

OUR CHANGING REGION

2005 American Community Survey

Winter 2007

Volume 1, Issue 1



2005 COG Region Household Population Totals More Than 4.4 Million

Welcome to the first in a series of COG reports based on the 2005 American Community Survey. This report focuses on the General Demographic Characteristics, which include data on sex, age, race, ethnicity, and household type.

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 important data from U.S. households. The 2005 American Community Survey universe is limited to the **household population** and excludes the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. Data from the 2005 ACS are available for geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more. *(Continued, back page)*

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Household Population

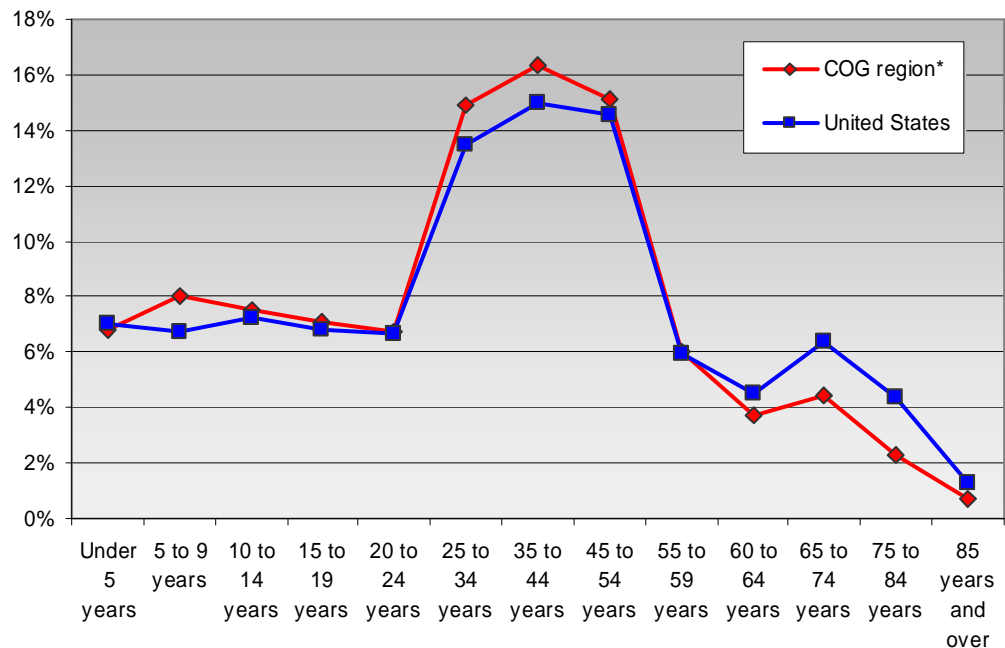
Jurisdiction	Household Population; Estimate
District of Columbia	515,118
Frederick County	215,877
Montgomery County	918,046
Prince George's County	828,834
Maryland Suburbs	1,962,757
City of Alexandria	133,479
Arlington County	191,852
Fairfax County	998,690
Loudoun County	254,612
Prince William County	346,790
Northern Virginia	1,925,423
COG Region¹	4,403,298
Washington MSA²	5,119,490

The household population in the COG region totals 4,403,298. The most populous jurisdiction is Fairfax County with nearly 999,000 people, followed by Montgomery County with more than 918,000 people, and Prince George's County with nearly 829,000 people.

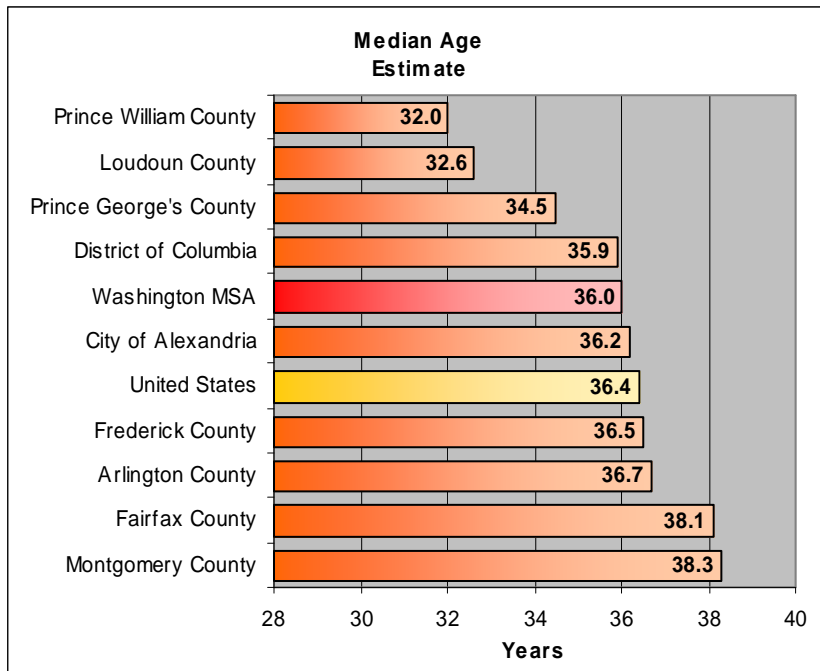
¹Does not include Virginia independent cities
²Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA

The age distribution of the COG region in 2005 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; Estimate



*Does not include Virginia independent cities



Median Age

The Washington MSA has a median age of 36.0. This is slightly lower than the United States median age of 36.4 years. The oldest median age in the region is in Montgomery County (38.3 years), followed by Fairfax County (38.1 years.) The jurisdiction with the youngest median age is Prince William County with 32.0 years.

Gender

Of the 5.1 million people who live in the Washington region's households, 49 percent are male and 51 percent are female. The District of Columbia and the City of Alexandria have the highest proportions of female population: 53 percent.

Children

Twenty-six percent of the household population in the COG region is under 18 years old. This represents a slightly greater proportion of children in the Washington region when compared to the United States (25 percent.) The jurisdiction with the highest percentage of children is Prince William County (30 percent), followed by Loudoun County (29 percent.) The lowest proportion of children is found in Arlington County with 18 percent of the household population.

Seniors

Nine percent of the household 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 has the largest percentage of seniors with 12 percent of the household population, followed by Montgomery County with 11 percent. Loudoun and Prince William counties have the lowest percentage of seniors with five percent.

