Assessing the Status and Needs of Children and Youth in the National Capital Region

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Child Trends
Washington, DC

Prepared for Venture Philanthropy Partners
Revised September, 2012

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful for Child Trends reviewers of this report, including Carol Emig, Kristin A. Moore, Daniel Princiotta, Karin Malm, and Tamara Halle. Additional Child Trends staff assisted with the report: Tawana Bandy, Alison Chrisler, and Samantha Goldhagen.

We have benefitted greatly from comments on an earlier, "interim" version of this report, provided by Venture Philanthropy Partners (VPP) staff, including Carol Thompson Cole, Shirley Marcus-Allen, Eleanor Rutland, Marc Schindler, and Ayo Atterberry, as well as VPP's "thought partners," including Karla Bruce, Paul DesJardin, Sophia Dutton, Jesse Ellis, Kate Garvey, Angela Jones Hackley, Patricia Harrison, Patricia Mathews, and Laura Speer.

Many thanks to our GIS partner for this report, New Light Technologies, Inc., and in particular the work of Victoria Johnson.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts of the many organizations, and their staff, who contributed data for this report. Without their cooperation, it would be a much less helpful product. We list them here in alphabetical order; we apologize if we have inadvertently omitted one or more of our data partners.

Cheryl Banks, Community Educator, Montgomery County Child Welfare Services
L. Kai Boggess-de Bruin, Assistant Director of Quality Assurance and Compliance, Prince George's County Department of Social Services
Kamilah Bunn, Child Welfare Program Manager, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Natasha Cenatus, FOIA Officer, Metropolitan Police Department
Jennifer Comey, The Urban Institute, Washington, DC
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District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education
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Janice Johnson, Branch Chief, Maryland State Department of Education
Fern Johnson-Clarke, District of Columbia Department of Health
KIDS COUNT Data Center: http://datacenter.kidscount.org/
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William McMakin, Virginia Department of Social Services
Ellie Mitchell, Director, Maryland Out of School Time Network
Michael Pautz, Supervisor, Maryland State Department of Education
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the University of Wisconsin Population Institute. County Health Rankings. Retrieved from www.countyhealthrankings.org
Nisha Sachdev, Research and Evaluation Manager, DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation
Cheryl Strobel, Virginia Department of Education Office of Early Childhood Development
Kristi S. Wright, Department of Legislative and Public Relations, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia

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Introduction

The National Capital Region (NCR) is home to more than one-and-a-half million children and youth (ages birth through 24 years). Although the NCR is known as a place with a highly transient population, if history is any guide, many of these young people will remain in this region and fundamentally shape the quality of life—not only for themselves, but for the region's economic, political, social, and cultural life for years to come. This rising generation will truly have an enormous effect on the Region's future. That influence can be positive; after all, our youth represent substantial potential human capital. This generation is maturing in an environment where access to knowledge, tools for communication and networking, and a premium on innovation have perhaps never been greater.

On the other hand, many young people in the Region face enormous challenges—barriers that not only threaten their chances of personal success and undermine their contribution to the future vitality of the Region, but that will surely (if not addressed forthrightly) act as a heavy brake on the Region's progress. Dealing with these challenges can divert resources that *should* go toward sustaining the kind of vibrant, globally competitive, metropolitan area the Region must remain into costly responses that aim to control, contain, and treat problems. The latter spending stream, the way of "fixing problems," while all too familiar, is one the Region can little afford.

Early intervention, or early investment, is by no means assured. Indeed, the track record of jurisdictions across our country is not as strong as the need is evident. A great deal of political will is required to move from the prevalent frame of "crisis management" to a culture of pro-active, future-oriented planning and action. This is in spite of accumulating evidence that the "early investment" approach yields impressive pay-offs—not just in human capital, but in the dollars-and-cents arena of social spending.

The basis for good decision-making, however, is information. Too often, priorities are determined more by who can speak the loudest, reach the most influential audience, or tell the slickest story. A comprehensive, baseline assessment of the status of children and youth in the NCR is a prerequisite for identifying needs, making the case for investing in youth, determining specific priorities (for example, by age-group, well-being domain, geographic sub-region, or demographic sub-group), and tracking progress over time. Such a measurement-based approach, while familiar to anyone who runs a business, is still relatively new when it comes to community planning. Nonetheless, it is the only way to ensure that decisions are grounded in facts, rather than in anecdotes or preconceived ideas.

A regional approach acknowledges that political/jurisdictional boundaries are, for many purposes, less important for understanding well-being than are the patterns of residence, job location, use of services and amenities, and transportation. This is particularly true

in a metropolitan area like the NCR, where there are wide disparities in housing costs, as well as in access to well-paying jobs. These disparities (sometimes termed the "spatial mismatch") are, in turn, associated with significant well-being gaps (in health, school achievement, and other measures). These gaps are apparent already in early childhood, between low-income residents and those with more comfortable incomes, and between whites and non-whites.

The NCR has long been known as "a region divided," and history suggests that such divisions, when perpetuated and deepened, can lead to social strife—and to damaged communities. Even short of those extremes, the unbalanced distributions of economic development and affordable housing create distortions that affect family and community life. For example, when parents spend large amounts of time commuting to and from work, they have less time to spend with their children. Moreover, these commuters spend dollars in (and attract additional dollars to) communities that are not the ones where they and their children live, play, and, often, go to school.

This report is unusually comprehensive, along several dimensions. Its geographic scope includes three independent cities and six counties, in two states. Indicators reports focusing on children have, in the last couple of decades, become widespread, from a national level, to states, counties, and cities.[1] However, far fewer have attempted a regional approach that encompasses multiple political jurisdictions. From a developmental perspective, this report treats children and youth from birth through 24 years of age. Additionally, it encompasses a number of important well-being domains, including health and safety, family life, education, economic security, and more. Any one of these life-stages (for example, infancy, early childhood, adolescence), any one of these domains, or indeed any one of these civic jurisdictions, could easily be the subject of a separate report. This breadth is strength of the report. It highlights the reality that, despite the geographic, economic, and cultural differences across the Region, residents' current lives and their future well-being are intertwined. Like it or not, nearly all who live in the NCR are tied, to one degree or another, to the resources, the problems, and the aspirations of their Regional neighbors. Families and young people, in particular, will make important decisions—including whether to remain in the NCR or not—based upon how well the Region functions as a setting promoting a widely shared quality of life. Accordingly, we need to examine the strengths and challenges of the Region as a whole, so that it may prosper.

[1] The KIDS COUNT Project, of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, was an early leader in creating comparable state-level child indicator reports, as well as a national report. The Foundation for Child Development 's Child Well-Being Index, first developed for the U.S. as a whole, but recently modified to include state-level reporting, is another example of a multi-indicator assessment. The U.S. Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics publishes national-level data in its publication, *America's Children*.

Organization of this report

It is a challenge to develop a narrative that maintains some coherence across the geographic regions, age groups, and topics, while appropriately acknowledging the nuances that underlie all of these dimensions. Following this introductory section, the report is organized in the following indicator sections: demographic characteristics; pregnancy and birth outcomes; infant, child, and adolescent health and safety; economic well-being; child welfare; and education. For each indicator we discuss differences evident among the various jurisdictions of the NCR, as well as notable disparities along lines of gender, race/Hispanic origin, or age. For many of the indicators included in the report we briefly summarize the evidence on what "works" to improve conditions for youth (the "Looking Toward Solutions" textboxes). We draw upon Child Trends' LINKS database ("Lifecourse Interventions to Nurture Kids Successful"), which includes more than 500 evaluations of random-assignment studies—those found to be effective and those found to be not effective.[2] Rather than identify particular programs here, we have summarized some of the common characteristics of effective programs. Much more information on evidence-based programs and practices is widely available, from Child Trends and other research clearinghouses. We caution, however, that for many of the indicators, the knowledge base is still developing.

The report concludes with a summary of some key knowledge gaps, and some general comments about interpretation. Of necessity, our approach here is to highlight the information that is most readily available—and comparable—across the nine jurisdictions of the NCR. Much of the challenge of a Regional needs assessment that spans so many political jurisdictions has to do with the difficulty of obtaining data that "line up" across the Region, that is, data that share common definitions and common years of reporting. We note, within each section, particular "gaps" that exist in the data we present. We have not, however, let the absence, in some cases, of comparable data throughout the NCR prevent us from presenting partial data.

