

Metropolitan Washington A New Immigrant Gateway

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Immigration, Ethnic Economies and Civic Engagement

Smithsonian Latino Center

December 5, 2012

Overall, the foreign-born population of the Washington region is characterized by:

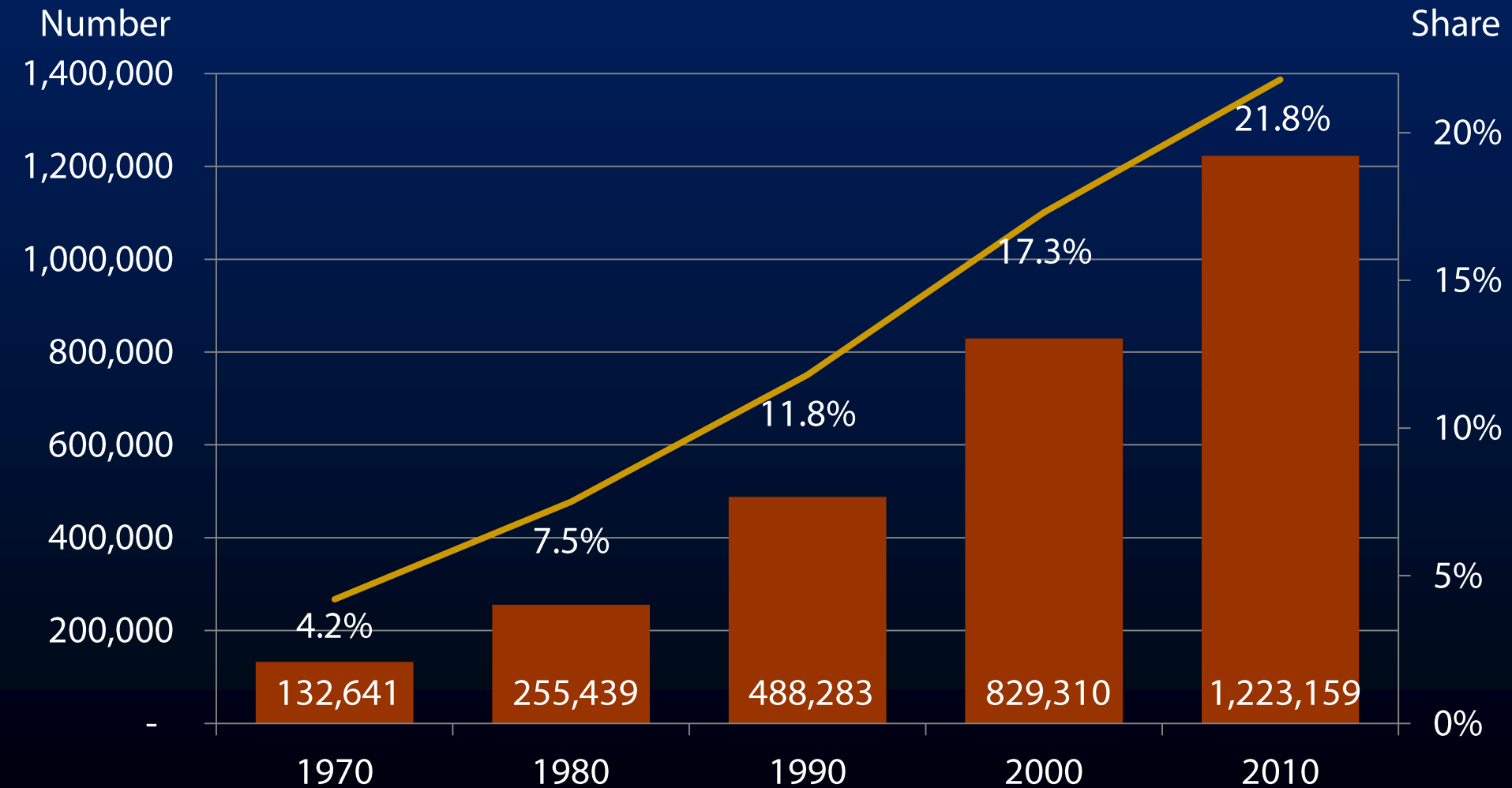
Fast growth

Global origins

Suburban residence

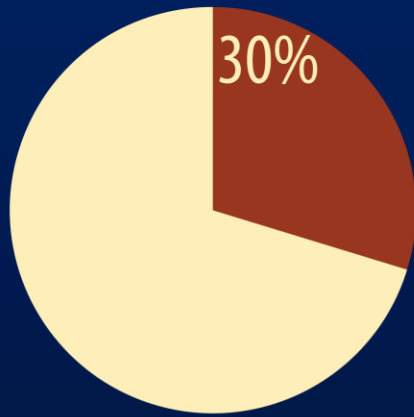
Metropolitan Washington's foreign-born population grew by 1 million immigrants between 1990 and 2010

Foreign-born population by decade, 1970-2010

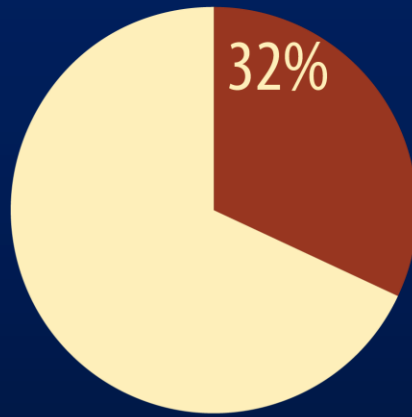


Note: Geographies standardized to 2010 MSA definitions. Source: Census Bureau decennial censuses and 2010 ACS 1-year estimates

