



METROPOLITAN POLICY PROGRAM

THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

Audrey Singer, Senior Fellow

**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

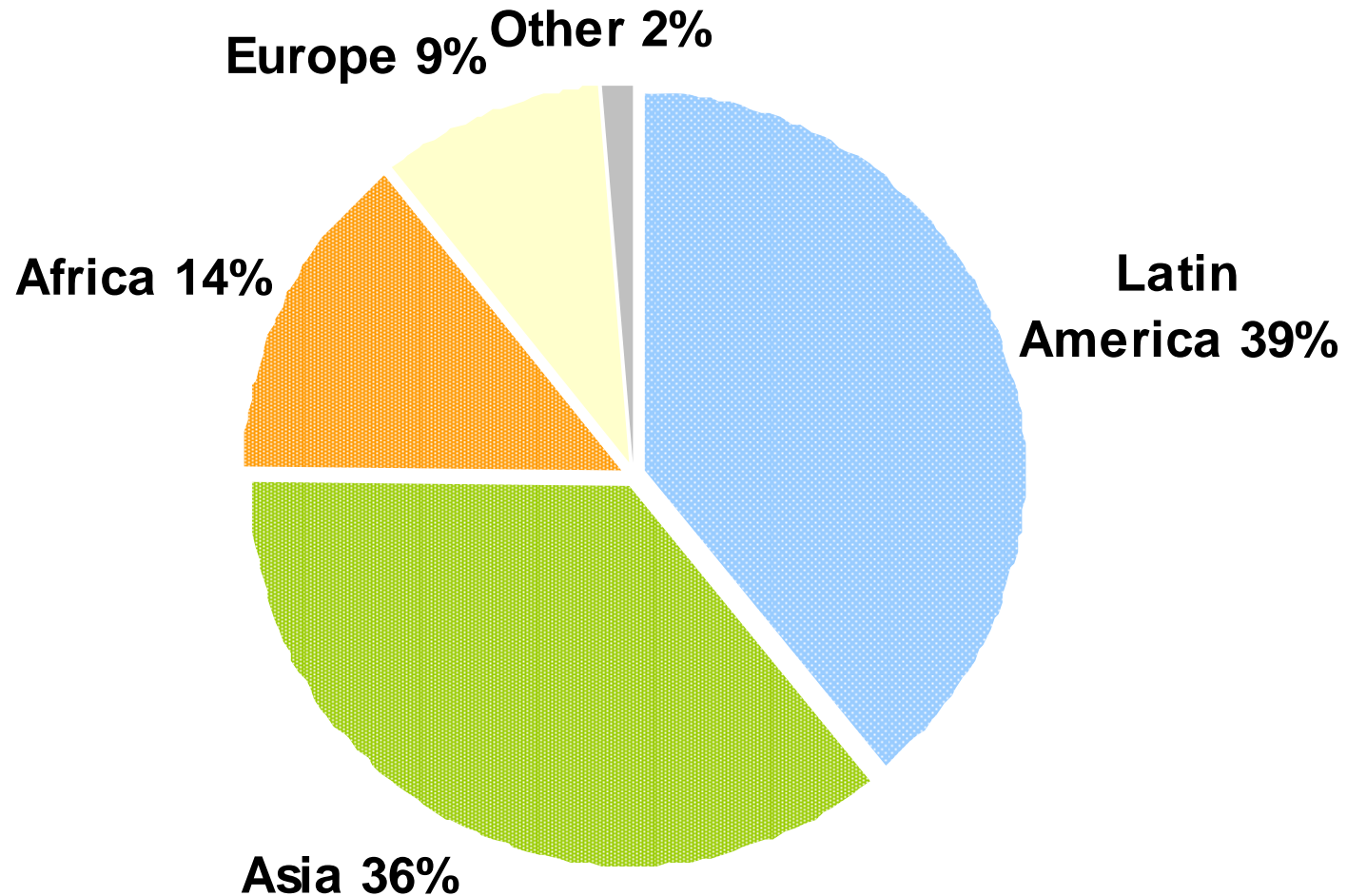
	<u>%FB</u>	<u>Millions</u>
New York	27.9	5,117,290
Los Angeles	34.7	4,407,353
Miami-Fort Lauderdale	36.5	1,949,629
Chicago	17.5	1,625,649
San Francisco-Oakland	29.5	1,201,209
Houston	21.4	1,113,875
Washington	19.9	1,017,432
Dallas-Fort Worth	17.7	1,016,221
Riverside-San Bernardino	21.6	827,584
Boston	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
1	El Salvador	133,191	12.5
2	India	62,311	5.9
3	Korea	58,934	5.5
4	Mexico	43,633	4.1
5	Vietnam	43,215	4.1
6	Philippines	40,517	3.8
7	China	40,422	3.8
8	Guatemala	33,843	3.2
9	Bolivia	32,344	3.0
10	Ethiopia	27,703	2.6
11	Peru	27,676	2.6
12	Other Western Africa	25,270	2.4
13	Honduras	22,763	2.1
14	Iran	20,443	1.9
15	Nigeria	20,277	1.9

