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**Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy
Brookings Greater Washington Research Program**

At Home in the Nation's Capital: Immigrant Trends in Metropolitan Washington

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June 12, 2003**

Metropolitan Washington ranks 7th in number of immigrant residents

Top Ten Immigrant Populations by Metropolitan Area, 2000

		Foreign Born Population	Percent Foreign Born
1	Los Angeles	3,449,444	36.2
2	New York	3,139,647	33.7
3	Chicago	1,425,978	17.2
4	Miami	1,147,765	50.9
5	Houston	854,669	20.5
6	Orange County	849,899	29.9
7	Washington DC	832,016	16.9
8	Riverside-San Bernardino	612,359	18.8
9	San Diego	606,254	21.5
10	Dallas	591,169	16.8

Source: US Census Bureau

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Data and Methodology

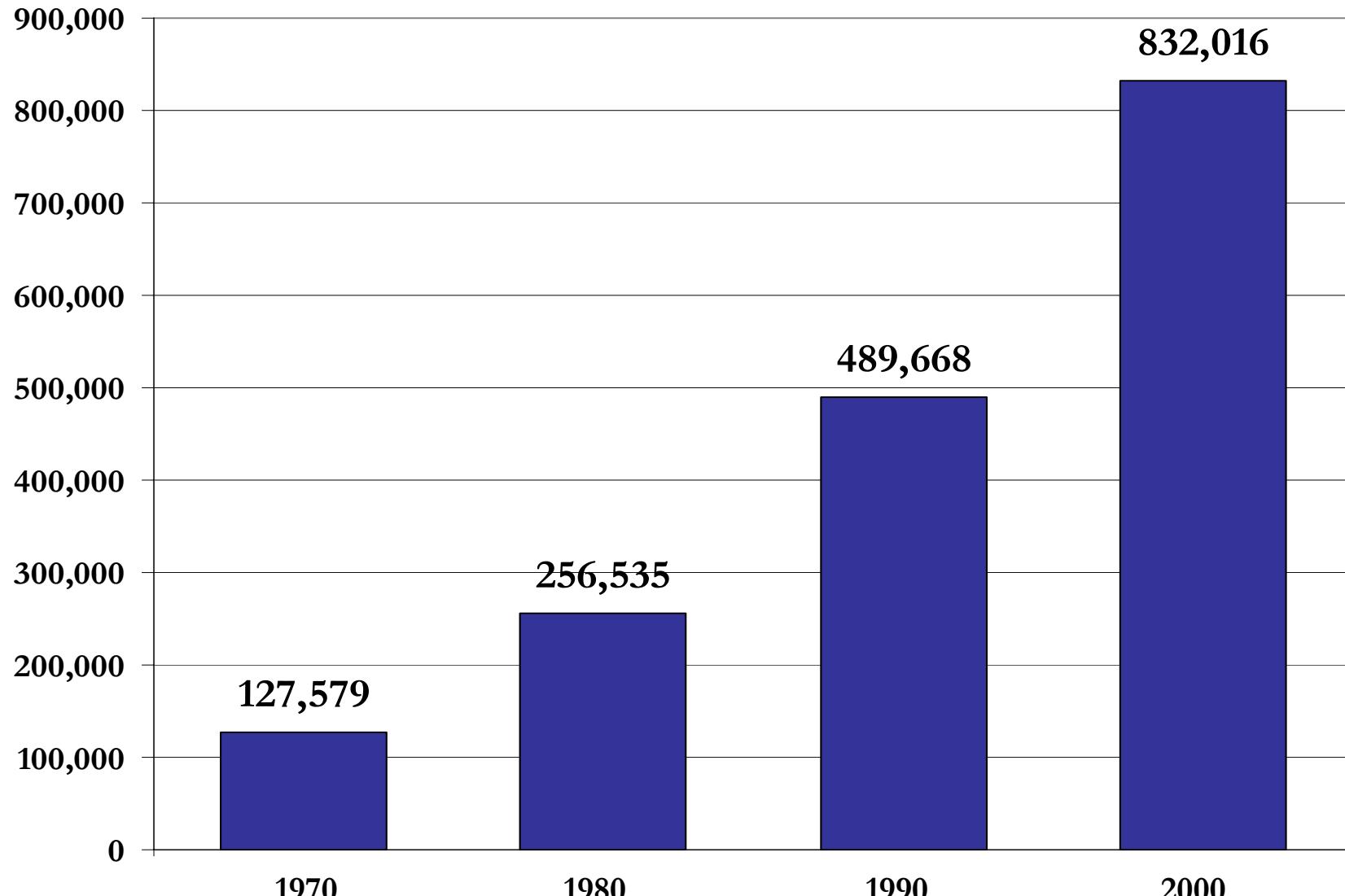
- Study uses 1980, 1990 and 2000 Census data.
- Define foreign-born as:
 - * All persons born outside the United States
 - * Census 2000 did not ask about immigration status
 - * Includes legal permanent residents, temporary migrants (e.g., students), refugees and asylum seekers, and undocumented migrants.

Washington Metropolitan Area in 2000



Metropolitan Washington's foreign-born population grew by 70 percent in the 1990s, or nearly 350,000 immigrants

Immigrants in the Washington Metropolitan Region 1970-2000



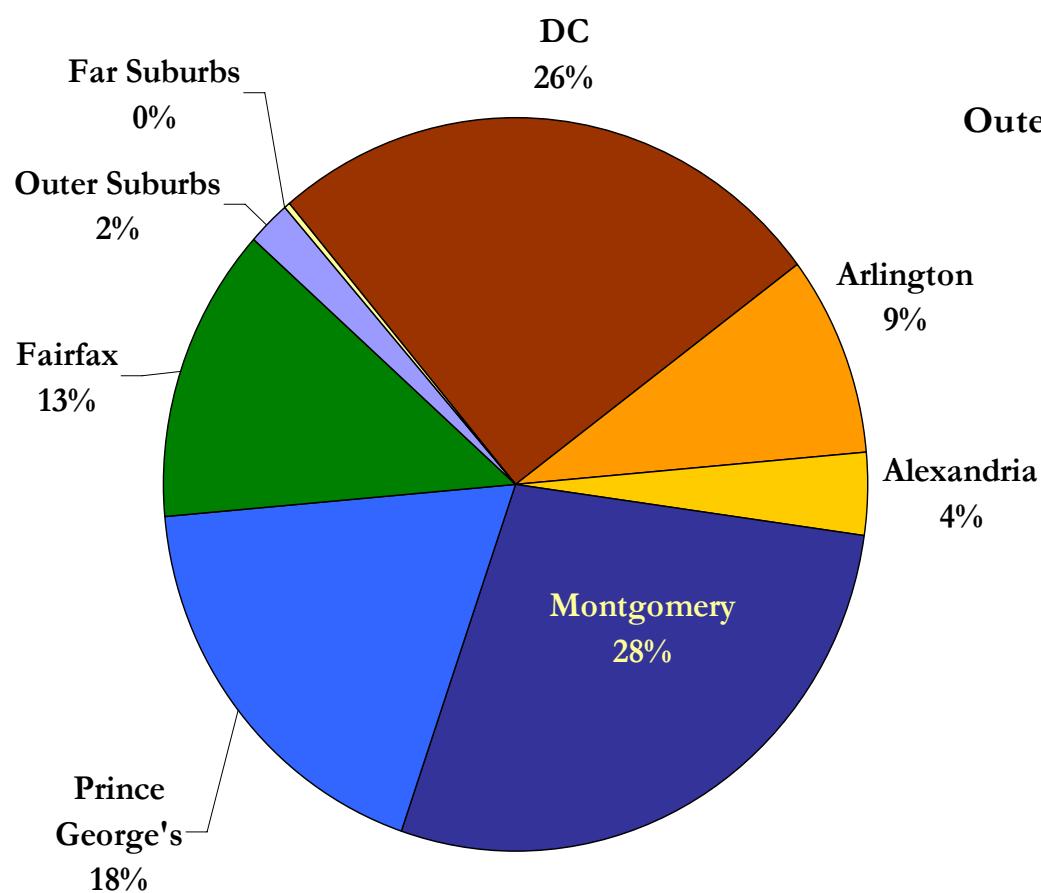
Source: US Census Bureau

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Share of Foreign Born by Jurisdiction, 1970 and 2000

