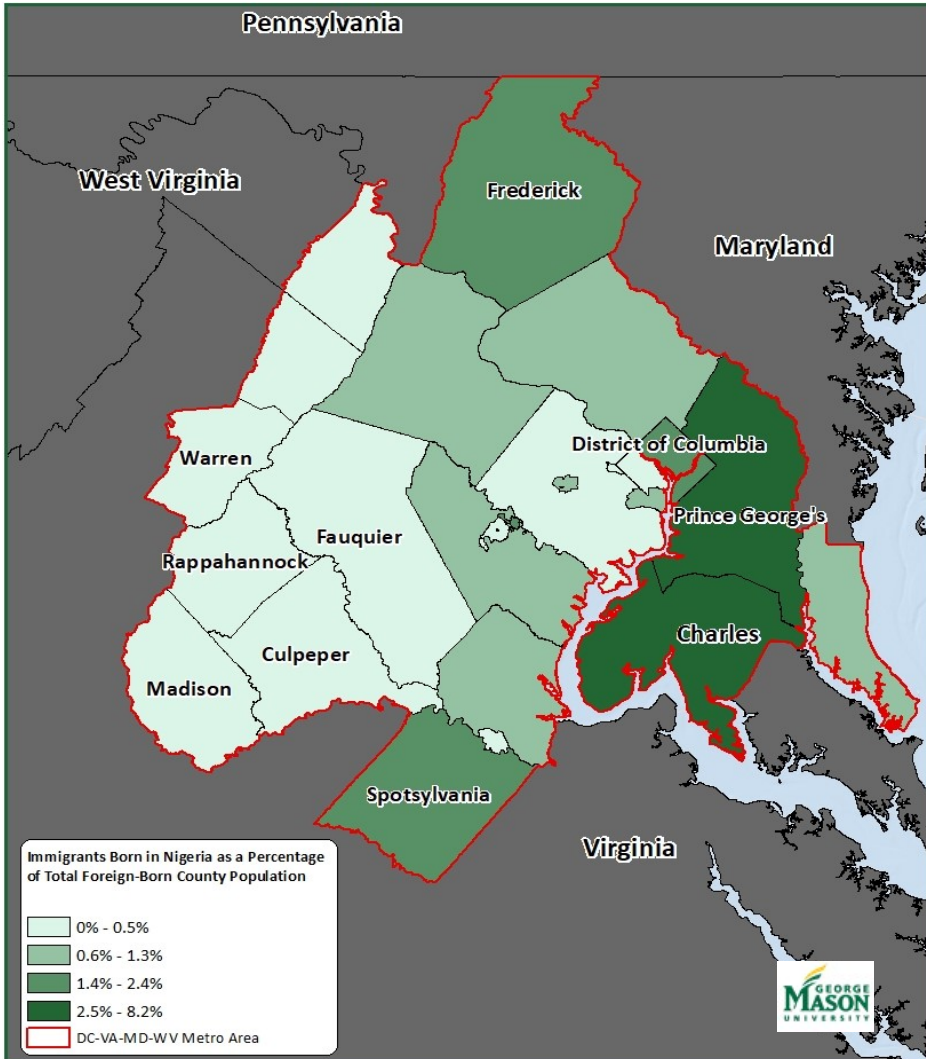


**Nigerian Immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-MD-VA-WV, Metropolitan Area**

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



**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 DC-VA-MD-WV metropolitan area (3% of the immigrant population in the United States)
- **17th:** Rank of the DC-VA-MD-WV metropolitan area among the 260 identified metro areas in terms of immigrants as a percentage of the metro’s population
- **15%:** Estimated increase in the number of immigrants in the DC-VA-MD-WV metropolitan area in the past 10 years (i.e. 2010-2020)
- **372,710:** Approximate number of Nigerian immigrants in the United States (0.84% of the immigrant population in the United States)
- **27,570:** Approximate number of Nigerian immigrants in the DC-VA-MD-WV metropolitan area (2% of the metropolitan area’s immigrant population)
- **60%:** Estimated increase in the number of Nigerian immigrants in the DC-VA-MD-WV metropolitan area in the past 10 years (i.e. 2010-2020)

Note: This data was prepared by the George Mason University Institute for Immigration Research (IIR). 2023. 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. 2023.

