



2006 COG Region Population Totals More Than 4.5 Million

Welcome to the first in a series of COG reports based on the 2006 American Community Survey. The report provides estimates of demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the COG region and the Washington MSA.

What is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a new nationwide survey from the U.S. Census Bureau designed to provide communities a fresh look at how they are changing. The ACS collects information such as age, race, income, commute time to work, home value, veteran status, and other data from the U.S. population.

The 2006 ACS includes data on group quarters population (such as prisons, college dormitories, military barracks and nursing homes population.) *(Continued, back page)*

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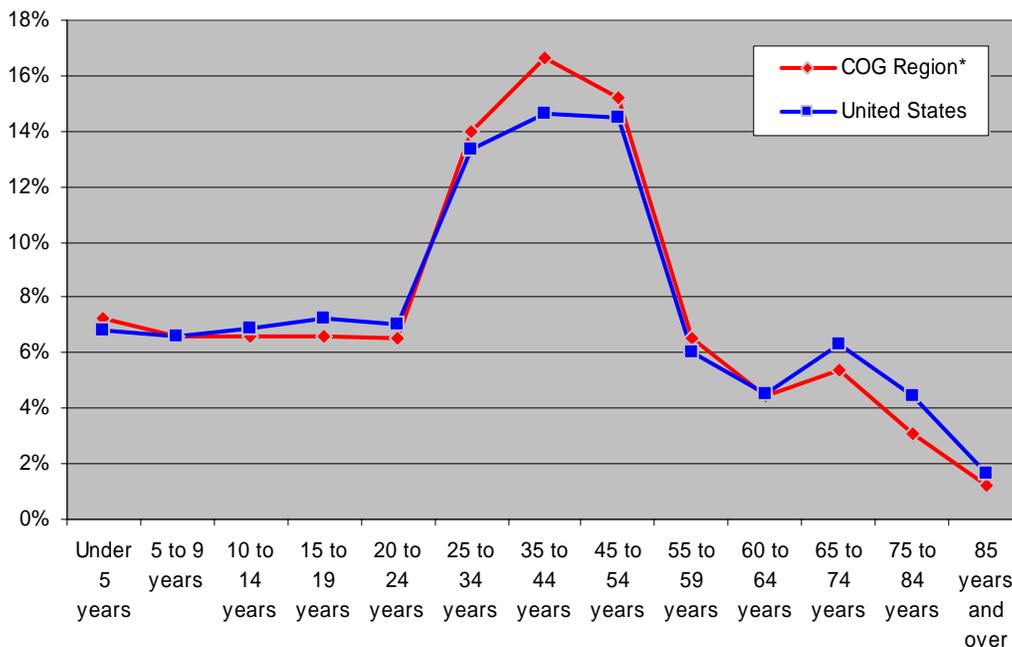
Jurisdiction	Population; Estimate
District of Columbia	581,530
Frederick County	222,938
Montgomery County	932,131
Prince George's County	841,315
Maryland Suburbs	1,996,384
City of Alexandria	136,974
Arlington County	199,776
Fairfax County	1,010,443
Loudoun County	268,817
Prince William County	357,503
Northern Virginia	1,973,513
COG Region¹	4,551,427
Washington MSA²	5,288,670

¹Does not include Virginia independent cities
²Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA

The total population in the COG region totals 4,551,427. The most populous jurisdiction is Fairfax County with more than one million people, followed by Montgomery County with more than 932,000 people, and Prince George's County with more than 841,000 people.

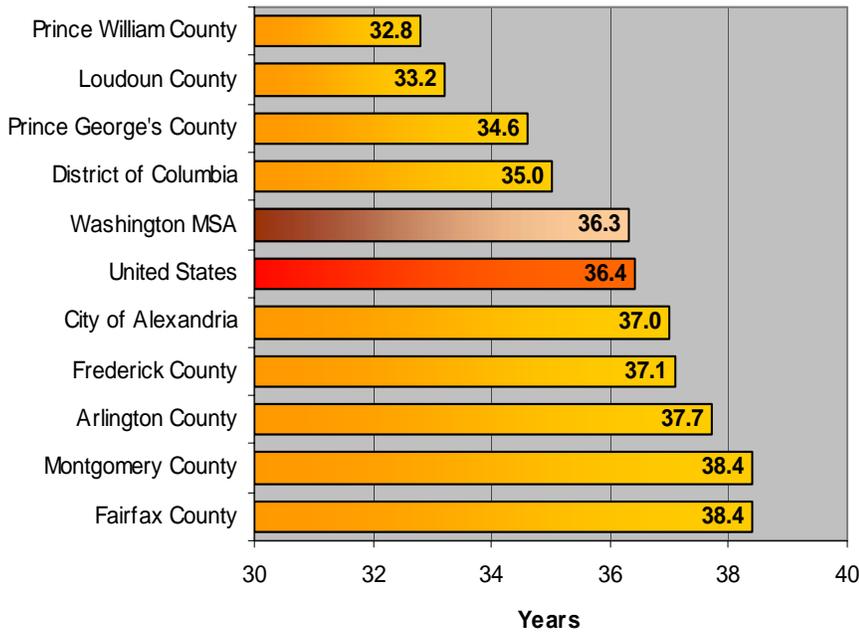
The age distribution of the COG region in 2006 follows a similar pattern to that of the United States with a few notable differences. The COG region has a higher proportion of the "working age" population, 25 to 54 years old. There is also a lower percentage of "seniors," age 65 and older, compared with the United States.

Age Distribution
Washington Region and the United States



*Does not include Virginia independent cities

Median Age



Median Age

The Washington MSA has a median age of 36.3 years. This is slightly lower than the United States median age of 36.4 years. Fairfax and Montgomery counties have the highest median age with 38.4 years. The population with the youngest median age is in Prince William County with 32.8 years.

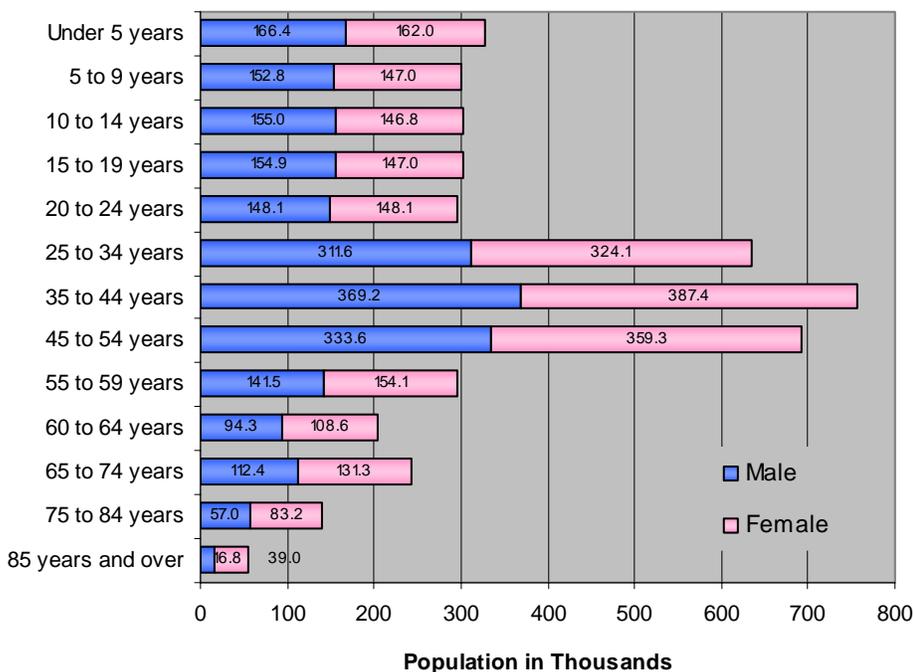
Gender

Of the 4.6 million people who live in the COG region, 49 percent are male and 51 percent are female. From birth through 19 years there are slightly more males than females. This ratio begins to gradually shift after age 25 and culminates with 70 percent female and 30 percent male in the age group of 85 years and over.

