

# **African immigrants in the Washington region: a demographic overview**

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# A few words about the data

Census defines foreign-born population as all persons born abroad who were not US citizens at birth. The data I present are for those born in Africa, so their US-born children are not included in these numbers.

Census does not ask about immigration status.

Data include legal permanent residents, temporary migrants (e.g. students), refugees and asylum seekers, and undocumented.



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I

The national context

II

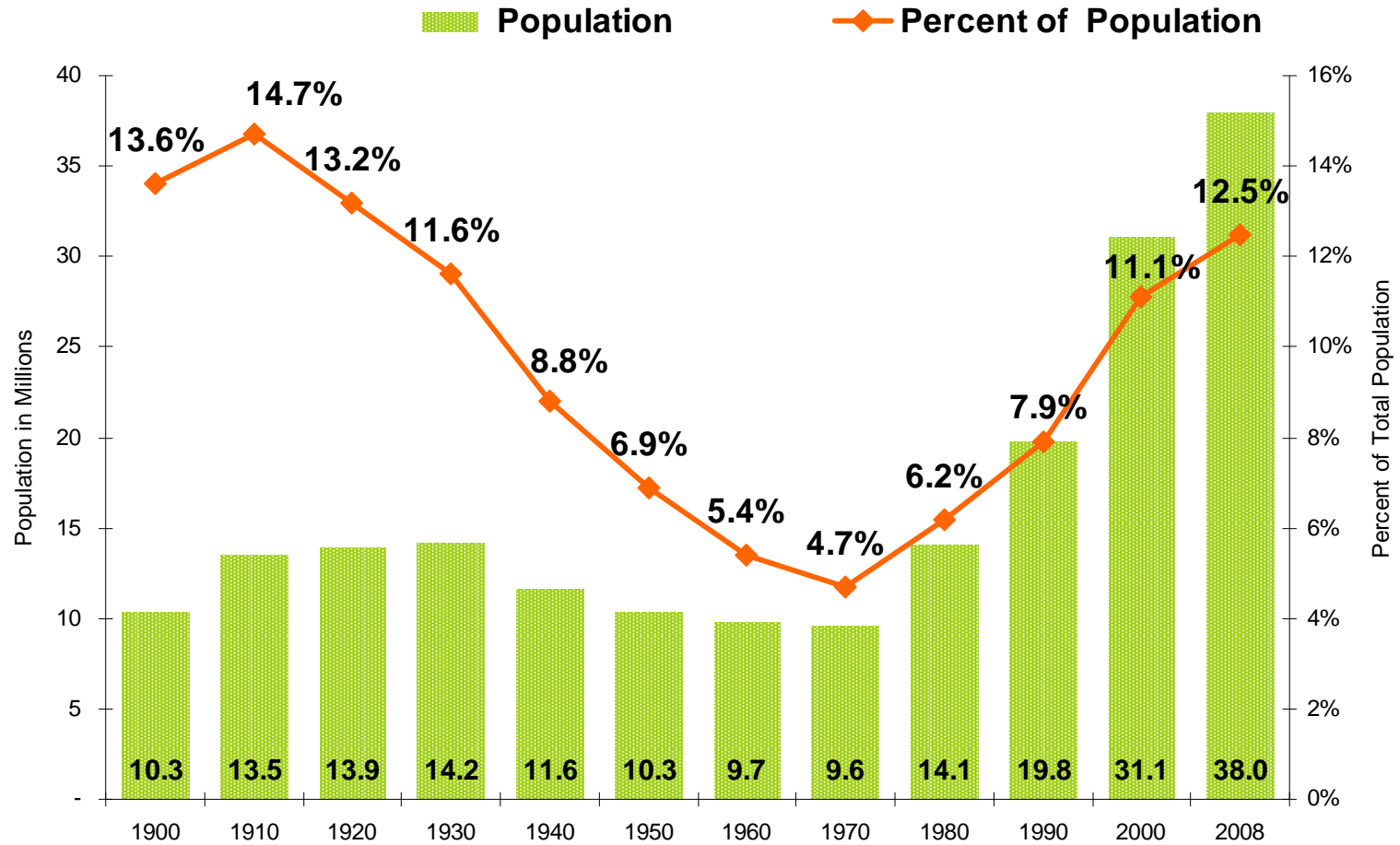
Africans in Washington

III

Characteristics of African immigrants

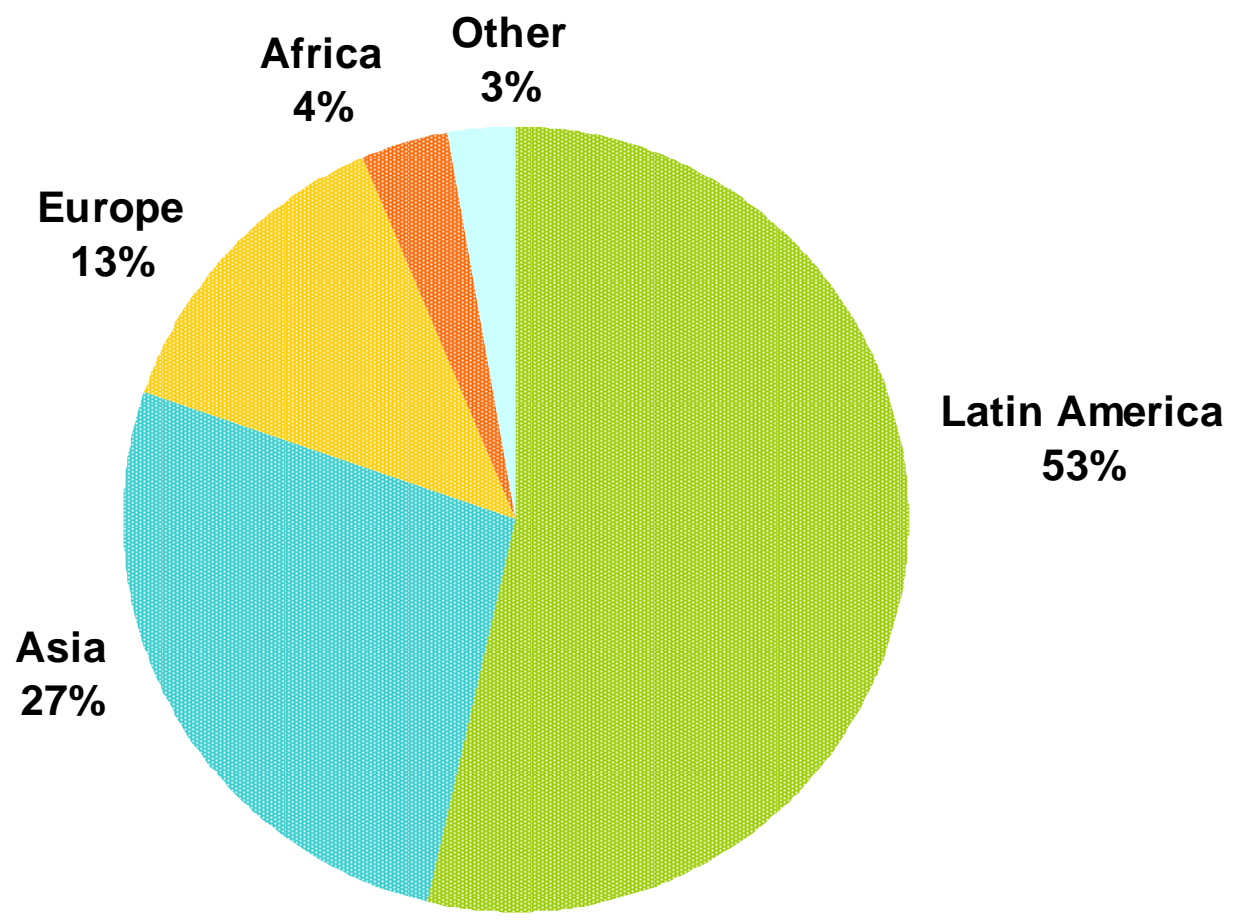
# Africans are a part of the “new immigration” that has taken place since 1965.

Total Foreign Born and Share Foreign Born in the United States, 1900-2008



Africans make up 4 % of all immigrants, up from 3% in 2000.  
1.4 million African immigrants were counted in 2008.

