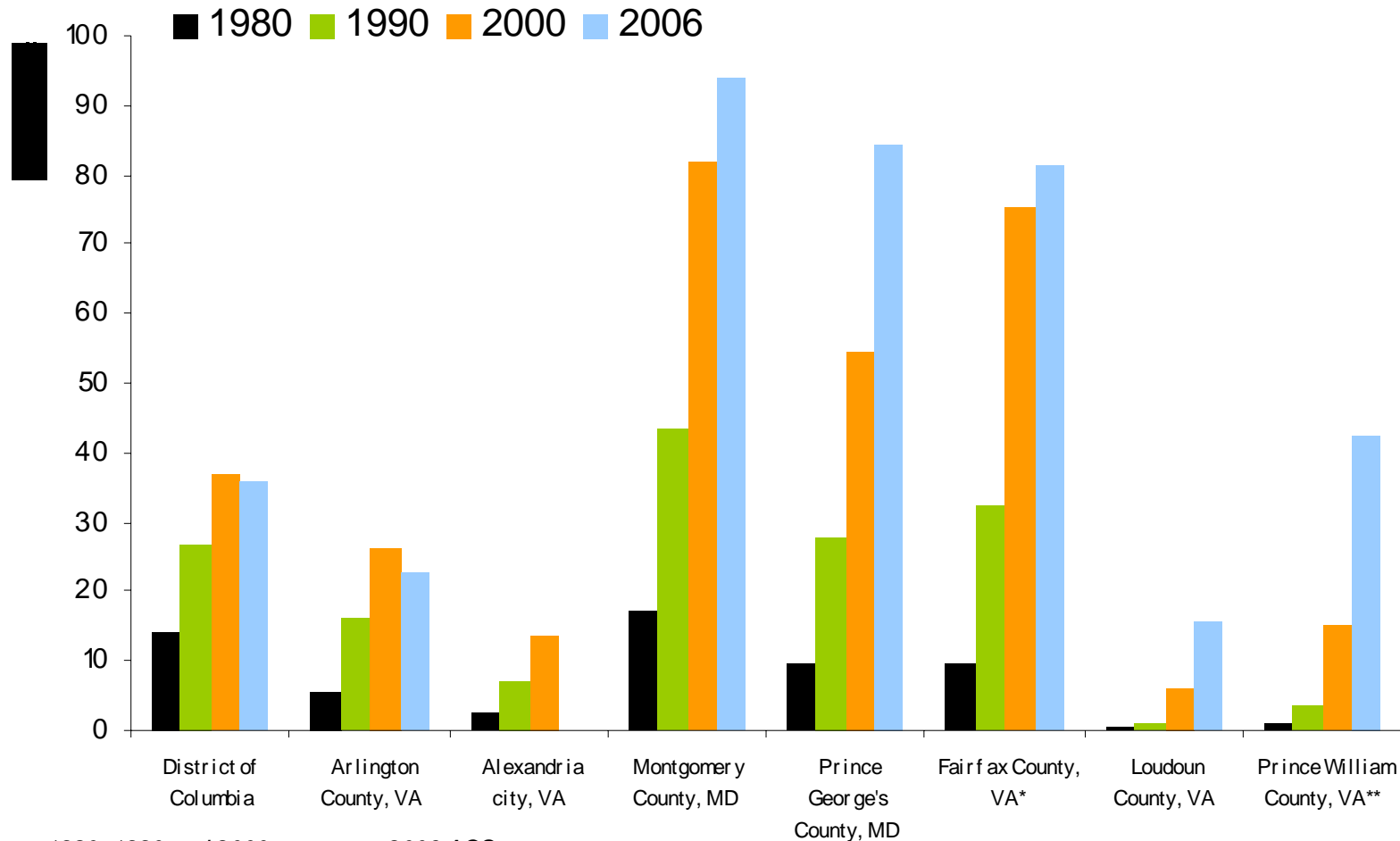


1 Dot = 200 Latin American Immigrants

Source: Census 2000 SF3

# Recently however, the suburbs continue to attract Latin American immigrants, and the inner core's population began to decline after 2000