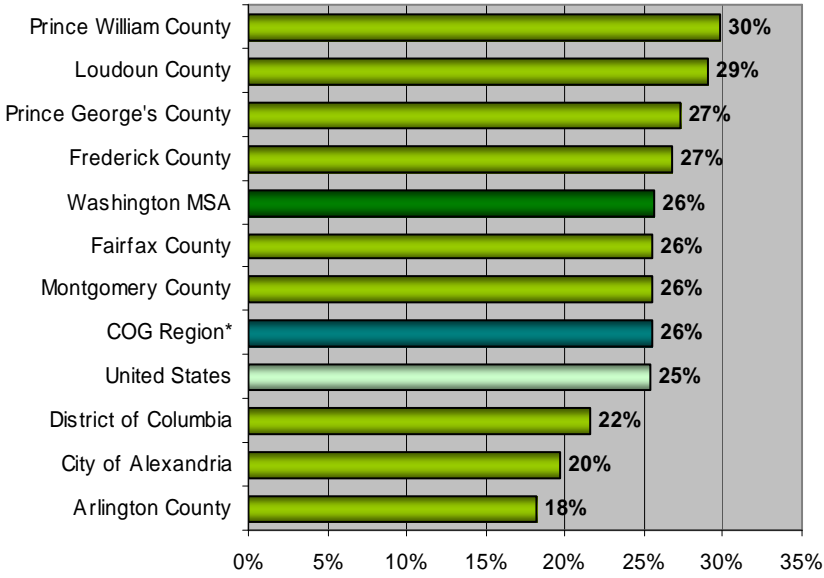
Household Population by Gender

Jurisdiction	Total population; Estimate	Percent Male	Percent Female
District of Columbia	515,118	47%	53%
Frederick County	215,877	49%	51%
Montgomery County	918,046	48%	52%
Prince George's County	828,834	48%	52%
Suburban Maryland	1,962,757	48%	52%
City of Alexandria	133,479	47%	53%
Arlington County	191,852	50%	50%
Fairfax County	998,690	50%	50%
Loudoun County	254,612	50%	50%
Prince William County	346,790	50%	50%
Northern Virginia	1,925,423	50%	50%
COG Region¹	4,403,298	49%	51%
Washington MSA²	5,119,490	49%	51%

¹Does not include Virginia independent cities

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

Under 18 Years as Percentage of Household Population



*Does not include Virginia independent cities

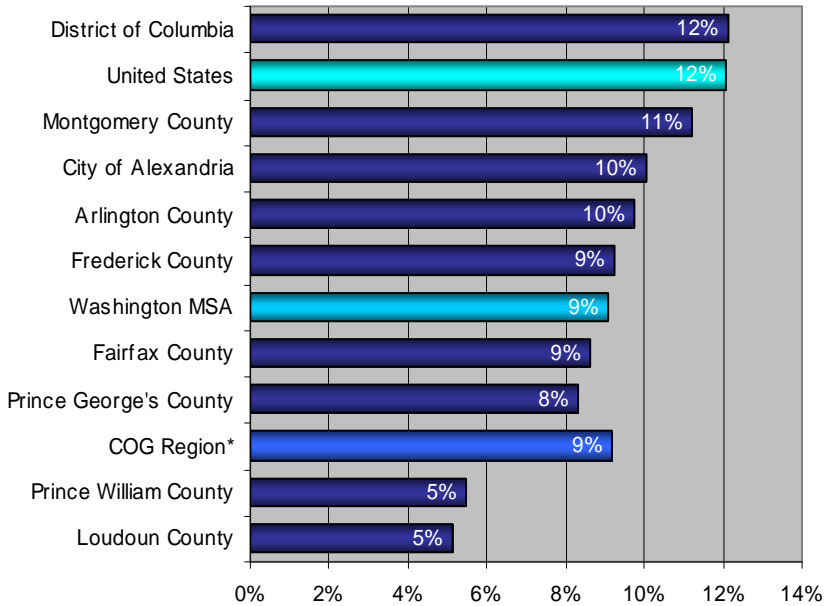
Household Population Under 18 Years

Jurisdiction	Under 18 Years; Estimate	Percent Under 18 Years
District of Columbia	111,539	22%
Frederick County	57,805	27%
Montgomery County	234,793	26%
Prince George's County	226,556	27%
Maryland Suburbs	519,154	26%
City of Alexandria	26,355	20%
Arlington County	34,984	18%
Fairfax County	255,524	26%
Loudoun County	73,851	29%
Prince William County	103,285	30%
Northern Virginia	493,999	26%
COG Region¹	1,124,692	26%
Washington MSA²	1,313,750	26%

¹Does not include Virginia independent cities

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

Age 65 years and over as Percentage of Household Population



*Does not include Virginia independent cities

Household Population Age 65 Years and Over

Jurisdiction	65 years and over; Estimate	Percent 65 Years and Over
District of Columbia	62,494	12%
Frederick County	19,878	9%
Montgomery County	103,145	11%
Prince George's County	69,124	8%
Maryland Suburbs	192,147	10%
City of Alexandria	13,373	10%
Arlington County	18,660	10%
Fairfax County	86,258	9%
Loudoun County	13,019	5%
Prince William County	18,917	5%
Northern Virginia	150,227	8%
COG Region¹	404,868	9%
Washington MSA²	465,045	9%

