



The Brookings Institution  
Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy

# African Immigrants in Metropolitan Washington

## A Demographic Overview

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*African Immigrants and Refugees Foundation  
Conference*

*November 18, 2003*

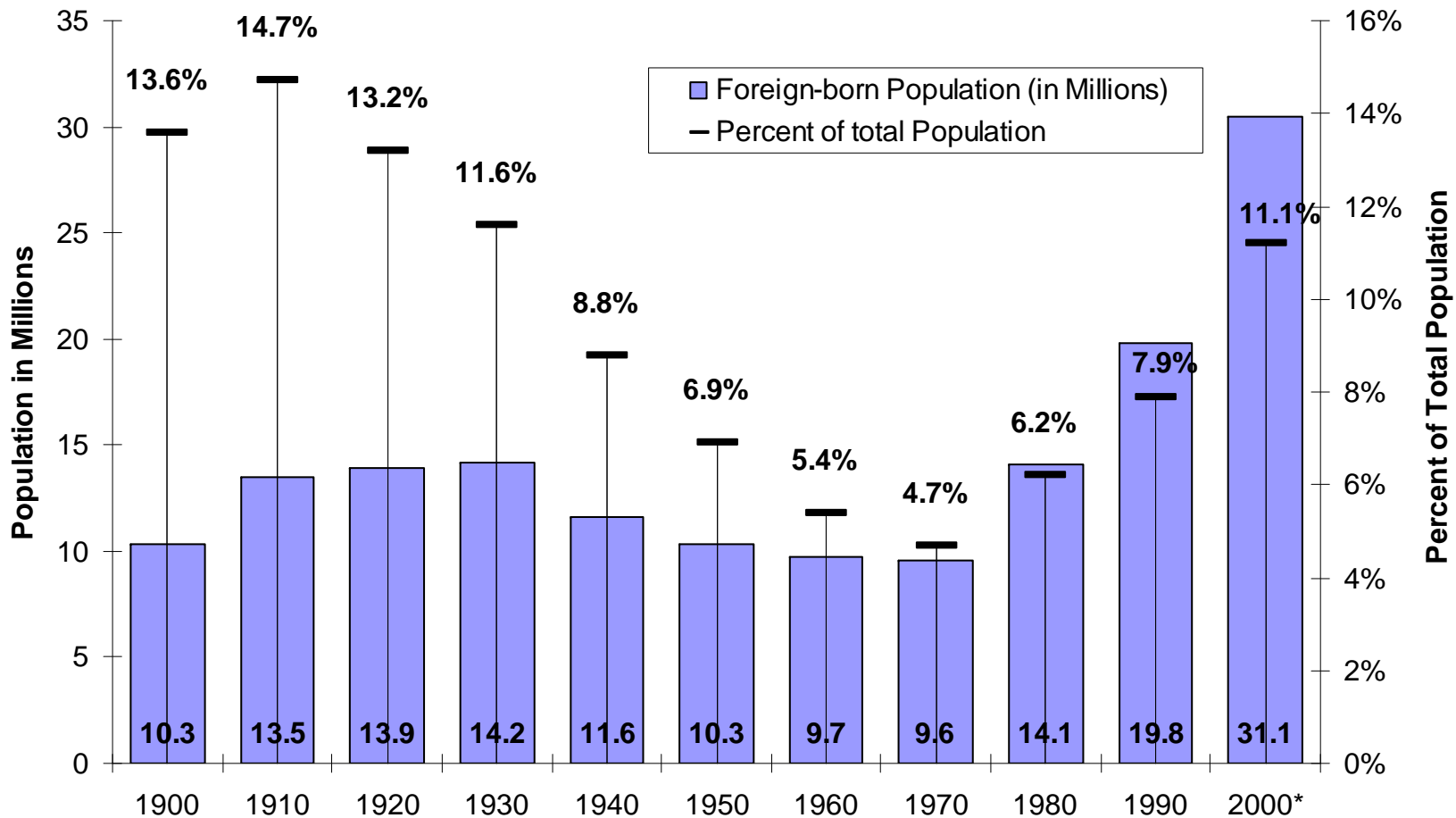