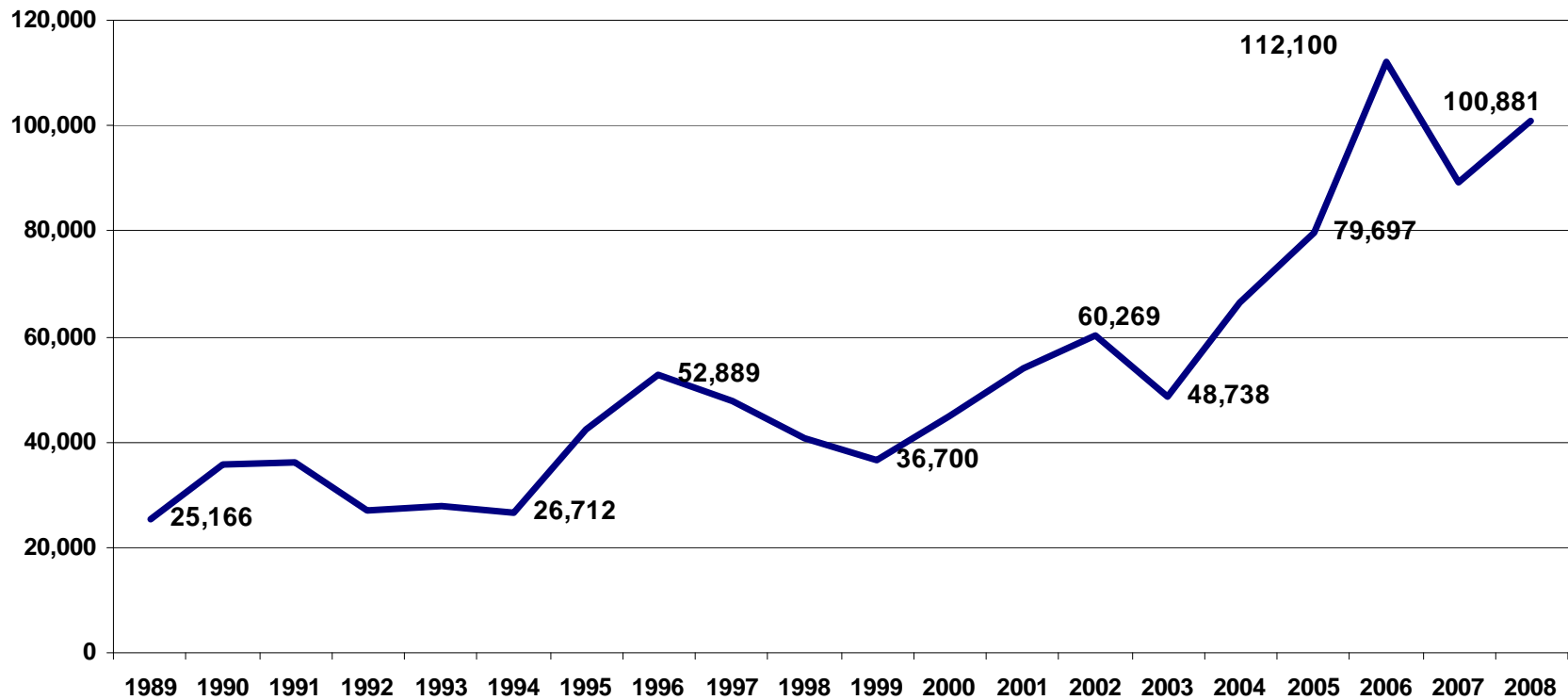
Region of birth  
For the foreign-  
born population  
in the U.S., 2008



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2008

# Number of Africans admitted as immigrants in 2008 is four times what it was in 1989.

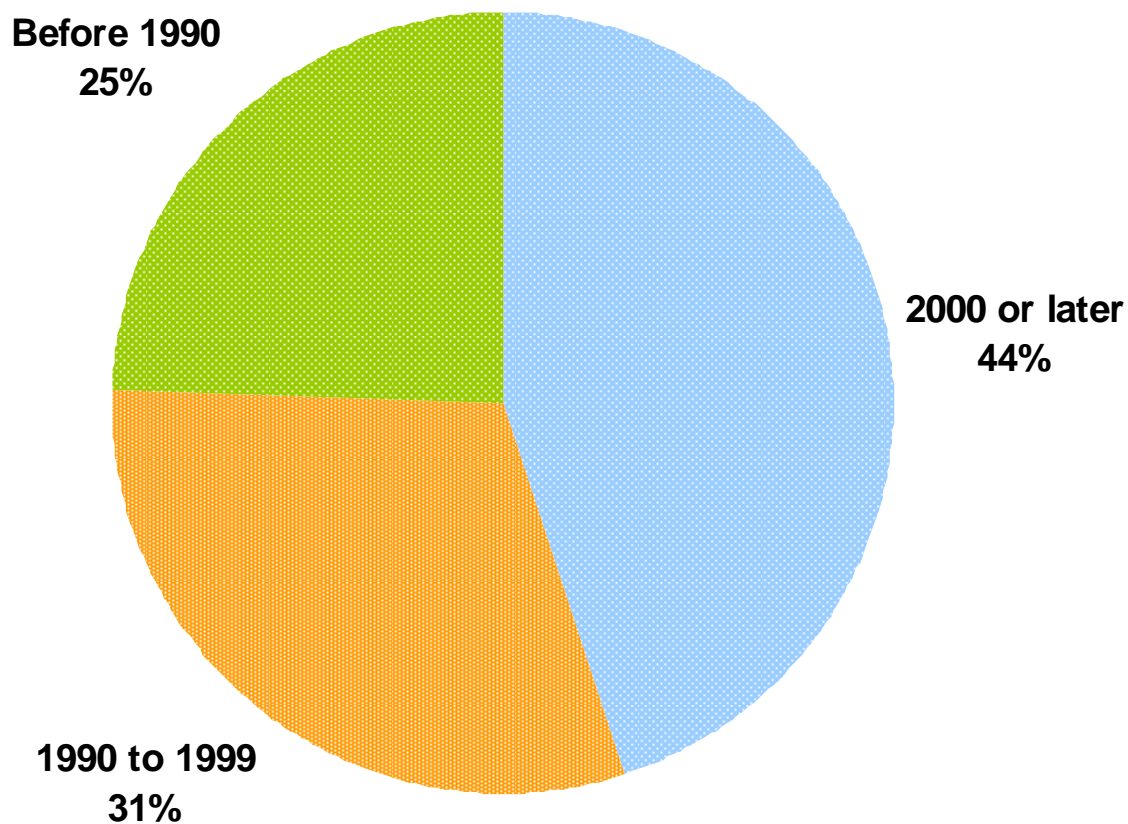
Africans granted legal permanent residence, FY1989-2008