Children

Twenty-four percent of the population in the COG region is under 18 years old. This represents a slightly lower proportion of children in the Washington region when compared to the United States (25 percent.) The jurisdictions with the highest percentage of children is Prince William and Loudoun counties with 29 percent of the population. The lowest proportion of children is found in Arlington County with 18 percent of the population.

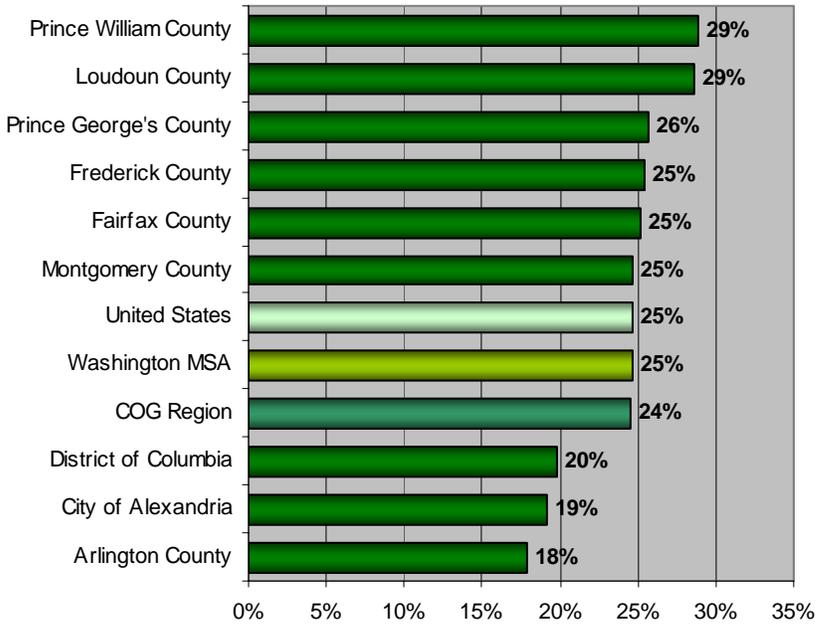
Population by Age and Gender in the COG Region



Seniors

Ten percent of the population in the COG region are 'seniors,' age 65 and over. The Washington region has a lower proportion of seniors when compared to the United States (12 percent.) The District of Columbia and Montgomery County have the largest percentage of seniors with 12 percent of the population. Prince William and Loudoun counties have the lowest percentage of seniors with six percent.

Percentage of Population Under 18 Years



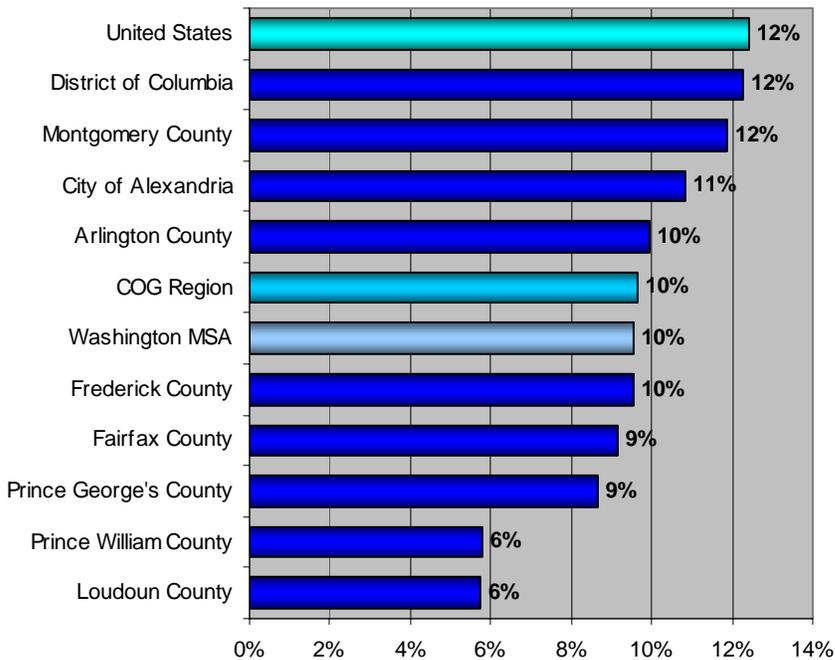
Population Under 18 Years

Jurisdiction	Under 18 Years; Estimate	Percent Under 18 Years
District of Columbia	114,830	20%
Frederick County	56,718	25%
Montgomery County	229,743	25%
Prince George's County	216,434	26%
Maryland Suburbs	502,895	25%
City of Alexandria	26,202	19%
Arlington County	35,615	18%
Fairfax County	253,983	25%
Loudoun County	76,937	29%
Prince William County	103,222	29%
Northern Virginia	495,959	25%
COG Region¹	1,113,684	24%
Washington MSA²	1,302,923	25%

¹Does not include Virginia independent cities

²Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA

Percentage of Population Age 65 Years and Over



Population Age 65 Years and Over

Jurisdiction	Age 65 Years and Over; Estimate	Percent Age 65 Years and Over
District of Columbia	71,455	12%
Frederick County	21,239	10%
Montgomery County	110,787	12%
Prince George's County	72,637	9%
Maryland Suburbs	204,663	10%
City of Alexandria	14,844	11%
Arlington County	19,890	10%
Fairfax County	92,662	9%
Loudoun County	15,385	6%
Prince William County	20,725	6%
Northern Virginia	163,506	8%
COG Region¹	439,624	10%
Washington MSA²	505,050	10%