# A Word about the Data

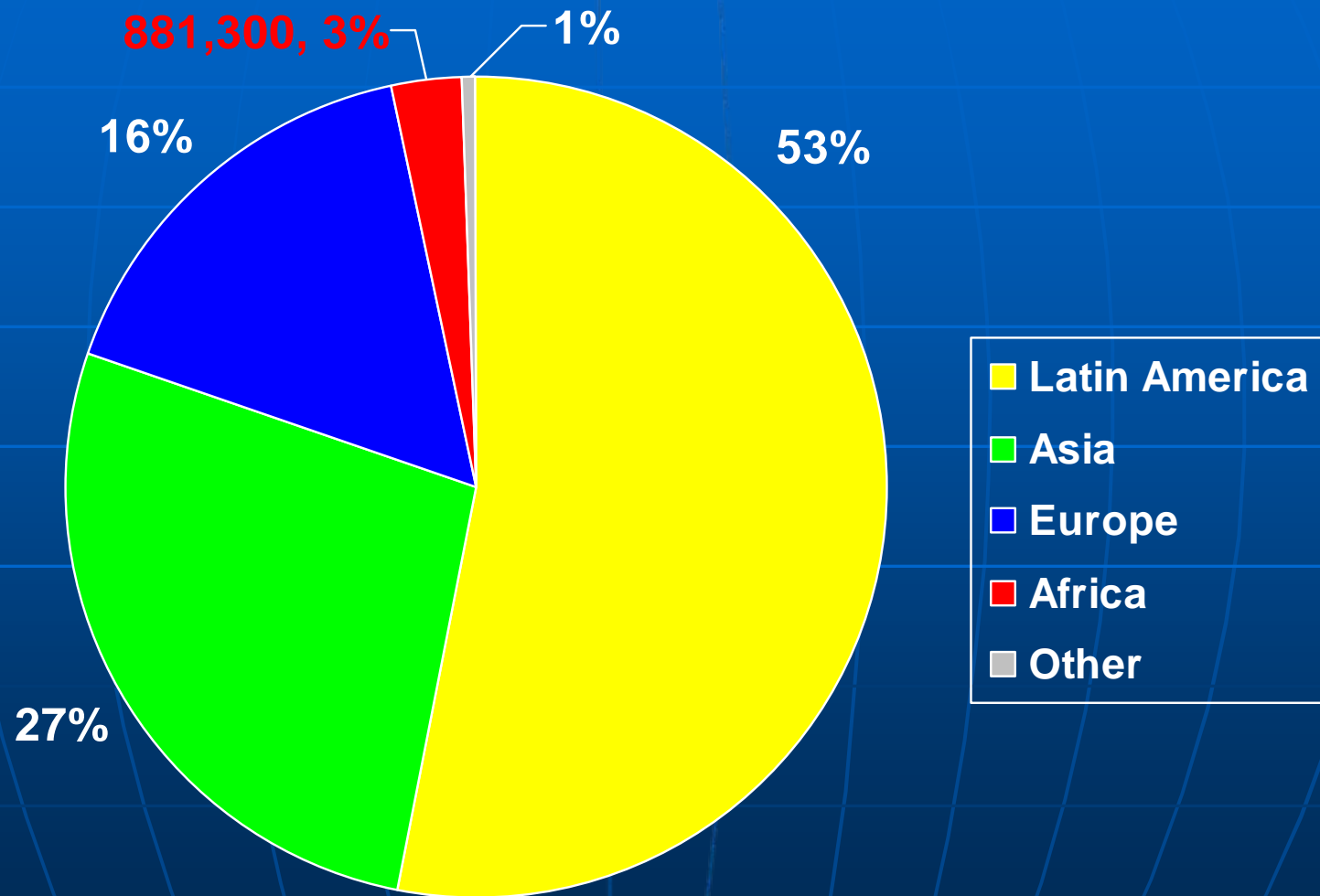
- Census 2000
  - Foreign-born defined as all persons born outside the U.S.
  - Does not ask about immigration status
  - Includes legal permanent residents, temporary migrants (e.g. students), refugees and asylum seekers, and undocumented migrants

