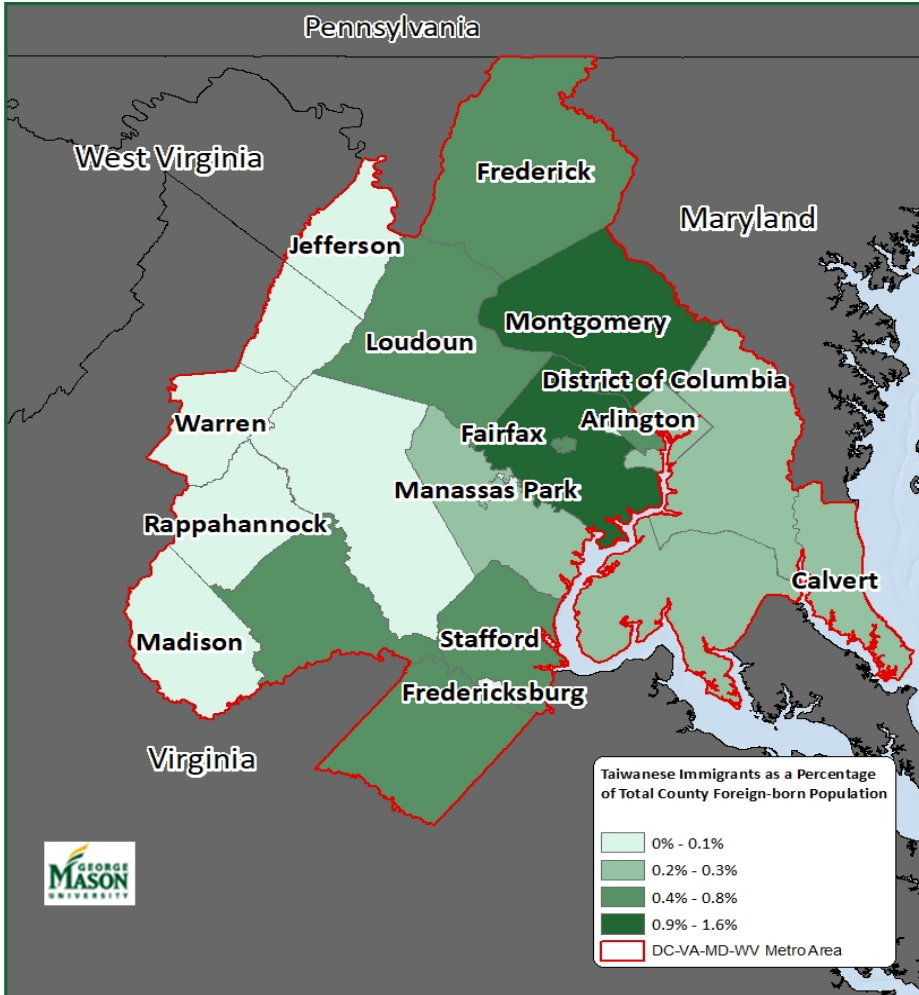


Taiwanese Immigrants in Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Area

Figure 1. Immigrants in the DC-VA-MD-WV Metro



2020 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **44,411,750:** Approximate number of immigrants living in the United States (14% of the population)
- **1,425,110:** Approximate number of immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV metropolitan area (23% of the metro area’s population)
- **12,000:** Approximate number of Taiwanese immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV metropolitan area (0.8% of the metro area’s foreign-born population)
- **17th:** Rank of the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV metropolitan area among the 260 identified metro areas in terms of immigrants as a percentage of the metro’s population

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.

Distribution of Immigrants

Figure 1 shows the distribution of Taiwanese immigrants, as a percentage of the total foreign-born county population, throughout the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV metropolitan area (also referred to herein as the D.C. metro area). Within the D.C. metro area (highlighted in red in Figure 1) the top five counties for Taiwanese-born immigrants are: Montgomery County, Maryland (1.6%); Fairfax County, Virginia (1.2%); Arlington County, Virginia (0.77%); Stafford County, Virginia (0.75%); and Loudoun County, Virginia (0.73%). All of the top five counties, except for Montgomery County, are located in Virginia. The five counties with the lowest shares of Taiwanese immigrants are also located in Virginia. These counties are: Fredericksburg City County; Madison County; Manassas Park City County; Rappahannock County; and Warren County. These counties are all located in the southernmost and westernmost edges of the D.C metro area boundary.

All analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2016-2020 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org, unless otherwise noted.

Please note that the terms “immigrant” and “foreign born” are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet. Foreign born refers to individuals who are not a U.S. citizen at birth or who were born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The foreign born may include naturalized U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, temporary residents, refugees and asylees, and others. Additionally, native born includes those who are U.S. citizens at birth, those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and those born abroad to a parent who is a U.S. citizen.

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

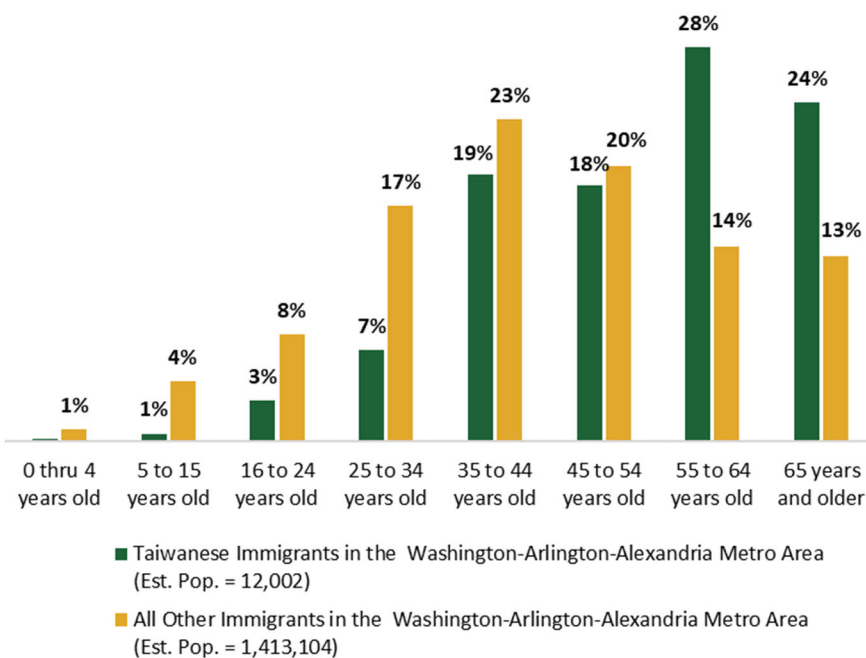
Figure 2. Year of Immigration Among Immigrants

	Taiwanese Immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area (1930-2018)	All Other Immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area
1930-1959	1%	1%
1960-1979	27%	9%
1980-1989	32%	14%
1990-1999	18%	22%
2000-2009	14%	30%
2010-2018	8%	24%
Estimated Immigrant Population	11,911	1,389,826
Median Year of Immigration	1987	2000

Figure 3 demonstrates that Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area have been living in the United States notably longer than all other immigrants in the area. More than half (59%) of Taiwanese immigrants in the area arrived between 1960 and 1989. The median year of arrival for this group is 1987. Comparatively, the majority of all other immigrants in the D.C. metro area immigrated to the United States in 2000 or later (54%), with 2000 as the median year of arrival. Immigration to the United States in general increased after the passage of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act which loosened immigration restrictions. The passage of this Act, combined with poor economic conditions and political repression in Taiwan, proliferated Taiwanese migration to the United States during the 60s and 70s. Most Taiwanese who immigrated during this time came as students and stayed for the job opportunities and political freedom offered in the United States. Additionally, Taiwanese cultural emphasis on higher education and obtaining multiple advanced degrees gave this group an edge under an American immigration policy that gives preference to skilled workers. The end of political turmoil and a rapidly strengthening economy in Taiwan decreased emigration during the late 80s and 90s, and even encouraged the repatriation of many immigrants back to Taiwan.* Accordingly, It is not surprising that, while 54% of all other immigrants in the D.C. metro area migrated in 2000 or later, only 22% of Taiwanese immigrants in this area migrated during that time.

*Lin, Serena Yi-Ying Lin Serena Yi-Ying. 2010. "Taiwanese Immigrants in the United States." *Migrationpolicy.Org*. Retrieved May 18, 2023 (<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/taiwanese-immigrants-united-states-2008>).