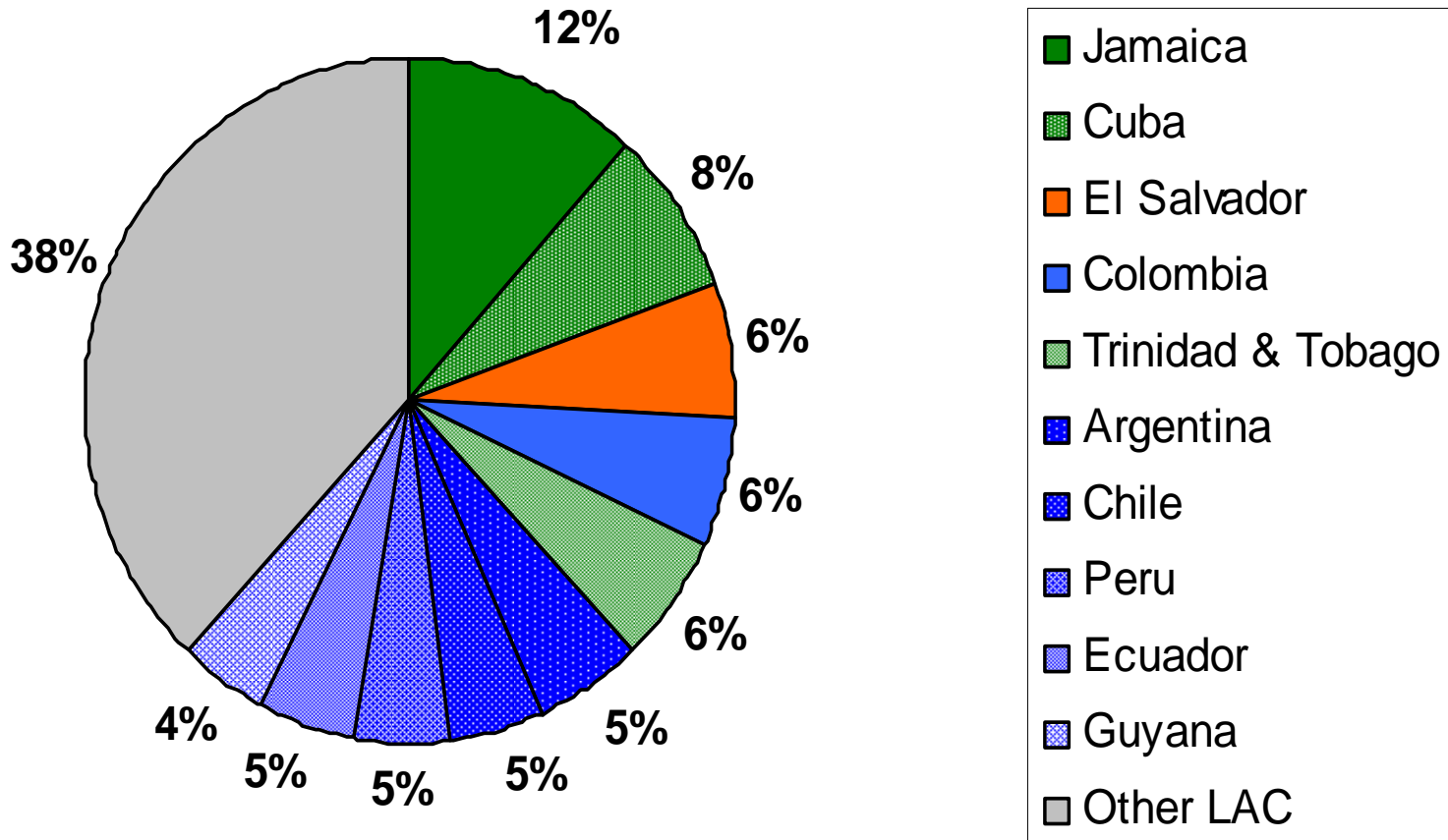
Latin American immigrants are the largest regional origin group in the metro area



Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 2006

In 1980, birth countries were primarily South American and Caribbean

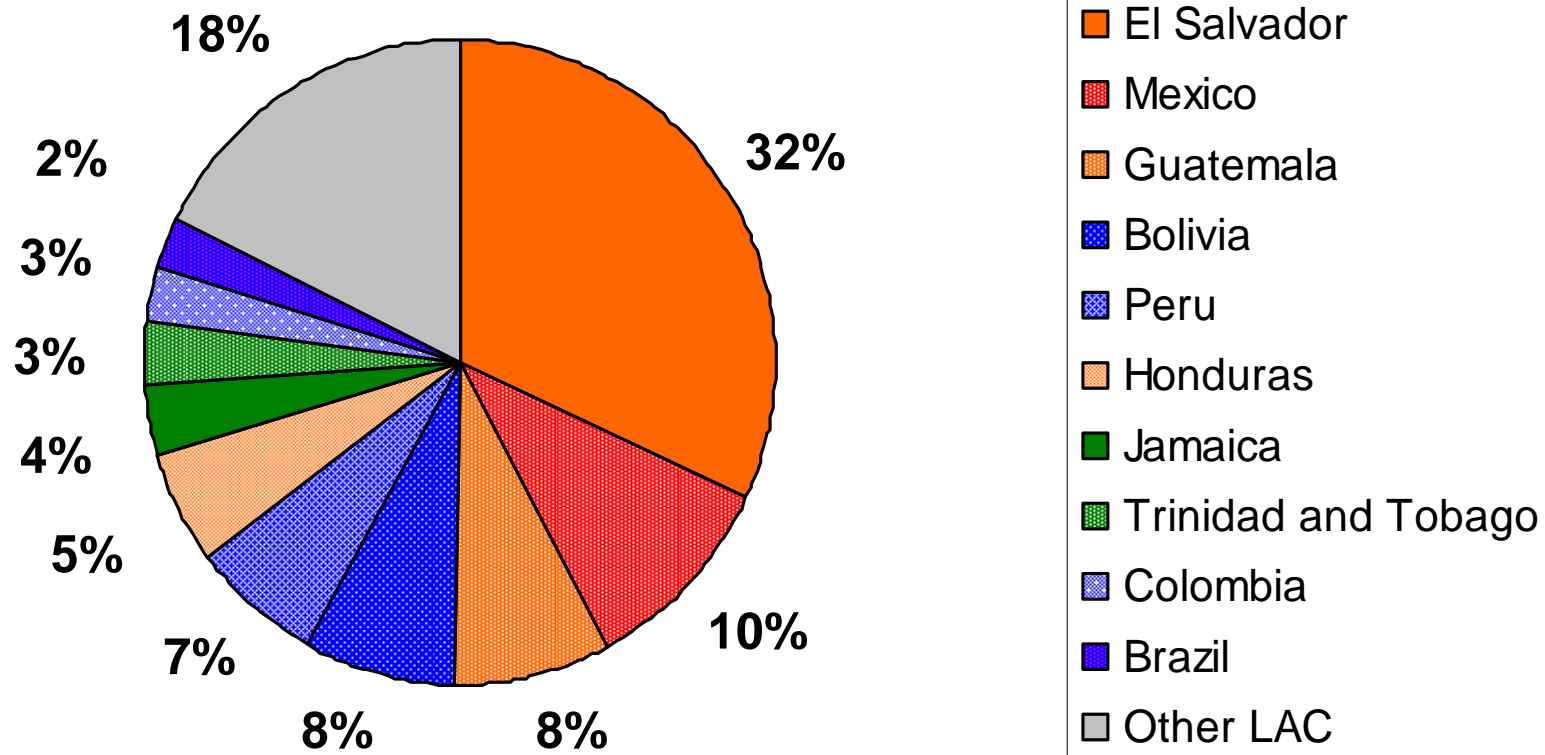
Latin American Immigrants, 1980



Source: 1980 Census