Source: Department of Homeland Security, 2008

# More Africans arrived in the U.S. in the 2000s than in the 1990s or before.

Year of entry for the African-born population in the U.S., 2008



# Settlement patterns within the U.S.

Africans are scattered throughout the country, with the largest concentrations near big cities and in the Northeast.

Thirty-six percent of African immigrants live in 4 states, which each have more than 100,000 Africans: New York, California, Texas, and Maryland. No state has fewer than 200.

Minnesota, Maryland, and DC have the highest proportion of their immigrants from Africa.



# Washington is a major destination for African immigrants.

**Number of African immigrants by metro area, 2008**

Metropolitan Area	Africans
New York	202,271
Washington	148,289
Atlanta	75,690
Los Angeles	61,864
Boston	60,215
Minneapolis-St. Paul	53,787
Dallas-Fort Worth	52,723
Philadelphia	44,304
Chicago	42,203
Houston	40,102

# Washington is a major destination for African immigrants.

Number and share of African immigrants by metro area, 2008

Metropolitan Area	# of Africans	African % of immigrants
New York	202,271	3.8
<b>Washington</b>	<b>148,289</b>	<b>13.6</b>
Atlanta	75,690	10.6
Los Angeles	61,864	1.4
Boston	60,215	8.2
<b>Minneapolis-St. Paul</b>	<b>53,787</b>	<b>19.1</b>
Dallas-Fort Worth	52,723	4.7
Philadelphia	44,304	8.7
Chicago	42,203	2.5
Houston	40,102	3.2
Seattle	35,792	6.8
<b>Columbus</b>	<b>25,181</b>	<b>22.2</b>



