Immigrants in Northern Virginia and the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area
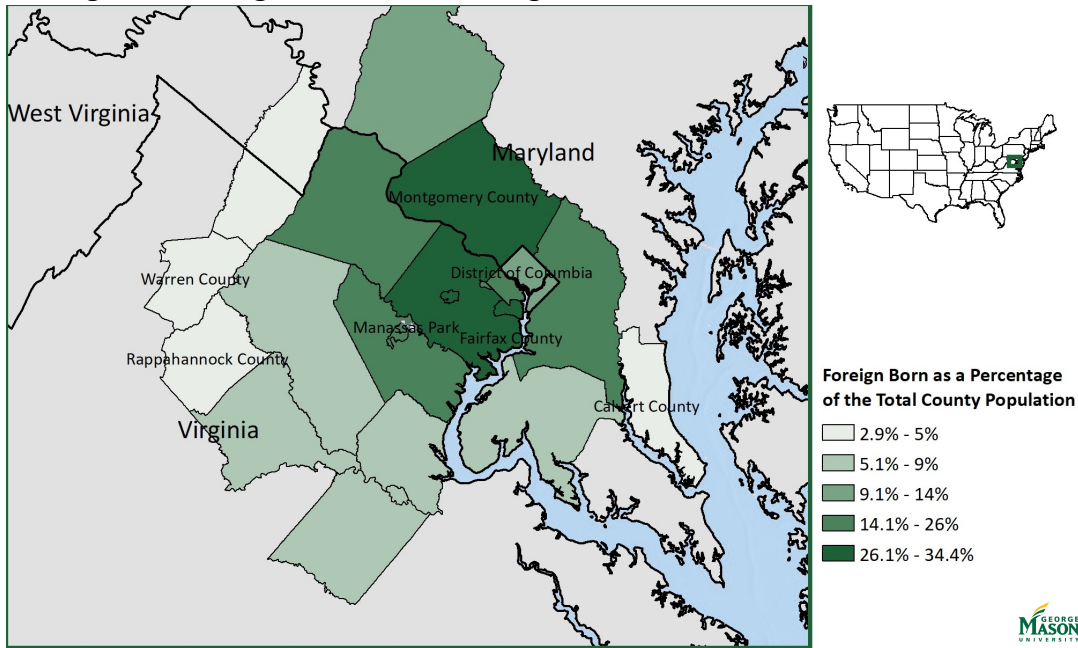
Figure 1. Immigrants in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area

Foreign Born as a Percentage of the Total County Population
- 2.9% - 5%
- 5.1% - 9%
- 9.1% - 14%
- 14.1% - 26%
- 26.1% - 34.4%

2018 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **43,567,000:** Approximate number of immigrants[1] living in the United States (13% of the population)

- **1,394,200:** Approximate number of immigrants living in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria metropolitan area (23% of the metro area)

- **720,200:** Approximate number of immigrants living in Northern Virginia[2] (52% of immigrants in the metro area and 24% of Northern Virginia)

- **18th**: Rank of metropolitan area among the 261 metropolitan areas in terms of immigrants as percentage of the area's population

Distribution of Immigrants in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area

Figure 1 shows where immigrants live across the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Manassas Park, VA, (34 percent), Montgomery County (32 percent), and Fairfax County (31 percent) reported the highest shares of immigrants. Immigrants make up the smallest shares of the population in Calvert County, MD, Warren County, VA, and Rappahannock County, VA.

Race and Ethnicity

Figure 2 indicates that there are higher shares of immigrants who identify as White or Asian and lower proportions of immigrants who identify as Black or Other in Northern Virginia compared to all other immigrants in the Washington, D.C. metro area. With regards to ethnicity, there are slightly smaller shares of immigrants in Northern Virginia who identify as Hispanic compared to the remainder of immigrants in the Washington, D.C. metro area.

Figure 2. Race and Ethnicity Among Immigrants

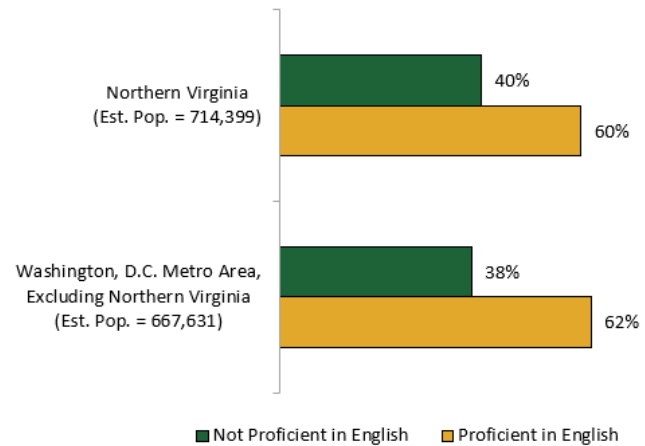|	Northern Virginia	Washington, D.C. Metro Area, Excluding Northern Virginia
White	37%	27%
Black	11%	26%
Asian	37%	24%
Other Race	12%	21%
Two or More Races	3%	2%
Not Hispanic	66%	64%
Hispanic	34%	36%
Estimated Immigrant Population	**720,190**	**673,996**

Immigrants in Northern Virginia and the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area

English Proficiency

Figure 3 highlights the proportion of foreign-born individuals who are proficient in English (speaks only English or speaks English very well) who live in Northern Virginia and the remainder of Washington, D.C. metro area. Overall, immigrants living in Northern Virginia report slightly lower rates of English proficiency compared to all other immigrants in the Washington, D.C. metro area.