1970

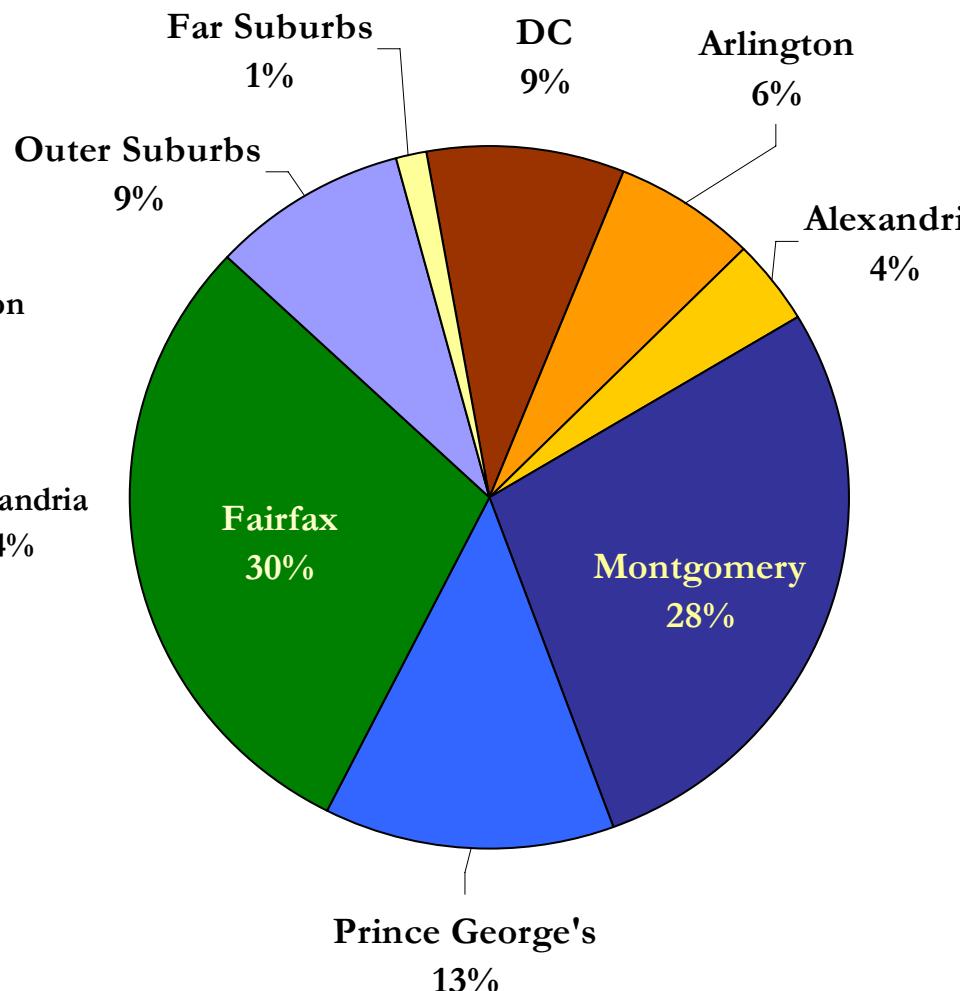
Total Foreign Born 127,579



Source: US Census Bureau

2000

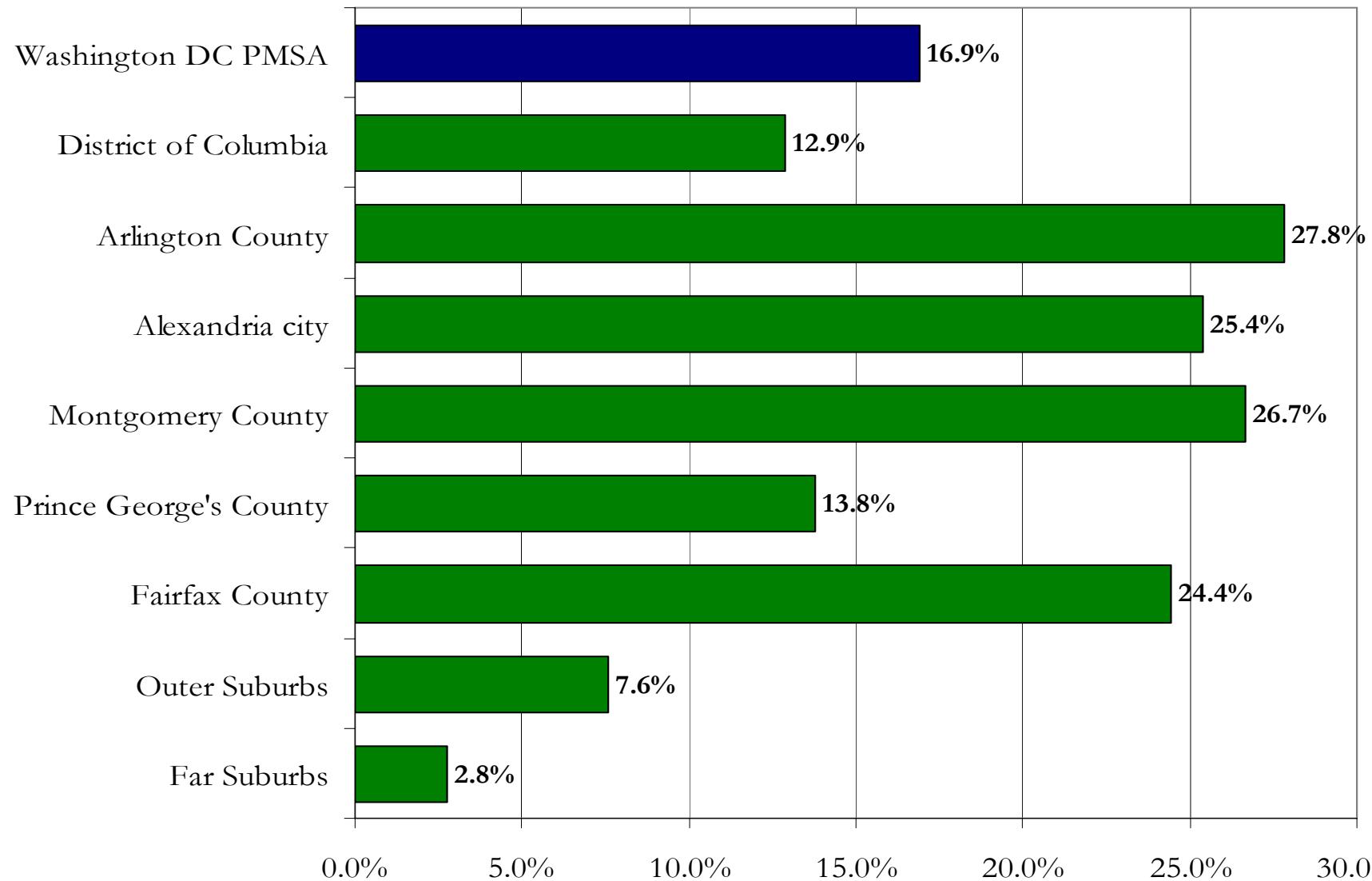
Total Foreign Born 832,016



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More than one-quarter of the population of Arlington, Alexandria and Montgomery counties are immigrants

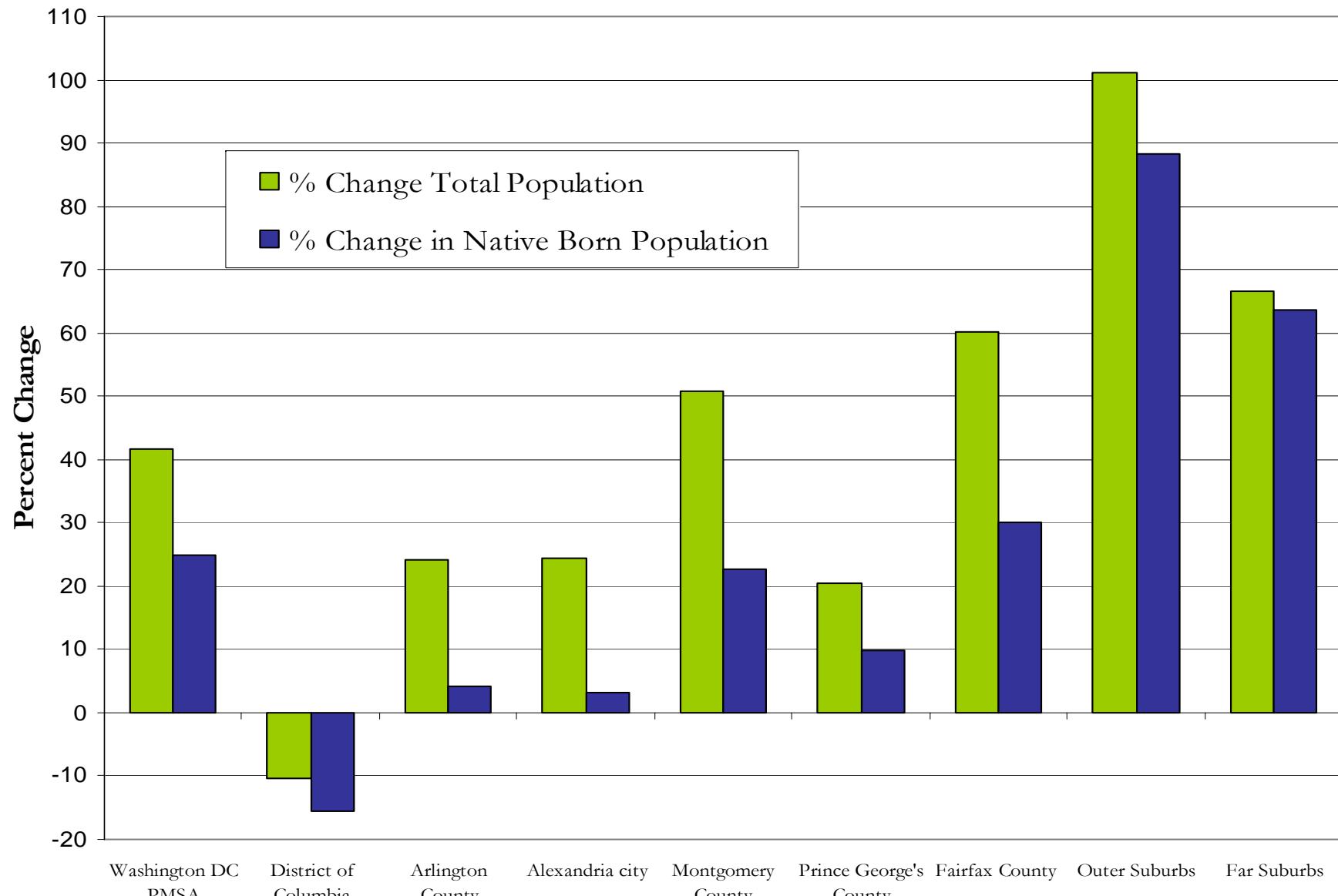
Share Foreign Born by Jurisdiction, Washington Metropolitan Area, 2000