# Context: U.S. Immigration

Figure 1: Total Foreign Born and Share Foreign Born in the United States, 1900-2000



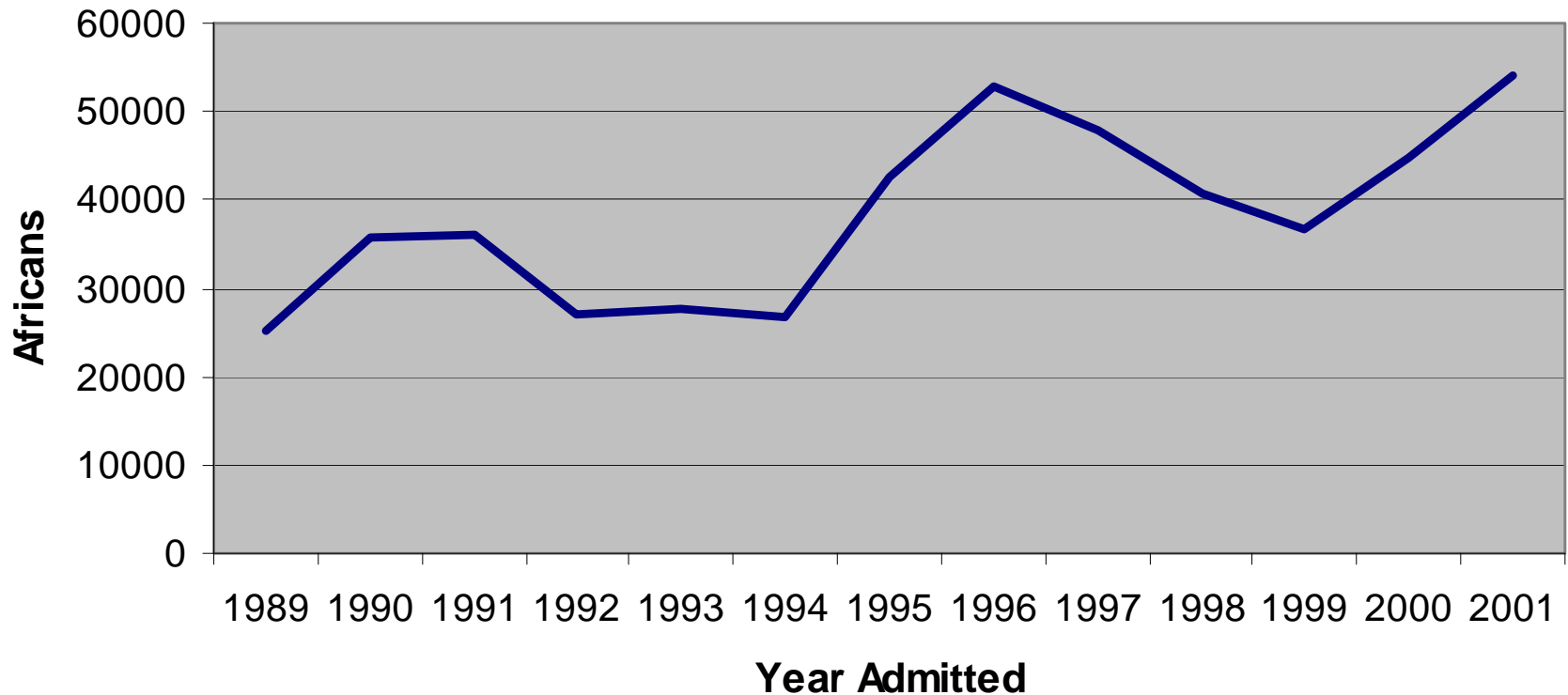
# U.S. Foreign-born Population



Source: Census 2000

# Number of Africans in the U.S. is Increasing

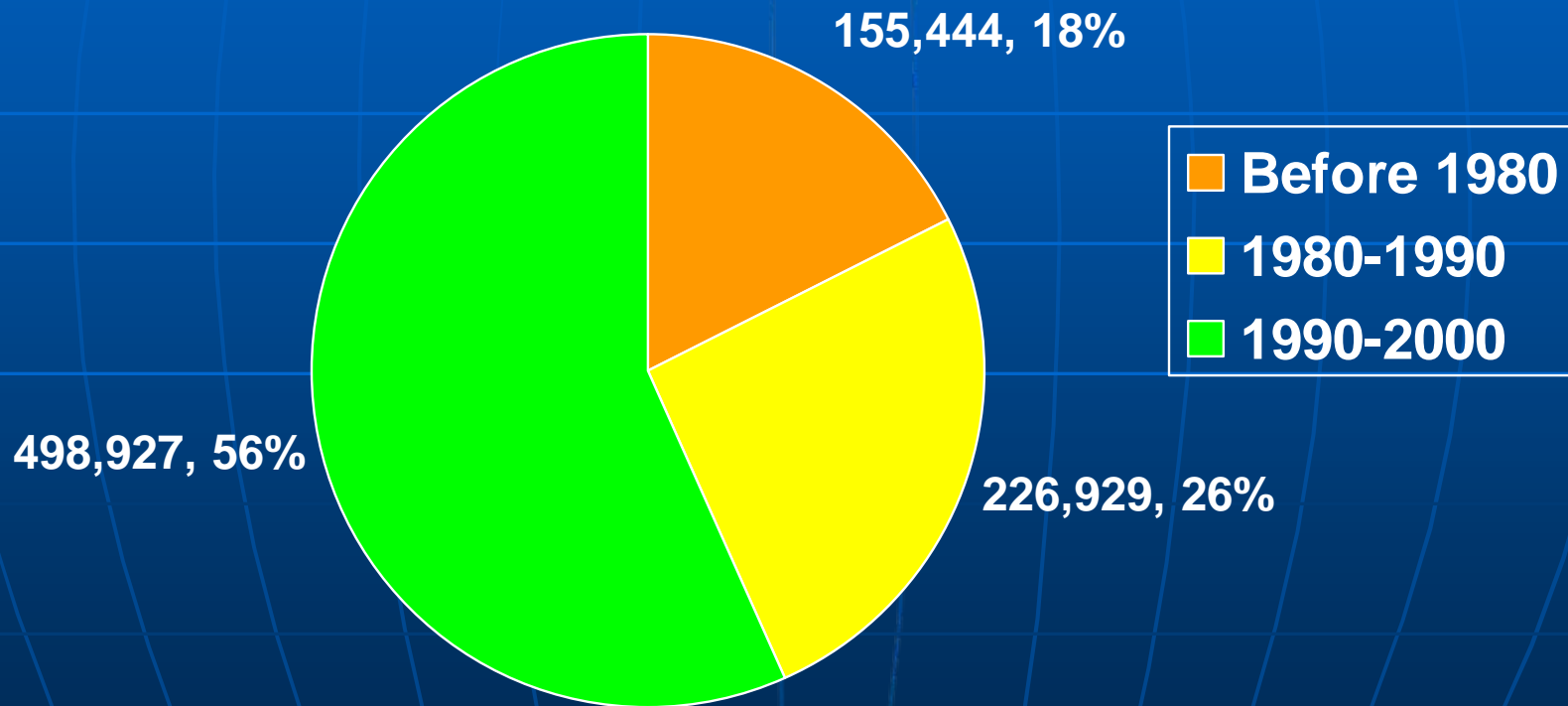
**African Immigrants Admitted by INS, 1989-2001**