¹Does not include Virginia independent cities

²Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA

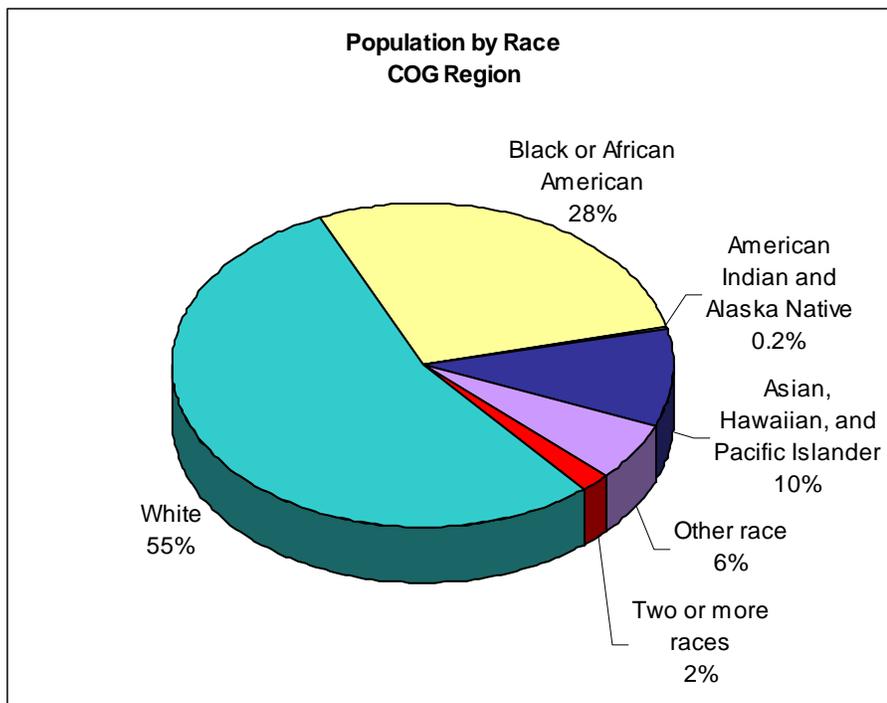
Population by Race and Ethnicity

Jurisdiction	Total population; Estimate	Population by Race						Hispanic or Latino ³
		Population of One Race					Two or more races	
		White	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian, Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander	Other race		
District of Columbia	581,530	34%	55%	0.3%	3%	5%	2%	8%
Frederick County	222,938	84%	8%	0.4%	4%	3%	1%	5%
Montgomery County	932,131	62%	16%	0.2%	13%	6%	2%	14%
Prince George's County	841,315	23%	65%	0.2%	4%	6%	2%	12%
Maryland Suburbs	1,996,384	48%	36%	0.2%	8%	6%	2%	12%
City of Alexandria	136,974	66%	21%	0.0%	5%	5%	3%	13%
Arlington County	199,776	71%	9%	0.2%	9%	9%	2%	16%
Fairfax County	1,010,443	68%	9%	0.2%	16%	4%	2%	13%
Loudoun County	268,817	72%	8%	0.1%	13%	5%	2%	10%
Prince William County	357,503	60%	19%	0.3%	8%	11%	3%	19%
Northern Virginia	1,973,513	67%	12%	0.2%	13%	6%	2%	14%
COG Region¹	4,551,427	55%	28%	0.2%	10%	6%	2%	12%
Washington MSA²	5,288,670	57%	26%	0.2%	9%	5%	2%	12%

¹Does not include Virginia independent cities

²Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA

³Persons who are "Hispanic" or "Latino" can be of any race and are included in the counts for single and multi-race categories.



The data from American Community Survey reflects a racially and ethnically diverse Washington region. Of the population in the COG region, fifty-five percent is white; 28 percent is black or African-American; 10 percent is Asian; .2 percent is American Indian; and six percent indicated "other race." Two percent of the household population identified themselves as belonging to two or more races.

Twelve percent of the COG region's population are Hispanic or Latino. (People of Hispanic origin can be of any race and also included in the race categories.)

Households by Type

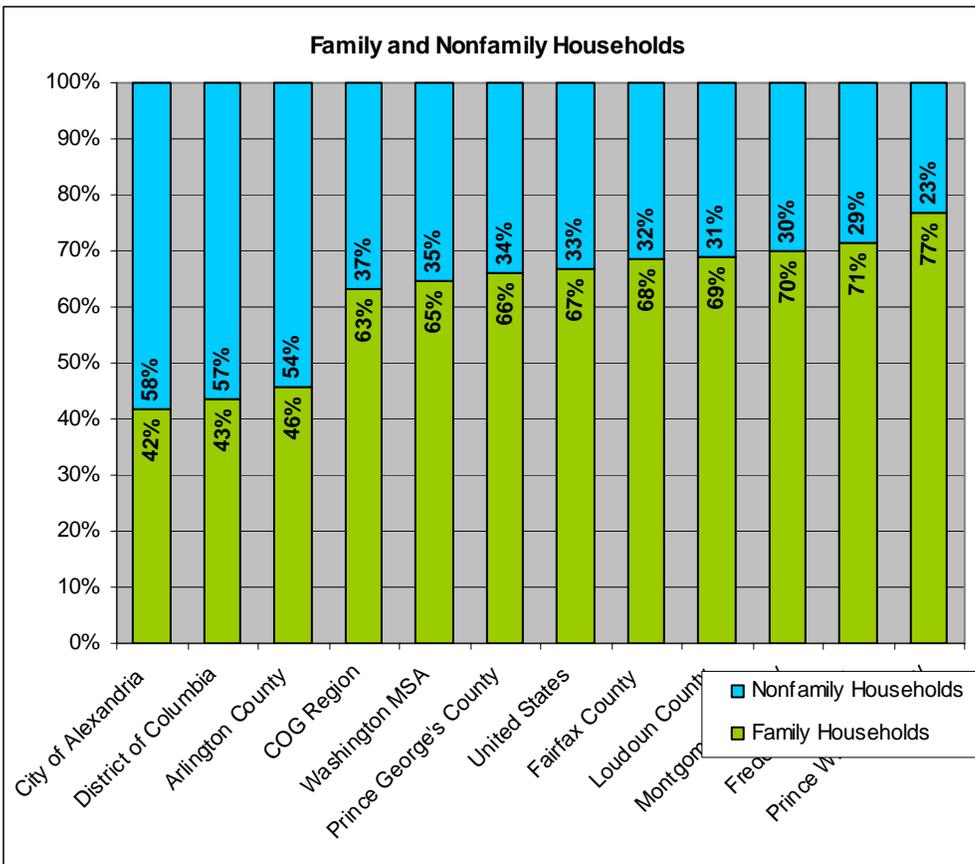
Jurisdiction	Total Households; Estimate	Family Households				Nonfamily households		
		Family Households	Married-couple families	Married-couple families: With own children under 18 years	Female Householder with own children under 18 years	Nonfamily households	Householder living alone	Householder 65 years and over living alone
District of Columbia	250,456	43%	22%	7%	8%	57%	47%	11%
Frederick County	79,983	71%	58%	29%	6%	29%	21%	7%
Montgomery County	341,438	70%	55%	28%	6%	30%	25%	8%
Prince George's County	300,177	66%	40%	19%	11%	34%	28%	5%
Maryland Suburbs	721,598	69%	49%	24%	8%	31%	26%	7%
City of Alexandria	61,519	42%	33%	10%	3%	58%	49%	8%
Arlington County	85,337	46%	36%	16%	4%	54%	46%	7%
Fairfax County	363,328	68%	55%	26%	5%	32%	27%	6%
Loudoun County	83,011	69%	59%	35%	5%	31%	28%	4%
Prince William County	122,335	77%	58%	32%	8%	23%	18%	4%
Northern Virginia	715,530	65%	52%	26%	5%	35%	30%	6%
COG Region¹	1,687,584	63%	46%	22%	7%	37%	31%	7%
Washington MSA²	1,942,516	65%	48%	23%	7%	35%	29%	7%