A note on data sources

Census Bureau data. One primary source for the information in this report is the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS, which has largely replaced the once-every-ten-years Census, uses a continuous data-collection methodology to obtain samples representative of geographic areas as large as states and as small as Census blocks. The trade-offs for this geographic specificity is the precision of the estimates and timeliness. In order to produce samples large enough to yield reliable estimates, only data for areas with populations more than 65,000 (which in the NCR excludes Falls Church, and all DC Wards) are available on an annual basis. In order to examine smaller areas (for example, portions of counties), data must be aggregated up from smaller Census units—typically, cities or "places"—which may include at least some jurisdictions with fewer than 65,000 residents. If the units of analysis for aggregation include only communities with at least 20,000 residents, then data are available for a three-year

[2] www.childtrends.org/whatworks

time-span (e.g., 2008-10). However, if any of the communities included within an aggregation hold fewer than 20,000 people, then estimates are available only for a five-year time window (e.g., 2006-10).

Practically, this means that, for purposes of this report, we have chosen to take a fairly "top-level" view—that is, relying on 2010 ACS data for counties, and for the independent cities of Alexandria, and the District of Columbia. The independent city of Falls Church is a special case, because its total population is only approximately 12,000. Therefore, the most recent ACS data for Falls Church are for the period 2006-10. Likewise, when it comes to Wards in the District, we rely upon aggregation of census-tract-level data, also from the 2006-10 ACS.

Vital statistics. Together with Census Bureau data, vital statistics are one of the few sources of data that are comparable across the NCR. The vital statistics system within each state or county consists of a set of commonly defined data elements that conform to standards established by the National Center for Health Statistics. Thus, there is assurance that such measures as low birthweight, births to teens, and mortality adhere to a consistent definition, comparable across all reporting areas. The limitation of vital statistics for purposes of a community needs assessment is that, with the exception of some key indicators around pregnancy and birth, they are limited to rather stark indicators of survival. Another challenge for a region such as the NCR is that jurisdictions vary in the most recent year for which vital statistics have been reported.

Administrative data. Data collected pursuant to the mission of a variety of public agencies and departments constitute a third major source of information for this report. These include such familiar institutions as schools, child welfare agencies, public assistance programs, law enforcement agencies, and courts. Administrative data are a rich, generally under-utilized source of information on very large numbers of residents, as their lives are "touched" by multiple public systems over time. However, because most of these systems are regulated and administered under state or local rules, they may follow a variety of practices with respect to eligibility, definitions of services, outreach and "coverage." Obviously, while they do include large numbers of individuals, administrative data are generally not representative of the entire population of a region, but rather of certain sub-groups or service populations: all public-school-enrolled students, for example, or all recipients of Medicaid. Moreover, although public access to some data (particularly school data) is required under law, the state, county, or municipal agencies responsible for administrative data generally have few incentives to make them available, particularly in the form that researchers may request. Involved are real issues of staff capacity and concerns about protecting client confidentiality, as well as, at times, a reluctance to make public data that may not reflect well upon their operations. Finally, as is the case with all data that rely on people to record the information, administrative data are subject to a variety of human errors in data entry.

Survey data. A final information source to note here is (non-Census Bureau) survey data. Surveys are often the most efficient means to supply data that cannot be obtained in other ways—for example, information on health behaviors, on knowledge and attitudes, and

on the accessibility of services. However, surveys, particularly those that seek to be representative of a population and those that are able to break down the results by various sub-groupings, are expensive and (for that reason) infrequently undertaken. Still rarer are surveys designed to yield data comparable across multiple geographic regions, such as those that compose the NCR.

Of course, these are not the only kinds of data that could (and should) inform a comprehensive needs assessment. Collecting input from a number of community stakeholders—primarily residents, but also service providers, businesses, and public officials who may not themselves reside in the NCR—is important to form a comprehensive, nuanced portrait of the Region. Often, these informants can provide either corroboration for, or important caveats to, the objective data. Additionally, they are likely to have insight into emerging trends that these data, because of time-lags associated with collecting and reporting, have not yet shown. Community informants have an on-the-ground perspective that can bring to the fore important context, and can highlight, in personal terms, the implications which the aggregate data can only begin to suggest. We recommend that this report figure in a wider community conversation (which could include interviews, focus groups, and community forums).

A note on units of geographical analysis

The appropriate scale, geographically speaking, for examining community well-being is far from settled. Whether one's interest is primarily in simply describing variation within a region on one or more indicators, or in understanding the effects of neighborhood/community characteristics on individual-level well-being, there is little consensus in the field on what is the optimal geographic unit of analysis—except that, in general, the more local, the better. It is well-recognized that aggregate data can mask any number of disparities—including those associated with locale—that are associated with sub-groupings within the data. However, some disparities likely exist at *any* geographic level one may choose: county-level data obscure community-level differences; community-level data obscure neighborhood-level differences; neighborhood-level differences (assuming we have agreement on how to define neighborhood) may mask still other types of variation. Nevertheless, the ideal would seem to be to have data at a level that comports with how residents identify their own "community."

However, there are a number of non-obvious difficulties with this approach. There are some events widely considered to be important markers of well-being—child maltreatment, for example, or low birthweight infants—that have such low prevalence in the population, that, when tabulated for especially small geographies, result in rates that are prone to the inherent instability (and, therefore, unreliability) of small numbers. (Think of how one additional infant death in a community might result in a doubling of its rate of infant mortality.) There are strategies to address this issue—"smoothing" the data by using multi-year averages, for instance—or by enlarging the geographic area, which violates the desire for optimal specificity.

Often, the decision is based on how the large majority of the relevant data are coded and/or made publicly available. In public administration, all sorts of designations are used—from census tracts, to water treatment districts, planning areas, townships, hospital

service areas, Census-designated places, Wards, Zip codes, and so on. But many of these were created for political purposes, or to facilitate the management of particular services; and many of these boundaries change over time. There are few geographic "common denominators" with which to bring together the sort of comprehensive data on well-being from disparate sources that we aim to present here.

The advent of sophisticated geographic information systems will perhaps one day enable data records to be aggregated to any number of different levels. In the meantime, however, we have used designations for this report—counties, cities, and (for the District) Wards—which we know are not ideal, but which can serve as a starting point for the more fine-grained discussions we hope will ensue from the report.

A note on years included for the indicators

Our aim in this report is primarily to provide baseline data for children and youth in the NCR—a foundation from which to measure changes in future years. In most cases, we are able to present data for 2010, although some administrative data are for 2011, and some kinds of data with typically long lag-times (most vital statistics) are no more recent than 2008. Where the recentness of data varies by jurisdiction, we have included the most recent year available. For Falls Church, in particular, most Census Bureau data is for the five-year period from 2006-2010, because sample sizes for communities of this size are insufficient for reporting on an annual basis; the same applies to Wards in the District, because they are aggregates of census tracts.

In general, single-point-in-time data are less informative than having multiple data points; this is especially true in the case of smaller populations (like those in most of the NCR jurisdictions), because of the already noted volatility of "small numbers." Of course, apart from contributing to more robust long-term estimates, multi-year data can suggest trends—directions that can inform projections of where things are headed. To that end, for many indicators we have included, where available, data from 2000, and from a mid-point year (generally, 2005 or 2006). To preserve readability, many of these more detailed multi-year tables can be found in the Appendix, beginning on page 141.

Demographic characteristics

In this section, we provide information on the demographic characteristics of children and youth in the NCR, including information on the overall number and percentage of children and youth, the racial and Hispanic-origin composition of this population, the presence of children in immigrant families, residential mobility, family structure, and the ratio of working-age adults to children.

Understanding the demographic composition, including indicators such as family structure and racial/ethnic identity, of the NCR and its various sub-regions, is important for interpreting many of the other indicators in this report.

Youth population

It is common knowledge that the NCR attracts a young and diverse population. Indeed, as of 2010, nearly one-third of the total population is younger than 25, although that figure varies substantially from a low of 25 percent (in Alexandria), to a high of 37 percent (in Prince William County). (See Figures 1 and 2, and Appendix Table A1) The NCR under-25 population in 2010 is a slightly smaller share of the total than it was in 2000: 33 versus 34 percent. Over the decade, the shares of the NCR population represented by the youngest groups (0-4, 5-9, and 10-14 years) declined slightly, while those for the older groups of youth (15-19, and 20-24 years) increased slightly.

