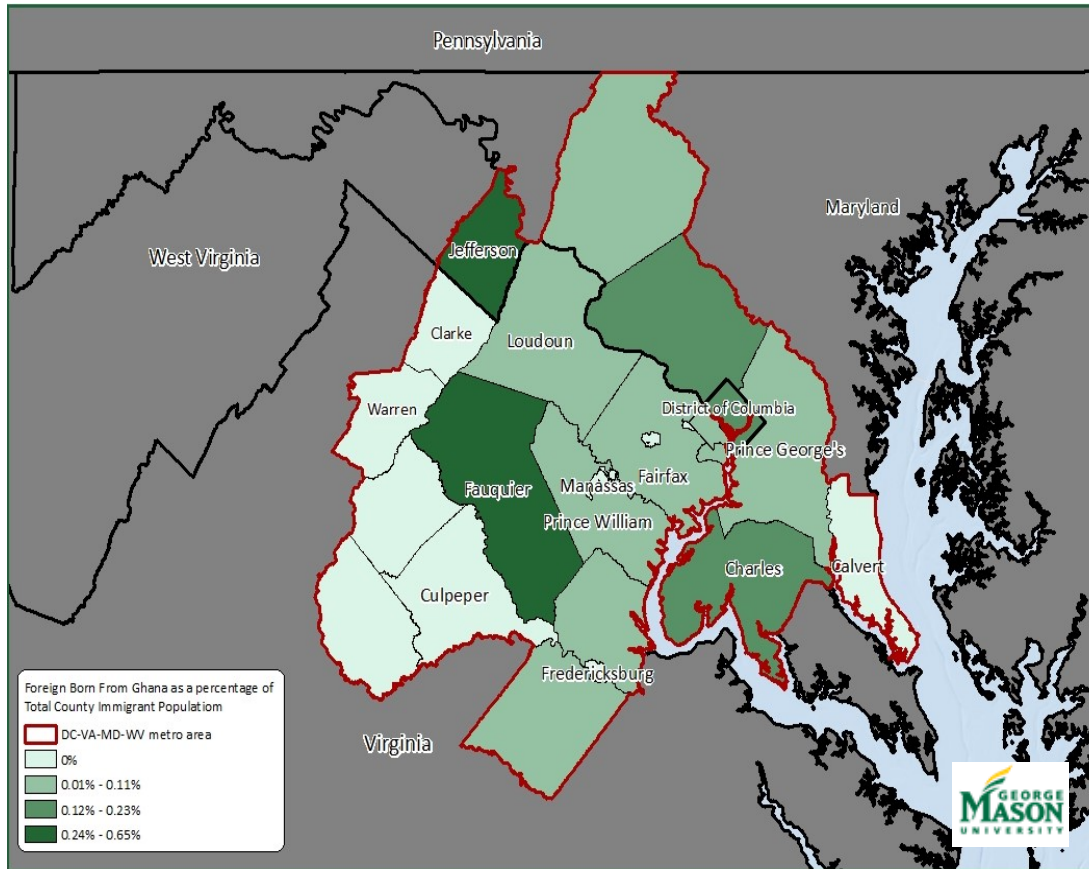## Ghanaian Immigrants in Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Area

🌾 Figure 1. Ghanaian Immigrants in the DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Area

Note: This data was prepared by the George Mason University Institute for Immigration Research (IIR). 2022. This data is displayed at the county level. Maps are based on IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 16.0. ACS 2016-2020 dataset. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota. 2022.

2020 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **44,411,750:** Approximate number of immigrants living in the U.S. (14% of the population)

- **1,425,100:** Approximate number of immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area (23% of the metropolitan area population)

- **23,130**: Approximate number of Ghanaian immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area (2% of the metropolitan area's foreign-born population)

- **29%:** Estimated increase in the number of Ghanaian immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area in the past 10 years i.e., 2010-2020) .