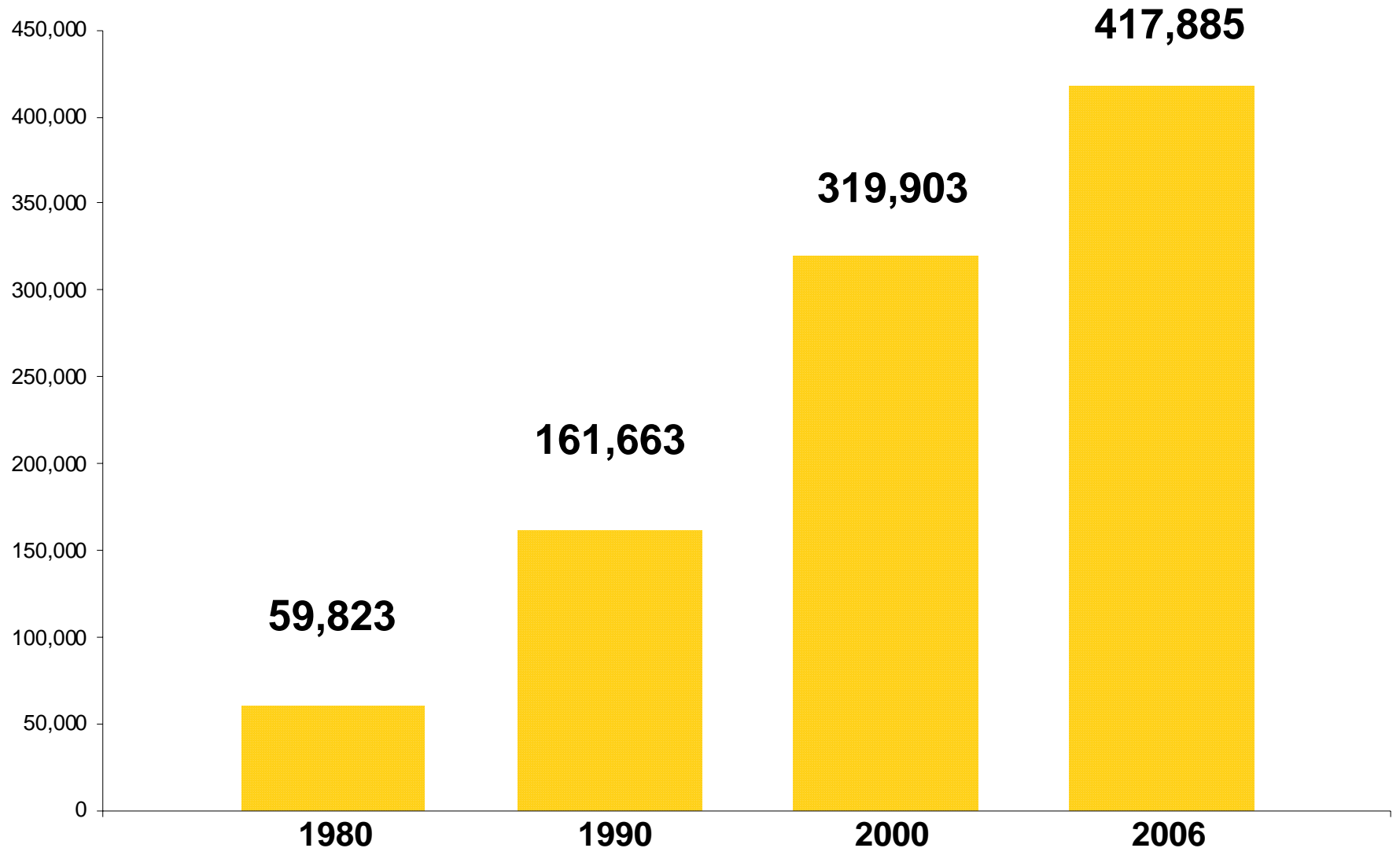
By 2006, most were from Central America

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

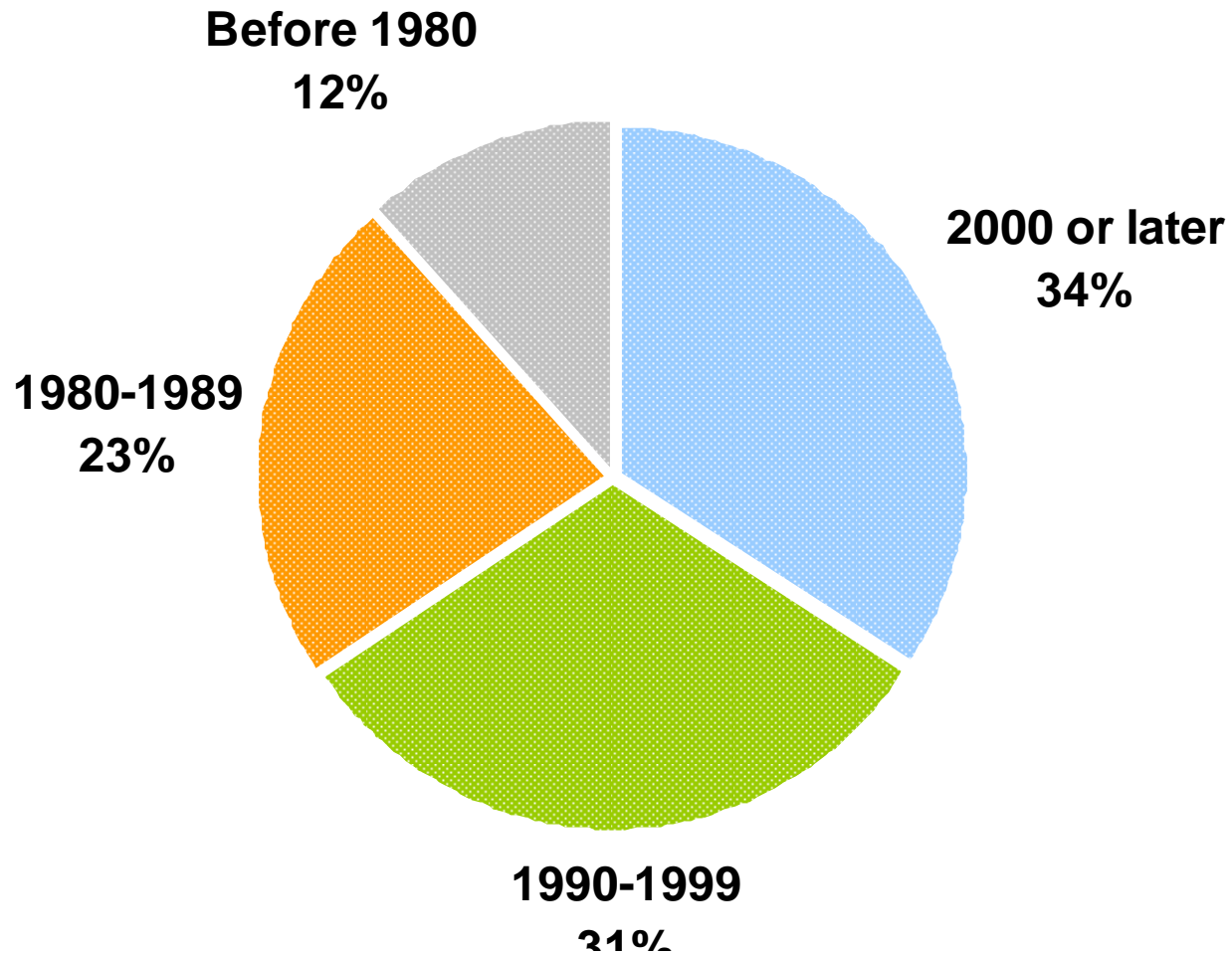
Latin American Immigrants in the Washington Metropolitan Area, 1980-2006



Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 2006

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

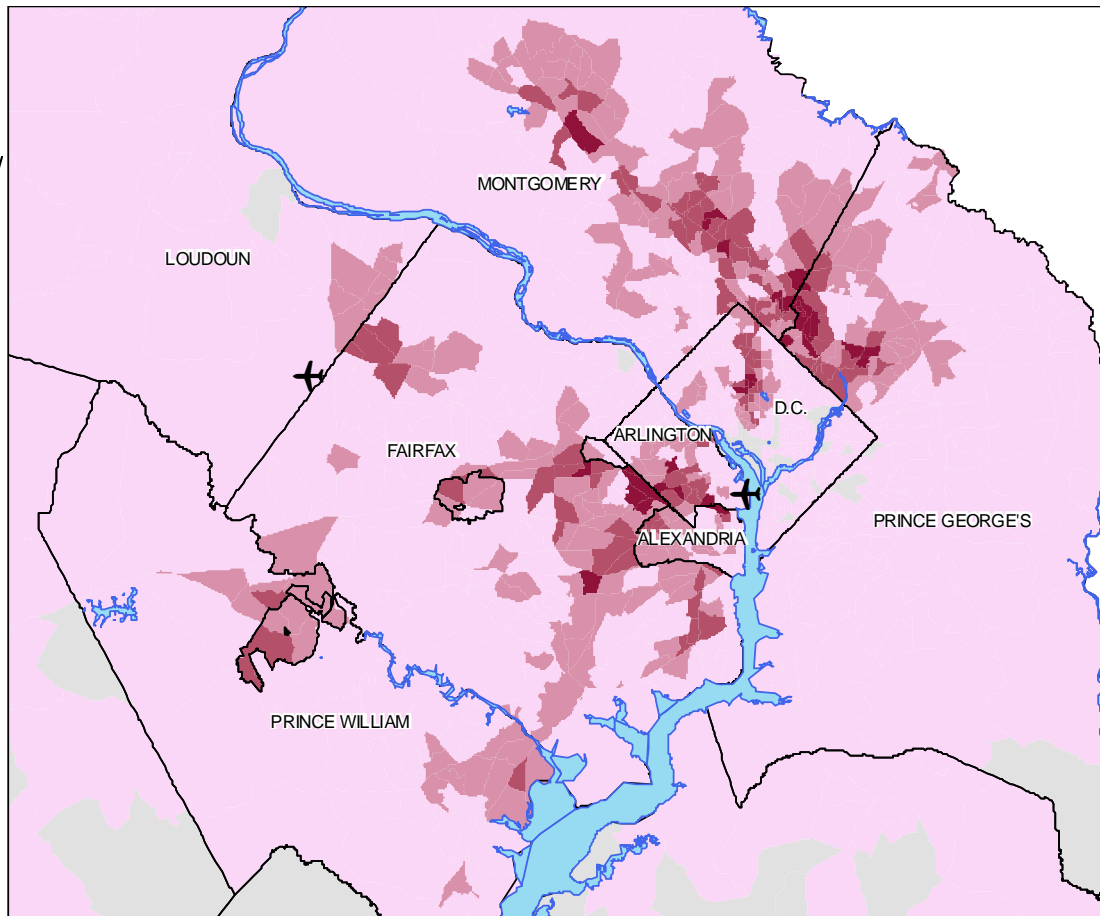
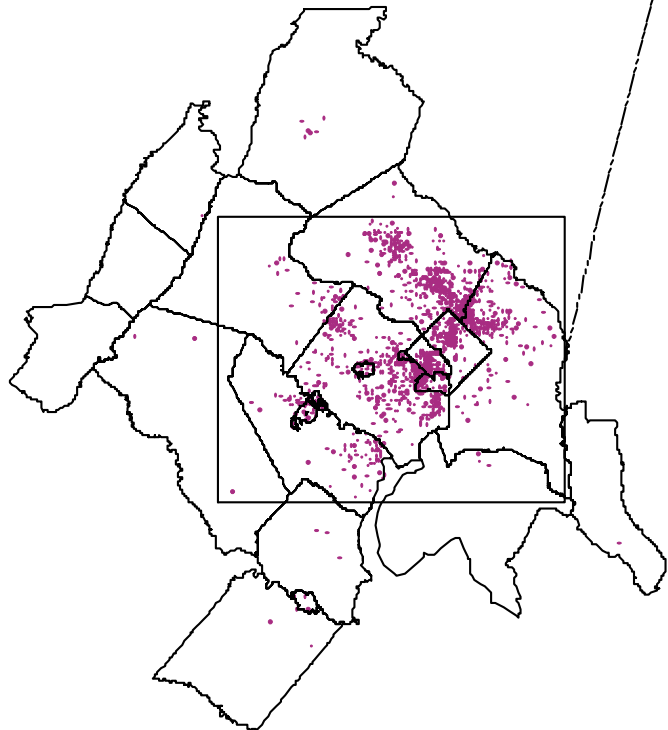
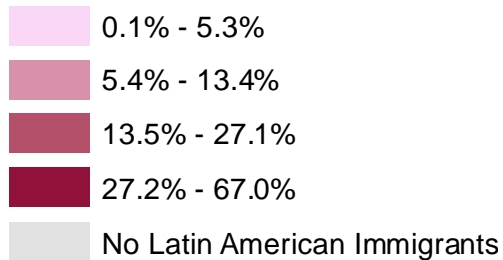
Period of Entry to the United States, Latin American Immigrants, 2006