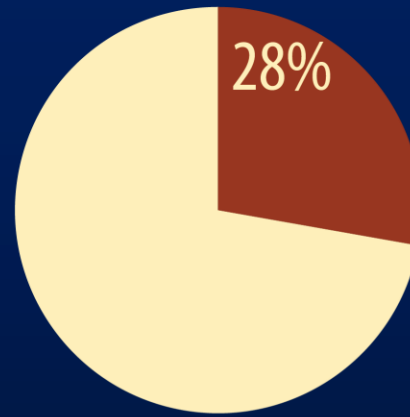
At the turn of the 20th century, Eastern and Midwestern places had large shares of immigrants...



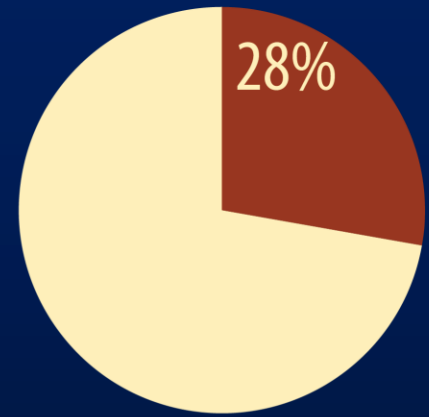
Boston



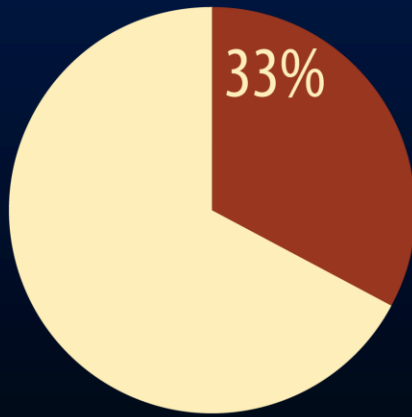
Chicago



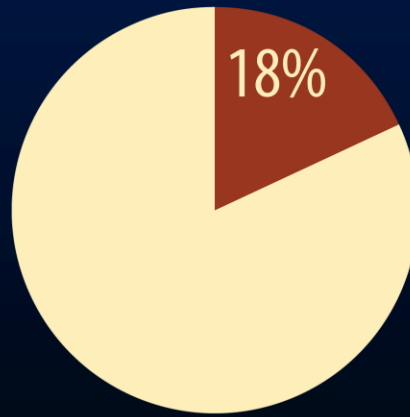
Cleveland



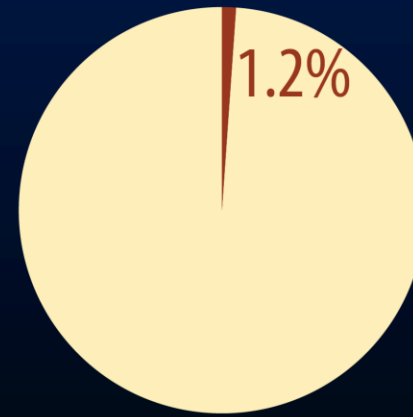
Detroit



New York

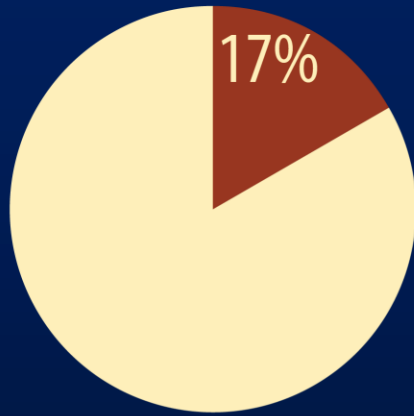


Philadelphia

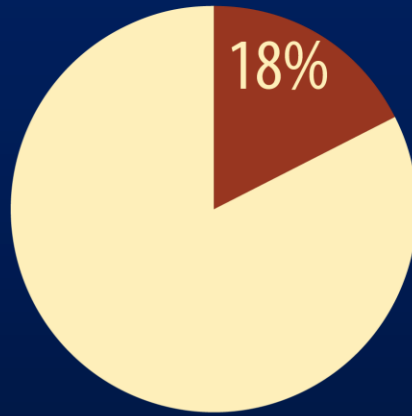


Washington,
DC

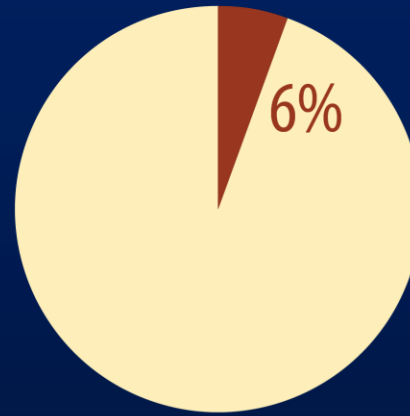
...by 2010, the immigrant presence in some places have dwindled, while Washington's has increased