- **17th:** Rank of the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area among the 260 identified metro areas in terms of immigrants as a percentage of the metro's population
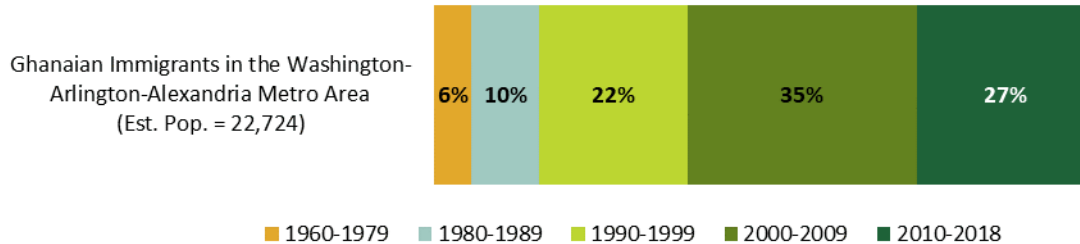
Distribution of Immigrants

Figure 1 shows the distribution of Ghanaian immigrants, as a percentage of total foreign-born county population, throughout the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV metropolitan area (also referred to herein as the DMV metropolitan area). Within the DMV metropolitan area, as highlighted in red in Figure 1, the following counties comprise the top 5 counties for Ghanaian-born immigrants: Jefferson County, West Virginia (0.65%); Fauquier County, Virginia (0.64%); Washington D.C. (0.23%); Howard County, Maryland (0.22%); and Charles County, Maryland (0.19%). The counties with the lowest share of Ghanaian immigrants, as a portion of total Foreign-born population, are mostly Virginia counties reporting no, or liminal, Ghanaian born immigrants. These counties include Warren, Fairfax City, Falls Church City, Fredericksburg City, Manassas City, and Manassas Park.

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Ghanaian Immigrants in Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Area

🌱 Figure 2. Year of Immigration Among Ghanaian Immigrants

Ghanaian Immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area (Est. Pop. = 22,724)

| 6% | 10% | 22% | 35% | 27% |

■ 1960-1979 ■ 1980-1989 ■ 1990-1999 ■ 2000-2009 ■ 2010-2018

Year of Immigration

As shown in Figure 2 above, a majority of Ghanaian immigrants in the DMV Metro area migrated in 2000 or later(62%). This is similar to all other immigrants in the DMV metro area, 61% of whom migrated to the United States post 2000. The median year of arrival for Ghanaian immigrants is 2003 which is later than the median year of immigration for all other immigrants in the DMV Metro area (2000).

🌱 Figure 3. Age Among Ghanaian Immigrants

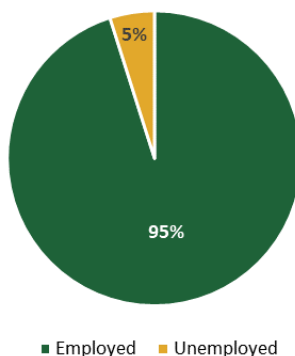|	Ghanaian Immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area
0 thru 4 years old	0.2%
5 to 15 years old	2%
16 to 24 years old	7%
25 to 34 years old	15%
35 to 44 years old	26%
45 to 54 years old	24%
55 to 64 years old	17%
65 years and older	9%
Estimated Immigrant Population	23,128
Median Age	44

Age

The majority of Ghanaian immigrants in the DMV metropolitan area are between 35--64 years old (68%). Roughly 53% of all other immigrants in the DMV metro area are within this age range. Additionally, there are considerably fewer Ghanaian immigrants in the DMV ages 15 or under (2.2%) compared with all other immigrants in this area (5.2%). The median age of Ghanaian immigrants in area is 44, while the median age among all other immigrants in the DMV metro area is 43.