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

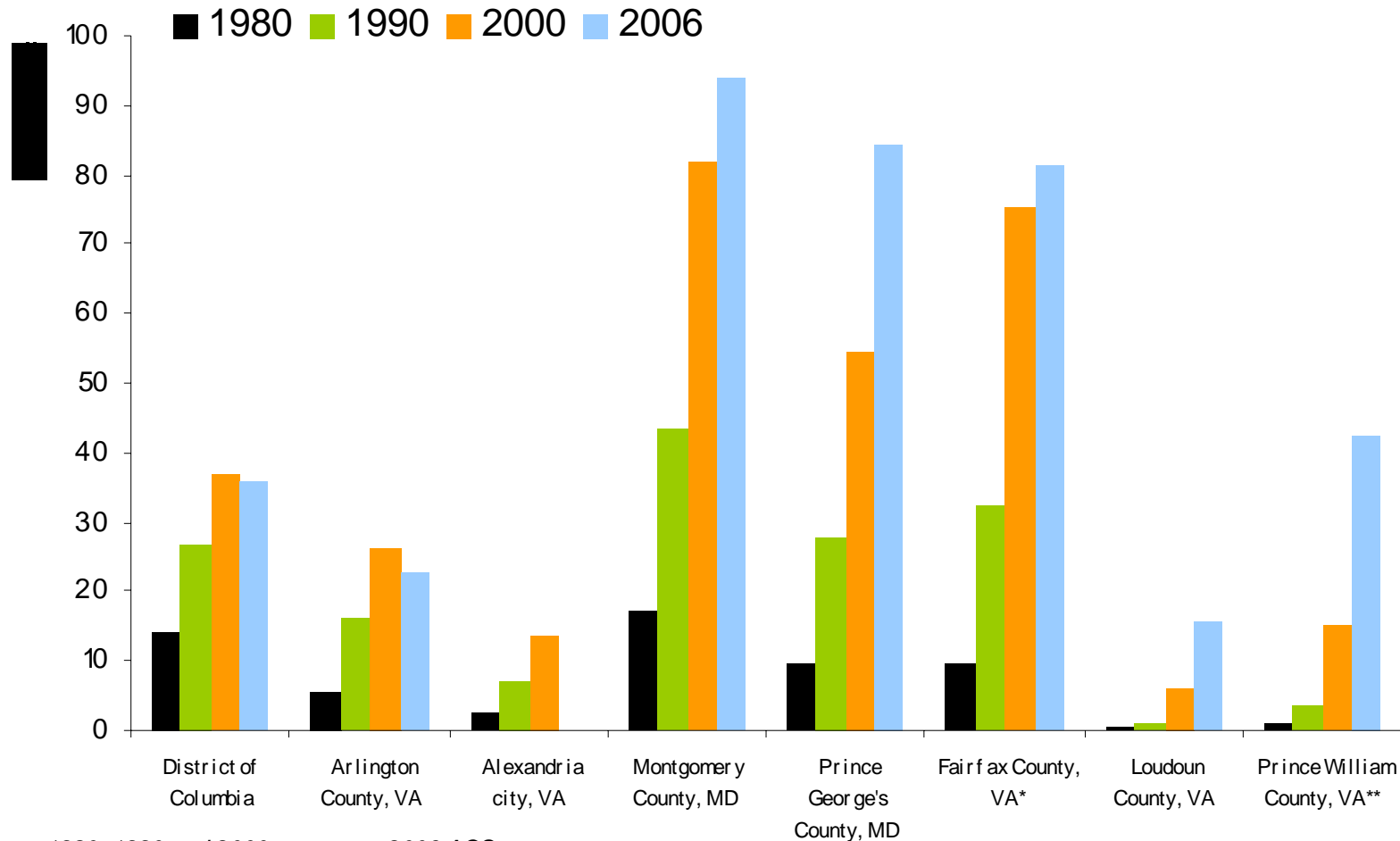


1 Dot = 200 Latin American Immigrants