Source: US Census Bureau

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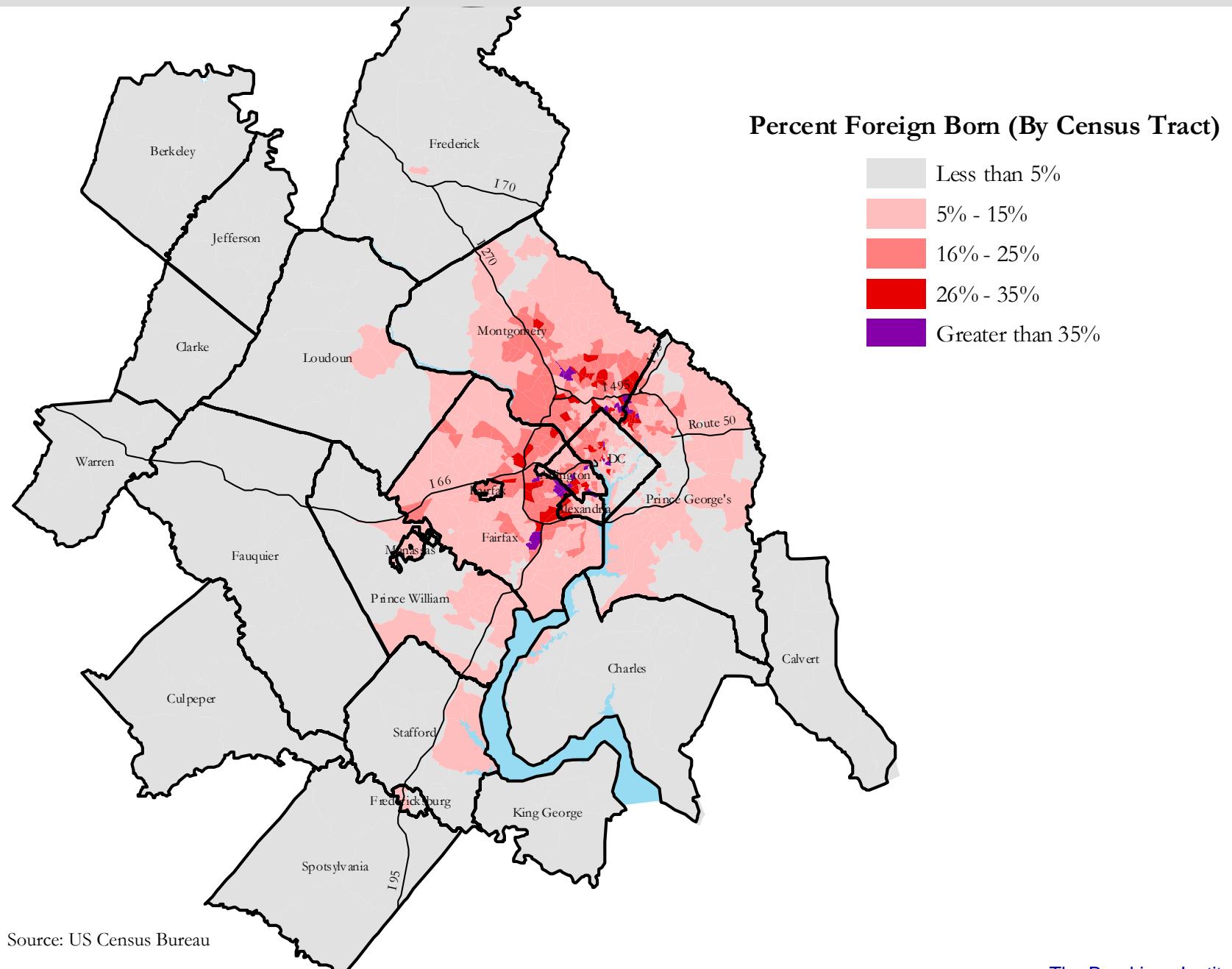
New immigrants made up nearly half of the overall population growth in the region in the 1990s