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²Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA

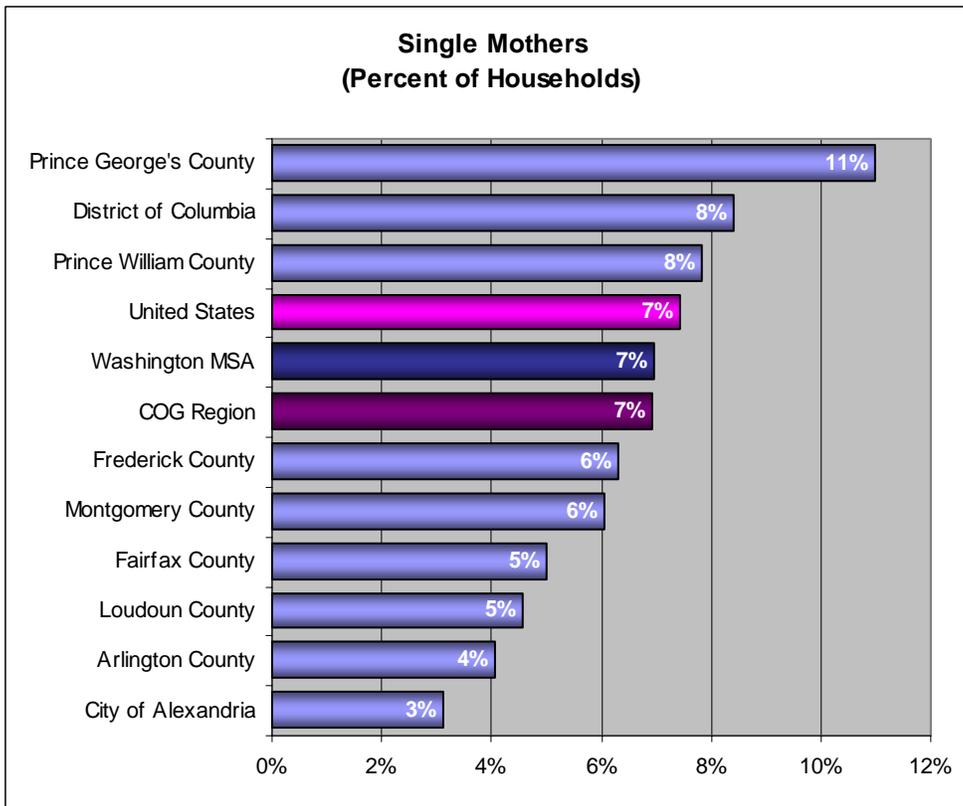
³Family households consist of households of two or more people where one or more members are related to the head of household by birth, marriage, or adoption.

⁴Non-family households includes those households composed of persons who do not live in group quarters or with a relative, and includes households consisting of those who live alone or with an unmarried partner.



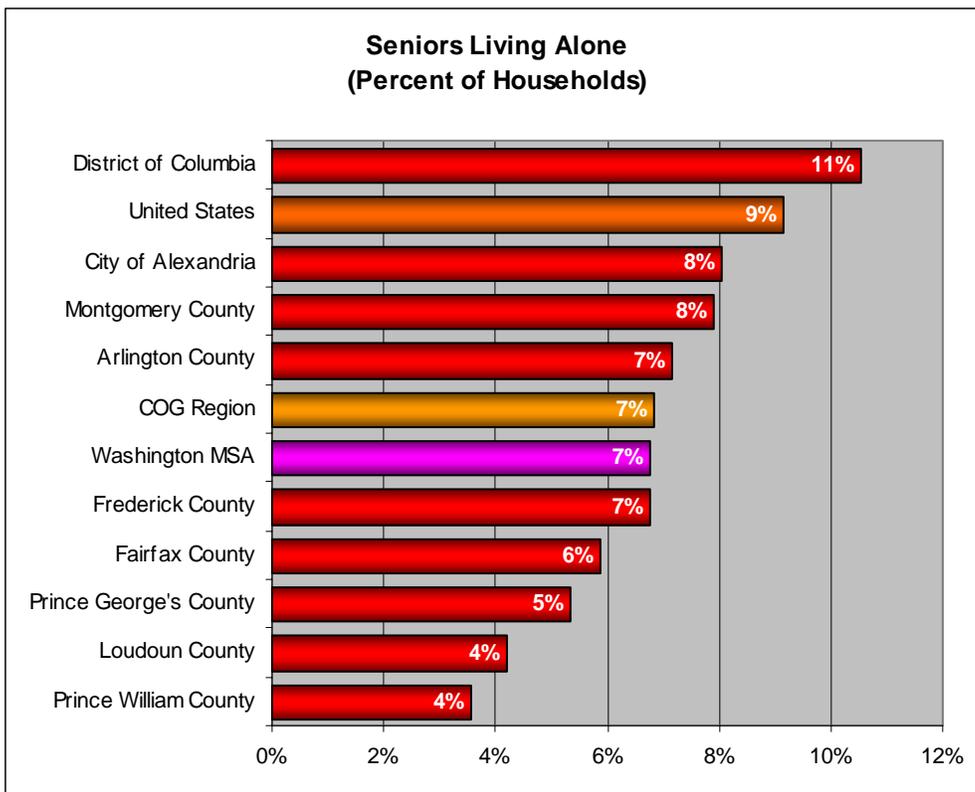
Family households comprise 63 percent of the households in the COG region. Prince William County (77 percent) and Loudoun County (69 percent) have the highest percentages of family households in the region. Married couple families account for 52 percent of the region's households. More than one-quarter (26 percent) of the region's households are people who are married with children under 18 years.

Nonfamily households comprise 37 percent of the region's households. Most of the region's nonfamily households are identified as householders who live alone. In the COG region 31 percent of householders live alone. The City of Alexandria has the highest proportions of non-family households: 58 percent, followed by the District of Columbia (57 percent.)



Nearly 117,000 (seven percent) of the COG region's households are single female householders living with their children (who are under 18 years old). Seven percent of all U.S. households are also headed by single mothers.

Eleven percent of households in Prince George's County are female-headed with children, followed by the District of Columbia with eight percent.



Seniors (65 years and over) who live alone comprise seven percent of the Washington region's households. This represents a slightly lower proportion of seniors living alone, when compared to the United States (nine percent.)

The District of Columbia and the City of Alexandria have the highest percentages of seniors living alone, 11 percent and eight percent, respectively.

According to the 2006 American Community Survey, the average household size in the COG region is 2.65 people per household. This is slightly lower than the U.S. average household size of 2.61 people per household.

The outer jurisdictions of Loudoun and Prince William counties have the highest average household size, 3.24 and 2.92 persons, respectively.