# Most Africans Arrived Recently

African-born Population in the U.S.  
by Period of Entry, Census 2000

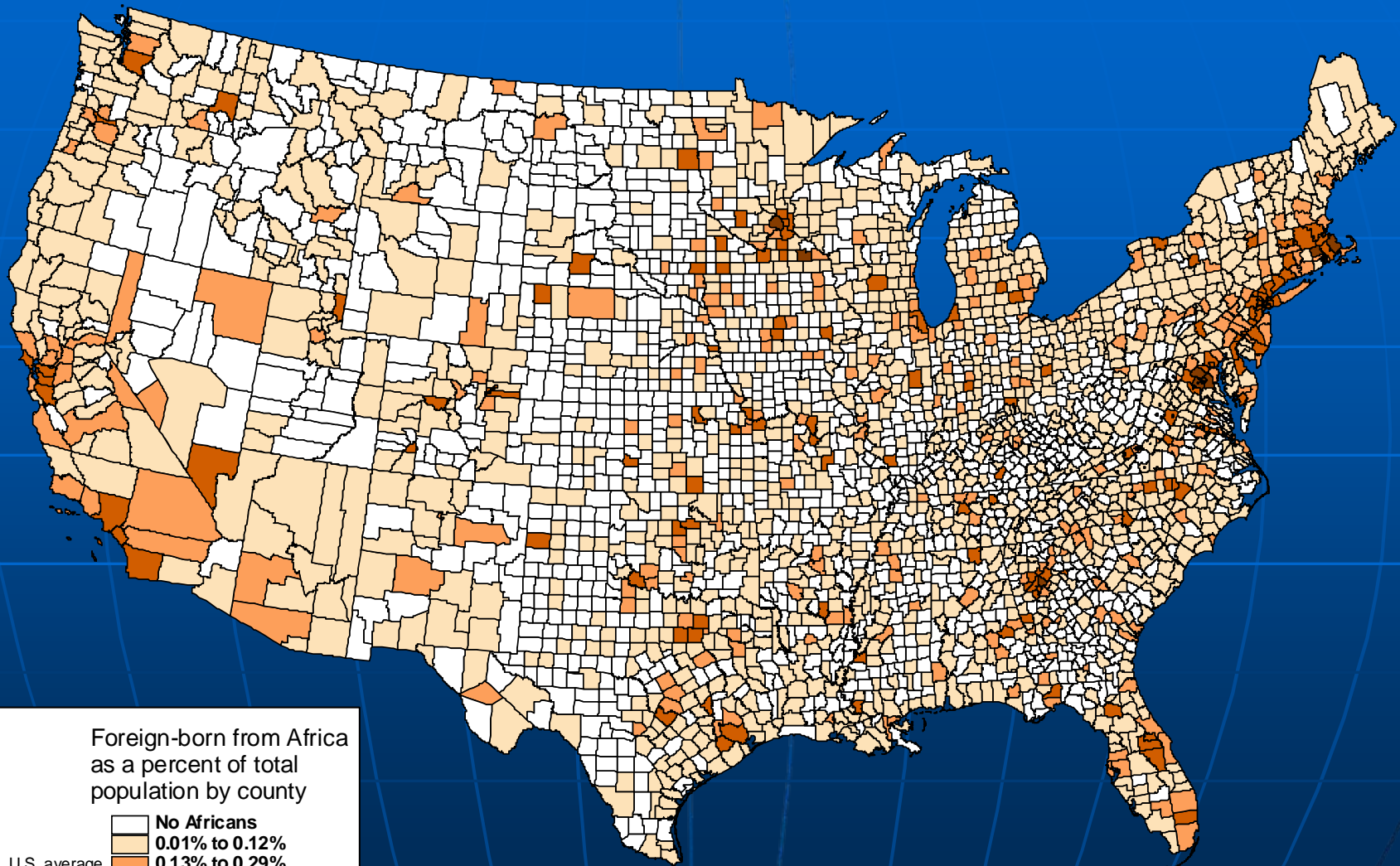




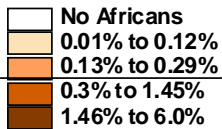
# U.S. Settlement Patterns

- Africans are scattered throughout the country
- The largest concentrations are near large cities and in the Northeast
- Forty percent of Africans live in just four states: New York, California, Texas, and Maryland
- No state has fewer than 150 Africans
- DC, Maryland, and Rhode Island have the highest proportions of Africans

# U.S. Settlement Patterns



Foreign-born from Africa  
as a percent of total  
population by county

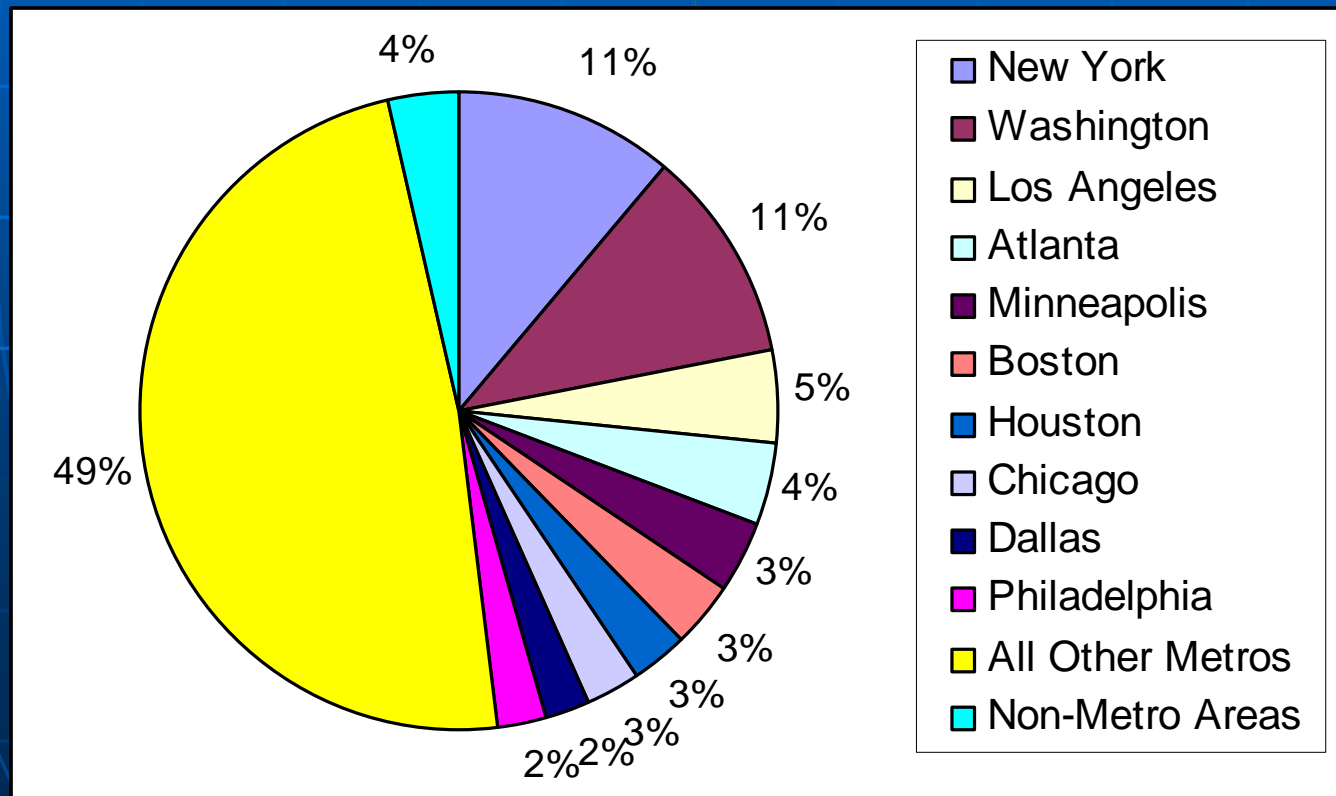


U.S. average  
0.3%



# Africans are highly urbanized

- 95% of the African-born were living in a metropolitan area in 2000.
- Almost one-half lived in just ten metro areas.