The population-share of the *youngest* children (ages birth through four years) is greatest in the Virginia counties of Loudoun and Prince William (nine and eight percent, respectively), and is lowest in the District and in Arlington (five and six percent, respectively). The percentage of children in the roughly *school-age group* (ages 5-19) is also highest in Loudoun and Prince William Counties (24 and 23 percent, respectively), and lowest in Arlington and Alexandria (11 and 12 percent, respectively). *Young adults* (ages 20-24) are most heavily represented in the District (11 percent), and are least prevalent in Falls Church (four percent).

The age-distribution of the NCR has shifted between 2000 and 2010, with declining percentages of young children, and rising percentages of teens and young adults. This shift is most pronounced in Prince George's County. However, Montgomery County and the District also saw the proportion of young adults (ages 20-24) rise considerably. In Alexandria, by contrast, the proportions of both teens (ages 15-19) and young adults declined, while the share of infants and preschoolers (ages birth to four) rose. (See Appendix Table A1)

Figure 1. Percentage of total population in the NCR, by age group, 2000 and 2010

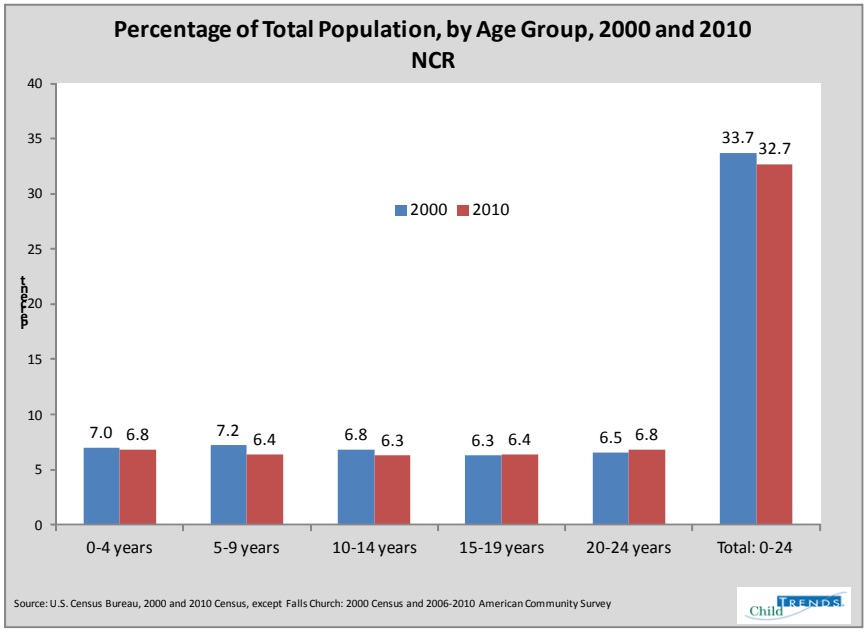
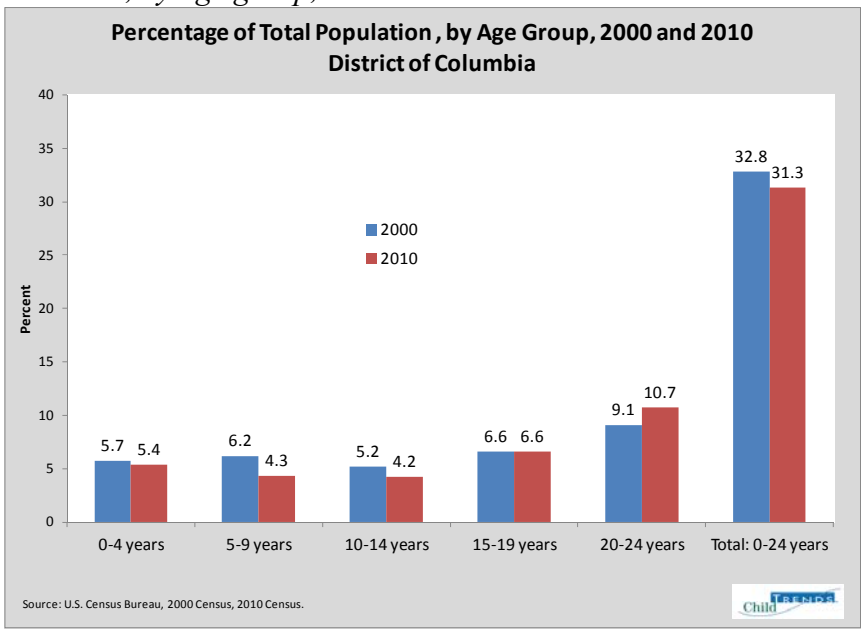
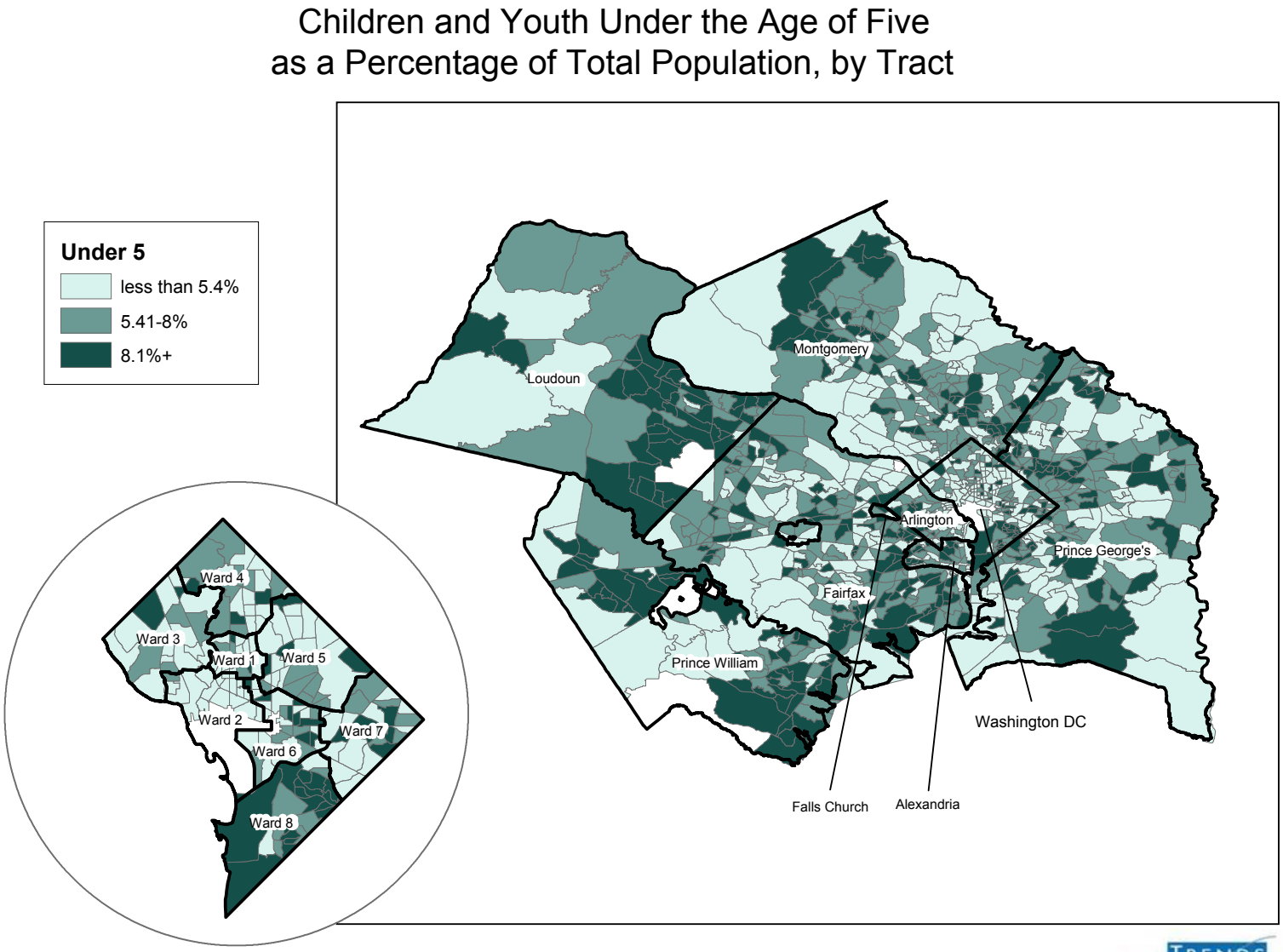


Figure 2 Percentage of total population in the District of Columbia, by age group, 2000 and 2010