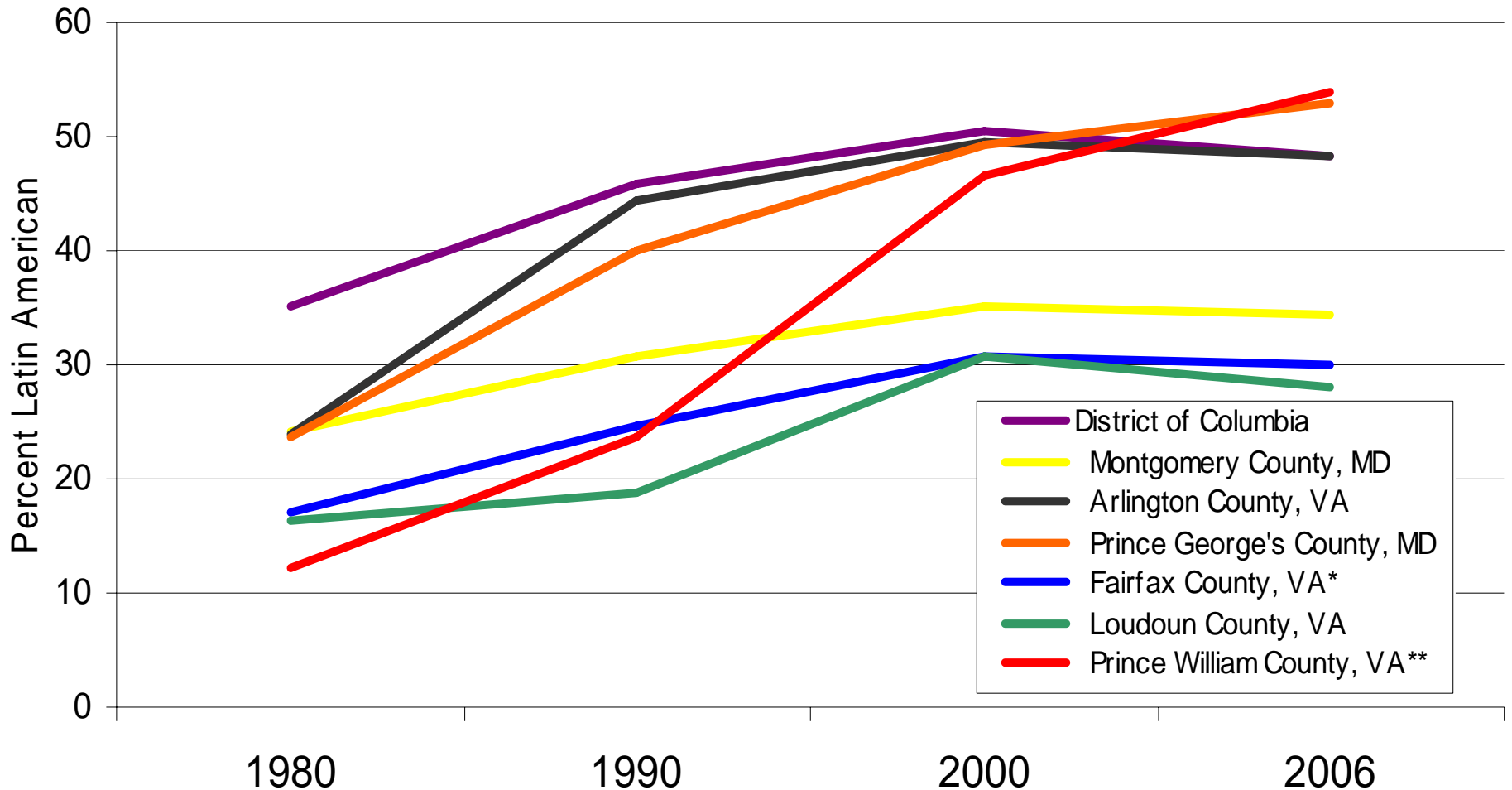
Number of Latin American Immigrants in Washington Area Jurisdictions, 1980-2006



Sources: 1980, 1990 and 2000 censuses; 2006 ACS

# Latin Americans are now the majority of immigrants in Prince William and Prince George's Counties

Percent of Foreign-born Population that was born in Latin America, 1980-2006



Sources: 1980, 1990 and 2000 censuses; 2006 ACS

# Washington's Latin American immigrants differ greatly from the total population along demographic lines

<b>Age</b>	<b>Latin American Immigrants</b>	<b>Total Population</b>
<18 years	7.7	24.6
18-64 years	86.5	65.7
65+ years	5.9	9.6
Sex Ratio, 18-64	113	95