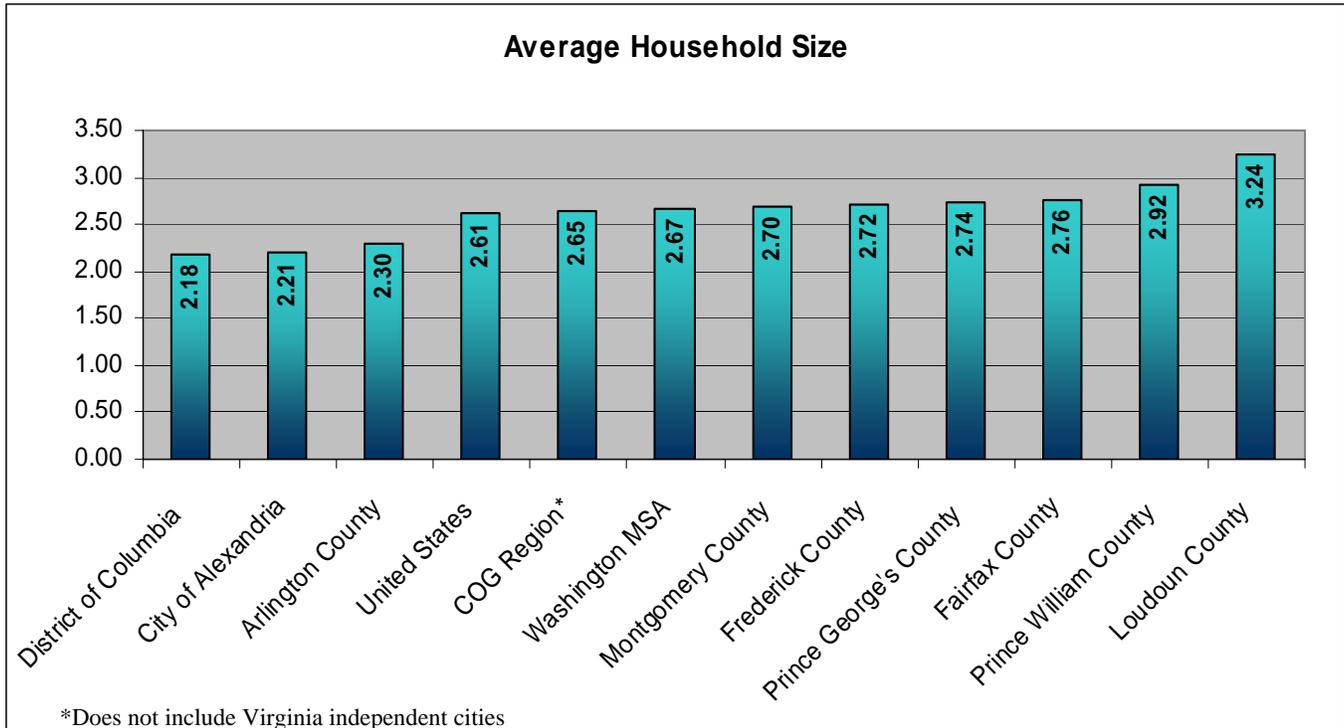
The central jurisdictions have a lower average household size. The District of Columbia has 2.18 people per household, followed by the City of Alexandria with 2.21 people per household.

Household Size

Jurisdiction	Average Household Size (All occupied housing units)	Average Household Size	
		Owner occupied	Renter occupied
District of Columbia	2.18	2.27	2.11
Frederick County	2.72	2.83	2.37
Montgomery County	2.70	2.81	2.44
Prince George's County	2.74	2.86	2.52
Suburban Maryland	2.72	2.83	2.47
City of Alexandria	2.21	2.19	2.23
Arlington County	2.30	2.41	2.17
Fairfax County	2.76	2.82	2.58
Loudoun County	3.24	3.39	2.40
Prince William County	2.92	3.04	2.55
Northern Virginia	2.74	2.86	2.43
COG Region¹	2.65	2.79	2.37
Washington MSA²	2.67	2.81	2.39

¹Does not include Virginia independent cities

²Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA



*Does not include Virginia independent cities

OUR CHANGING REGION

Labor Force Participation Rate

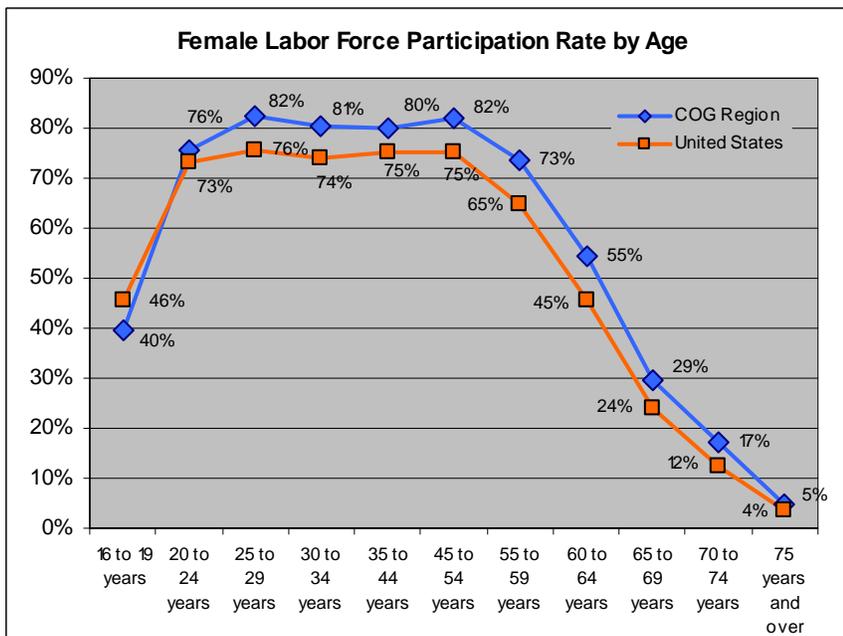
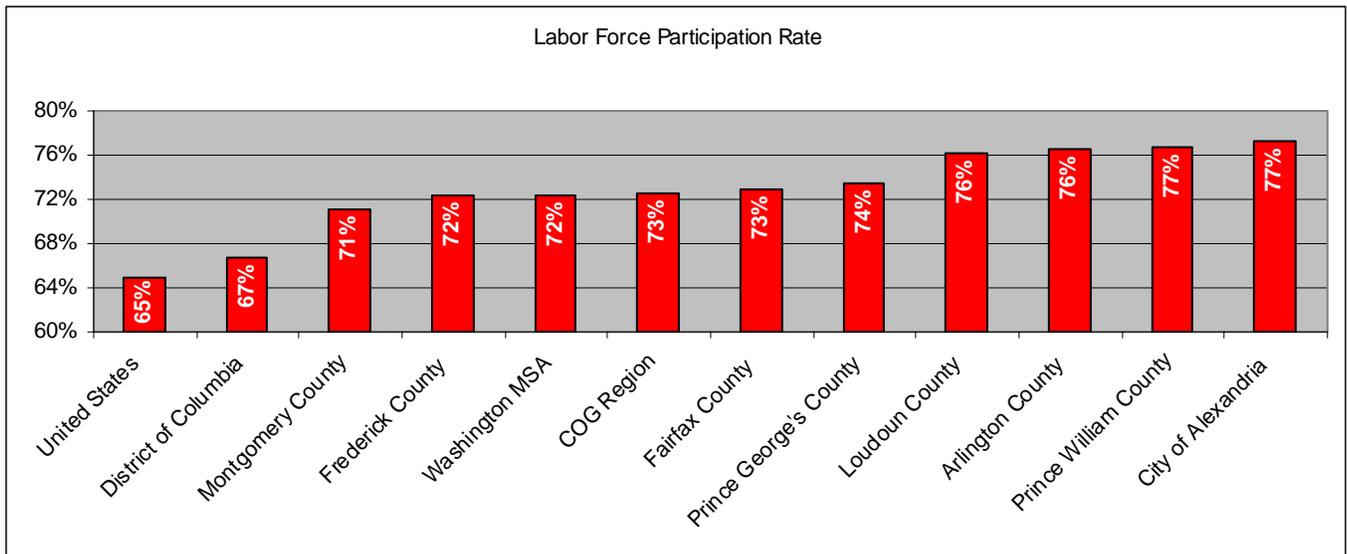
Jurisdiction	Population 16 years and over; In labor force; Estimate	Labor Force Participation Rate	Male Labor Force Participation Rate	Female Labor Force Participation Rate
District of Columbia	320,402	67%	71%	63%
Frederick County	125,594	72%	80%	65%
Montgomery County	518,717	71%	78%	65%
Prince George's County	477,039	74%	78%	70%
Suburban Maryland	1,121,350	72%	78%	67%
City of Alexandria	86,597	77%	83%	72%
Arlington County	127,536	76%	83%	70%
Fairfax County	573,154	73%	80%	66%
Loudoun County	151,198	76%	83%	70%
Prince William County	202,389	77%	86%	67%
Northern Virginia	1,140,874	75%	82%	68%
COG Region¹	2,582,626	73%	79%	67%
Washington MSA²	2,989,858	72%	79%	66%