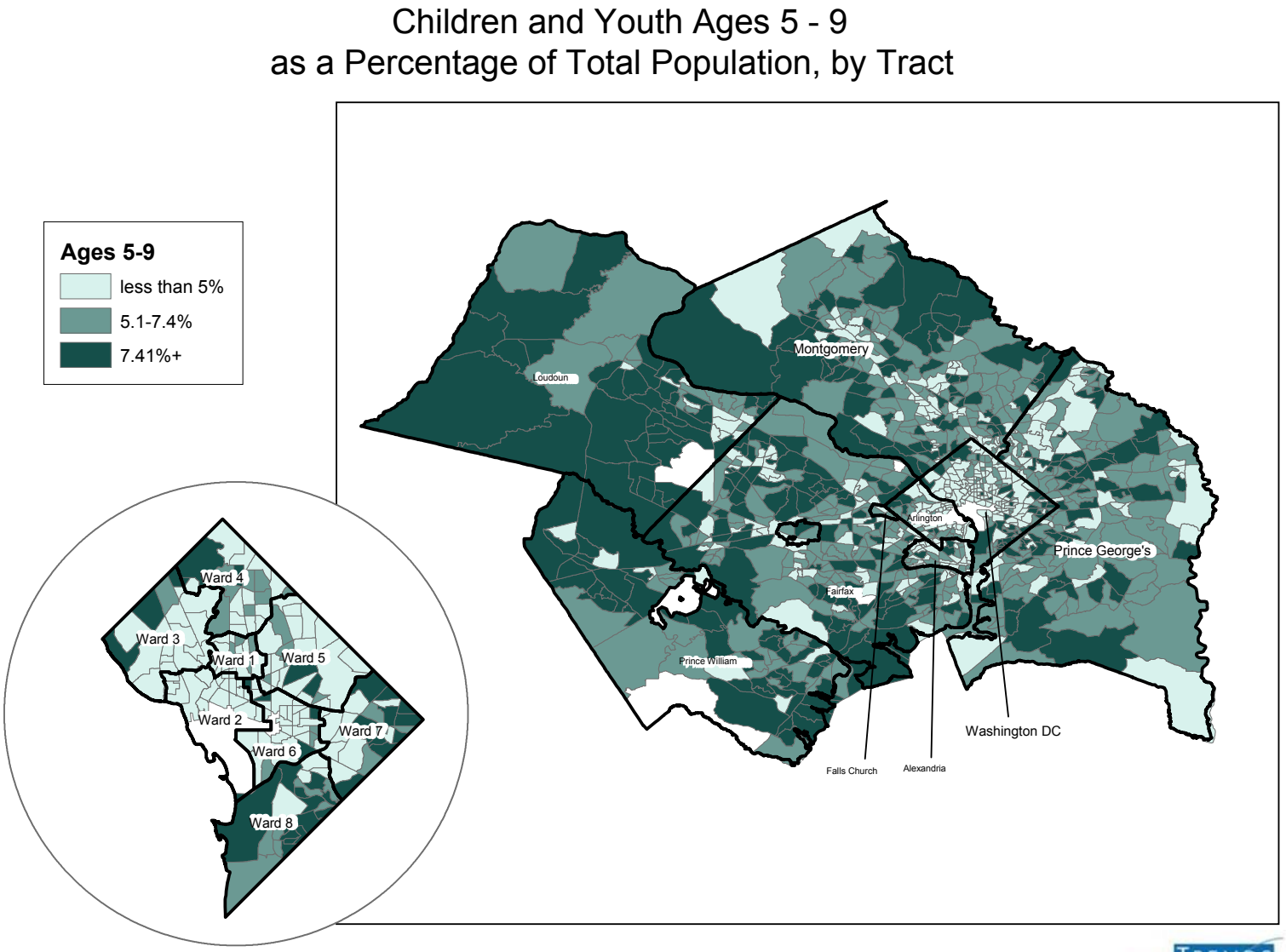
Key Finding: **1.5 million children and youth (ages 0-24) make up nearly one in three residents of the National Capital Region.**

Figure 3. Population share by census tract, 2010: Ages birth to 4 years



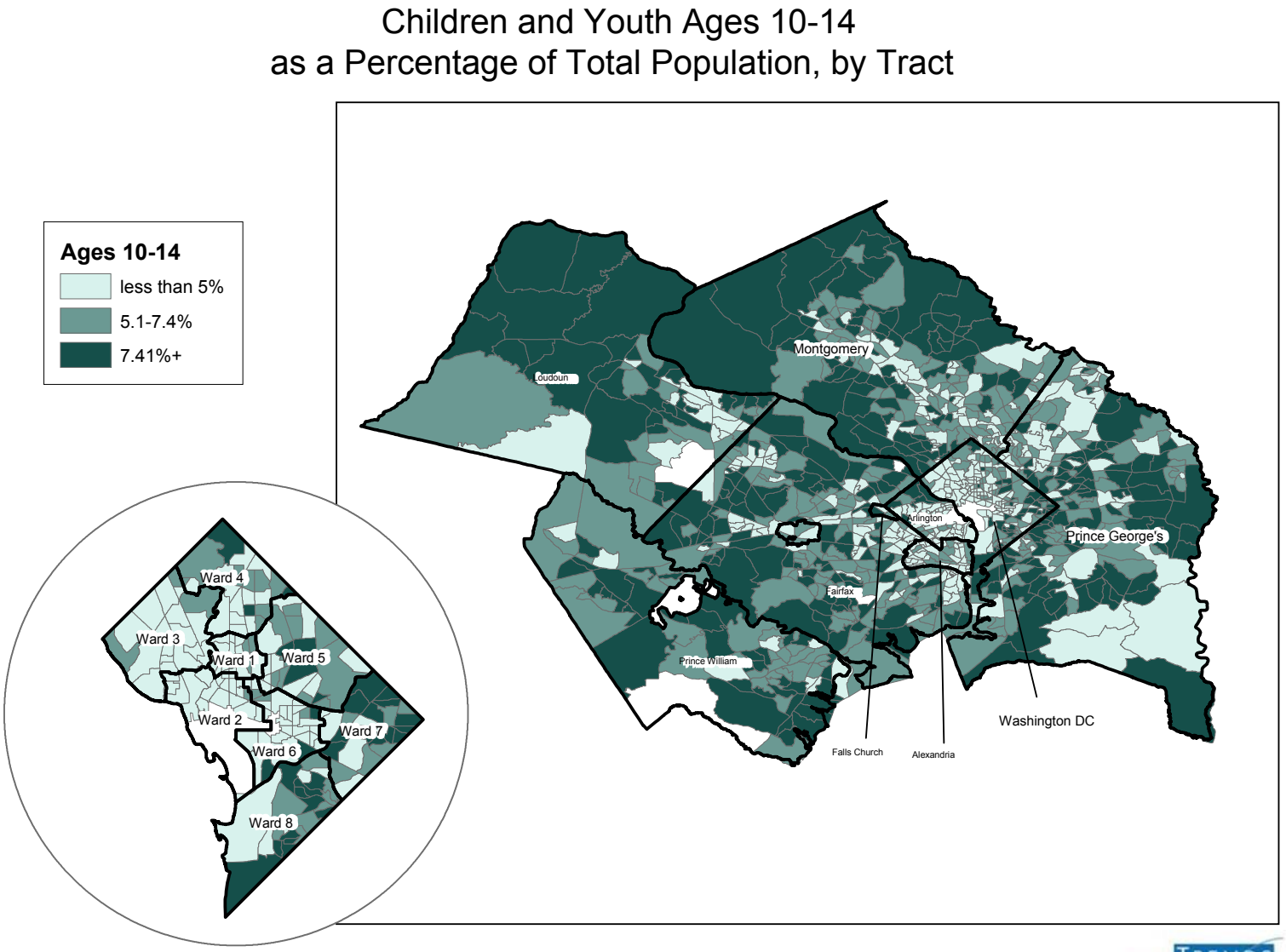
Source: 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Survey