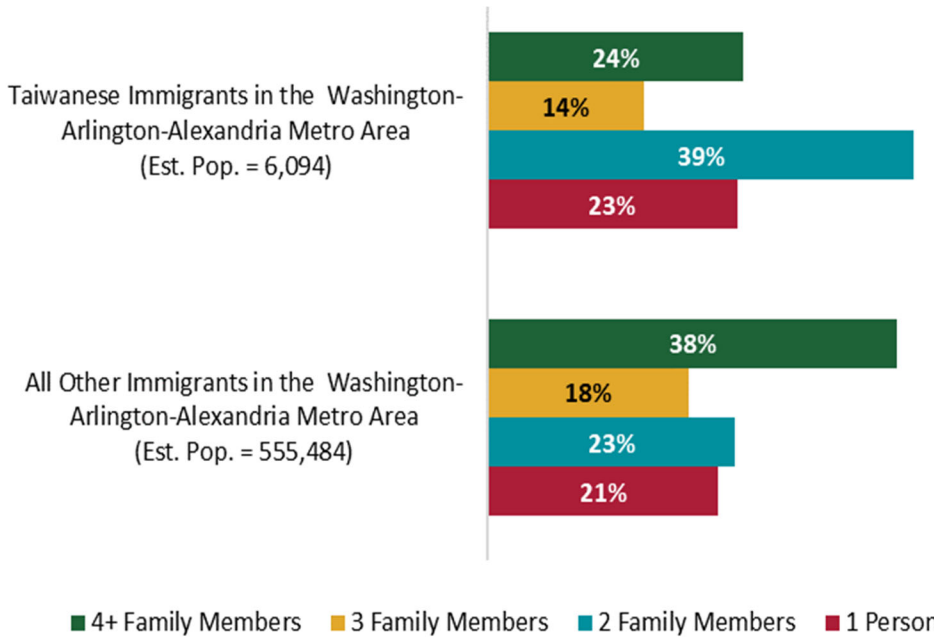
Figure 3. Age Among Immigrants



Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area tend to be much older than all other immigrants in the area, which is consistent with the data on year of immigration trends as described above. Over half (52%) of Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area are 55 years or older, while only 27% of all other immigrants in the area are in this age range. The median age of Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area is 56 and the median age for all other immigrants in this area is 43. Because Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area tend to be older and have lived in the United States for much longer than all other immigrants, Taiwanese immigrants are more established socially and economically. For instance, Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area are much more likely to be homeowners (83%) than all other immigrants in this area (57%).

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

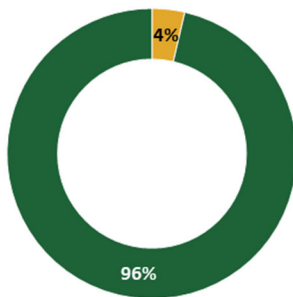
Figure 4. Household Size Among Immigrants



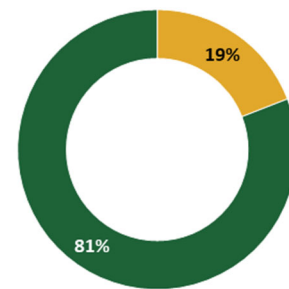
Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area tend to have smaller households than all other immigrants in this area. For instance, 62% of Taiwanese immigrant-headed households contain two or fewer family members compared with 44% of all other immigrant-headed households. Moreover, over half (56%) of all other immigrant-headed households contain three or more family members, while only 38% of Taiwanese immigrant-headed households contain three or more family household members. As demonstrated in Figure 3 above, only 4% of Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area are aged 24 or younger. Accordingly, Taiwanese immigrant-headed households are less likely to have children or young dependents in the household, which would explain their smaller household sizes compared to all other immigrants.

Figure 5. Health Insurance Among Immigrants

Taiwanese Immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area (Est. Pop. = 12,002)



All Other Immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area (Est. Pop. = 1,413,104)