¹Does not include Virginia independent cities

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

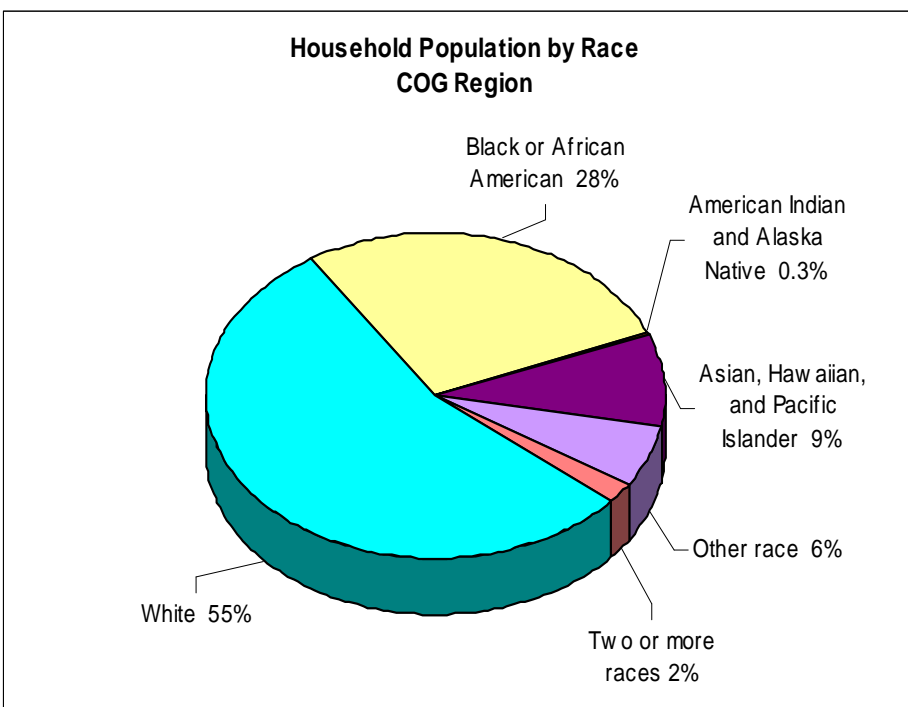
Household Population by Race and Ethnicity

Jurisdiction	Total Household population; Estimate	Household Population by Race						Hispanic ³
		Household 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	515,118	32%	57%	0.3%	3%	6%	2%	9%
Frederick County	215,877	85%	7%	0.4%	3%	2%	2%	5%
Montgomery County	918,046	61%	16%	0.2%	13%	7%	2%	14%
Prince George's County	828,834	22%	65%	0.4%	4%	7%	2%	11%
Maryland Suburbs	1,962,757	47%	36%	0.3%	8%	6%	2%	11%
City of Alexandria	133,479	68%	20%	0.3%	6%	3%	3%	14%
Arlington County	191,852	74%	8%	0.2%	9%	7%	2%	16%
Fairfax County	998,690	68%	9%	0.3%	16%	4%	2%	13%
Loudoun County	254,612	74%	7%	0.2%	12%	5%	3%	9%
Prince William County	346,790	63%	19%	0.8%	7%	8%	2%	18%
Northern Virginia	1,925,423	69%	11%	0.4%	12%	5%	2%	14%
COG Region¹	4,403,298	55%	28%	0.3%	9%	6%	2%	12%
Washington MSA²	5,119,490	58%	26%	0.3%	8%	5%	2%	11%

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 household population in the COG region, fifty-five percent is white; 28 percent is black or African-American; nine percent is Asian; 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 household population are Hispanic or Latino. (People of Hispanic origin can be of any race and also included in the race categories.)

Households by Type

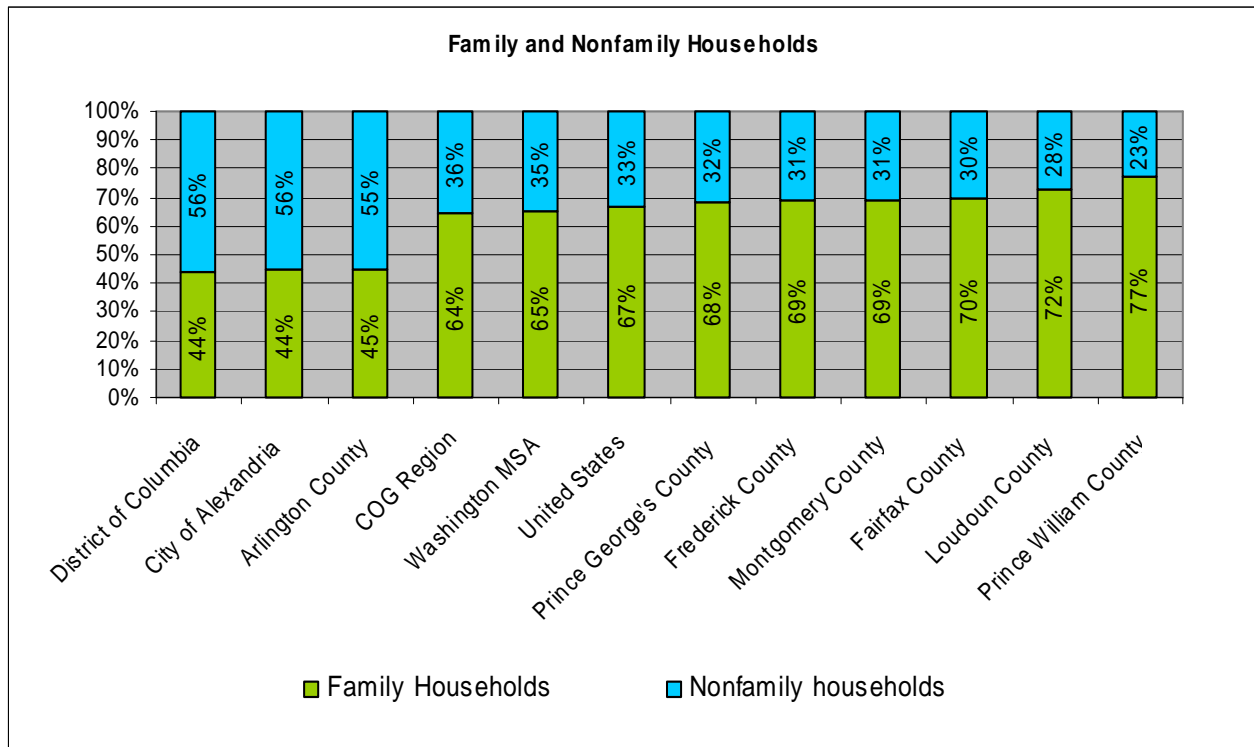
Jurisdiction	Total Households; Estimate	Family Households				Nonfamily households		
		Family Households	Family Households: With own children under 18 years	Married-couple families	Female Householder with own children under 18 years	Nonfamily households	Householder living alone	Householder 65 years and over living alone
District of Columbia	248,213	44%	19%	22%	9%	56%	47%	10%
Frederick County	79,478	69%	33%	57%	5%	31%	24%	6%
Montgomery County	344,038	69%	35%	55%	6%	31%	26%	8%
Prince George's County	296,960	68%	34%	44%	10%	32%	26%	6%
Maryland Suburbs	720,476	69%	34%	50%	8%	31%	25%	7%
City of Alexandria	64,054	44%	16%	33%	2%	56%	45%	6%
Arlington County	84,133	45%	18%	36%	3%	55%	42%	7%
Fairfax County	366,906	70%	34%	57%	5%	30%	24%	5%
Loudoun County	88,042	72%	43%	62%	4%	28%	21%	3%
Prince William County	120,789	77%	42%	61%	7%	23%	19%	4%
Northern Virginia	723,924	66%	33%	54%	5%	34%	27%	5%
COG Region¹	1,692,613	64%	31%	48%	7%	36%	29%	7%
Washington MSA²	1,944,465	65%	32%	49%	7%	35%	28%	7%