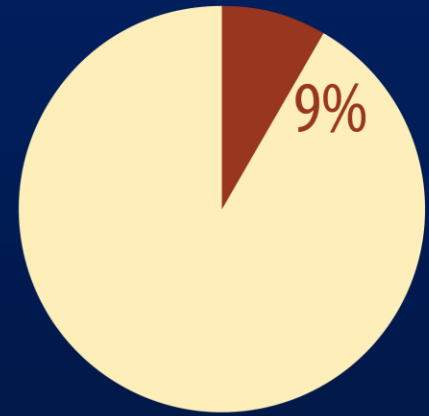
Boston



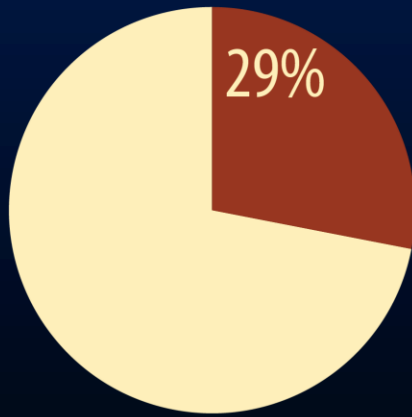
Chicago



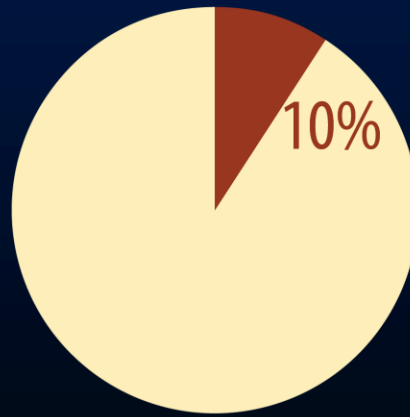
Cleveland



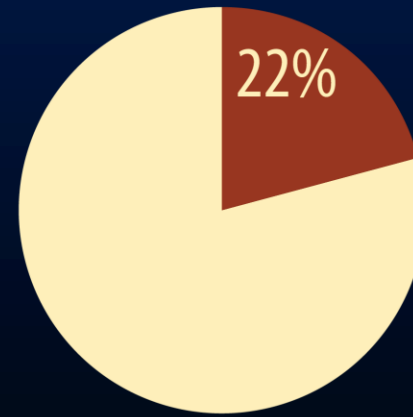
Detroit



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Washington,
DC

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By 2010, the immigration map has been redrawn with metros in the South and West rising as major destinations

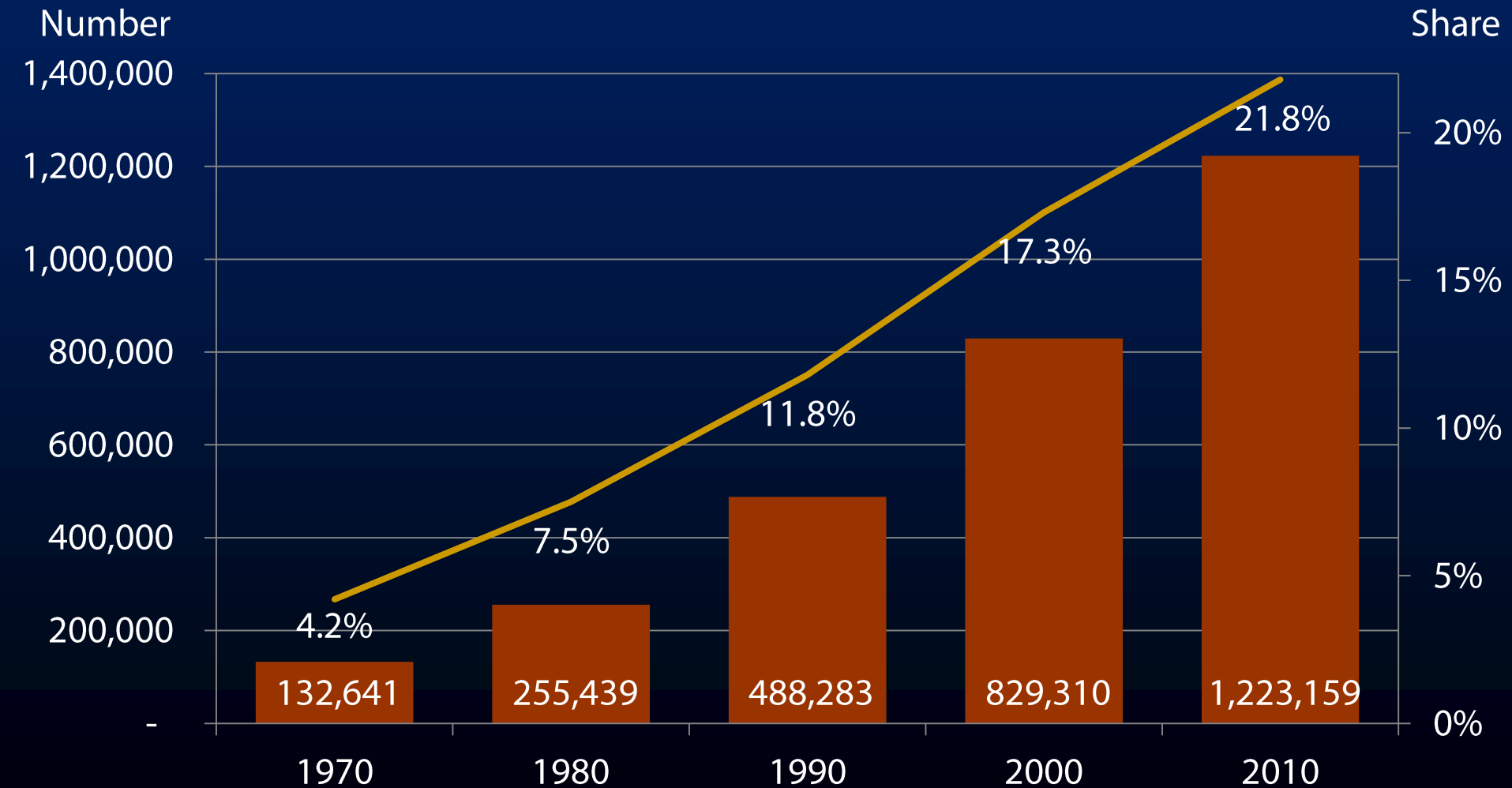


Washington now has the 7th largest concentration of immigrants among all large metropolitan areas