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

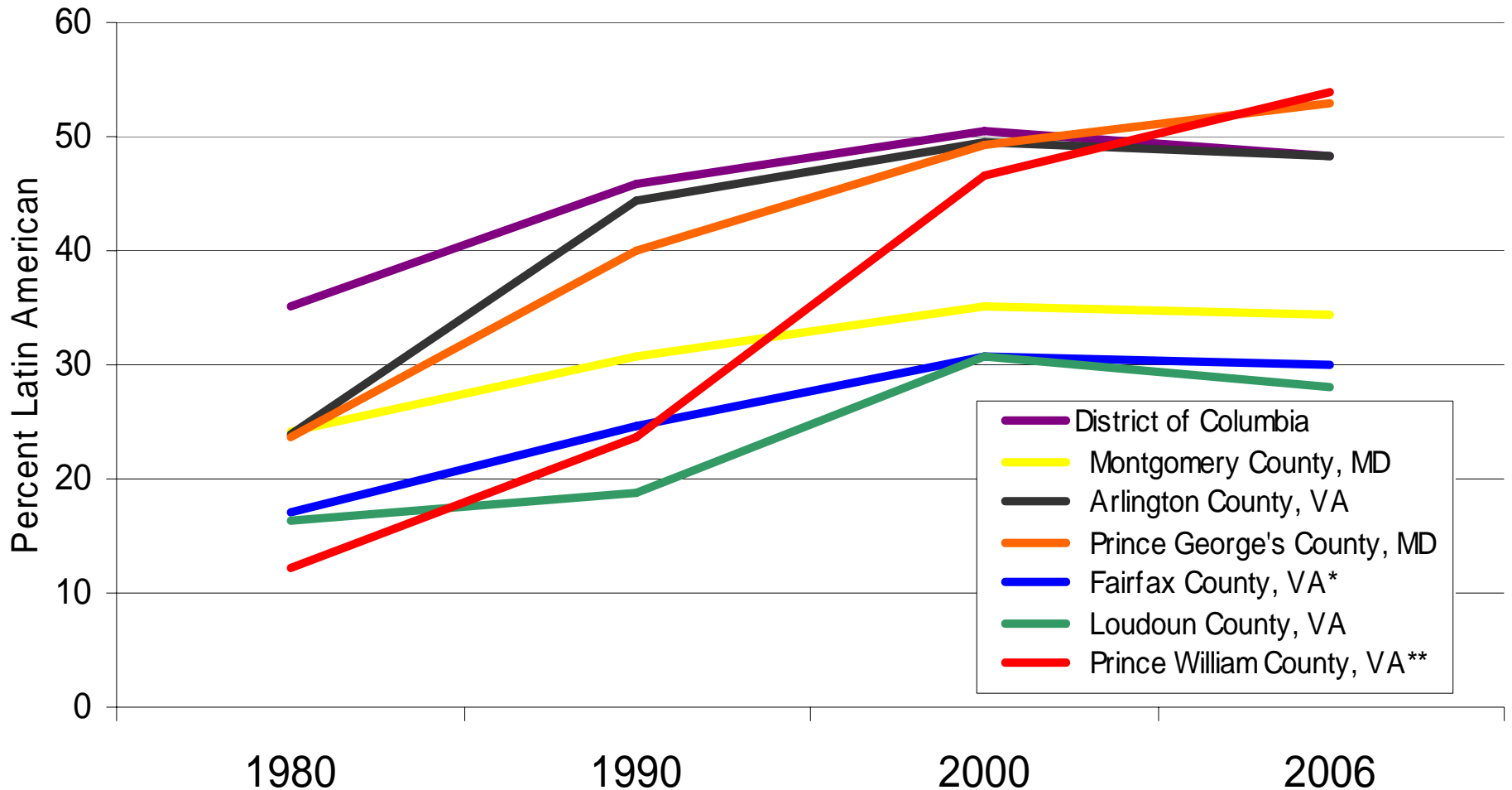
Number of Latin American Immigrants in Washington Area Jurisdictions, 1980-2006