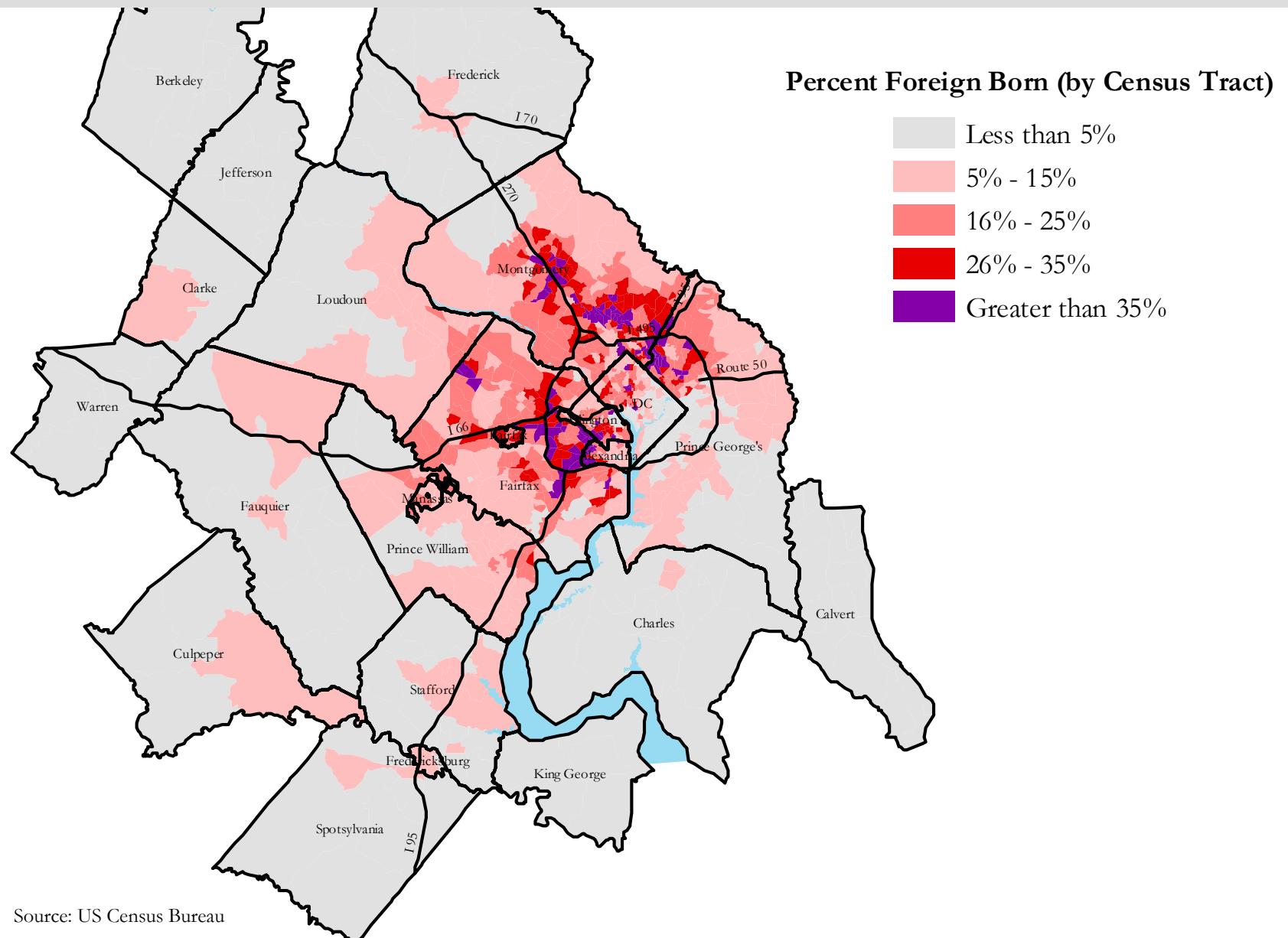
Source: US Census Bureau

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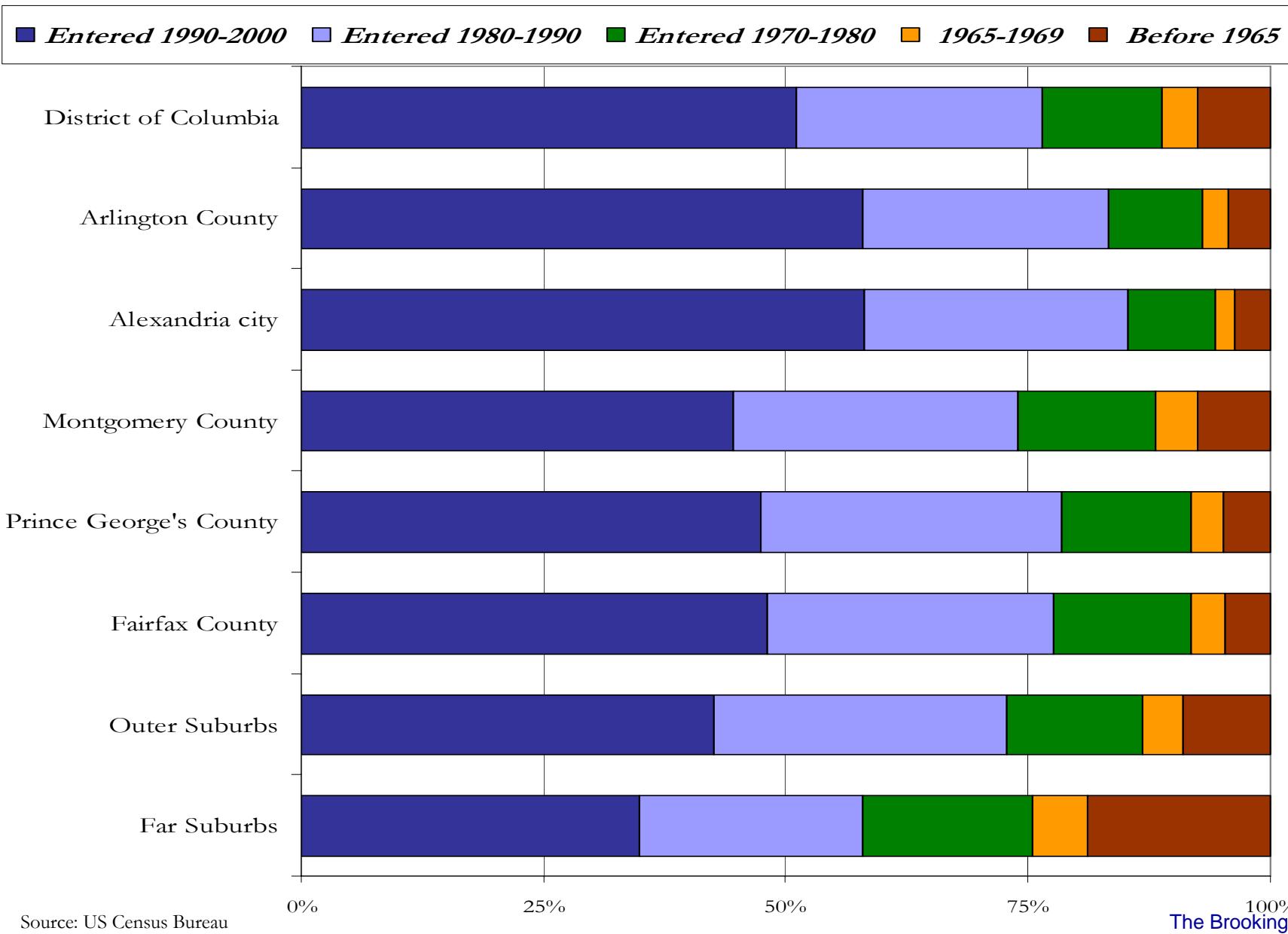
In 1990, immigrants resided close to the core of the region



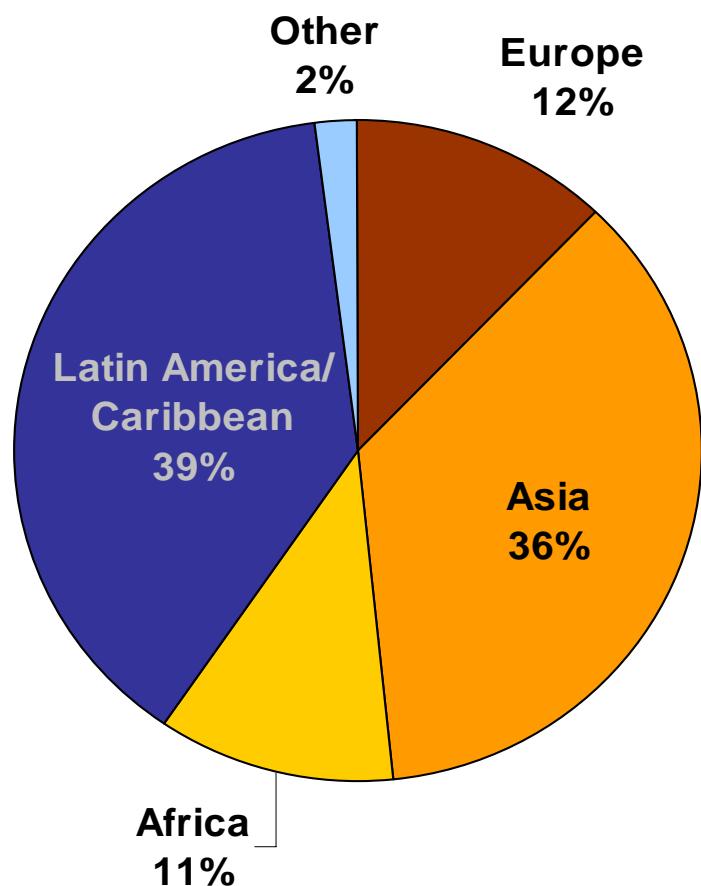
In 2000, the core of the region became more densely settled, while the suburban areas increased their shares



In 2000, nearly half of metropolitan Washington's immigrants had arrived in the United States in the 1990s



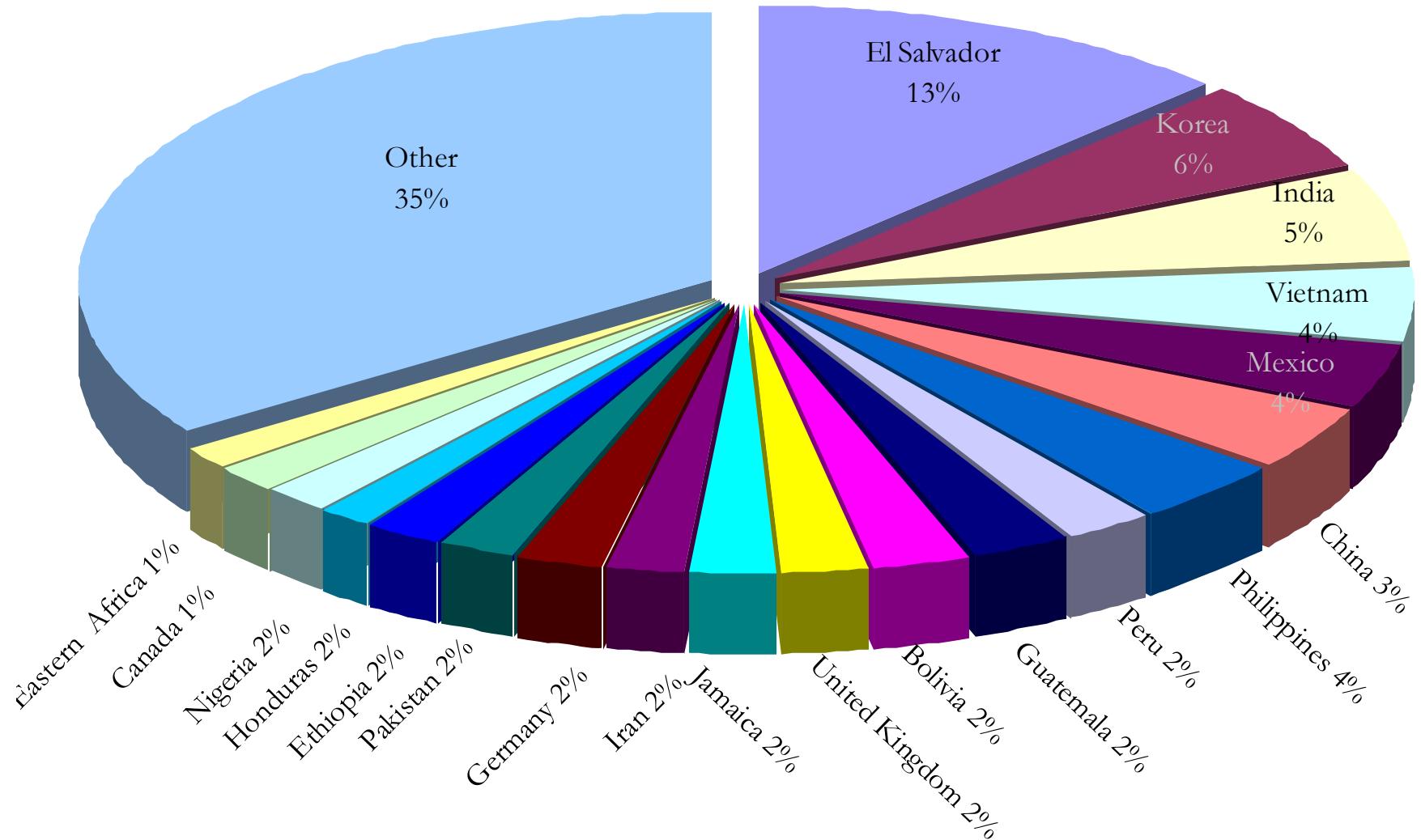
Region of Birth of the Foreign-Born in the Washington Metropolitan Area, 2000