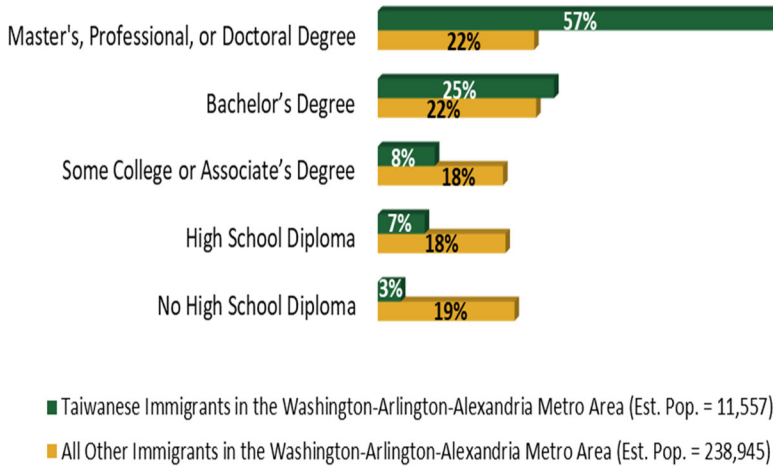


As shown in Figure 5, all other immigrants in the D.C. metro area are nearly five times more likely to be uninsured than Taiwanese immigrants in this area (19% versus 4%). This is likely due to the fact that Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area have lived in the United States longer, are more educated, and earn higher incomes than all other immigrants in the area as discussed in Figures 6 and 7 below. Importantly, Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area are more likely to be citizens with 87% being naturalized citizens compared to 53% of all other immigrants in the area. Given their age and citizenship status, Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area are more likely to be eligible for Medicaid and other government-sponsored forms of health insurance, which may partially explain why Taiwanese immigrants are more likely to be insured than all other immigrants in the D.C. metro area.

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

Figure 6. Educational Attainment Among Immigrants

Age 25+



Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area are markedly more educated than all other immigrants in the area. A vast majority (82%) of Taiwanese immigrants have obtained at least a Bachelor's degree or higher compared with 44% of all other immigrants. In fact, more than half (57%) of Taiwanese immigrants have obtained a Master's, Professional, or Doctoral Degree, compared to 22% of all other immigrants. This education data is consistent with the fact that full-time Taiwanese immigrant workers in the D.C. area, aged 16 and above, are much more likely to earn higher personal incomes than all other immigrants. Almost three quarters (73%) of Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area earn a personal income of \$75,000 or higher, compared with 35% of all other immigrants. Only 12% of Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area make less than \$40,000 compared with 34% of all other immigrants. In fact, the median income among Taiwanese immigrants (\$111,373) is more than double the median income of all other immigrants (\$53,933).

Figure 7. Occupation Among Immigrants

In the Labor Force, Employed, Ages 16-65

Taiwanese Immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area		All Other Immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area	
Computer, Engineering, and Science Occupations	31%	Service Occupations	22%
Management, Business, and Financial Occupations	28%	Management, Business, and Financial Occupations	16%
Education, Legal, Community Service, Arts, and Media Occupations	16%	Computer, Engineering, and Science Occupations	13%
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	7%	Construction and Extraction Occupations	10%
Service Occupations	7%	Education, Legal, Community Service, Arts, and Media Occupations	8%
6 Other Occupational Groups	11%	8 Other Occupational Groups	31%
Estimated Immigrant Population	7,497	Estimated Immigrant Population	913,834

Over half (59%) of Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area work in Computer, Engineering, and Science and Management, Business, and Financial Occupations in comparison to 29% of all other immigrants in this area. These are highly skilled occupations that tend to be relatively high paying which corresponds with the fact that Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area tend to be more educated and earn higher incomes than all other immigrants in the area. Service occupations rank as the top occupational group for all other immigrants in the D.C. metro area. In comparison, only 7% of Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area work within service occupations. Moreover, Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area are less likely to be unemployed (2%) than all other immigrants in the metro area (5%). The strong economic and educational factors among Taiwanese immigrants in the D.C. metro area further speak to the permanence of this immigrant community compared with all other immigrants in the area.

For factsheets that examine populations at the household level, please note that a household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit. A native-born U.S. citizen household is defined as a household which is headed by a native-born U.S. citizen, regardless of the immigration status of the spouse. Conversely, an immigrant-headed household is defined as a household which is headed by a foreign-born individual, regardless of the immigration status of the spouse. For fact sheets that examine total household income, please note that the total annual income of all members in the household is included in the analysis. For fact sheets that examine personal income, personal income refers to total personal income earned on an annual basis.

For fact sheets that examine poverty status, please note that it excludes individuals who live in group quarters and those who are under the age of 18 with no family.

IIR fact sheets are created following standard definitions established by the U.S. Census Bureau. Please consult <https://www.census.gov/topics/> for clarification as to important distinctions such as those between industry and occupation.

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



**Institute for
Immigration Research**

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.

www.iir.gmu.edu

4400 University Drive, MSN 1D7

Fairfax, VA 22030

703.993.5833