



Update from the American Community Survey

Demographic and School Enrollment Change, 2007-2012

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The demographic diversification of the Washington Metropolitan Area (WMA) continued in 2012. Between 2007 and 2012 the WMA's population increased from 5.31 million to 5.80 million, an increase of 498,000 people. Nearly all (92 percent) of the region's net population increase was in its non-White population. The WMA is now a "majority minority" region; as of 2012 just 48 percent of its total population is White, down from 51 percent in 2007.

Figure 1: Race/Ethnic Profile of WMA, 2007-2012

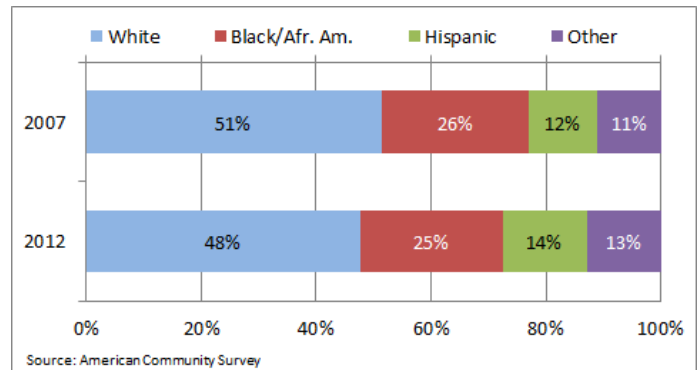


Table 1: Percent Change in Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2007-2012 in WMA* and Major Jurisdictions

Race/Ethnicity	WMA*	D.C.	Montgomery	Prince Geo.	Arlington	Fairfax	Lou-doun	Prince Wm.	Alexandria
White	1.5%	17.2%	-4.5%	-13.3%	7.4%	-0.1%	9.0%	8.9%	-5.7%
Black/Af. Am.	5.9%	-3.3%	12.9%	4.8%	30.2%	4.8%	11.8%	21.3%	1.7%
Hispanic	32.7%	28.0%	35.1%	37.5%	4.9%	31.2%	50.9%	30.2%	36.5%
Other	29.1%	27.3%	21.0%	17.9%	2.7%	33.6%	58.2%	50.3%	36.1%
Total Pop.	9.4%	7.5%	7.9%	6.3%	8.1%	10.7%	20.8%	19.4%	4.5%

*Washington Metropolitan Area

Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

The region's White and Black/African American populations grew slowly between 2007 and 2012. The White population only increased by 1.5 percent and declined in several major jurisdictions, including Prince George's, Montgomery, Alexandria, and Fairfax. The only jurisdiction in which the White population increased at a faster rate than the total regional growth rate was the District of Columbia, where the White population increased by 17.2 percent. The Black population increased by 5.9 percent regionally, with its most rapid growth occurring in Arlington (+30 percent) and Prince William (+21 percent), but the District of Columbia's Black population declined by 3.3 percent. As of 2012 D.C. is no longer majority Black; 51 percent of its population now belongs to other racial or ethnic groups.

Recent population growth in the Washington metro area has been paced by Hispanic (+42 percent) and Other¹ (+29 percent) populations; these two groups had the highest growth rates in nearly all major jurisdictions. The Hispanic population has grown fastest in Loudoun (+51 percent), Prince George’s (+38 percent), Alexandria (+37 percent) and Montgomery (+35 percent). The population belonging to other racial/ethnic groups, predominantly Asians, has increased most rapidly in Northern Virginia, particularly Loudoun (+58 percent) and Prince William (+50 percent). The lone exception to these trends has been in Arlington, where there was very little growth in the Hispanic or Other populations.

Table 2: Percent Change in Elementary and Secondary School Enrollment* by Ethnicity, 2007-2012 Washington Metropolitan Area (WMA) and Major Jurisdictions

Race/ Ethnicity	WMA	D.C.	Mont- gomery	Prince Geo.	Arling- ton ²	Fairfax	Lou- doun	Prince Wm.	Alex- andria
Hispanic	41.0%	66.6%	41.2%	37.6%	-9.5%	33.4%	75.7%	48.1%	26.5%
Non-Hispanic	-0.3%	-7.6%	-1.3%	-9.8%	-1.1%	4.2%	22.0%	7.5%	-17.9%
All Students	5.2%	-1.1%	5.4%	-3.3%	-2.9%	8.7%	27.1%	15.5%	-10.8%

* Includes all Pre K-Grade 12 students enrolled in public or private schools by jurisdiction of residence.
Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

Demographic changes among students enrolled in primary and secondary schools in the Washington area have been even more dramatic than for the overall population. Between 2007 and 2012 the number of PreK-12 students in the Washington metro area increased from 1.03 million to 1.08 million (+5.2 percent). Enrollment increased fastest in the outlying jurisdictions of Loudoun (+27 percent) and Prince William (+16 percent), but declined in Alexandria, Prince George’s, Arlington, and the District of Columbia.

The region’s schools are experiencing rapid increases in Hispanic enrollment. The region’s Hispanic student base increased from 137,000 in 2007 to 193,000 in 2012, a 41 percent growth rate. During the same period non-Hispanic enrollment in the region decreased. Significant growth in the Hispanic student population occurred in nearly all jurisdictions, even those like Alexandria, Prince George’s, and D.C. that had overall enrollment decreases. The lone exception was Arlington, where the number of Hispanic students actually declined by 9.5 percent²; this is probably because its high and rising housing costs have priced out many Hispanic families.

GMU Center for Regional Analysis

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The Center for Regional Analysis has become the “go-to” organization for economic, demographic and housing data and analysis in the Washington region and is regularly cited as the source of information for the media, research scholars, and investors interested in understanding the regional economy. CRA posts research reports, presentations, data and other information on our website at cra.gmu.edu.

Updates from the American Community Survey

The Center for Regional Analysis issue periodic reports on demographic and economic topics based on newly released data from the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides detailed data every year about states, metropolitan areas, counties and cities. The ACS is based on sampled data; its results therefore have a margin of error. More information about the ACS can be found at www.census.gov/acs.

¹ Includes American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific, Some other race, and Two or more races.

² This figure is for all students living in Arlington County enrolled in either public or private schools. Arlington Public Schools student demographic data reveals a 1.4% increase in the Hispanic student population between 2007 and 2012.