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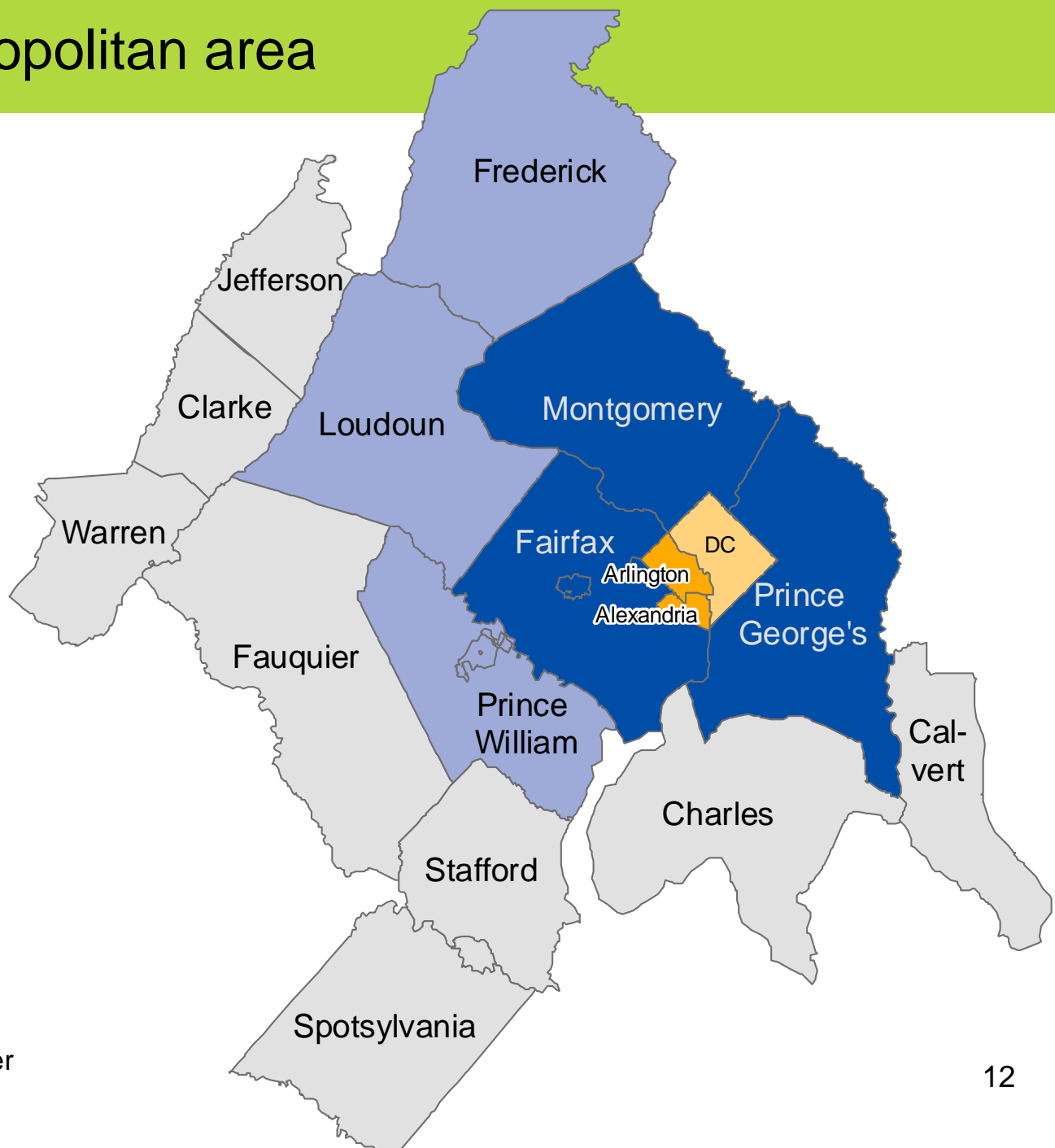
Africans in Washington






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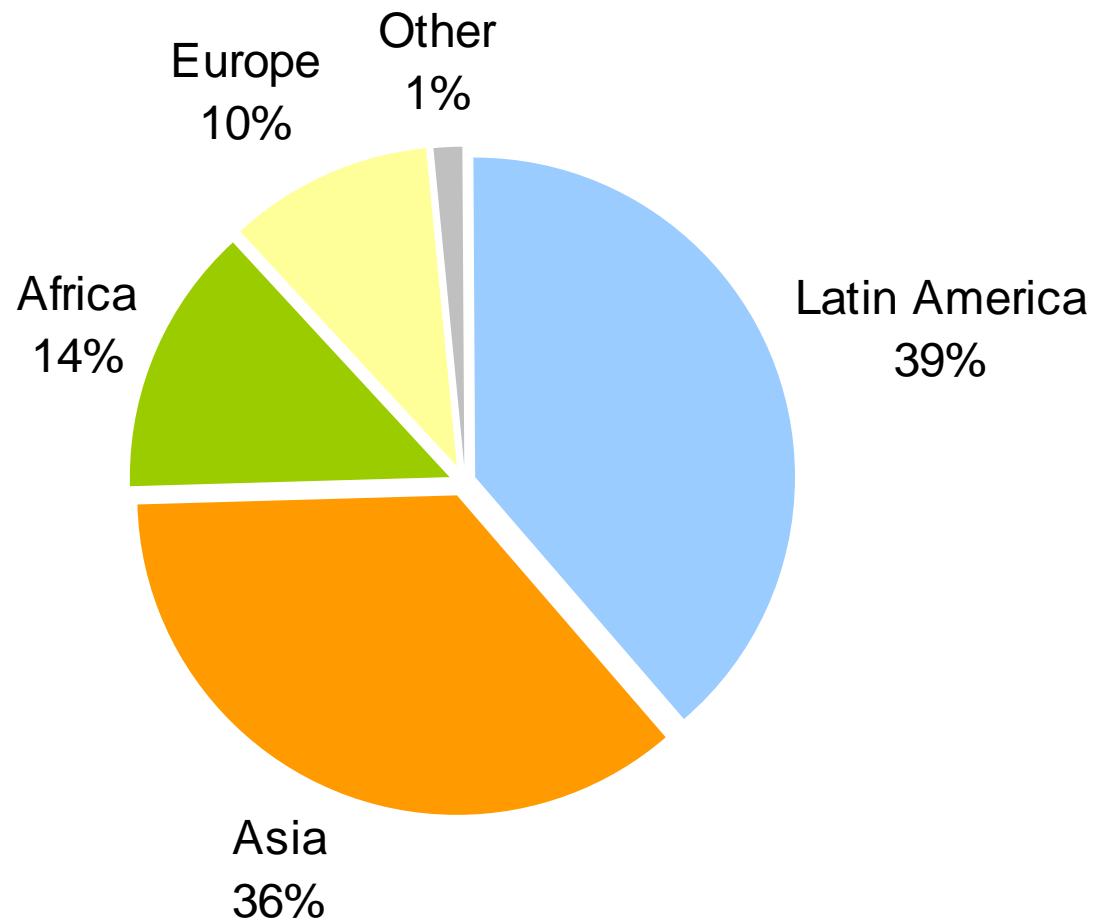
# Washington metropolitan area