Figure 4. Population share by census tract, 2010: Ages 5 to 9 years



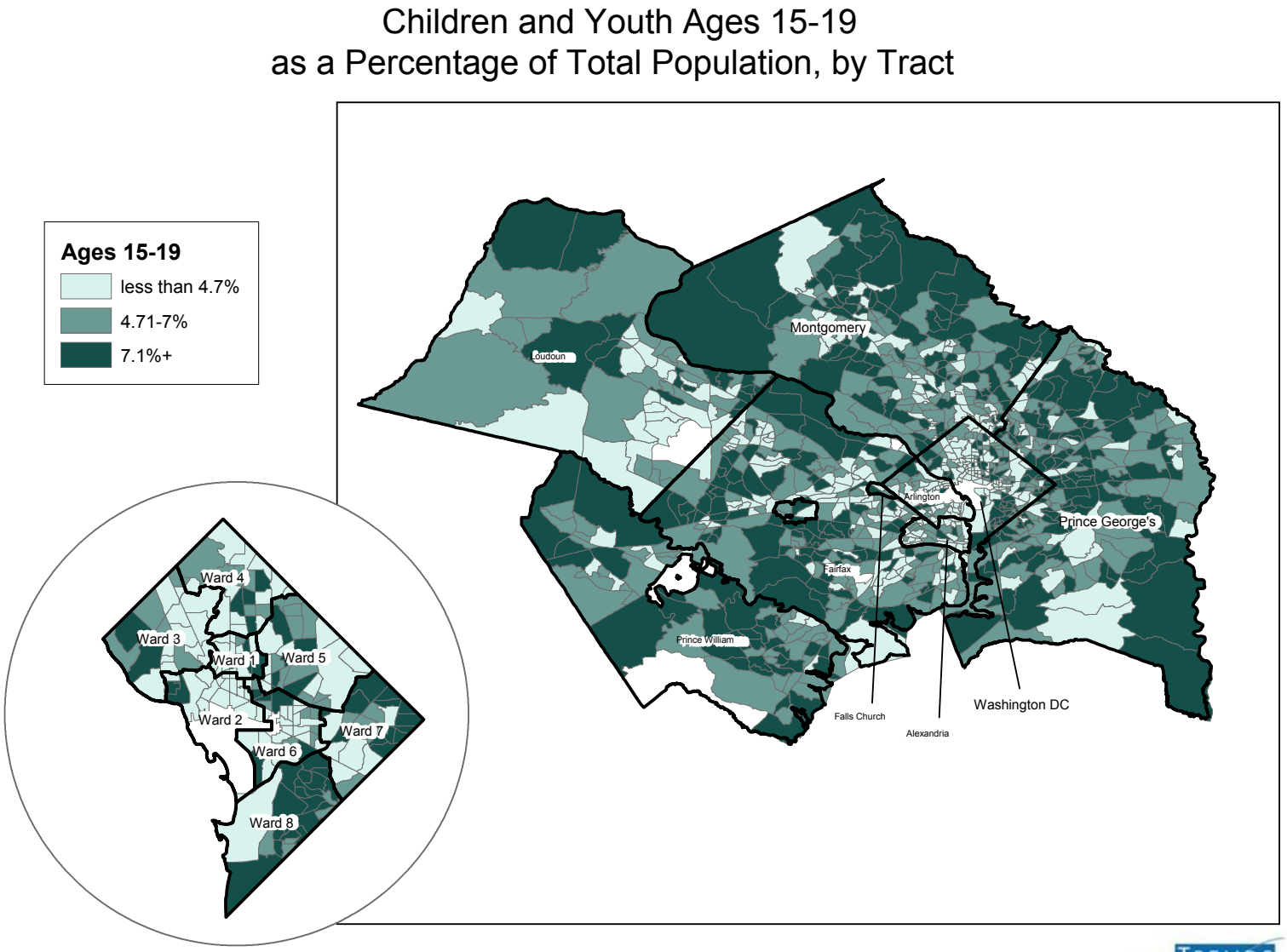
Source: 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Survey

Figure 5. Population share by census tract, 2010: Ages 10 to14 years



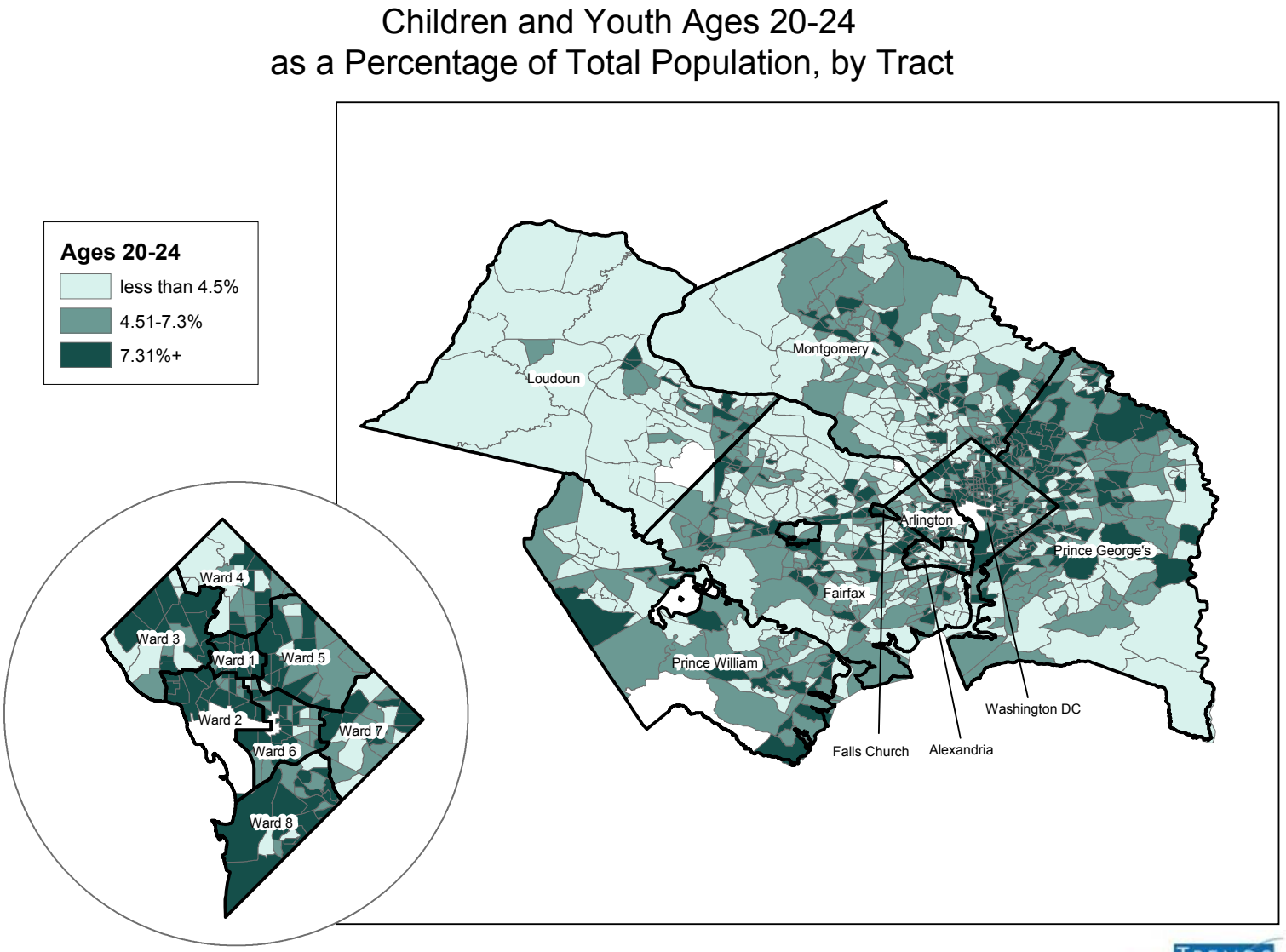
Source: 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Survey

Figure 6. Population share by census tract, 2010: Ages 15 to19 years.



Source: 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Survey

Figure 7. Population share by census tract, 2010: Ages 20 to24 years



Source: 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Survey

Race/Hispanic origin

The NCR can be considered in the vanguard of a national trend, led by the young, that is transforming the U.S. into a nation of "minorities." In the NCR as a whole, in no age group of children and youth does any single race/ethnicity category account for more than 40 percent of the total population. (See Figures 8 through 23, and Appendix Table A2) Non-Hispanic[3] whites constitute the single largest category within each age group, overall, but within sub-regions that is not always the case. In Prince George's County, blacks[4] constitute the majority in all age groups (as they do in the District), with the exception of 20- to 24-year olds.

In several sub-regions, Hispanics account for the second-largest category across many age groups; this is the case in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties, and in Falls Church. Asians account for roughly one in six children and youth in Fairfax County and about one in eight in Loudoun and Montgomery Counties and Falls Church, but fewer than one in ten in other parts of the NCR.