Source: US Census Bureau

Europe		Asia	
N. Europe	3.1	E. Asia	11.6
W. Europe	3.7	S. Central Asia	11.4
S. Europe	1.8	S.E. Asia	10.4
E. Europe	3.5	W. Asia	2.5
Other	0.0	Other	0.2
Africa		Latin America and Caribbean	
E. Africa	3.2	Caribbean	6.2
M. Africa	0.6	Central America	22.4
N. Africa	1.6	South America	10.1
S. Africa	0.3		
W. Africa	5.1		
Other	0.4		

Washington has the second largest Salvadoran community in the United States, however, they constitute only 13 percent of the region's immigrants



Source: US Census Bureau

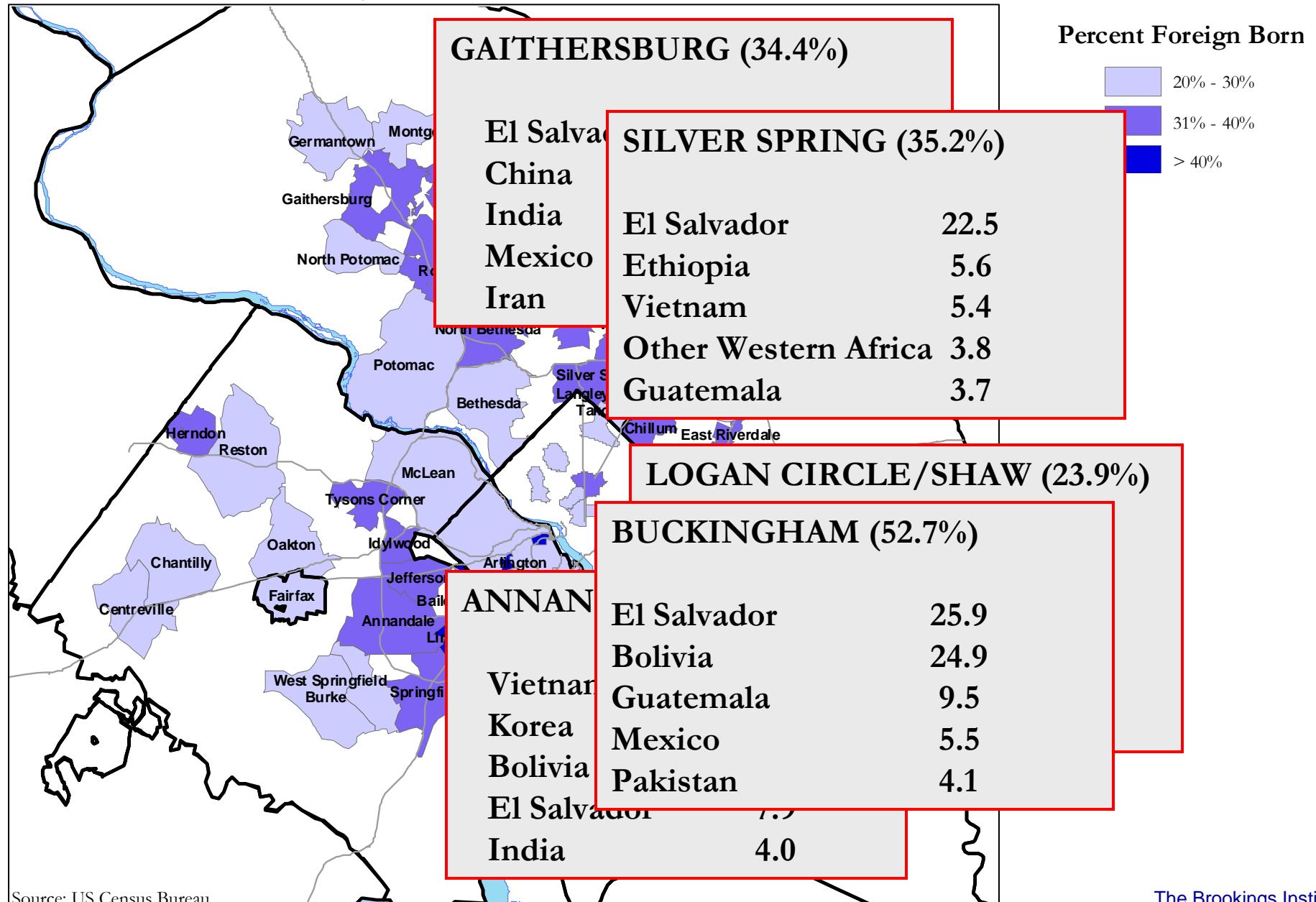
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Many neighborhoods across the region have high shares of immigrant residents

Largest Share Foreign-Born, by Selected Place, 2000

Seven Corners	61.2
Bailey's Crossroads	54.0
Lincolnia	47.7
Jefferson	37.8
Langley Park	64.5
Adelphi	40.9
Wheaton-Glenmont	39.6
Chillum	38.0
Columbia Heights West & Forest Glen	58.8
Buckingham	52.7
Mt. Pleasant & Columbia Heights	32.6
Kalorama Heights & Adams Morgan	25.2