-  District of Columbia
-  Inner Core
-  Inner Suburbs
-  Outer Suburbs
-  OMB Metro Remainder

# Africans make up 14 percent of immigrants in the Washington metro area, compared to just 4 percent of immigrants in the U.S. and up from 11 percent in 2000.

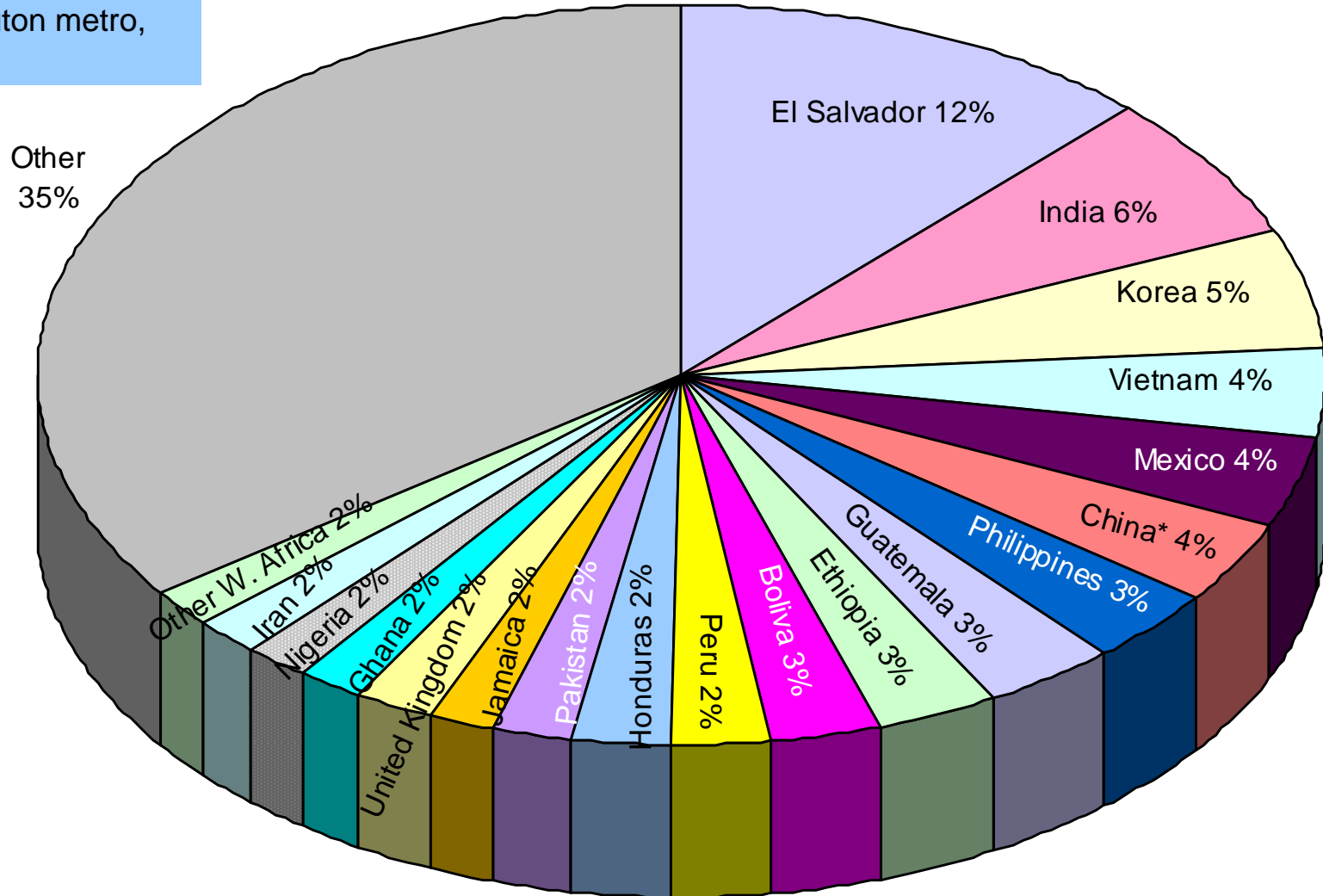
Region of origin for the foreign-born population, Washington metropolitan area, 2008