	Metro Area	Number of Immigrants	% Foreign-born
1	New York	5,447,131	29%
2	Los Angeles	4,407,398	34%
3	Miami	2,167,215	39%
4	Chicago	1,669,752	18%
5	Houston	1,331,684	22%
6	San Francisco	1,303,159	30%
7	Washington	1,223,159	22%
8	Dallas-Fort Worth	1,123,191	18%
9	Riverside	932,571	22%
10	Boston	767,845	17%

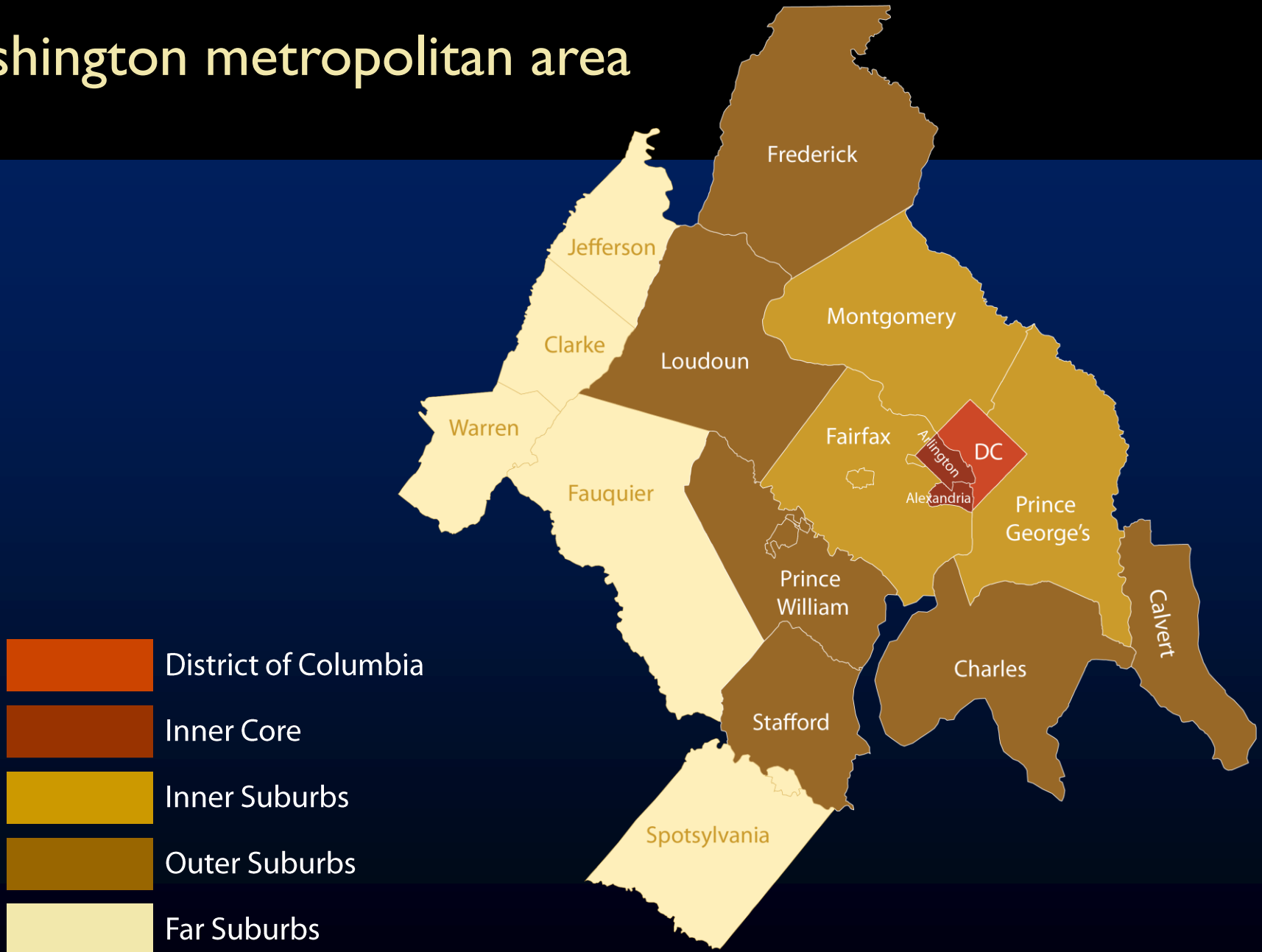
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Foreign-born population by decade, 1970-2010