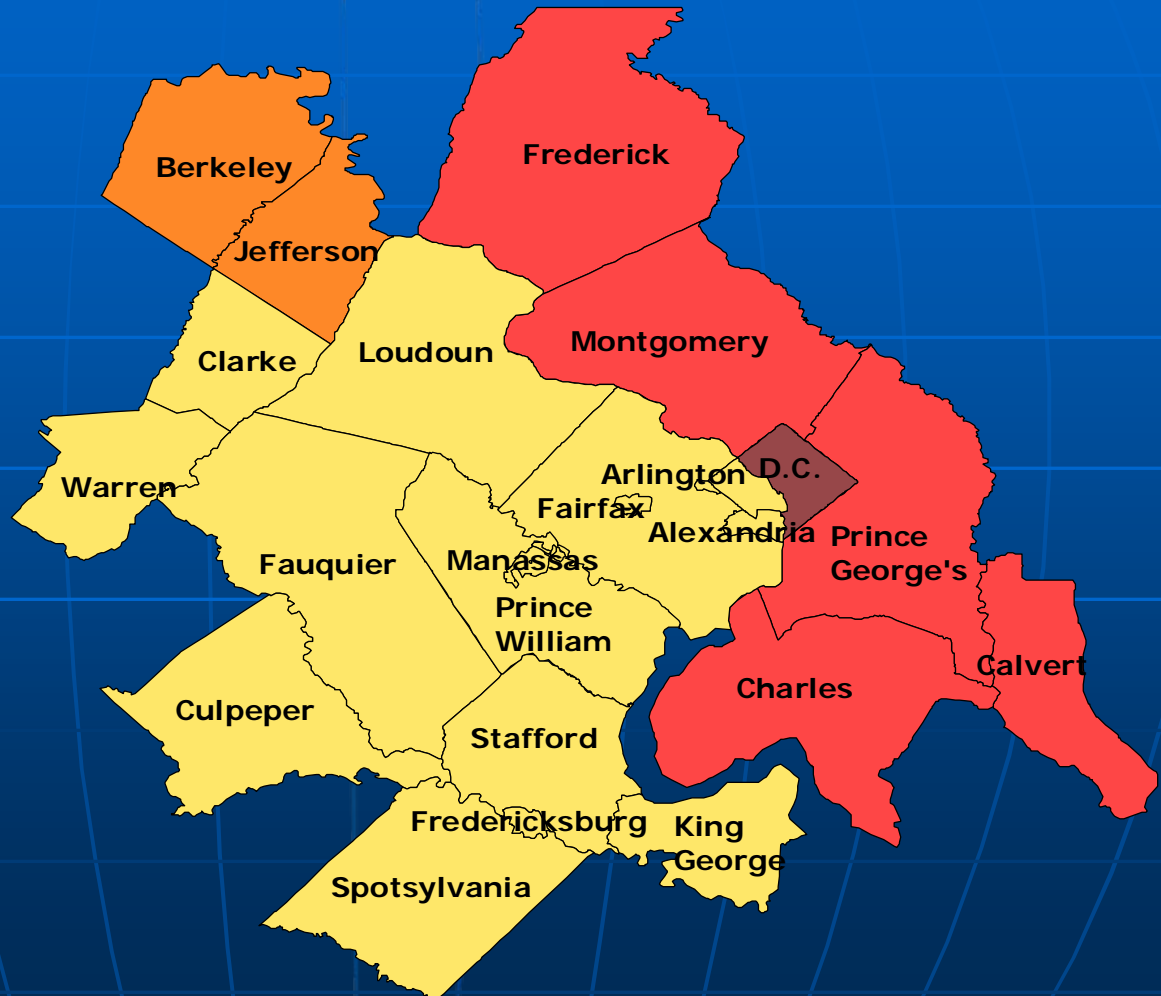


# Washington Stands Out

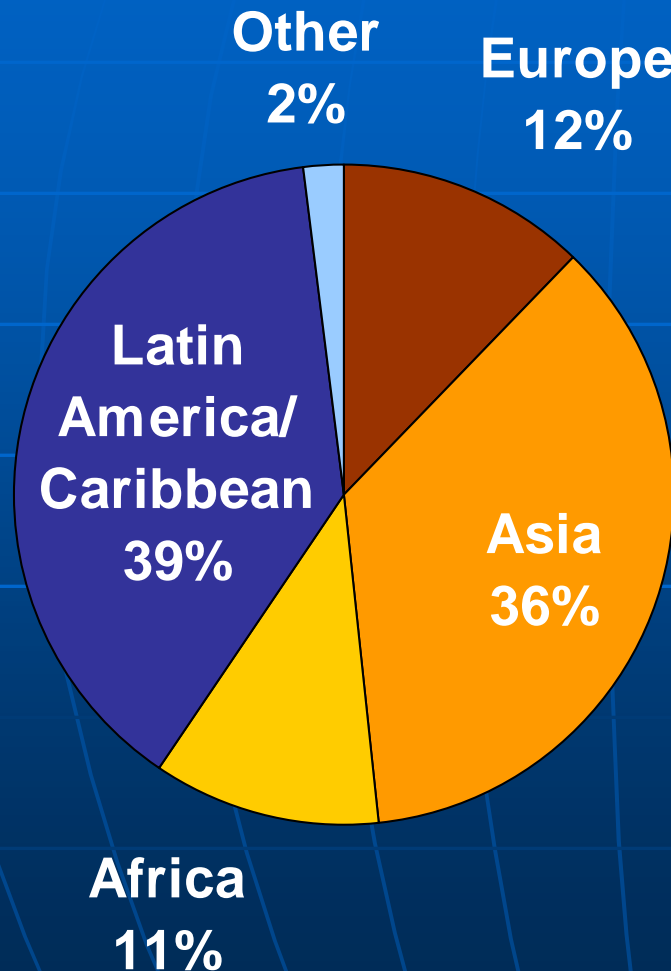
METRO AREA	AFRICANS	AFRICAN % of FB	AFRICAN % of TOT
New York, NY PMSA	99,126	3.16	1.06
Washington, DC-MD-VA-WV PMSA	93,271	11.21	1.89
Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA PMSA	43,024	1.25	0.45
Atlanta, GA MSA	36,645	8.7	0.89
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI MSA	30,388	14.4	1.02
Boston, MA--NH PMSA	29,475	5.80	0.87
Houston, TX PMSA	26,266	3.07	0.63
Chicago, IL PMSA	23,355	1.64	0.28
Dallas, TX PMSA	20,975	3.55	0.60
Philadelphia, PA-NJ PMSA	20,391	5.71	0.40
Newark, NJ PMSA	18,086	4.69	0.89
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA PMSA	16,108	4.85	0.67
Middlesex-Somerset-Hunterdon, NJ PMSA	13,142	5.40	1.12
Baltimore, MD PMSA	13,007	8.90	0.51
Providence--Fall River--Warwick, RI-MA MSA	12,380	8.67	1.04
Oakland, CA PMSA	12,006	2.09	0.50
Jersey City, NJ PMSA	11,961	5.10	1.96
San Diego, CA MSA	11,905	2.0	0.42
Columbus, OH MSA	11,114	15.6	0.72
Orange County, CA PMSA	10,387	1.22	0.36

# Census Definition of Washington

Includes  
District of  
Columbia,  
five counties  
in Maryland,  
17 counties/  
cities in  
Virginia,  
And two  
counties in  
West Virginia.