**Distribution of Immigrants**

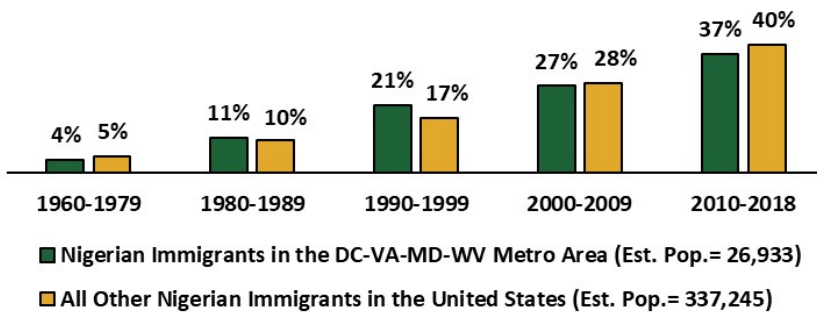
Figure 1 shows the distribution of Nigerian immigrants, as a percentage of the total foreign-born population throughout the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV metropolitan area (also referred to herein as the D.C. metro area). The top five counties with the highest share of Nigerian-born immigrants, as a percentage of the total county foreign-born population are: Prince George’s County, Maryland (8.2%); Charles County, Maryland (6.1%); Spotsylvania County, Virginia (2.4%); Frederick County, Maryland (2.1%), and Washington, D.C. (2.0%). The bottom five counties with the lowest shares of Nigerian-born immigrants are all located in Virginia within the southwestern portion of the D.C. metro area boundary: Culpeper County, Fauquier County, Madison County, Rappahannock County, and Warren County.

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](http://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.

**Nigerian Immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-MD-VA-WV, Metropolitan Area**

**Figure 2. Year of Immigration Among Immigrants**



As shown in Figure 2, both the majority of Nigerian immigrants in the D.C. metro area and all other Nigerian immigrants in the United States are relatively recent migrants to America. In fact, 85% of Nigerian immigrants in the D.C. metro area and 85% of all other immigrants in the United States immigrated to America from 1990 to 2018. From 1960 to 2018, the largest wave of Nigerian immigration to the United States occurred from 2010 to 2018; over a third (37%) of Nigerian immigrants in the D.C. metro area arrived during this time, compared to 40% of all other Nigerian immigrants in the United States. According to the [Migration Policy Institute](#), the growth in Nigerian immigration from 2010 to 2018 was part of a larger wave of sub-Saharan African immigration to the United States. However, unlike many sub-Saharan immigrants from Ethiopia, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, who primarily arrived as refugees, Nigerian immigrants came as high-skilled workers and international students.

**Figure 3. Age Among Immigrants**

	Nigerian Immigrants in the DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	All Other Nigerian Immigrants in the United States
0 thru 4 years old	0.4%	1%
5 to 15 years old	7%	7%
16 to 24 years old	9%	9%
25 to 34 years old	18%	18%
35 to 44 years old	20%	22%
45 to 54 years old	19%	19%
55 to 64 years old	17%	16%
65 years and older	10%	8%
Estimated Immigrant Population	27,571	354,135
Median Age	43 years old	41 years old

Figure 3 shows that Nigerian immigrants in the D.C. metro area have a similar age distribution to all other Nigerian immigrants in the United States. For instance, both groups of immigrants are equally likely to be 5 to 15 years old (7%). At the same time, the median age for Nigerian immigrants in the D.C. metro area is slightly higher than for all other Nigerian immigrants in the United States (43 to 41 years old, respectively). Therefore, on average, Nigerian immigrants in the D.C. metro area tend to be slightly older than their counterparts in the rest of the United States. This is not surprising given that over a third (36%) of Nigerian immigrants in the D.C. metro area immigrated to the United States from 1960 to 1999, compared to 32% of all other Nigerian immigrants in the United States (see Figure 2).