Source: ACS 2008

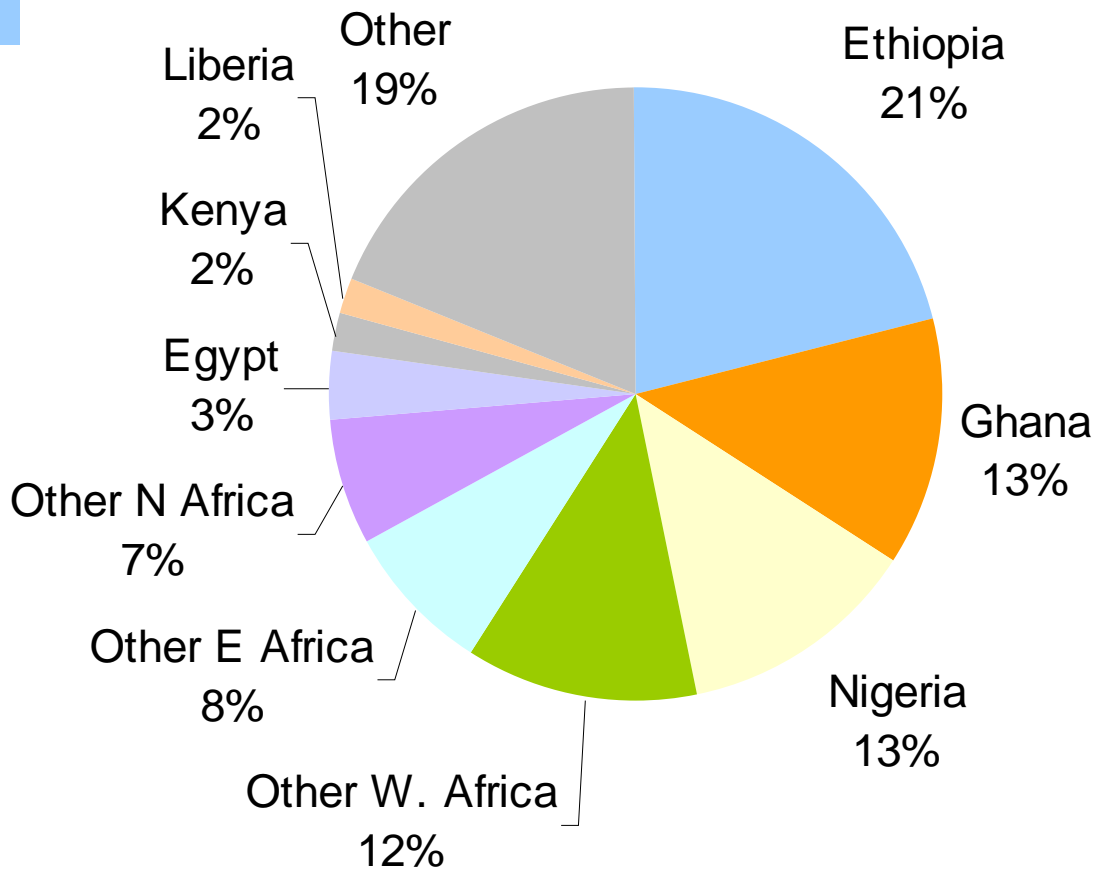
# The immigrant population in the Washington region is diverse and no one nationality has a majority; Ethiopia ranks ninth.

Country of birth for Washington metro, 2008



# West Africa is the largest region of origin, but Ethiopia is the largest single origin country represented in Washington.