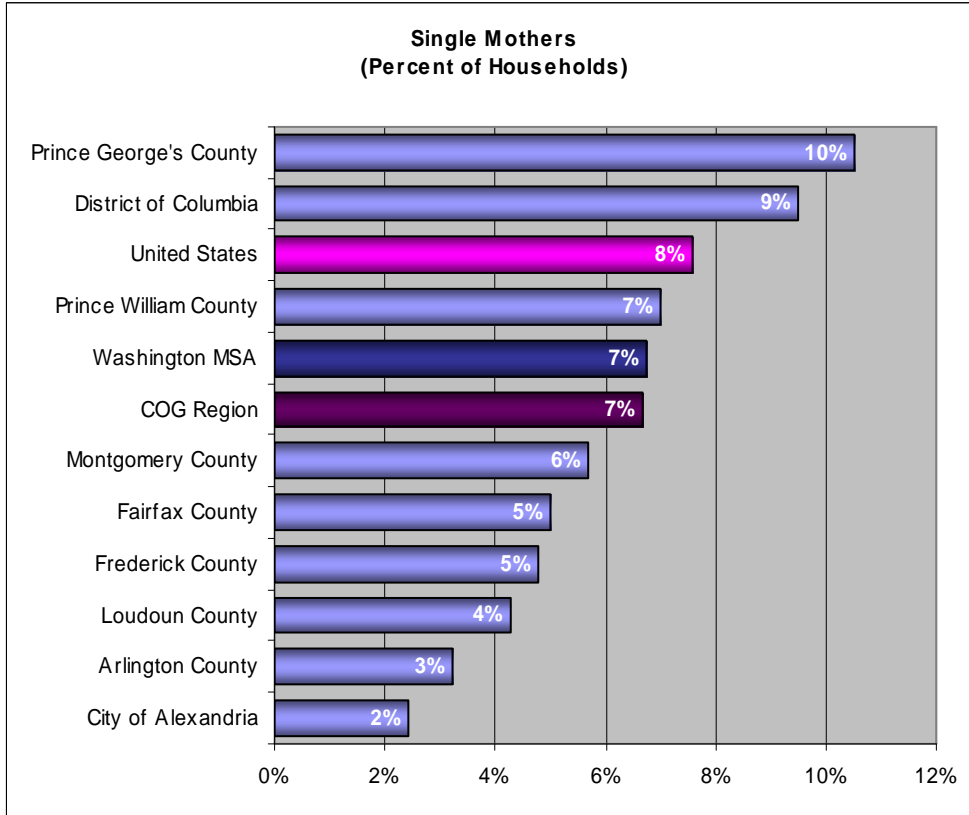
¹Does not include Virginia independent cities

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

Family households comprise 64 percent of the households in the COG region. Prince William County (77 percent) and Loudoun County (72 percent) have the highest percentages of family households in the region. Nearly one-third (31 percent) of the region's households are families with children. Married couple families account for 48 percent of the region's households.

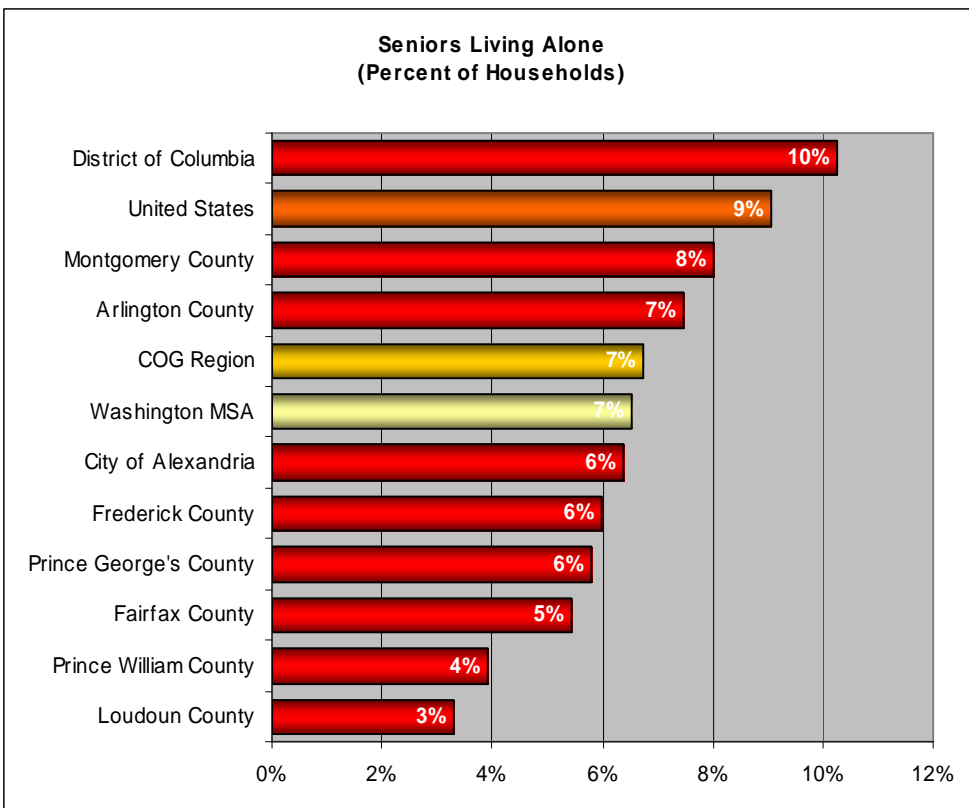
Nonfamily households comprise 36 percent of the region's households. A majority of this household type are householders who live alone. In the COG region that accounts for 29 percent of householders. Both the District of Columbia and the City of Alexandria have the highest proportions of non-family households: 56 percent.





Seven percent of the COG region's households are single female householders living with their children (who are under 18 years old). This represents a slightly lower percentage when compared to the United States figure of eight percent.