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

Age	Latin American Immigrants	Total Population
<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...

Household Characteristics	Latin American Immigrants	Total Population
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

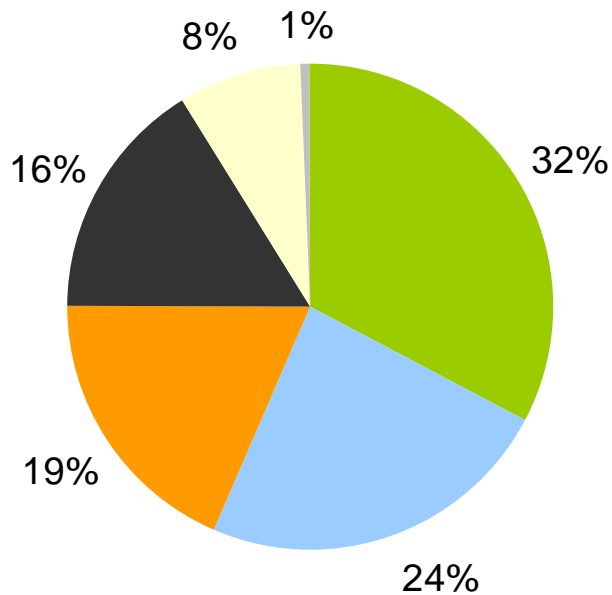
...as do their labor market characteristics

<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

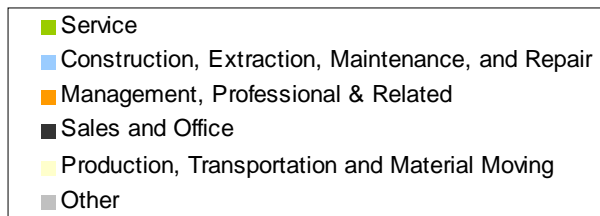
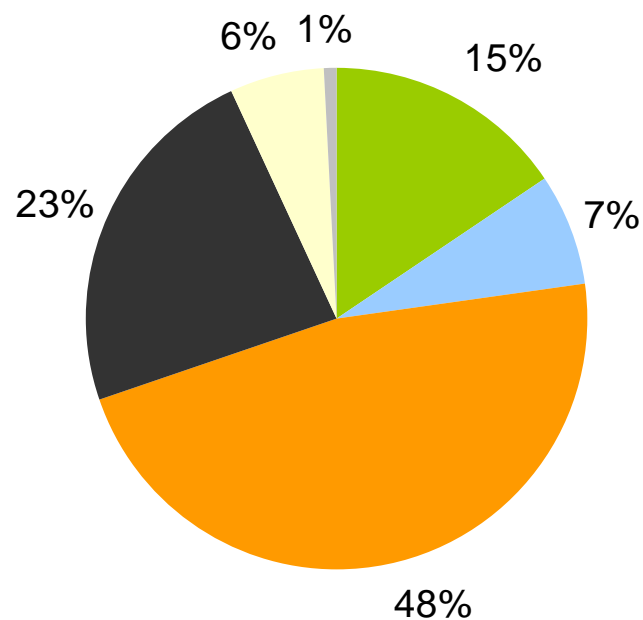
Latin Americans are more likely to work in service or construction jobs

Occupation, Washington Metropolitan Area, 2006

Latin American Immigrants



Total Metro Population



Source: US Census Bureau, 2006 ACS