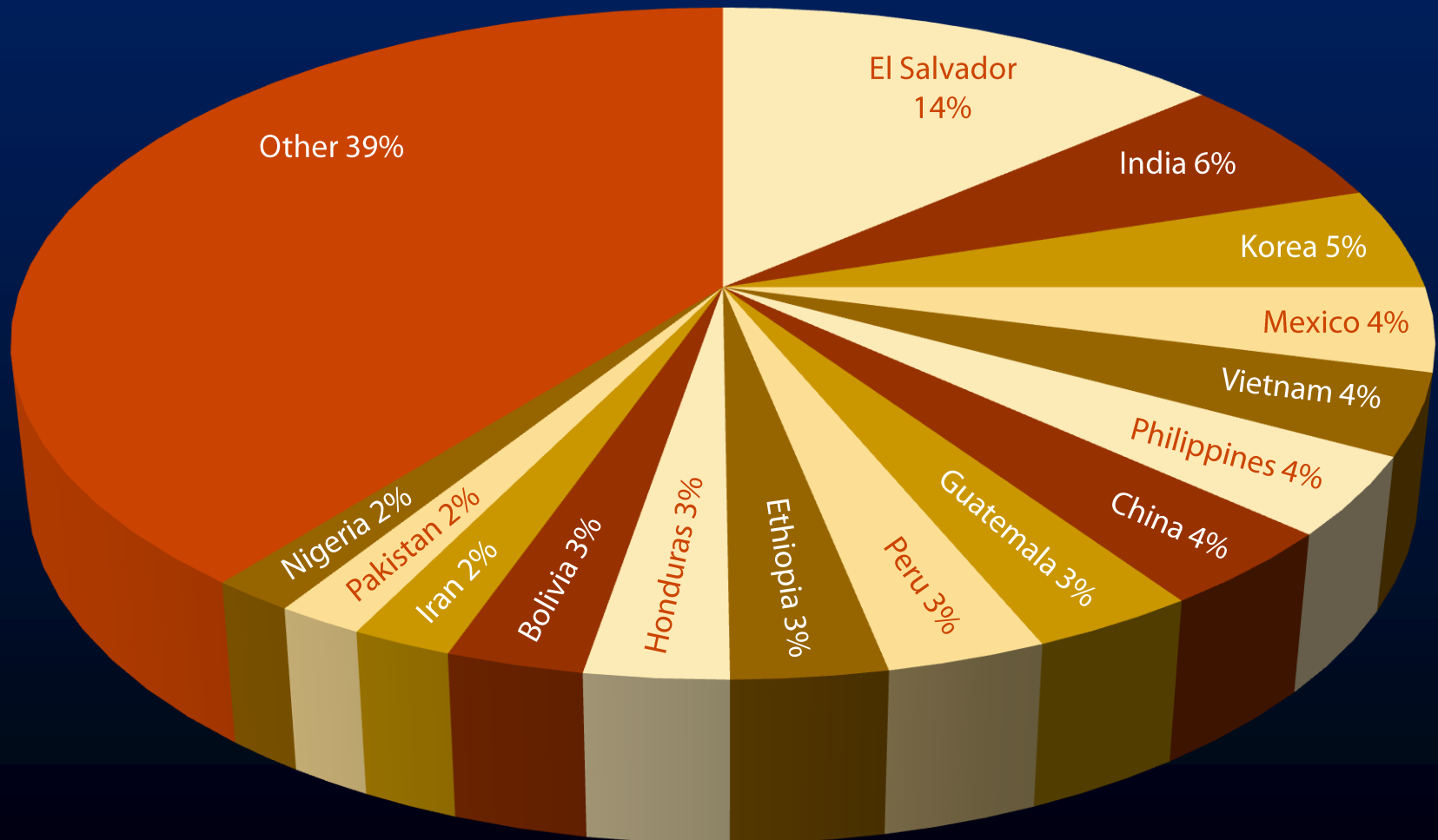
Note: Geographies standardized to 2010 MSA definitions. Source: Census Bureau decennial censuses and 2010 ACS 1-year estimates