Percent of the Total Population that is Foreign Born in Selected Places, 2000



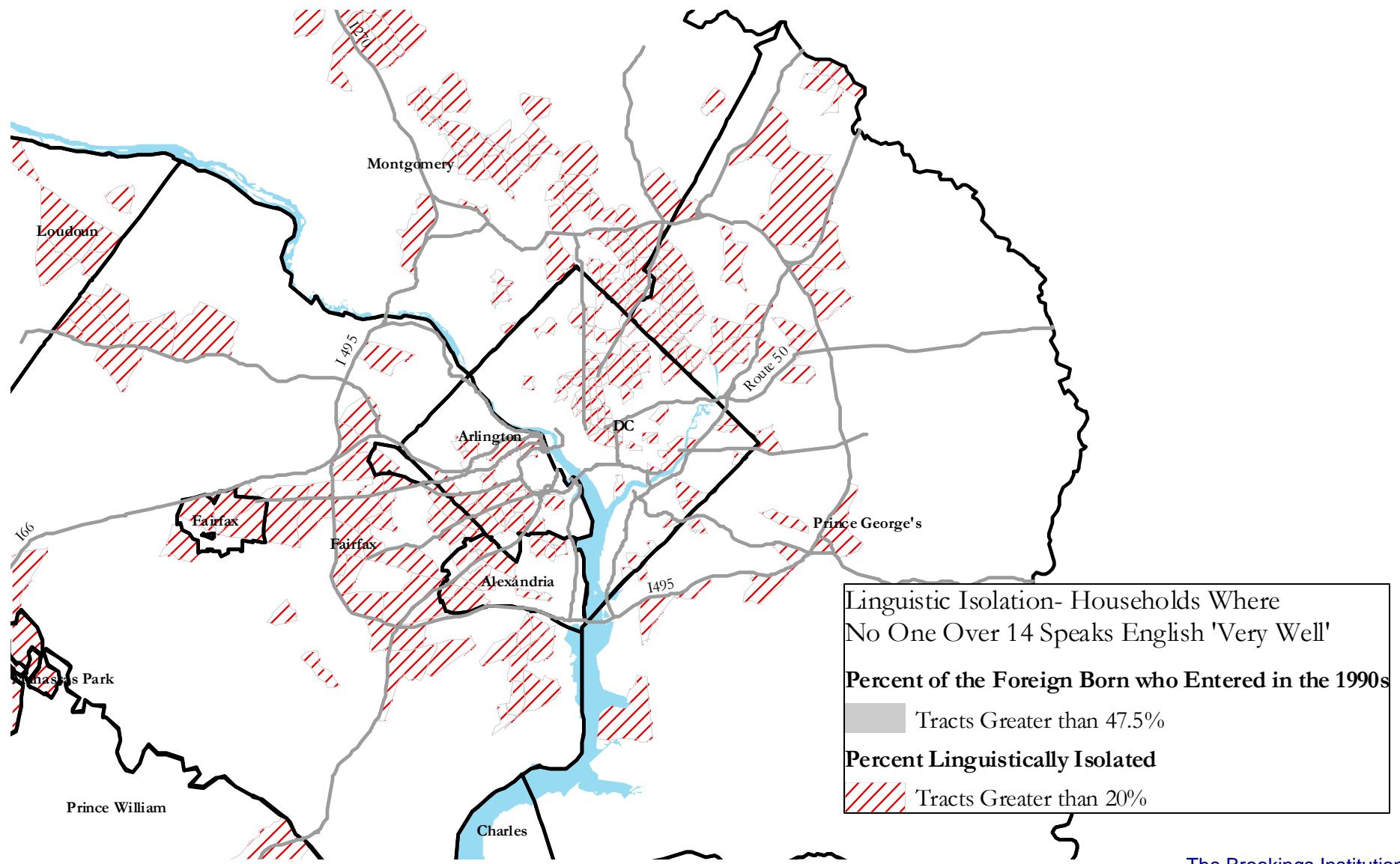
Source: US Census Bureau

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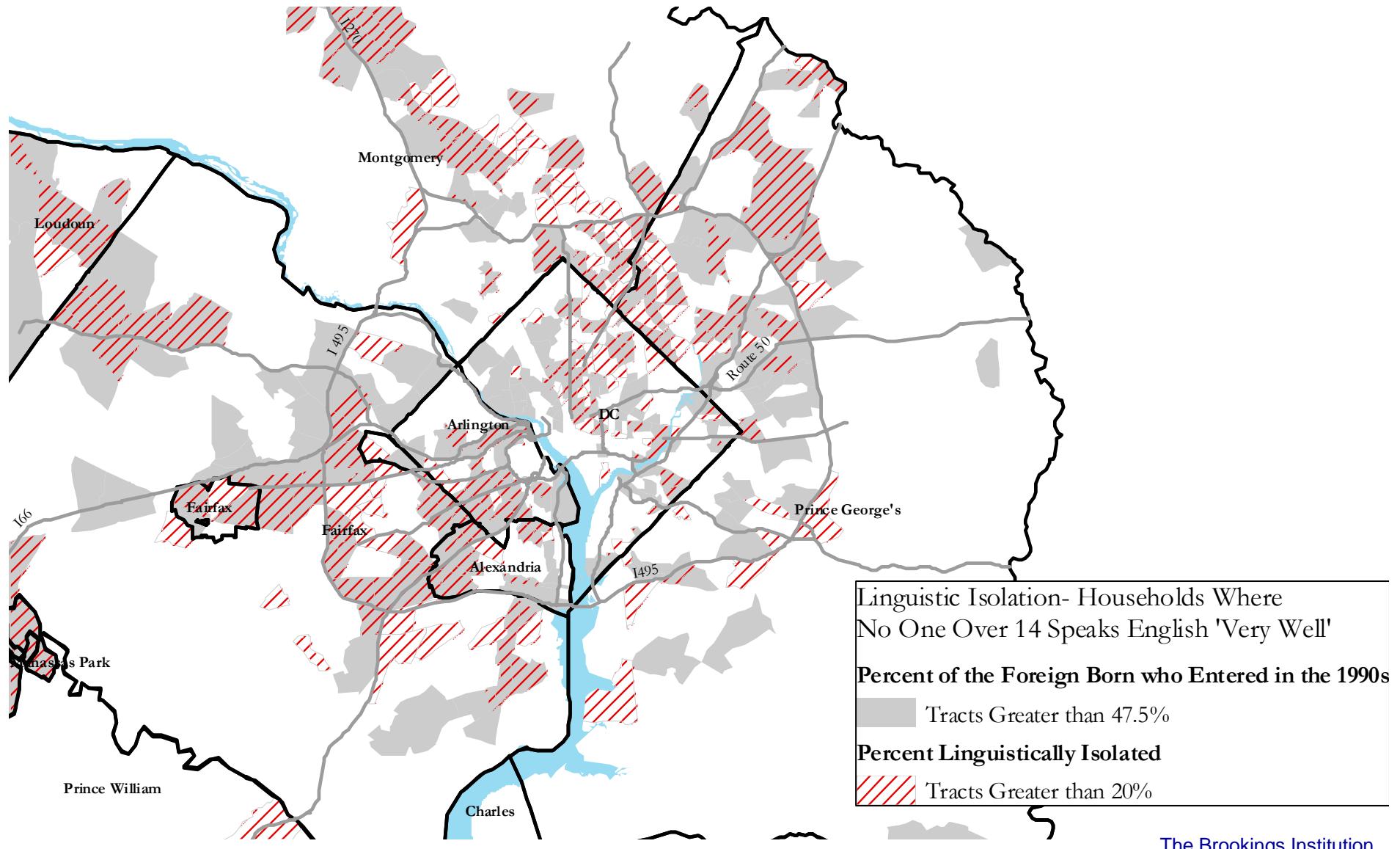
English Language Proficiency

- 17 percent of region's foreign-born speak only English
- 62 percent report they speak English well or very well
- 21 percent report they cannot speak English well or at all
- Higher shares of immigrants in Arlington, Alexandria and the District cannot speak English well or at all
- Larger numbers living in Montgomery and Fairfax are not proficient in English

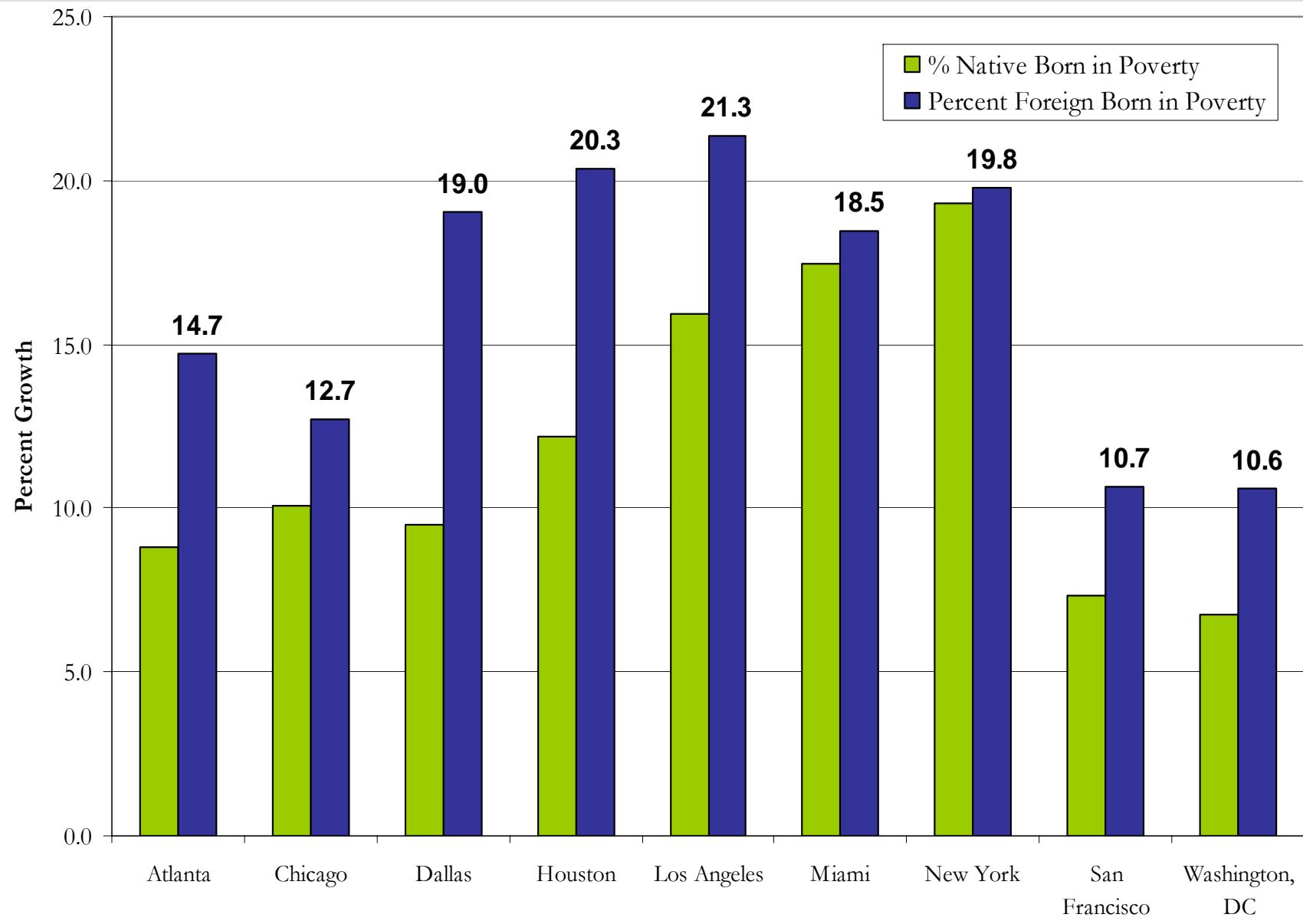
Linguistic Isolation in the Washington Metropolitan Area, 2000