Ten percent of households in Prince George's County are female-headed with children, followed by the District of Columbia with nine 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 who live alone, when compared to the United States (nine percent.)

The District of Columbia and Montgomery County have the highest percentages of seniors living alone, 10 percent and eight percent, respectively.

According to the American Community Survey, the average household size in the COG region is 2.60 people per household. This is also the same figure for the United States.

The outer jurisdictions of Loudoun and Prince William counties have the highest average household size, 2.89 and 2.87 persons, respectively.

The central jurisdictions have a lower average household size: both the District of Columbia and the City of Alexandria have 2.08 people per household.

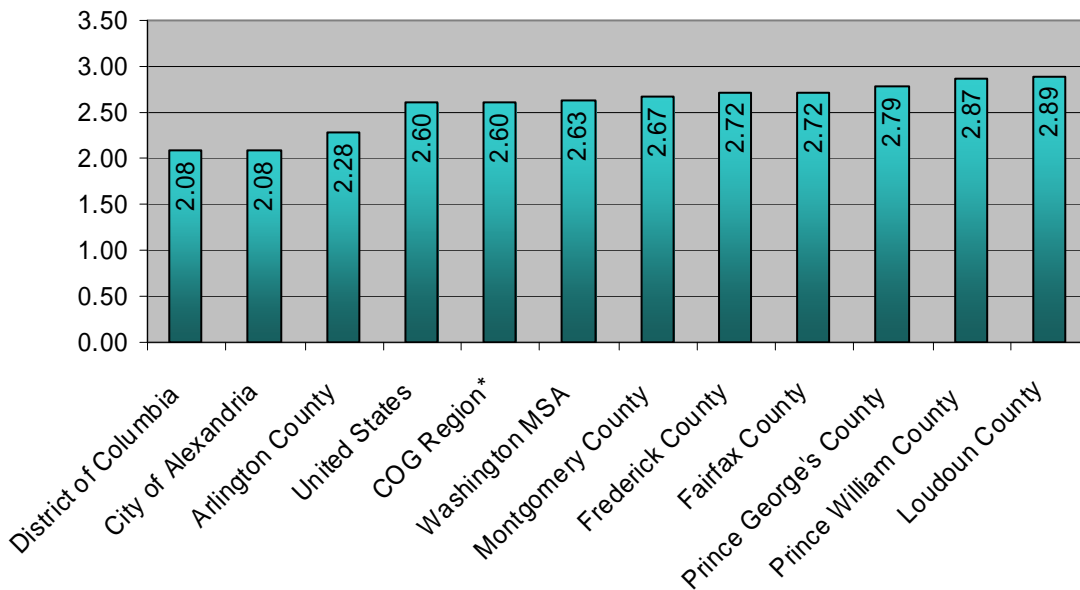
Household Size

Jurisdiction	Average Household Size
District of Columbia	2.08
Frederick County	2.72
Montgomery County	2.67
Prince George's County	2.79
Maryland Suburbs	2.72
City of Alexandria	2.08
Arlington County	2.28
Fairfax County	2.72
Loudoun County	2.89
Prince William County	2.87
Northern Virginia	2.66
COG Region ¹	2.60
Washington MSA ²	2.63

¹Does not include Virginia independent cities

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

Average Household Size



*Does not include Virginia independent cities

Labor Force Participation Rate

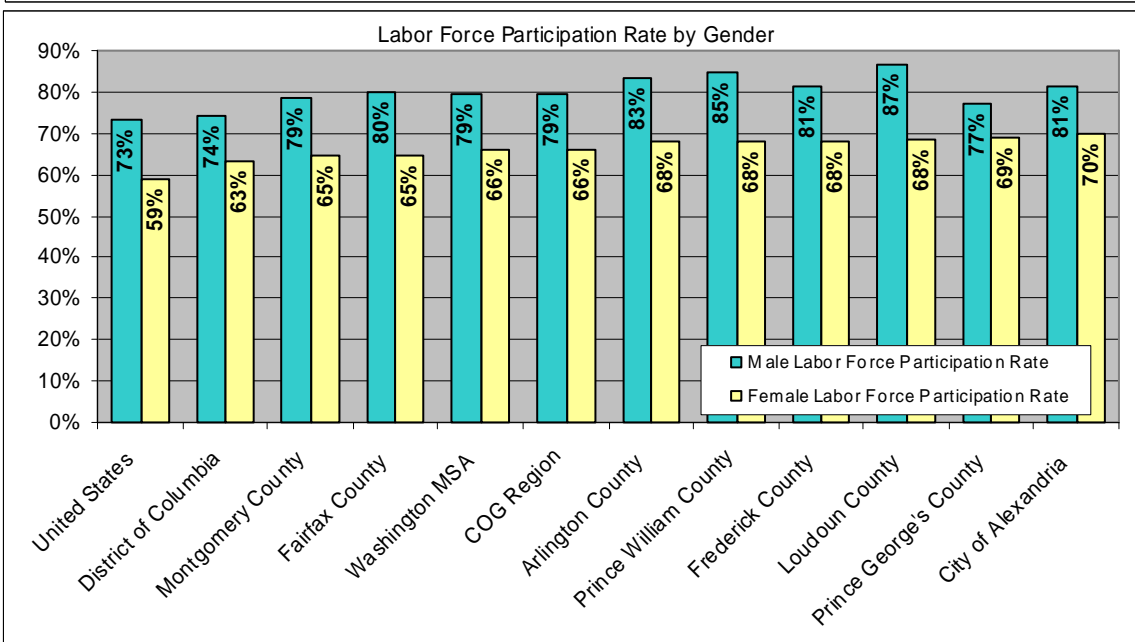
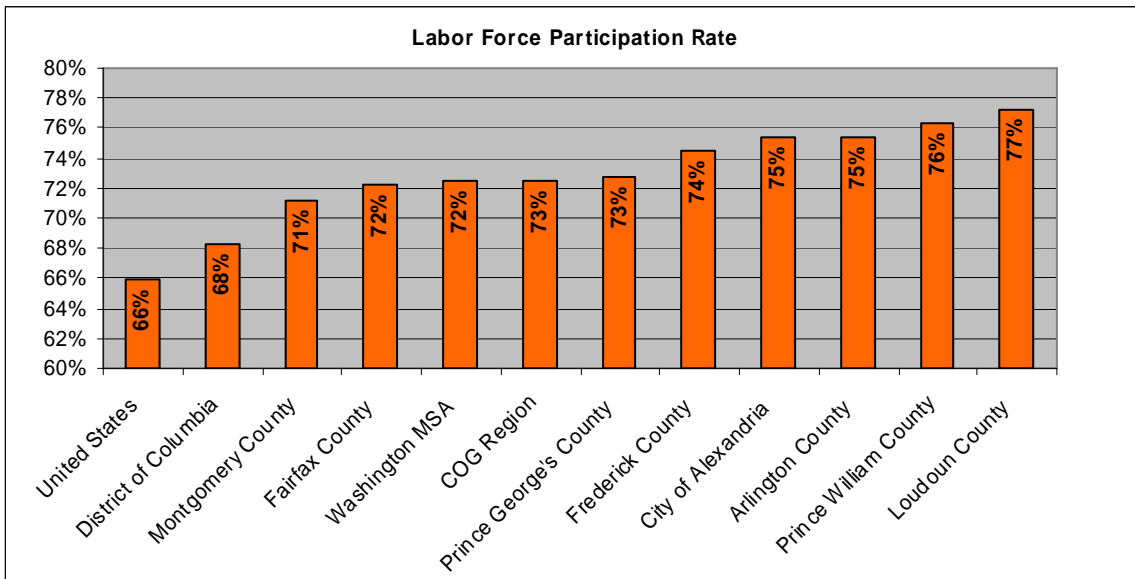
Jurisdiction	Population 16 years and over; In labor force; Estimate	Labor Force Participation Rate	Male Labor Force Participation Rate	Female Labor Force Participation Rate
District of Columbia	282,189	68%	74%	63%
Frederick County	123,010	74%	81%	68%
Montgomery County	505,157	71%	79%	65%
Prince George's County	455,182	73%	77%	69%
Suburban Maryland	1,083,349	72%	78%	67%
City of Alexandria	81,897	75%	81%	70%
Arlington County	120,283	75%	83%	68%
Fairfax County	556,456	72%	80%	65%
Loudoun County	143,792	77%	87%	68%
Prince William County	193,287	76%	85%	68%
Northern Virginia	1,095,715	74%	82%	66%
COG Region¹	2,461,253	73%	79%	66%
Washington MSA²	2,858,016	72%	79%	66%