Of course, the NCR also includes substantial numbers of young people self-identified as belonging to other, or mixed, racial/ethnic categories, but our analysis here is limited to major groups (non-Hispanic whites, blacks, Asians, and Hispanics of any race), primarily because there are unacceptably large margins-of-error associated with estimates for the smaller groups when tabulated at these local levels.

As shown in Figures 10-13, the distribution of young people belonging to these major groups follows fairly distinct patterns. The young white population is concentrated in Loudoun and Arlington Counties, and secondarily in Fairfax County. The young black population is centered on Prince George's County and the District. Young Hispanics are concentrated in Montgomery and Prince William Counties. The young Asian population is centered in Fairfax County.

Between 2000 and 2010, changes in the racial/ethnic composition of the NCR differed somewhat by age group. Among children younger than five, the Hispanic proportion increased by more than 60 percent, and the Asian proportion by more than a third, while the shares of this group who were non-Hispanic white or black declined by 14 and nine percent, respectively. The pattern was similar in the five-to-nine age group, where the proportions of Asians and Hispanics rose by 43 and 67 percent, respectively, and in the 10-14 age group. Changes over the decade were less pronounced in the older age groups. Among 15- to 19-year-olds, increases of 13 and 31 percent, respectively, in the share of Asians and Hispanics, were paralleled by decreases of 14 and three percent, respectively, for whites and blacks. Among young adults (20-24 years), the proportions of blacks and Asians were unchanged, while an increased share of Hispanics was balanced by a decrease in the proportion of whites.

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[3] In this report, we use the term, "Hispanic," rather than alternatives such as Latino. We recognize that there are different preferences on this point.
[4] In this report, we use the term, "black," rather than alternatives such as African American. We recognize that there are different preferences on this point.

Key Finding: **Within the National Capital Region, children and youth are a tapestry of minorities, with no racial/ethnic group comprising more than 40 percent of any age group.**

Figure 8. Percentage of children in the NCR, by race/Hispanic origin and age 2000

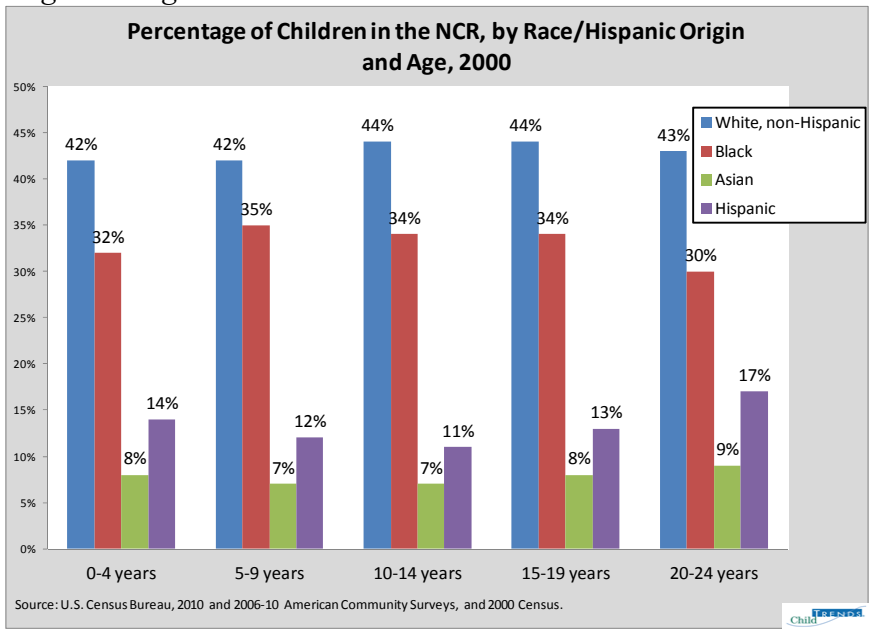


Figure 9. Percentage of children in the NCR, by race/Hispanic origin and age 2010