Washington metropolitan area

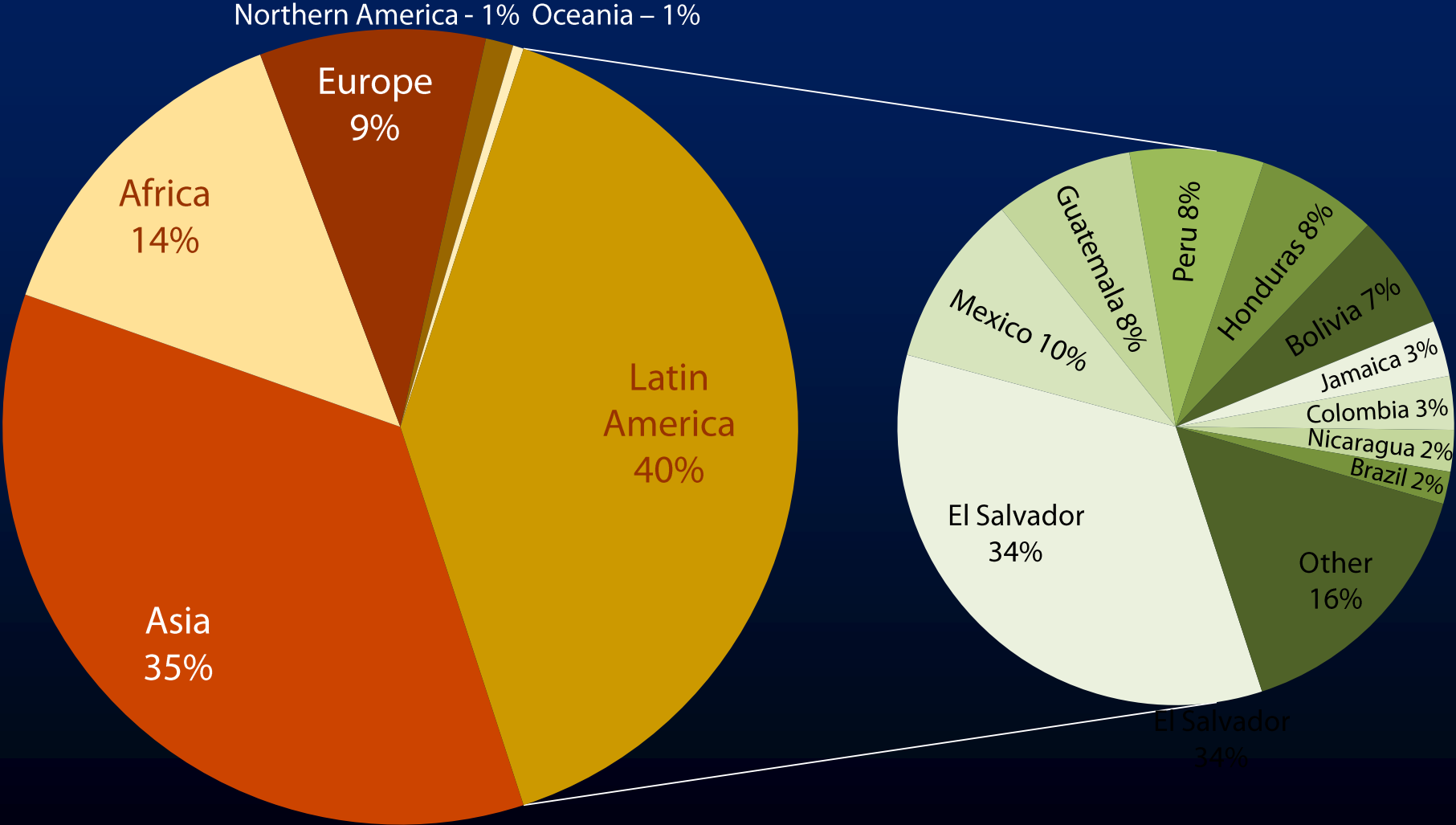


The immigrant population in the Washington region is diverse: no one nationality has a majority