¹Does not include Virginia independent cities

²Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA

There are nearly 2.6 million people in the labor force in the COG region. Seventy-three percent of the household population 16 years and over comprise the region's labor force, compared with 65 percent in the United States. The City of Alexandria and Loudoun County have the highest labor force participation rate in the region with 77 percent.

The male labor participation rate in the region is 79 percent, with Prince William leading the region with 86 percent of males in the labor force. The region's female labor participation rate is 66 percent, and is the highest in the City of Alexandria with 86 percent.



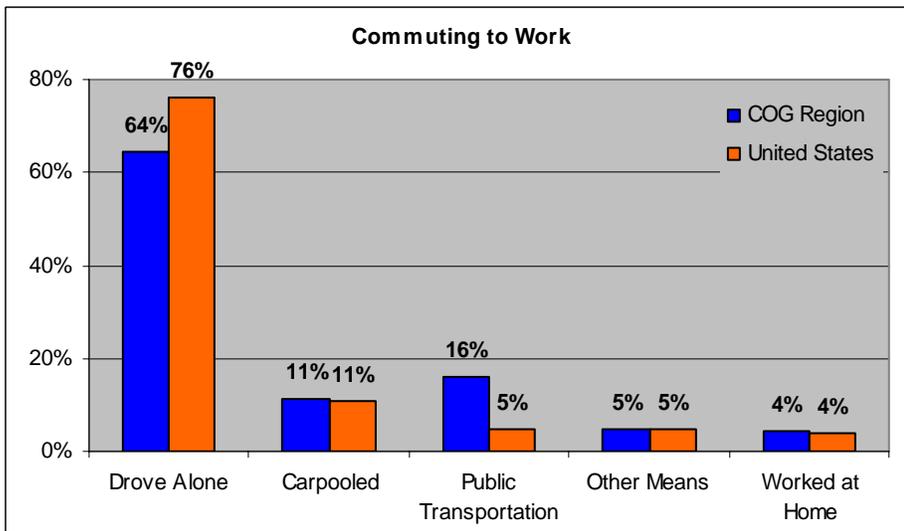
The COG region has a female labor participation rate of 66 percent, which is higher when compared with the national rate of 59 percent. The highest rate of women in the workforce are between 25 and 29 years and 45 and 54, rising to 82 percent for these age groups. When compared to the United States, the COG region has higher rates female labor participation for every age group, except one notable exception: women of college age who are between 16 and 19 years.

Commuting to Work (workers 16 years and over)

Jurisdiction	Drove Alone	Carpooled	Public Transportation	Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, walked, or other means	Worked at Home	Mean Travel Time
District of Columbia	35%	6%	39%	15%	4%	29.2
Frederick County	80%	12%	2%	3%	4%	33.8
Montgomery County	66%	10%	15%	3%	5%	32.2
Prince George's County	63%	14%	18%	3%	2%	35.4
Suburban Maryland	66%	12%	15%	3%	4%	-
City of Alexandria	64%	9%	21%	3%	4%	27.9
Arlington County	54%	8%	26%	7%	5%	26.3
Fairfax County	72%	11%	9%	3%	5%	31.2
Loudoun County	81%	8%	2%	2%	5%	32.9
Prince William County	70%	18%	5%	3%	3%	39.5
Northern Virginia	70%	12%	10%	3%	4%	-
COG Region¹	64%	11%	16%	5%	4%	-
Washington MSA²	66%	12%	14%	4%	4%	33.2

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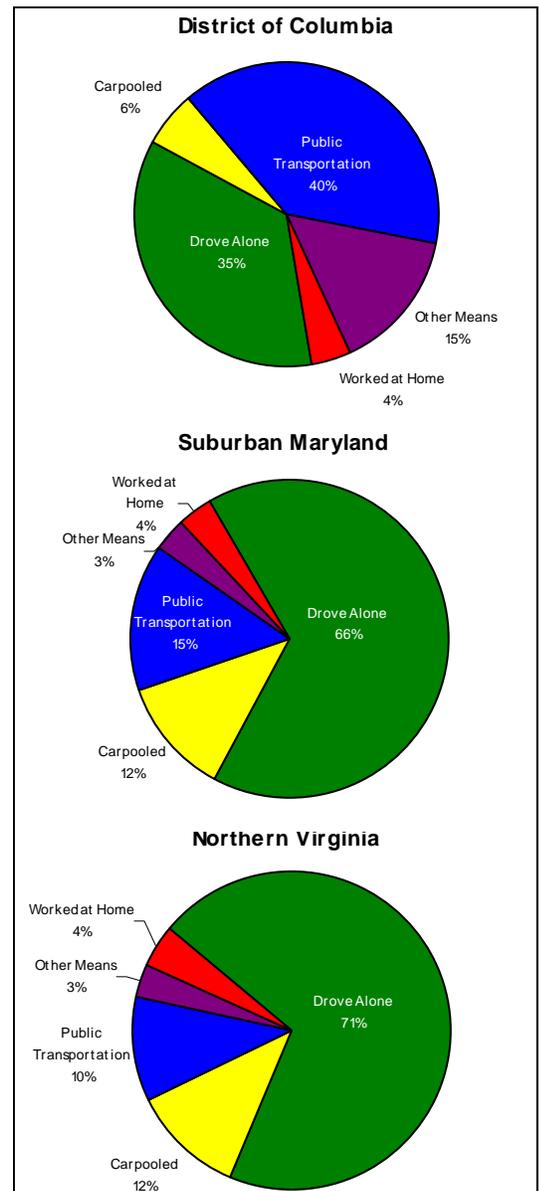
²Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA



In the Washington region, nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of workers drive alone when commuting to work, compared with 76 percent of the workers in the United States. Eleven percent of commuters use carpooling as a means of transportation (which is the same percentage nationally) and 16 percent of commuters used public transportation (compared with five percent nationally.) In both the Washington region and the United States four percent of those employed worked at home.