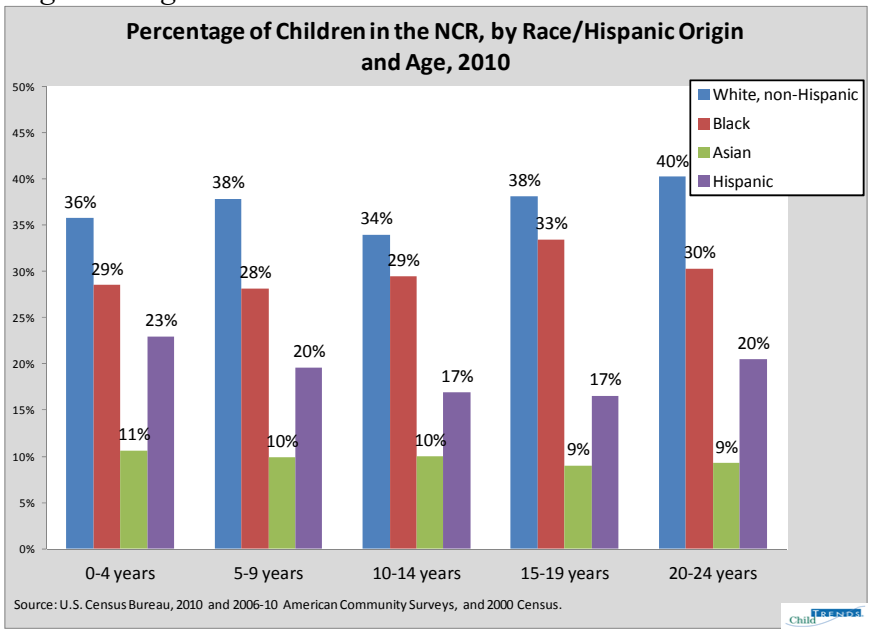
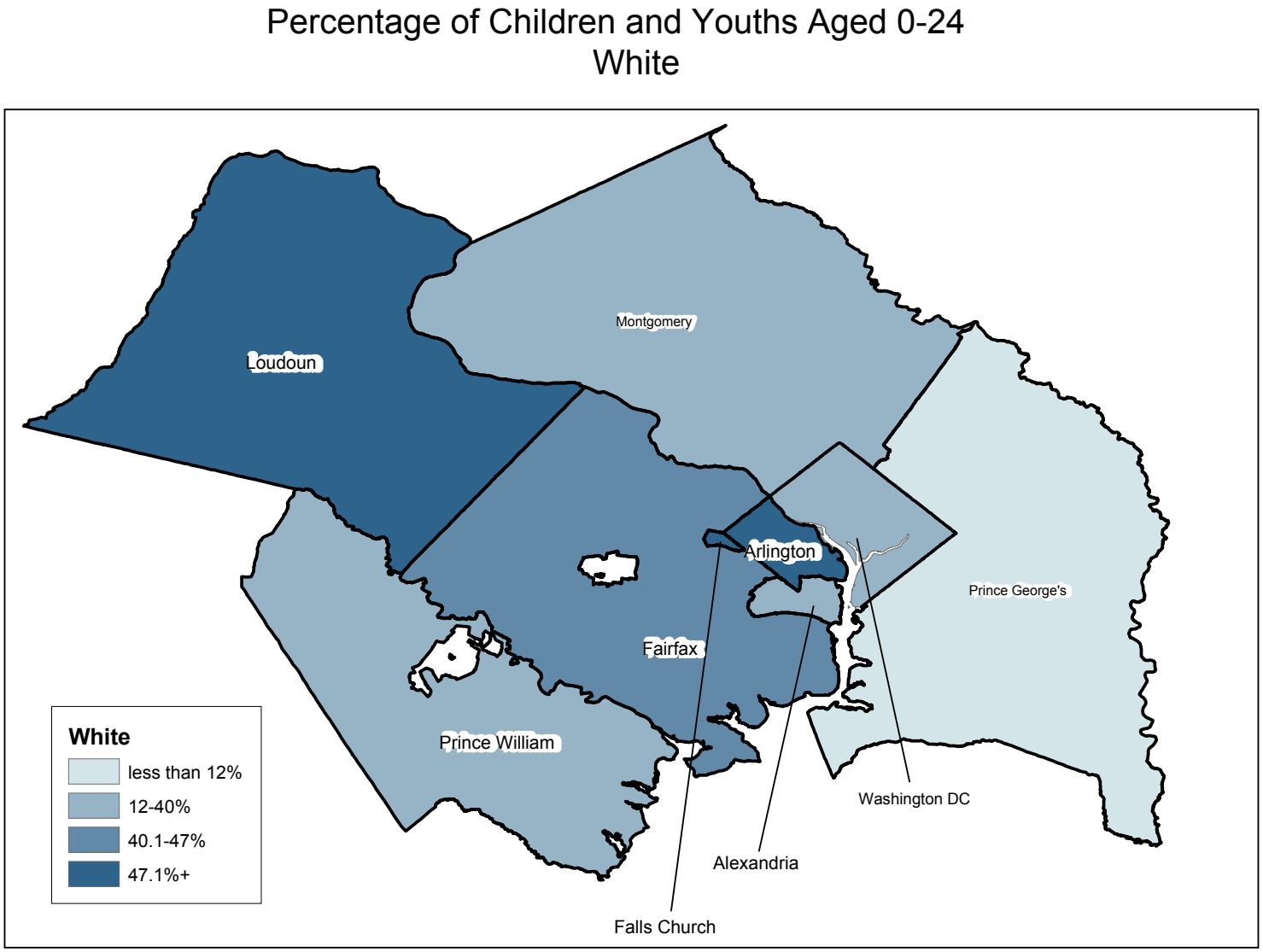
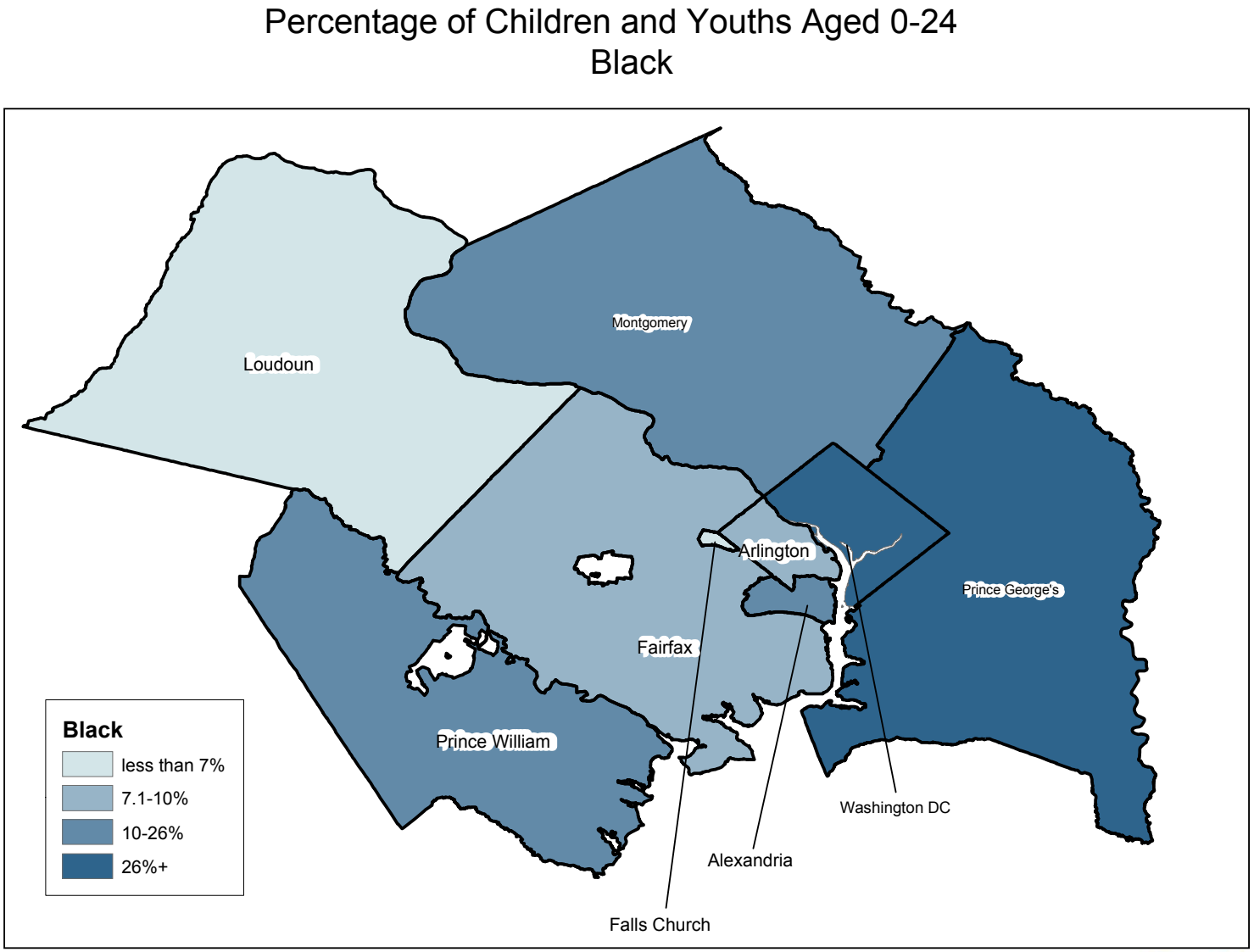


Figure 10. Percentage of children and youth who are white, by region



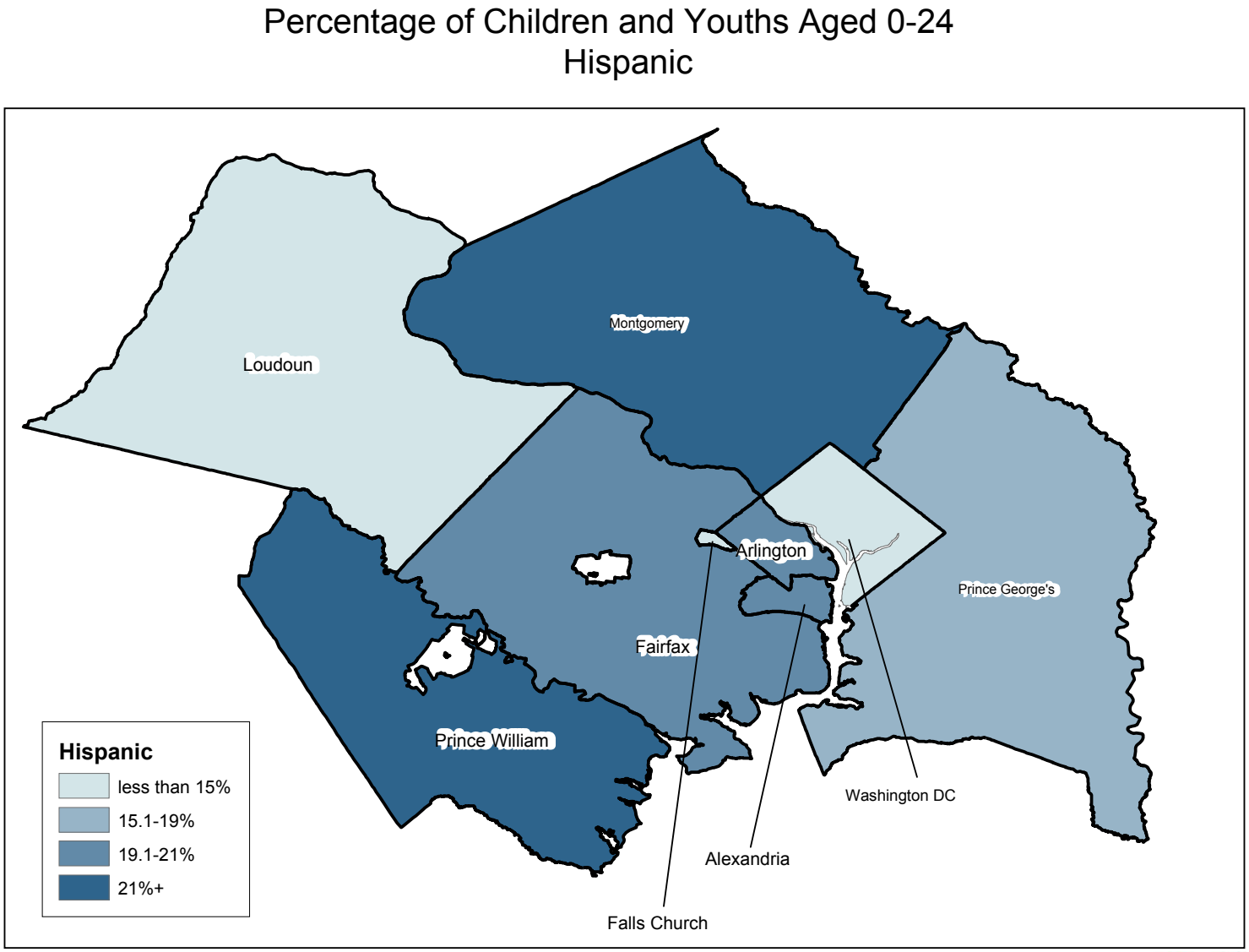
Source: 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Survey