¹Does not include Virginia independent cities

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

There are nearly 2.5 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 66 percent in the United States. Loudoun County has the highest labor force participation rate with 77 percent.

The male participation rate in the region is 79 percent. Loudoun County has the highest male labor participation rate with 87 percent. The region's female labor participation rate is 66 percent. The City of Alexandria has the highest rate with 73 percent of women 16 and over in the labor force.

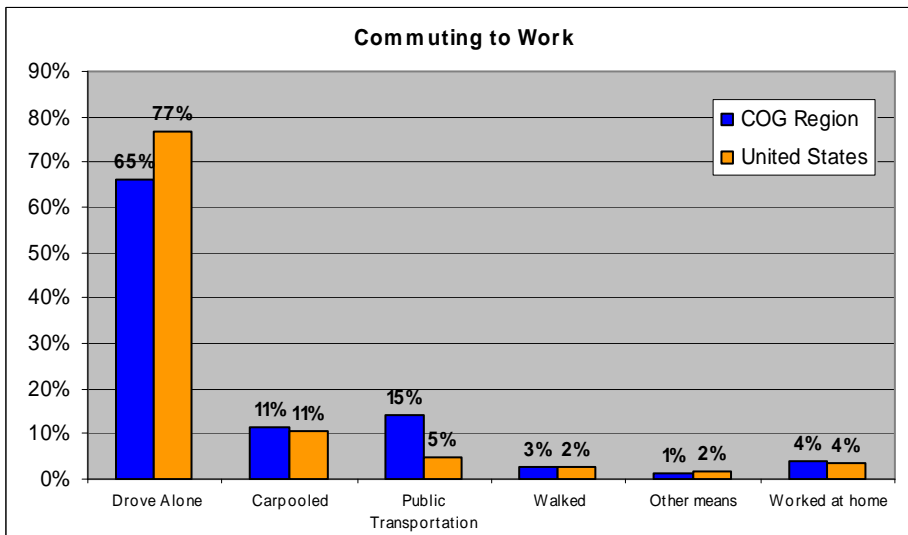


Commuting to Work (workers 16 years and over)

Jurisdiction	Drove Alone	Carpooled	Public Transportation	Walked	Other means	Worked at home	Mean travel time to work (minutes)
District of Columbia	38%	8%	38%	10%	3%	4%	29.3
Frederick County	79%	12%	2%	2%	1%	4%	32.9
Montgomery County	67%	10%	15%	2%	1%	5%	33.2
Prince George's County	64%	14%	17%	2%	1%	3%	35.7
Suburban Maryland	67%	12%	14%	2%	1%	4%	--
City of Alexandria	65%	8%	18%	3%	2%	4%	28.3
Arlington County	55%	9%	24%	4%	2%	6%	25.9
Fairfax County	73%	11%	9%	2%	1%	4%	31.2
Loudoun County	79%	11%	2%	2%	1%	5%	31.5
Prince William County	70%	18%	5%	1%	1%	4%	40.5
Northern Virginia	71%	12%	10%	2%	1%	5%	--
COG Region¹	65%	11%	15%	3%	1%	4%	--
Washington MSA²	66%	12%	14%	3%	1%	4%	33.4