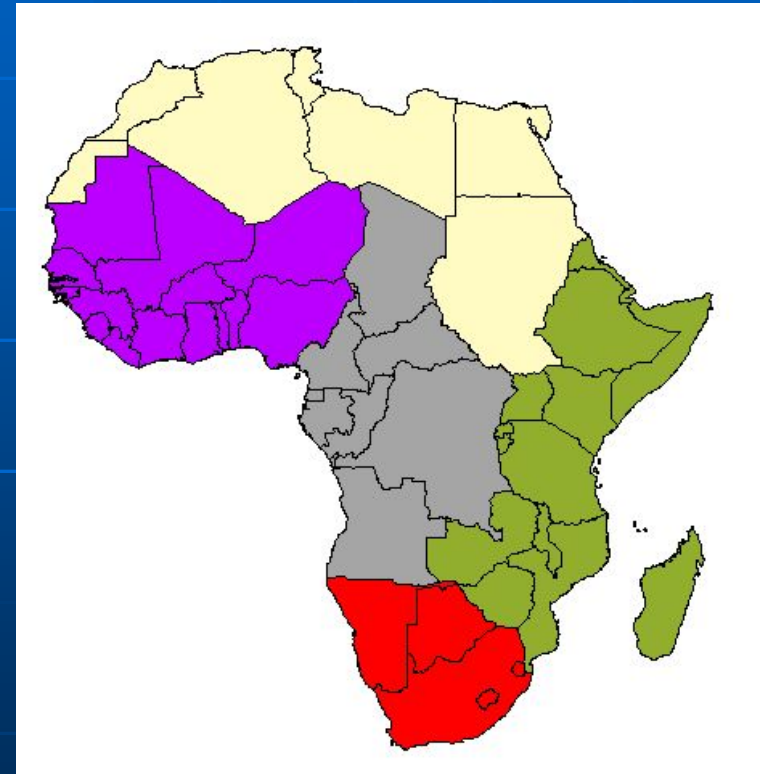
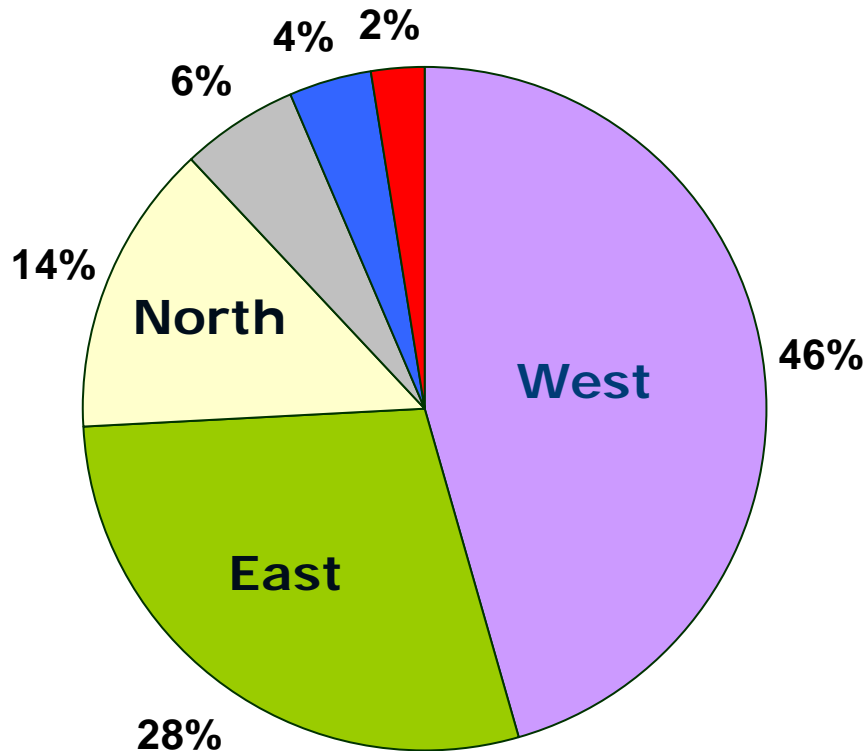


# Region of Origin for Foreign Born in Washington



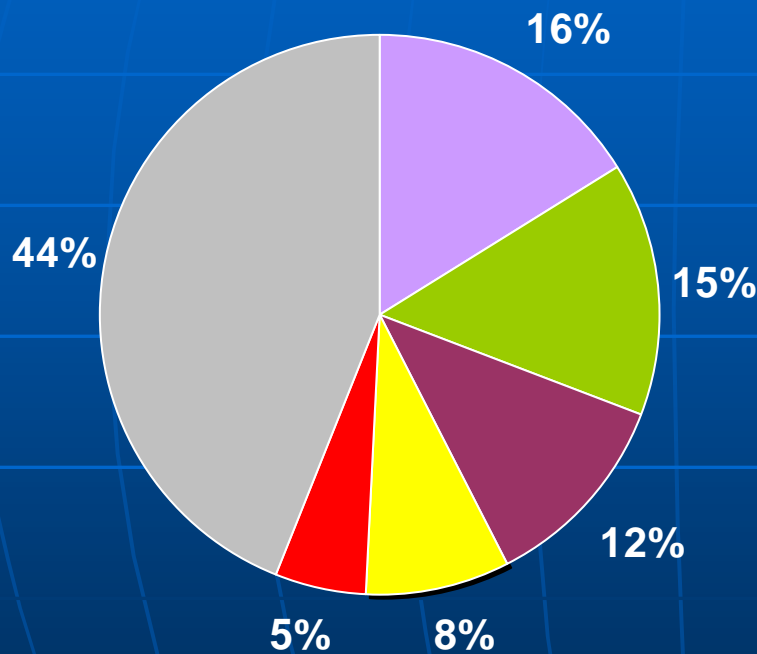
- Census 2000 counted 93,271 Africans in metro Washington.
- Africans comprise eleven percent of the foreign-born population in the region, compared to only 3% nationwide.