Country of birth for Washington region foreign born, 2010

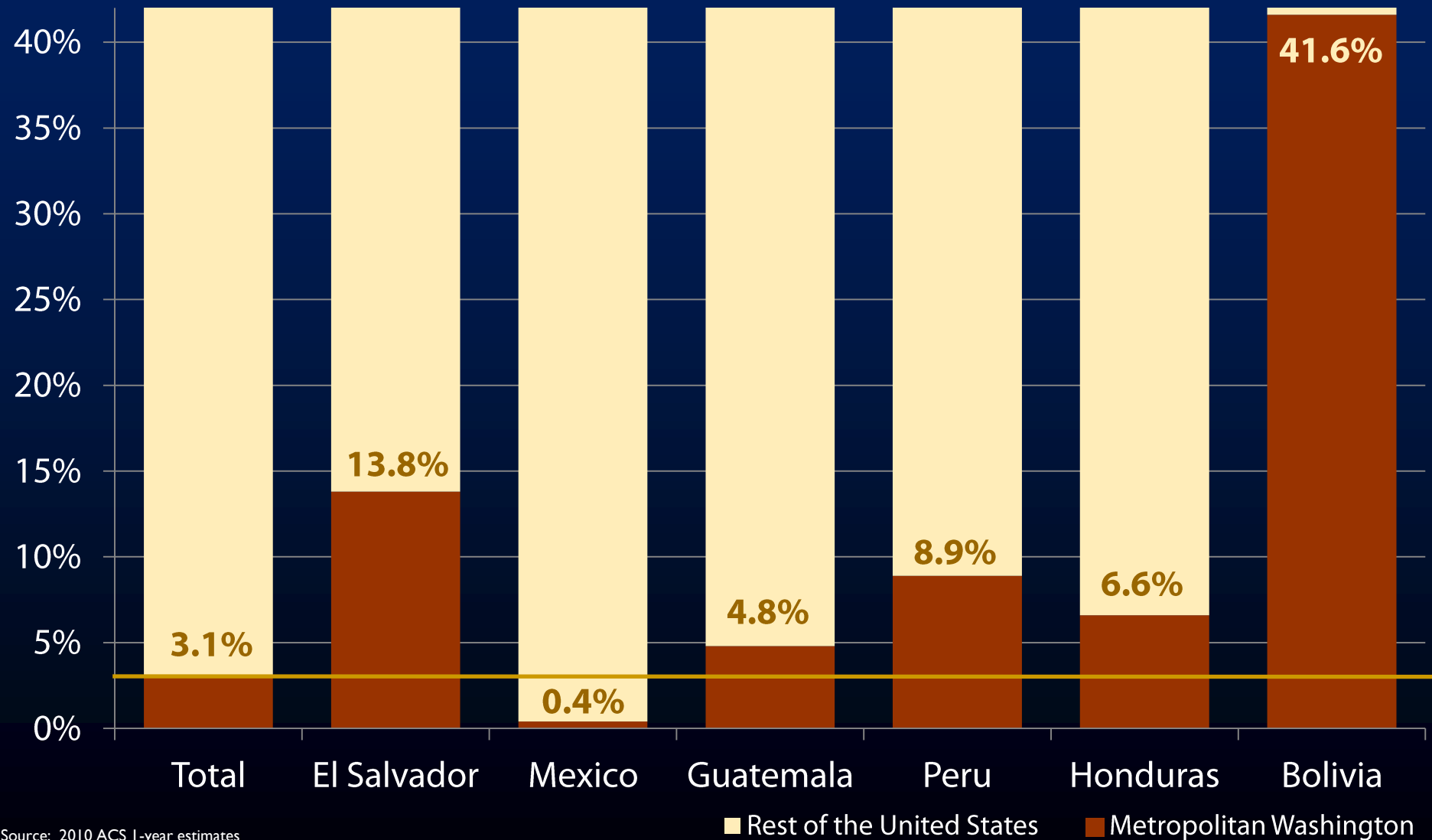


Region of Origin, 2010



Source: 2010 ACS 1-year estimates

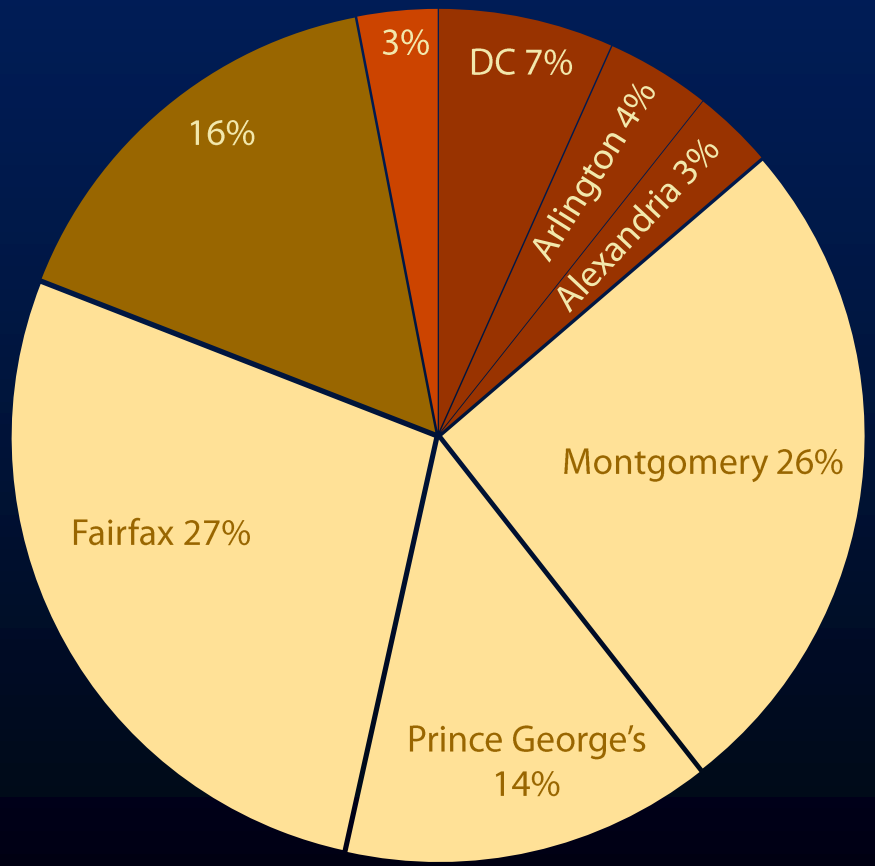
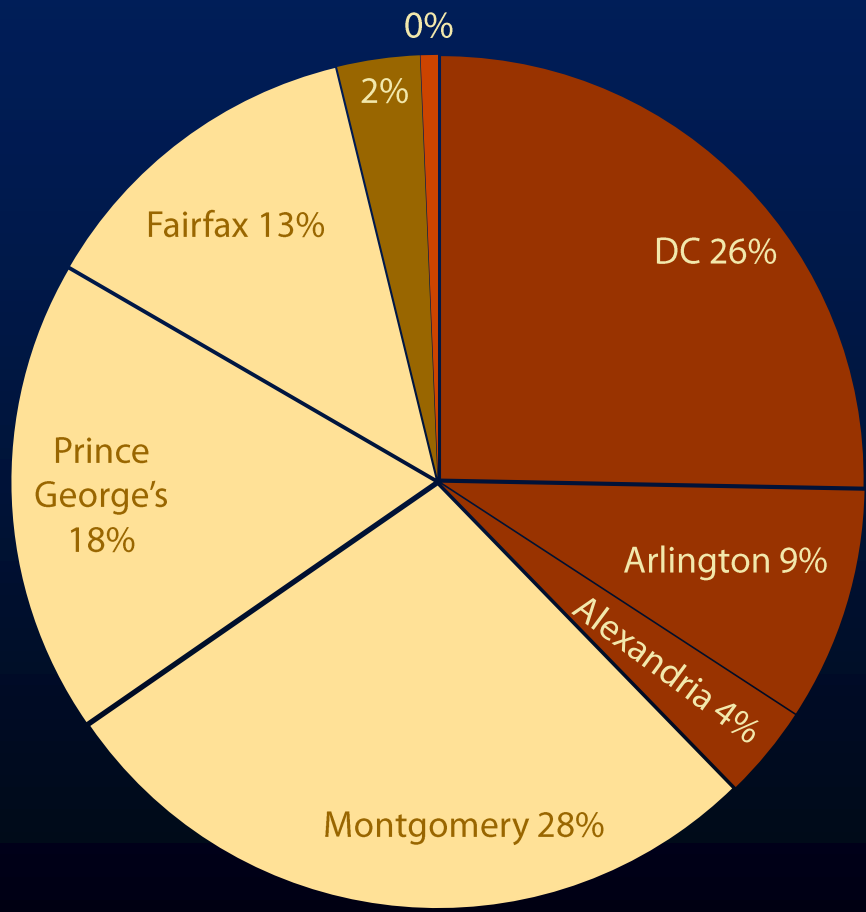
Washington is home to 3.1% of all immigrants in the US.
It is home to larger proportions of many immigrants,
especially from Latin America