**Nigerian Immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-MD-VA-WV, Metropolitan Area**

**Figure 4. Family Size Among Immigrants**

Household Head

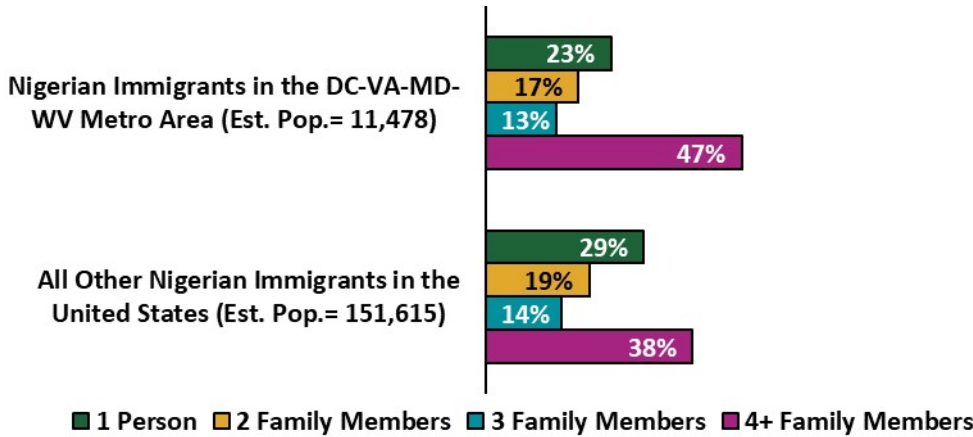


Figure 4 demonstrates that Nigerian immigrants in the D.C. metro area are more likely to have four or more family members living together than their counterparts in the rest of the United States (47% to 38%). This is also reflected in the household composition (not shown) of Nigerian immigrant-headed households. In the D.C. metro area, Nigerian immigrant-headed households are more likely to have three or more children living in the household (27%) than all other Nigerian immigrant-headed households in the United States (19%).

**Figure 5. Occupation Among Immigrants**

In the Labor Force, Employed, Ages 16-65

Nigerian Immigrants in the DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	Percent	All Other Nigerian Immigrants in the United States	Percent
Service Occupations	25%	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	20%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	20%	Service Occupations	20%
Management, Business, and Financial Occupations	14%	Management, Business, and Financial Occupations	12%
Computer, Engineering, and Science Occupations	10%	Education, Legal, Community Service, Arts, and Media Occupations	12%
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	8%	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	8%
8 Other Occupational Groups	23%	8 Other Occupational Groups	28%
Estimated Immigrant Population	180,096	Estimated Immigrant Population	221,706

As shown in Figure 5, Nigerian immigrants in the D.C. metro area and all other Nigerian immigrants in the United States have four of their top five occupations in common, although they are distributed slightly differently across these occupations. For example, a quarter (25%) of Nigerian immigrants in the D.C. metro area, ages 16 to 65, work in service occupations, compared to 20% of all other Nigerian immigrants in the United States. The main difference in the occupational data for these two groups is evident in the fourth top occupation. While Nigerian immigrants are employed in computer, engineering, and science occupations (8%), their counterparts in the rest of the United States are employed in education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations (10%). Overall, the slight differences in occupational data for Nigerian immigrants in the D.C. metro area and elsewhere in the United States may partially explain why the former group is more likely to earn a higher personal annual income. Nigerian immigrants in the D.C. metro area earn a median annual income of \$61,484 compared to \$52,649 for all other Nigerian immigrants in the United States. Moreover, 75% of Nigerian immigrants in the D.C. metro area earn \$40,000 or more for their personal annual income, compared to 66% of their counterparts in the rest of the United States.

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.

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.

**Nigerian Immigrants in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-MD-VA-WV, Metropolitan Area**



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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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