Resident workers in the District of Columbia have the highest rate of public transportation usage (40 percent). Loudoun and Frederick counties have the largest proportion of workers who commute by driving alone. Prince William County has the highest percentage of commuters who carpool (18 percent.)

According to the 2006 American Community Survey, the mean travel time to work in the Washington region is 33.2 minutes. Prince William County resident workers have the longest average travel time (39.5 minutes), while Arlington County resident workers have the shortest average travel time (26.3 minutes.) Nationally, the mean travel time to work is 25.0 minutes.



OUR CHANGING REGION

The median household income (in 2006 inflation adjusted dollars) for the Washington region is \$78,978. Regionally, Fairfax County has the highest median household income with \$100,318, followed by Loudoun County with \$99,371. Nationally, the median household income is \$48,451.

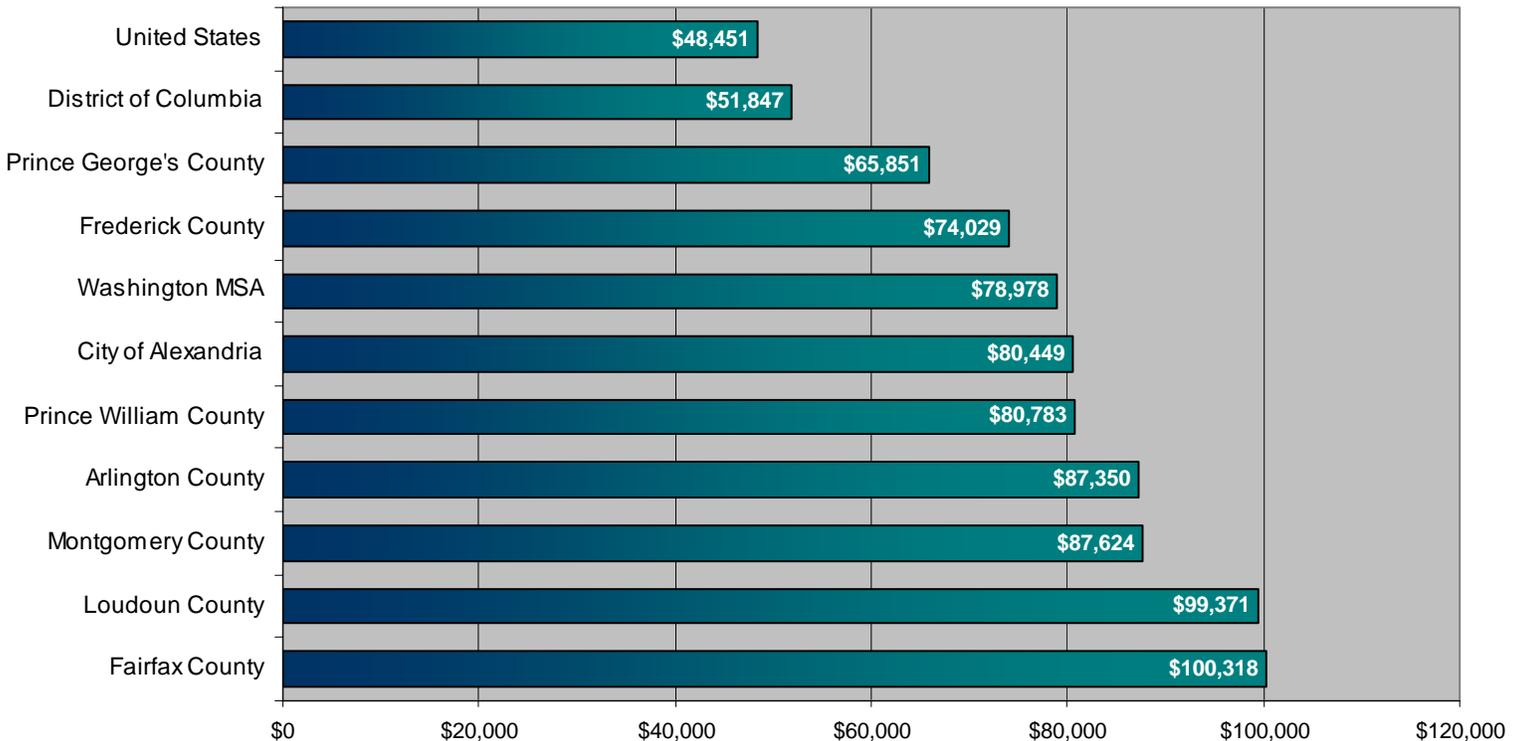
More than half of the region's households (51 percent) earn between \$50,000 and \$149,999. Nineteen percent of households in the region earn less than \$35,000, compared with 36 percent of households in the United States. Nineteen percent of the region's households earn more than \$150,000, compared with seven percent of households in the United States.