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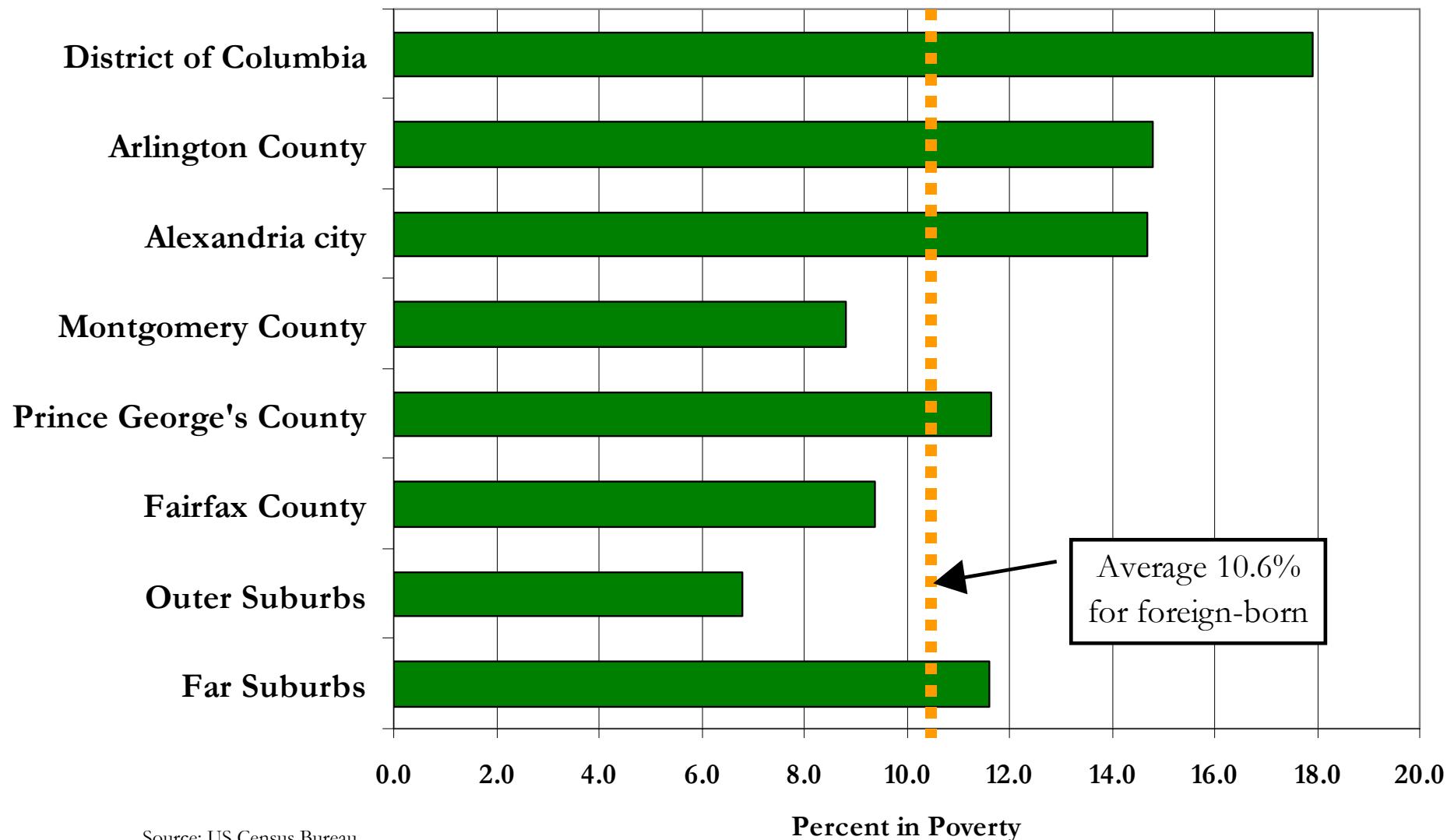
Compared with other immigrant gateways, Washington's poverty rates for foreign-born residents is lower



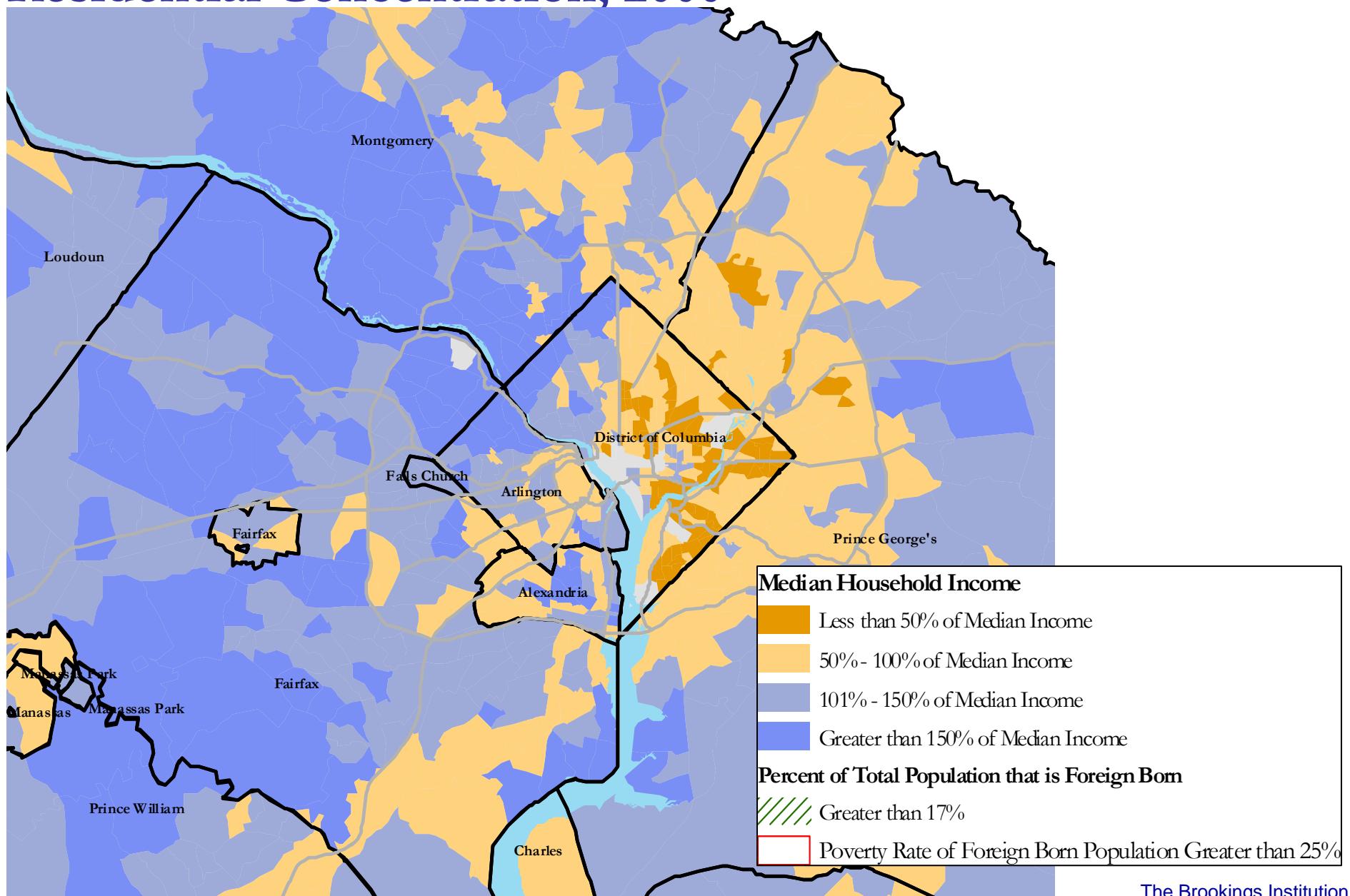
Source: US Census Bureau

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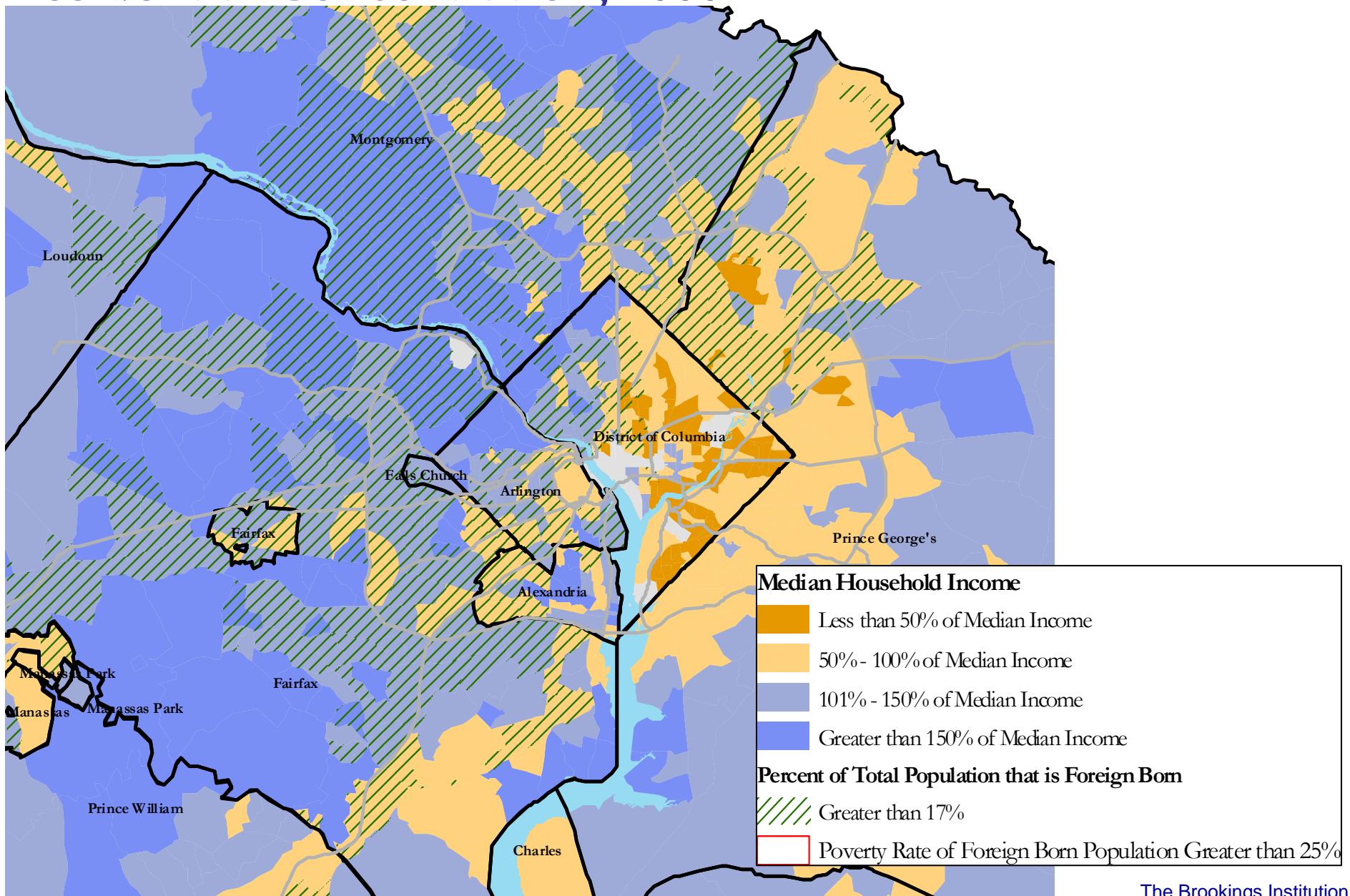
The share of poor immigrants varies across jurisdictions; the core has higher shares, inner suburbs have larger numbers