## **Educational Attainment**

Less than high school	37.5	10.4
High school graduate	24.9	20.7
Some college/AA degree	18.2	22.4
Bachelor's degree/higher	19.4	46.4
Limited English Proficient	66.7	43.4

# Their household characteristics also differ from the total population...

<b>Household Characteristics</b>	<b>Latin American Immigrants</b>	<b>Total Population</b>
Median Household Income	\$55,456	\$79,223
Living below poverty line	9.0	5.9
Mean Household Size (persons per household)	3.36	2.51
Mean Persons per Room	0.66	0.44
Homeowners	56.0	67.6

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 2006

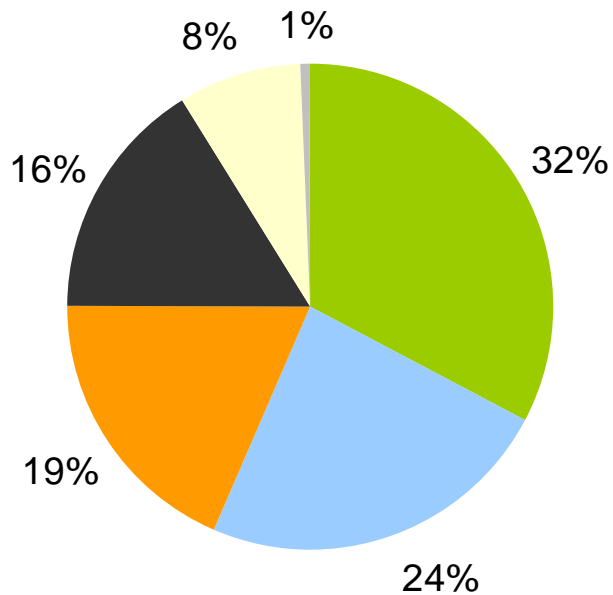
# ...as do their labor market characteristics

<u>Employment Status</u>	<u>Latin American Immigrants</u>	<u>Total Population</u>
Total, in the labor force	100.0	100.0
Employed	95.4	95.4
Unemployed	4.6	4.6
Not in the labor force	20.2	21.5

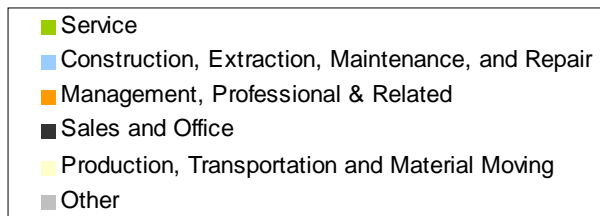
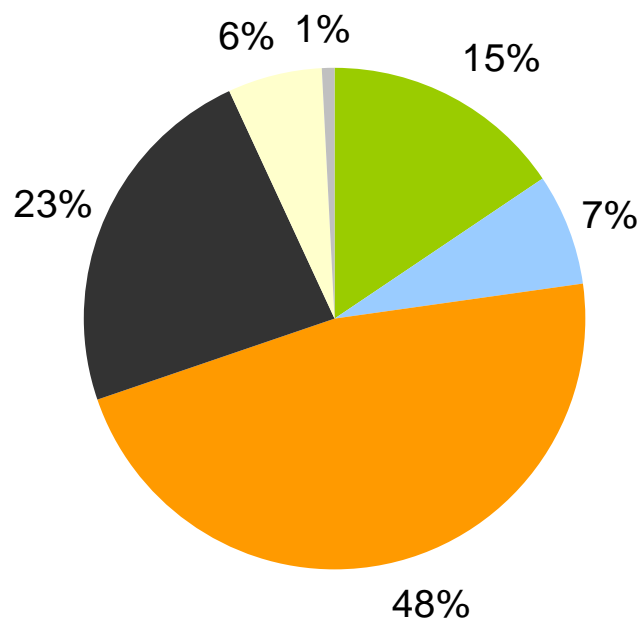
# Latin Americans are more likely to work in service or construction jobs

Occupation, Washington Metropolitan Area, 2006

### Latin American Immigrants



### Total Metro Population



Source: US Census Bureau, 2006 ACS