Figure 3. English Proficiency Among Immigrants

Foreign-Born Individuals, Age 5+

Northern Virginia (Est. Pop. = 714,399): 40%, 60%

Washington, D.C. Metro Area, Excluding Northern Virginia (Est. Pop. = 667,631): 38%, 62%

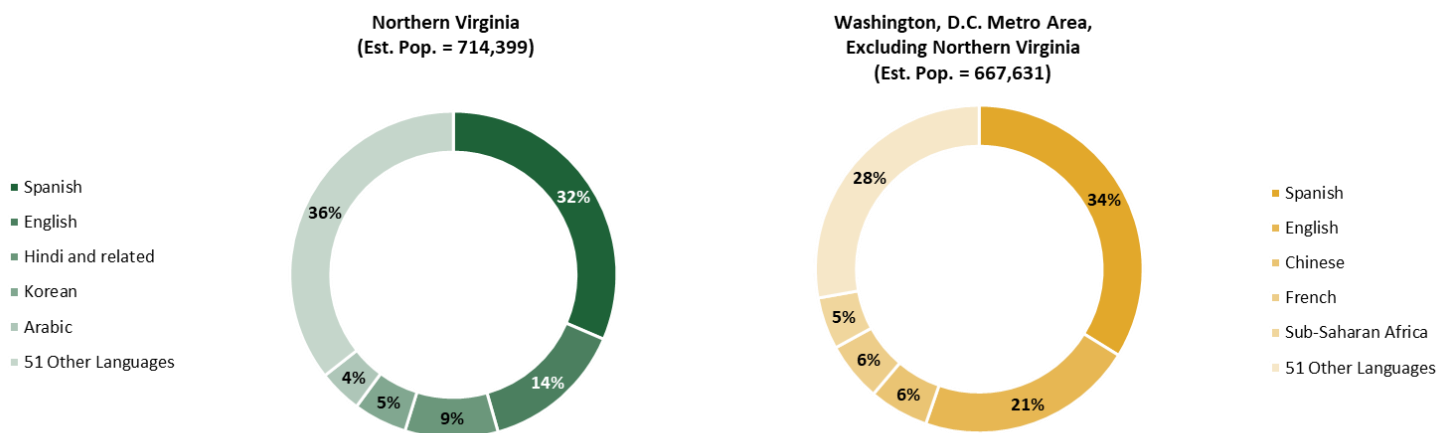■ Not Proficient in English ■ Proficient in English

Languages Spoken at Home

Across Northern Virginia and the remainder of the Washington, D.C. metro area, the most common languages spoken at home among immigrants are English and Spanish (Figure 4). Immigrants in Northern Virginia are less likely to speak Spanish and English compared to immigrants in the remainder of the Washington, D.C. metro area, and more likely to speak other primary languages at home. Immigrants in Northern Virginia were more likely to speak Hindi, Korean, and Arabic compared to all other immigrants in the Washington, D.C. metro area, and they were more likely to speak other languages not in the top five (36 percent vs 28 percent).

Figure 4. Top Five Languages Spoken at Home Among Immigrants

Foreign-Born Individuals, Age 5+

Northern Virginia (Est. Pop. = 714,399)

■ Spanish — 32%
■ English — 14%
■ Hindi and related — 9%
■ Korean — 5%
■ Arabic — 4%
■ 51 Other Languages — 36%

Washington, D.C. Metro Area, Excluding Northern Virginia (Est. Pop. = 667,631)

■ Spanish — 34%
■ English — 21%
■ Chinese — 6%
■ French — 6%
■ Sub-Saharan Africa — 5%
■ 51 Other Languages — 28%

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR IMMIGRATION RESEARCH

The IIR works to refocus the immigration conversation among academics, policy-makers and the public, including the business community and media, by producing and disseminating valid, reliable, and objective, multidisciplinary academic research related to immigrants and immigration to the United States. The Institute for ImmigrationResearch is a joint venture between George Mason University and the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Massachusetts. To learn more about the Institute for Immigration Research call (703) 993-5833, email iir@gmu.edu, or visit us online at iir.gmu.edu.

IMMIGRATION DATA ON DEMAND (iDod)

The iDod service is offered free of charge to help individuals and institutions examine the immigrant populations of their particular geography. Recipients of this data will see how immigrants provide vital contributions to the economy and society of the U.S. Ultimately, the goal of the iDod project is to create collaborations and connect people with data of interest on