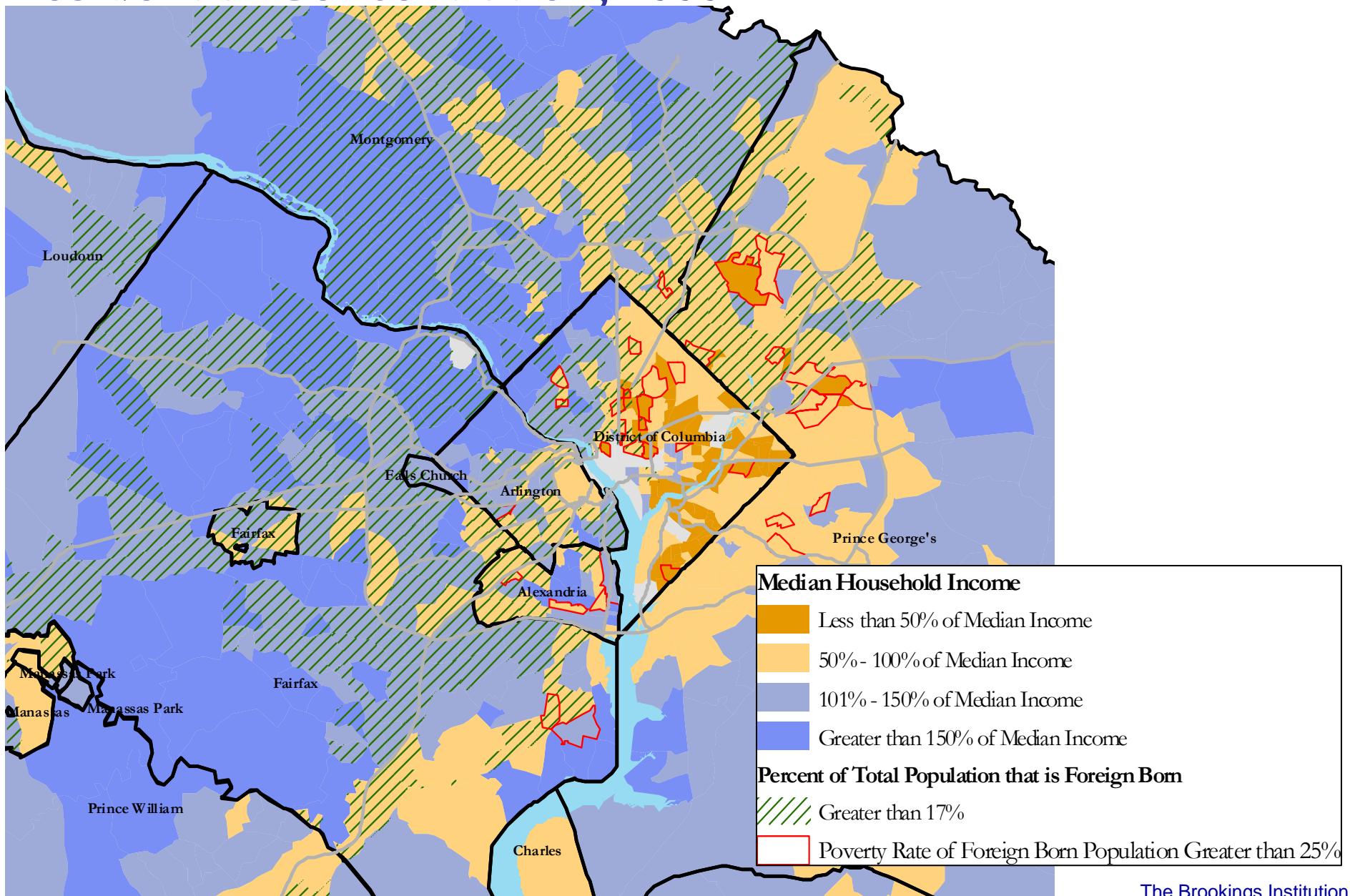
Median Household Income and Areas of Immigrant Residential Concentration, 2000

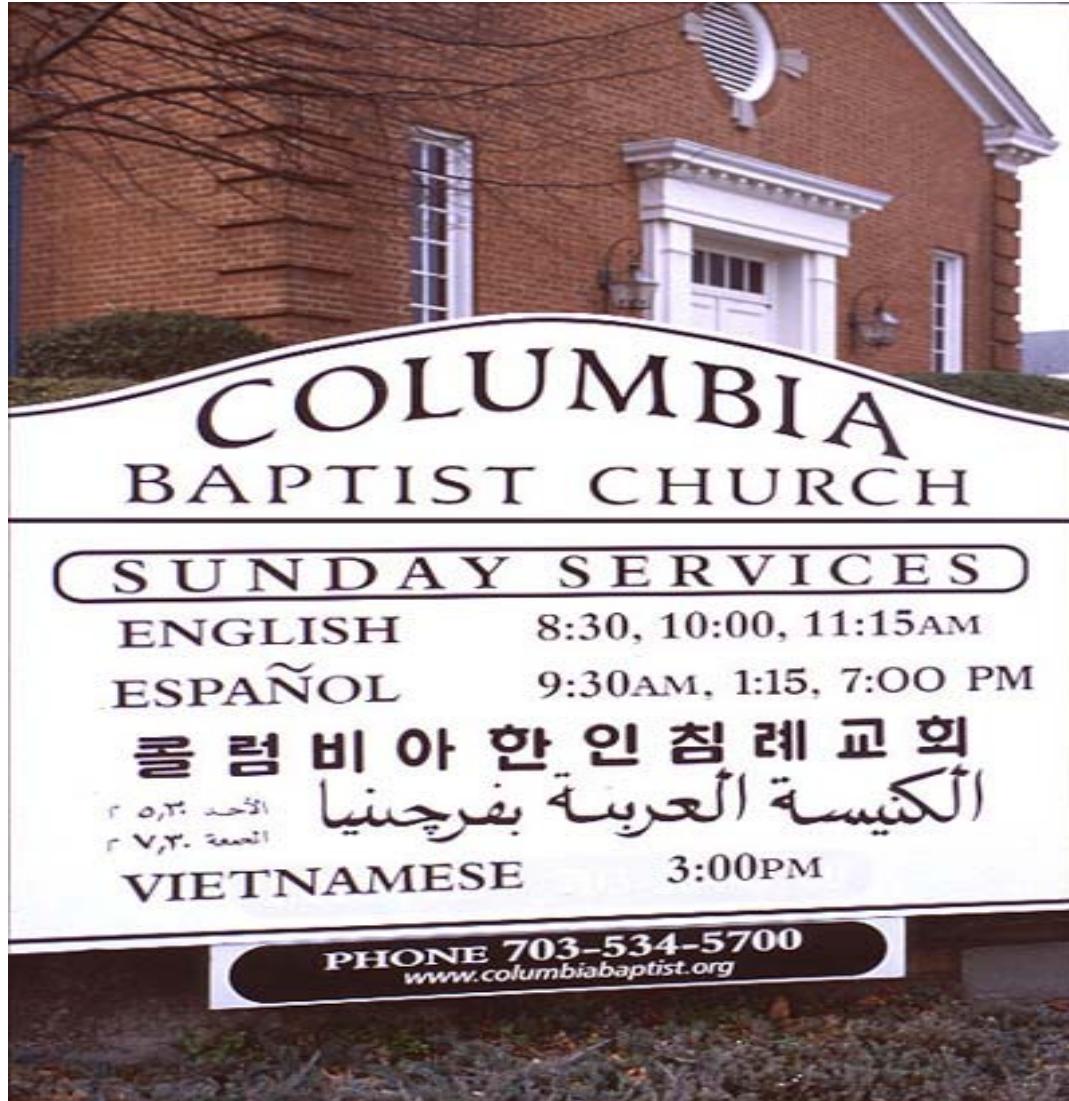


Median Household Income and Areas of Immigrant Residential Concentration, 2000



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