Since the 1970s, immigrants have shifted to the outer suburbs

Foreign-born distribution by jurisdiction, 1970 and 2010

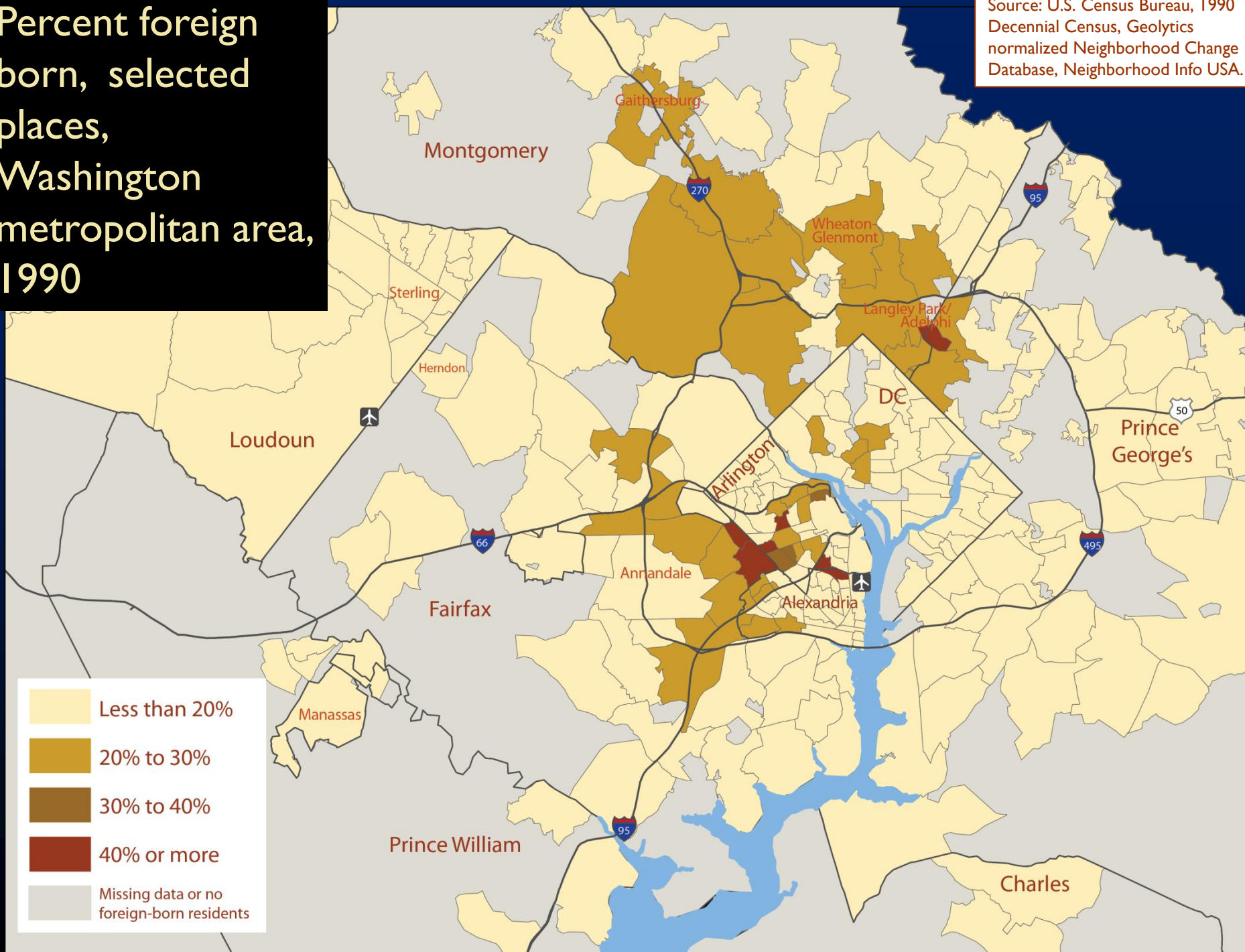
Inner Core	Outer Suburbs
Inner Suburbs	Far Suburbs



Note: Fairfax calculations include Fairfax City and Falls Church, Prince William calculations include Manassas and Manassas Park.
Source: US Census Bureau 1970 decennial census, 2010 ACS 1-year estimates

Percent foreign born, selected places, Washington metropolitan area, 1990

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Decennial Census, Geolytics normalized Neighborhood Change Database, Neighborhood Info USA.



Percent foreign born, selected places, Washington metropolitan area, 2005-2009

Source: Author's analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2005-2009, Neighborhood Info USA.