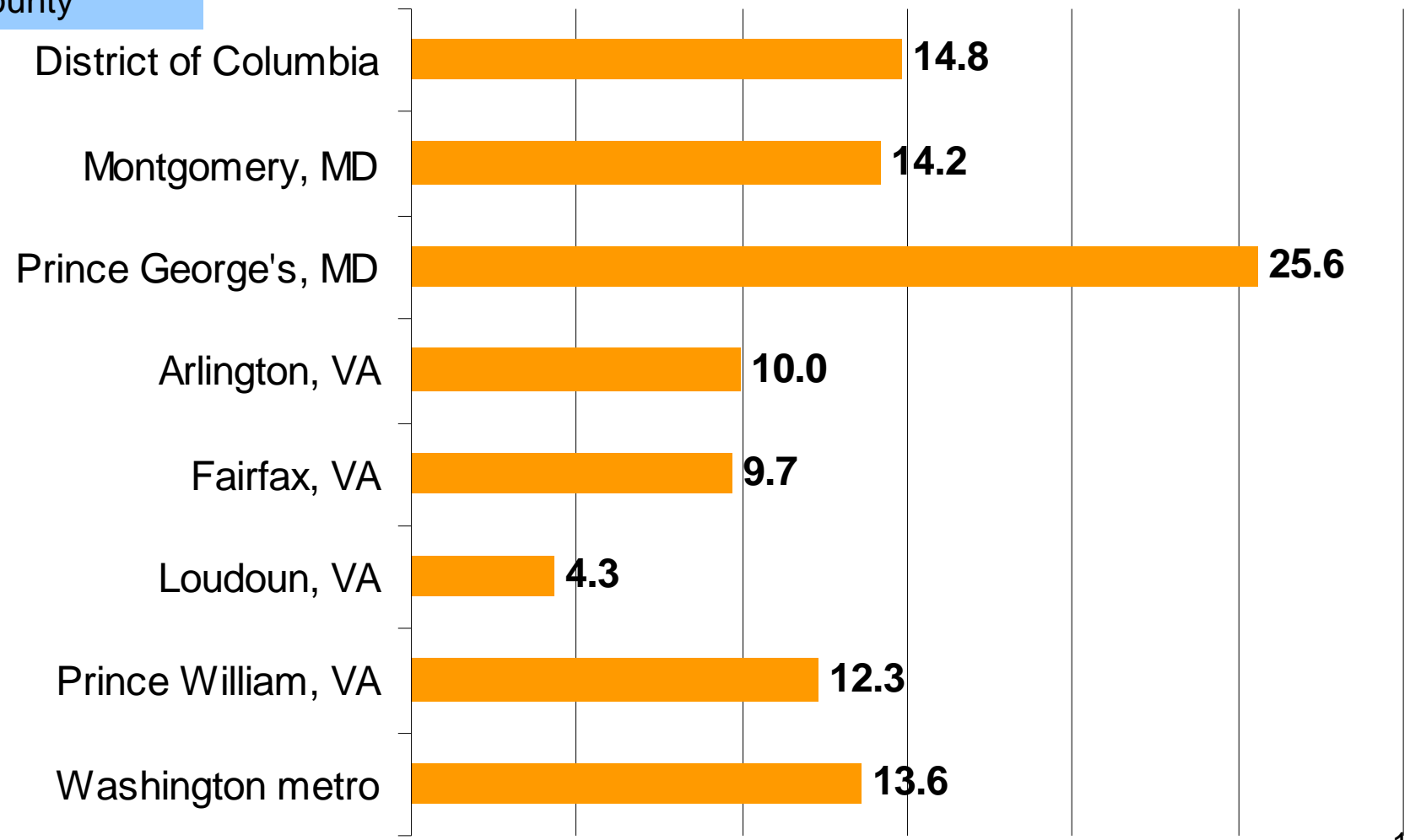
Country of birth for Africans in the Washington metro area, 2008



Source: ACS 2008

# One quarter of Prince George's County's immigrants are from Africa. Alexandria, VA (not shown) also has high proportions.

African percent of foreign born by county



Data Source: ACS 2008





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# Characteristics of African immigrants versus all immigrants in Washington.

	Africans	All immigrants
<b>% who entered between 2000 and 2008</b>	44.2	34.2
<b>% naturalized citizen</b>	40.7	44.7
<b>% who are Limited English Proficient</b>	25.8	40.1
<b>% with a bachelor's degree or higher</b>	40.4	41.4
<b>% with less than a high school degree</b>	9.6	22.0
<b>Median household income</b>	\$63,338	\$72,069
<b>% unemployed (2008)</b>	4.5	4.1
<b>% in poverty (2008)</b>	8.7	8.2

# Review of findings on African immigration

Africans are immigrating to the U.S. in increasing numbers and are the fastest-growing region of origin.

The Washington metro area is a major destination for Africans, with many settling in DC and the inner suburbs of Maryland and Virginia.

Ethiopians, Nigerians, and Ghanaians are the largest sending countries for Africans in Washington.

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