¹Does not include Virginia independent cities

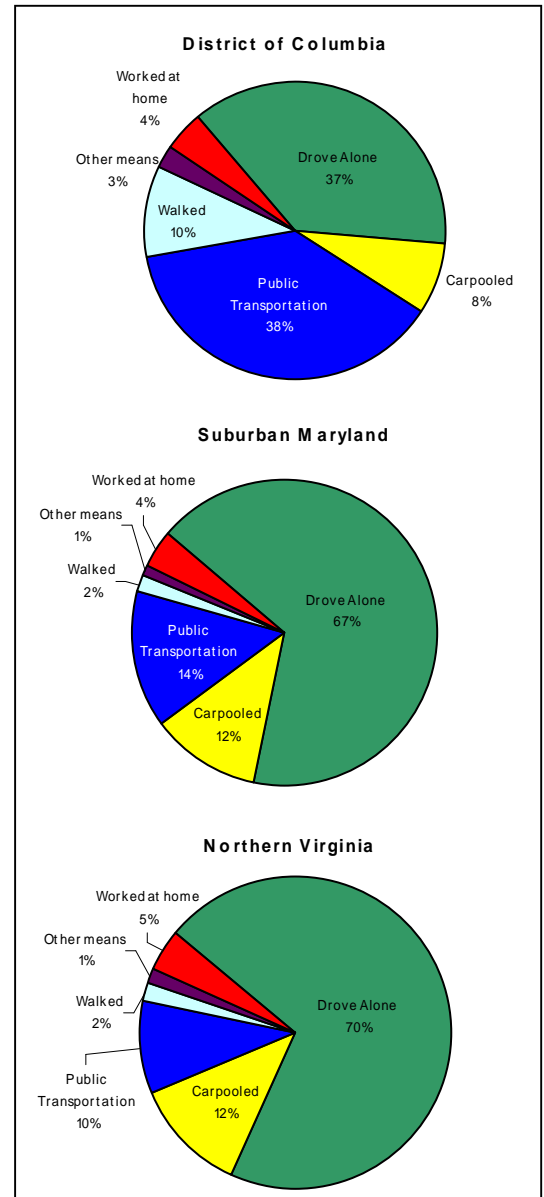
²Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA



In the Washington region, nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of workers drive alone when commuting to work, compared with 77 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 15 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 (38 percent). Frederick and Loudoun 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 2005 American Community Survey, the mean travel time to work in the Washington region is 33.4 minutes. Prince William County resident workers have the longest average travel time (40.5 minutes), while Arlington County resident workers have the shortest average travel time (25.9 minutes.) Nationally, the mean travel time to work is 25.1 minutes.



Median Household Income

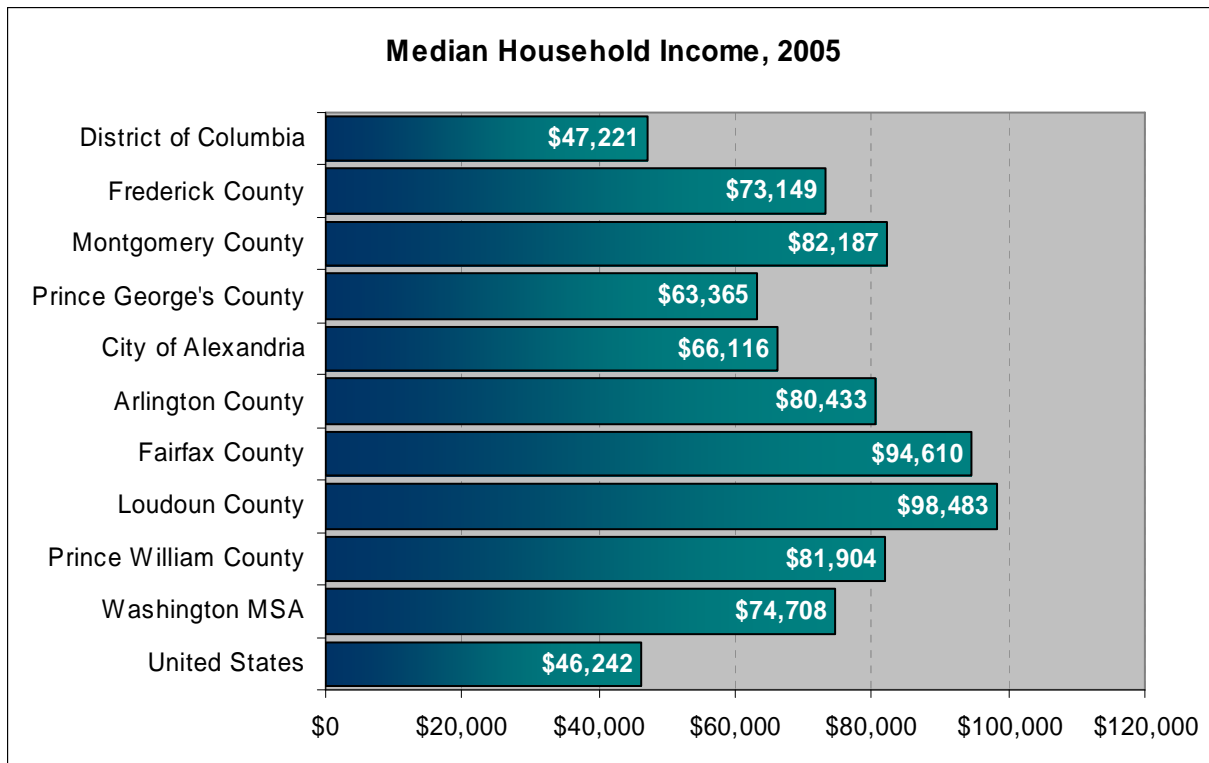
Jurisdiction	Median household income (in 2005 inflation-adjusted)
District of Columbia	\$47,221
Frederick County	\$73,149
Montgomery County	\$82,187
Prince George's County	\$63,365
City of Alexandria	\$66,116
Arlington County	\$80,433
Fairfax County	\$94,610
Loudoun County	\$98,483
Prince William County	\$81,904
Washington MSA¹	\$74,708