# Region of Origin for Africans in Washington



# Top African Countries of Origin in Washington

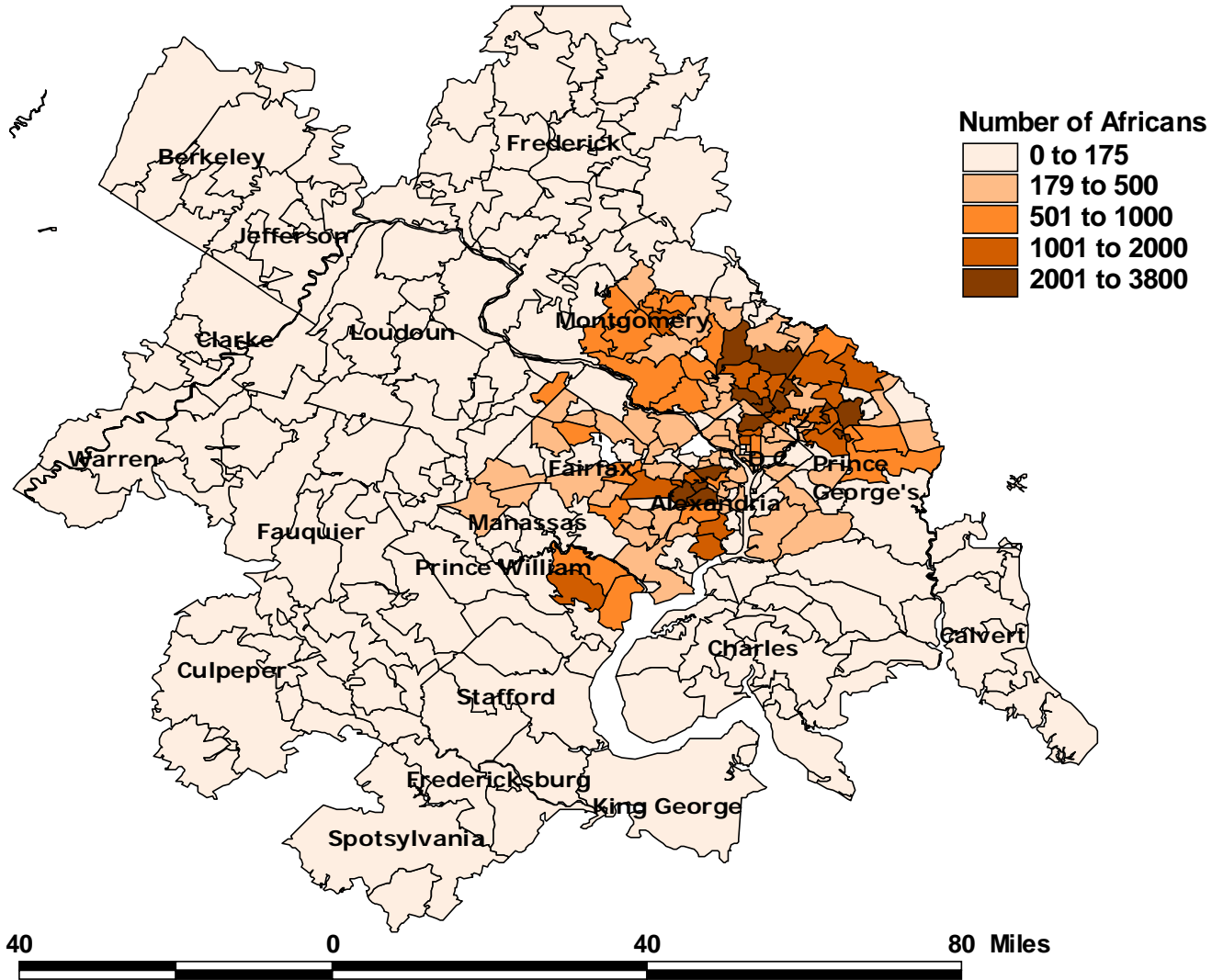
*Census 2000*



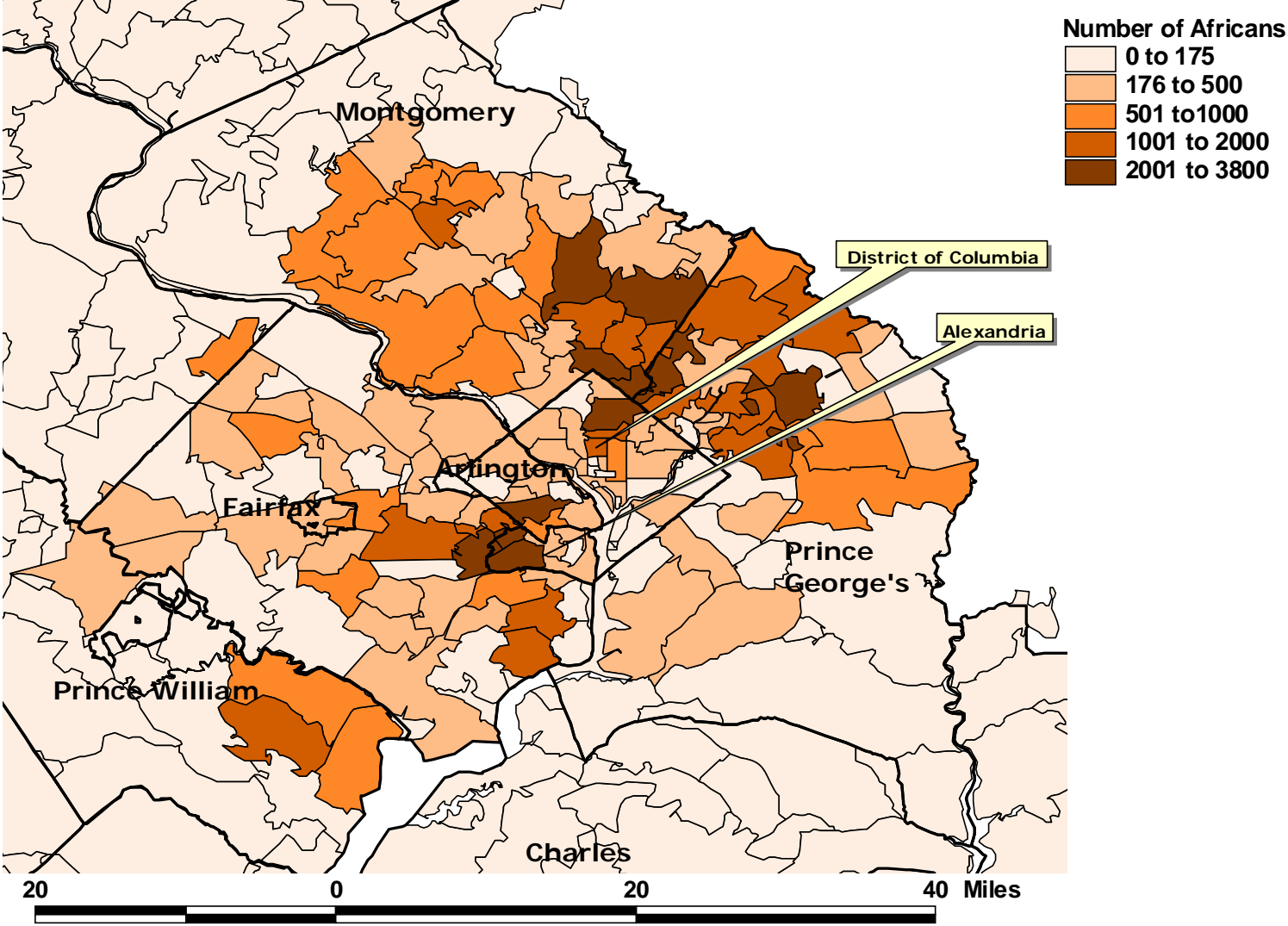
*INS 1990-1998*

1.	Ethiopia
2.	Nigeria
3.	Ghana
4.	Sierra Leone
5.	Somalia
6.	Egypt
7.	Liberia
8.	Morocco
9.	Sudan
10.	Cameroon

# Distribution of Africans in Washington by Zip Code, Census 2000



# Distribution of Africans in Inner Washington by Zip Code, Census 2000

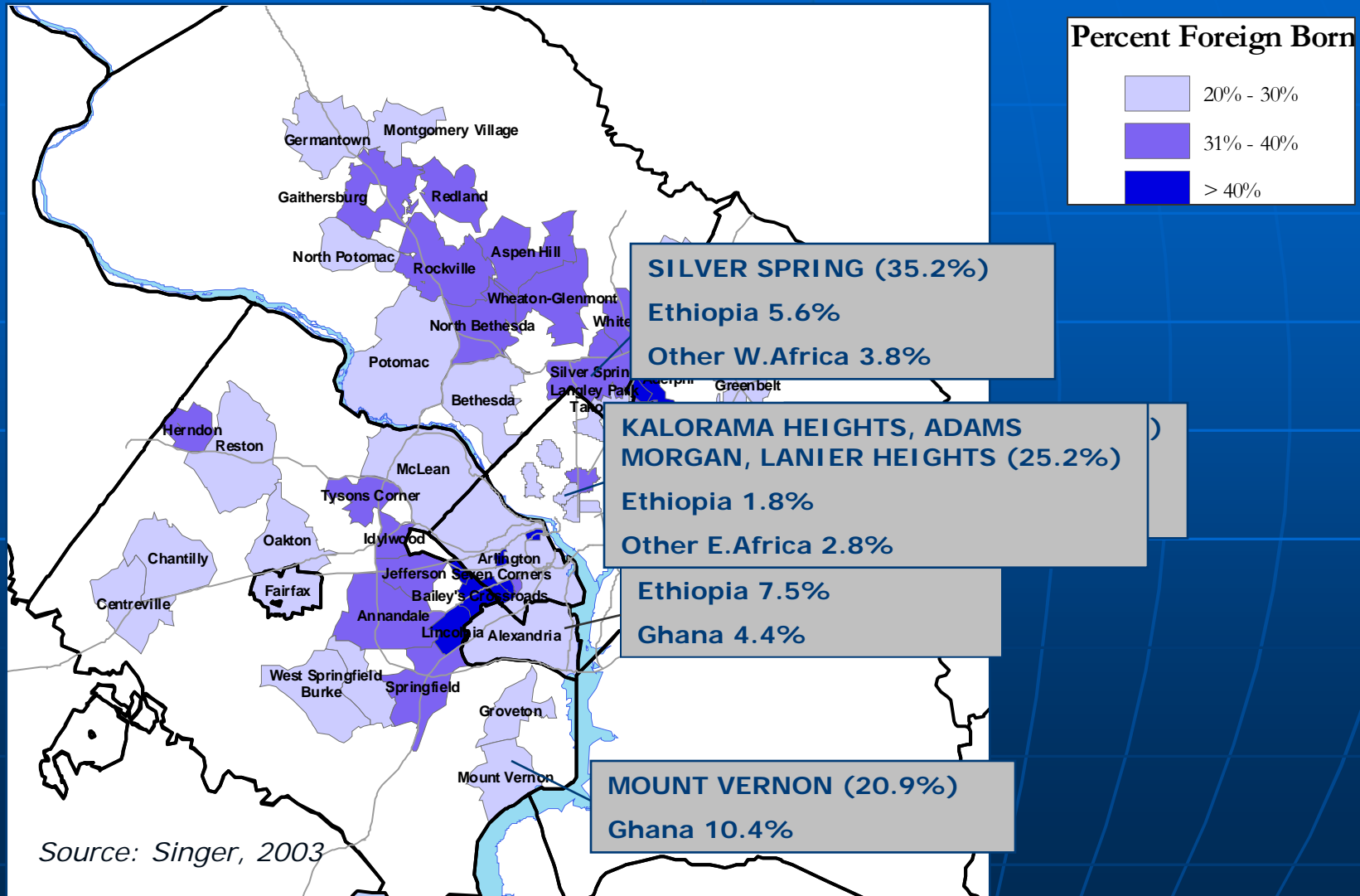




# Africans in Local Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	African % Of Total	African % Of FB	Africans
Alexandria VA	6.0	23.5	7,665
Montgomery MD	3.0	11.1	25,776
Prince George's MD	2.8	20.4	22,562
Arlington VA	2.6	9.5	5,014
Fairfax Co. VA	1.8	7.4	17,556
District of Columbia	1.6	12.5	9,208
Falls Church VA	1.1	6.7	112
Prince William VA	1.1	9.4	3,028
Loudoun VA	0.7	5.9	1,137
Fairfax City	0.6	2.3	123
Manassas VA	0.4	2.8	139
Frederick MD	0.2	5.5	426

# Africans in Selected Places: Percent of Foreign Born Population





# Conclusion

- African immigration to the U.S. is a growing trend.
- Washington region is a major U.S. destination for Africans.
- Most come from Western and Eastern Africa.
- Africans concentrate in the District and the inner suburbs.



# Contact Information

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