🌱 Figure 4. Employment Status Among Ghanaian Immigrants

In the Labor Force, Ages 16-65

Ghanaian Immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area (Est. Pop. = 18,578)

5%
95%

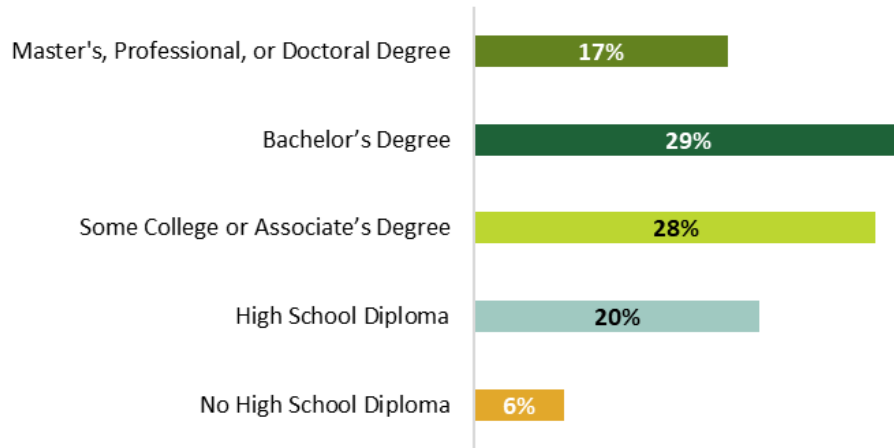■ Employed ■ Unemployed

Employment Status

The vast majority of Ghanaian immigrants in the DMV metro area are employed (95%). For full time, employed Ghanaians in the DMV metro area between the ages of 16-65, 32% make less than $40,000 a year, 39% make between $40,000 and $74,999, and 29% make $75,000 or greater. The median income among Ghanaian–born immigrants in this area is $53,933. Additionally, roughly 8% of Ghanaian immigrants between the ages of 16 and 65 are self-employed.

Ghanaian Immigrants in Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Area

⚡ Figure 5. Educational Attainment Among Immigrants

Age 25+

Ghanaian Immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area (Est. Pop. = 21,051)

Master's, Professional, or Doctoral Degree	17%
Bachelor's Degree	29%
Some College or Associate's Degree	28%
High School Diploma	20%
No High School Diploma	6%

Educational Attainment

Approximately 46% of Ghanaian immigrants in the DMV metropolitan area have earned a bachelor's degree or higher, which is similar to that of all other immigrants in the metro area (45%). However, all other immigrants in the DMV area are three times more likely to have not completed high school (20%), compared to Ghanaian immigrants in the DMV area (6%) .Importantly, Ghanaian immigrants in the DMV metro area tend to be more proficient in English (82%) compared to all other immigrants in the DMV metro area (60%).

⚡ Figure 6. Occupation Among Immigrants

In the Labor Force, Employed, Ages 16-65

Ghanaian Immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area	
Service Occupations	27%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	16%
Management, Business, and Financial Occupations	15%
Computer, Engineering, and Science Occupations	11%
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	10%
7 Other Occupational Groups	21%
Estimated Immigrant Population	17,666

Occupation

The top three occupations for Ghanaian-born immigrants in the DMV metropolitan area are Service Occupations; Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations; and Management, Business, and Financial Occupations. Comparatively, Service Occupations are also the number one occupational group for all other immigrants in the DMV metro area (22%).   Management, Business, and Financial Occupations (16%) and Computer, Engineering, and Science Occupations (13%) rank as the 2nd and 3rd most popular occupational groups for all other immigrants in the area, respectively.

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Immigration Data on Demand (iDod)

The goal of iDod is to connect people with customized data about immigrants in particular regions or sectors of interest. This data provides insights into the vital contributions immigrants make to the economy and society.

The Institute for Immigration Research (IIR)

The IIR's mission is to produce valid, reliable, and objective multidisciplinary research on immigrants and immigration to the United States and to disseminate this information through peer-reviewed academic journals, as well as in print and digital formats that make this research easily accessible to policy-makers, the media, the business community, and the general public. The Institute for Immigration Research is a joint venture between George Mason University and the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, MA.

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