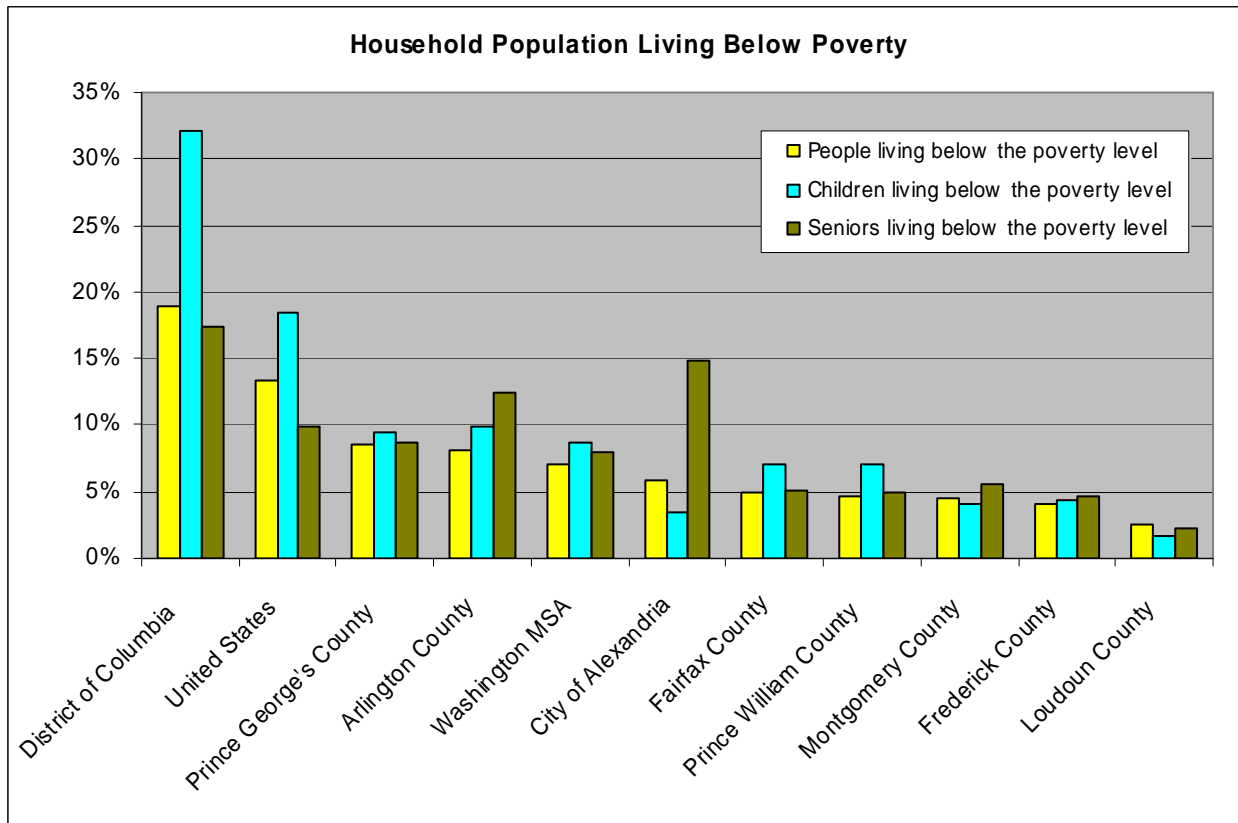
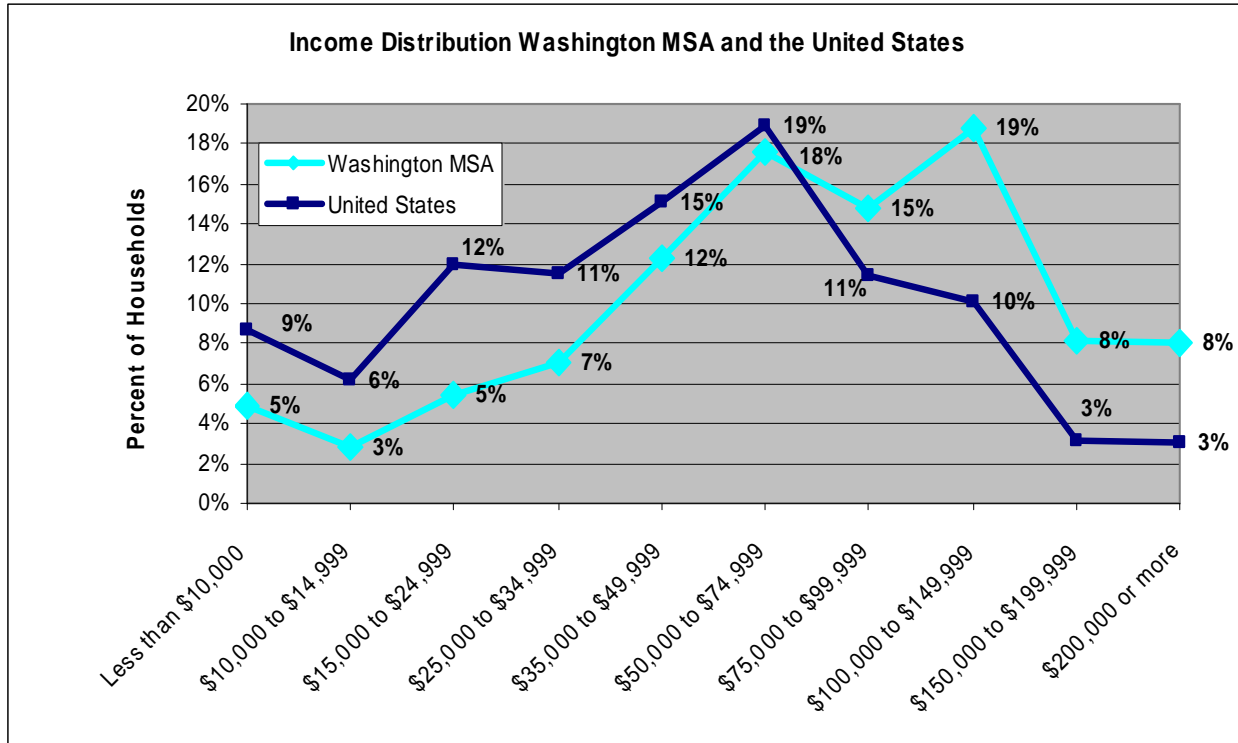
¹Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA

The median household income (in 2005 inflation adjusted dollars) for the Washington region is \$74,708. Regionally, Loudoun County has the highest median household income with \$98,483, followed by Fairfax County with \$94,610. Nationally, the median household income is \$46,242.

More than half of the region's households (52 percent) earn between \$50,000 and \$149,999. One-fifth (20 percent) of households in the region earn less than \$35,000, compared with 38 percent of households in the United States. Sixteen percent of the region's households earn more the \$150,000, compared with six percent of households in the United States.

Seven percent of the household population in the Washington region are living below the poverty level, compared with 13 percent in the United States. Nine percent of children and eight percent of seniors in the region live below the poverty level. In the United States, 19 percent of children and 10 percent of seniors live in poverty. The District of Columbia has the highest poverty rate with 19 percent of household population. Prince George's and Arlington counties also have higher poverty rates with nine percent and eight percent respectively.





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 2005 American Community Survey

(Continued from the front page)

The full implementation of the American Community Survey, which began in 2005, samples approximately 3 million housing unit addresses annually in the United States.

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.