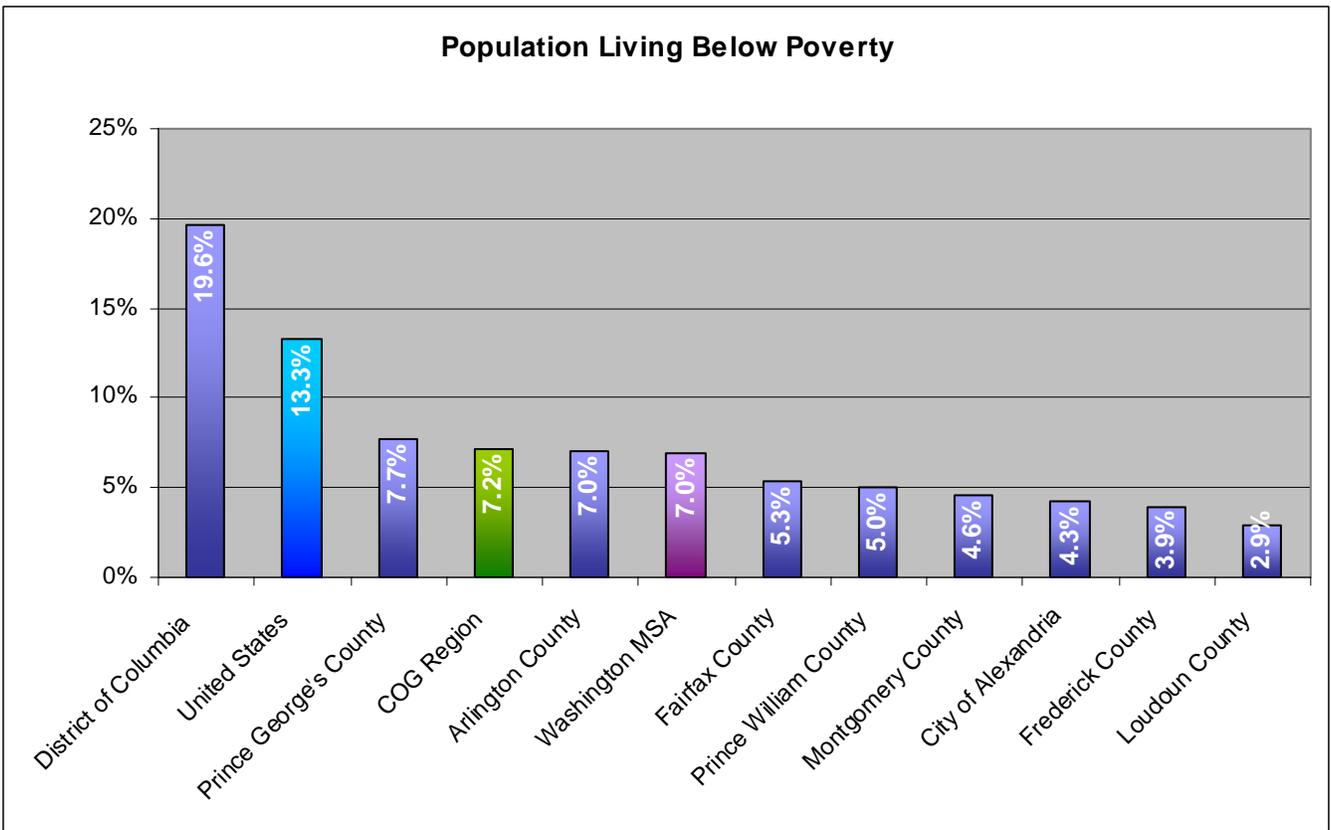
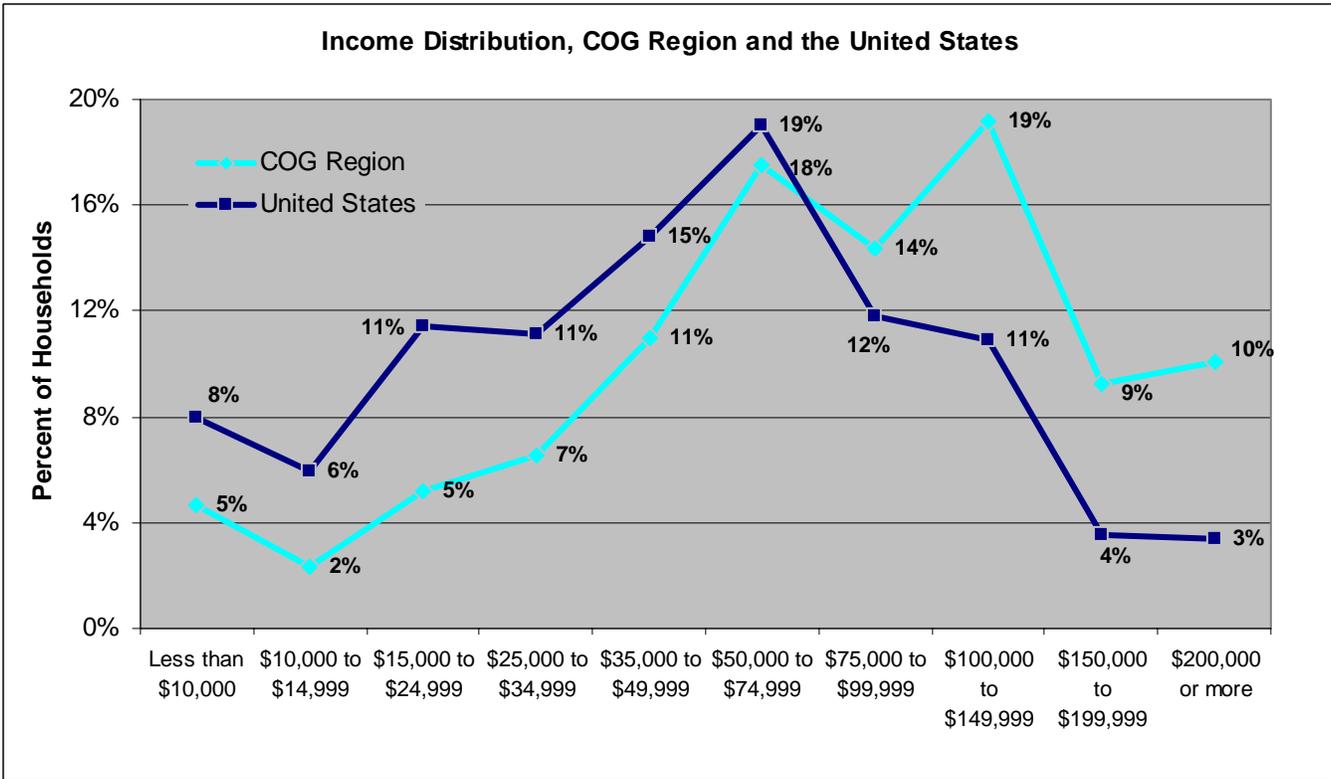
The median household income for white households is \$92,056; black households \$55,547; Asian households \$83,908; Hispanic households \$58,945. All households in the Washington region across all race and ethnicity categories have higher median household incomes when compared with the United States.

Seven percent of the population in the Washington region are living below the poverty level, compared with 13 percent in the United States. The District of Columbia has the highest poverty rate with nearly 20 percent of population.



Median Household Income, 2006





How the Census Bureau Measures Poverty

The Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using Consumer Price Index (CPI-U).



The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is the regional organization of the Washington region's 21 major local governments.

COG provides a focus for action and develops sound regional responses to such issues as the environment, affordable housing, economic development, health and family concerns, human services, population growth, public safety, and transportation. In addition, COG is an official Census Bureau State Data Center Affiliate and maintains printed Census data and reports from the 1940 Census through Census 2000.

For more information on this and other COG publications, contact COG's Information Center:

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Geography covered in this report on the 2006 American Community Survey

(Continued from the front page)

Prior to 2006, ACS data included estimates for the household population only. Data from the 2006 ACS are available for geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more.

ACS estimates are based on data from a sample rather than from all units in the population. For this reason, ACS estimates have a degree of uncertainty associated with them, called sampling error. In general, the larger the sample, the smaller the level of sampling error.

The ACS calculates standard errors for each estimate produced and publishes the 90 percent confidence level margin of error (the Census Bureau standard). You can be 90 percent confident that the interval within the margin of error from the estimate includes the true value.