Figure 11. Percentage of children and youth who are black, by region



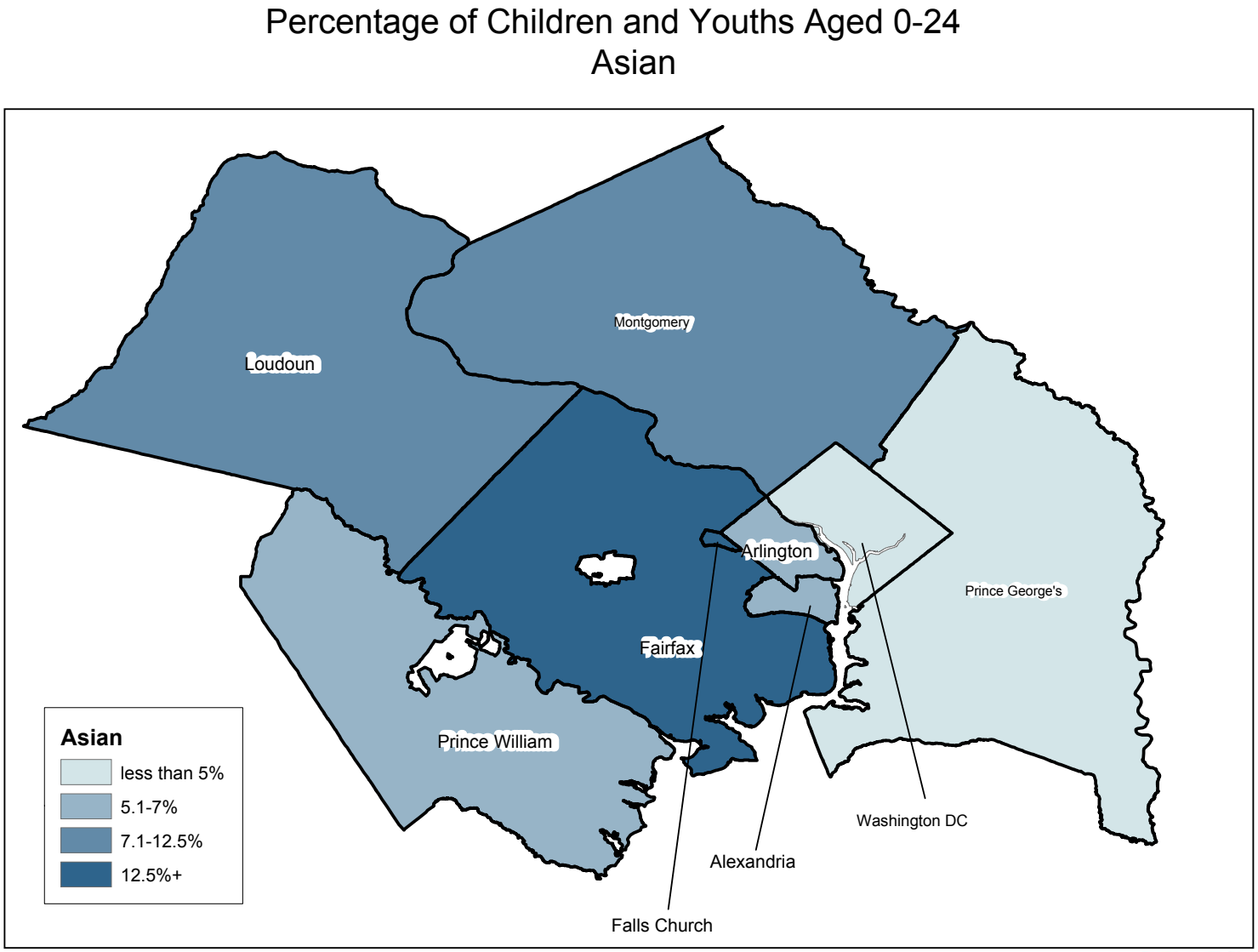
Source: 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Survey

Figure 12. Percentage of children and youth who are Hispanic, by region



Source: 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Survey

Figure 13. Percentage of children and youth who are Asian, by region



Source: 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Survey

Figure 14. Percentage of children in the NCR, by race/Hispanic origin, ages 0-4 years, 2000 and 2010

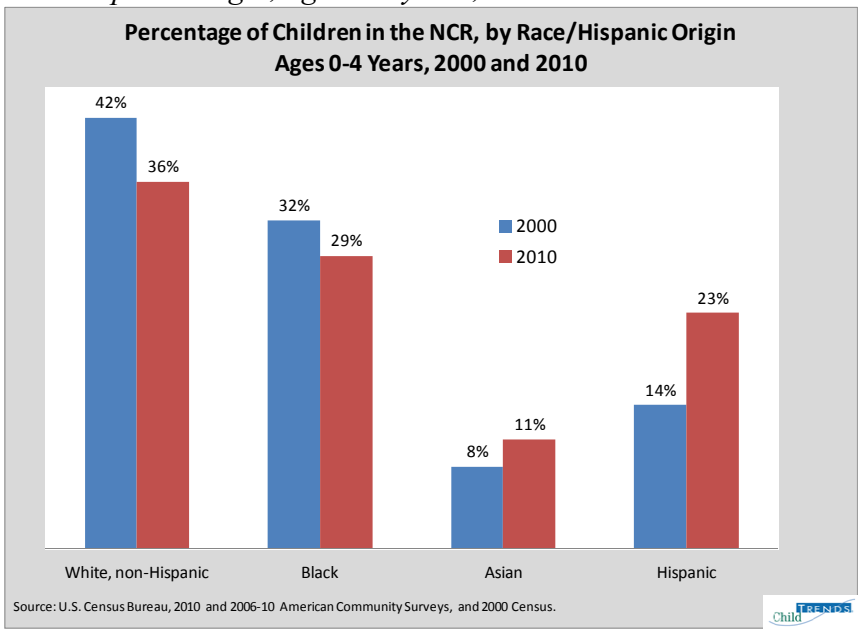


Figure 15. Percentage of children in the District of Columbia, by race/Hispanic origin, ages 0-4 years, 2010

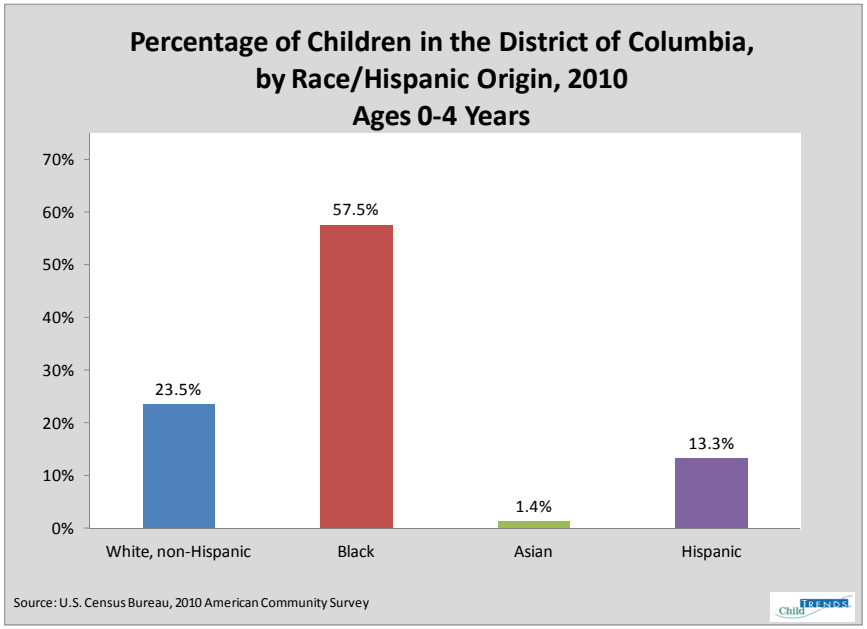


Figure 16. Percentage of children in the NCR, by race/Hispanic origin, ages 5-9 years, 2000 and 2010

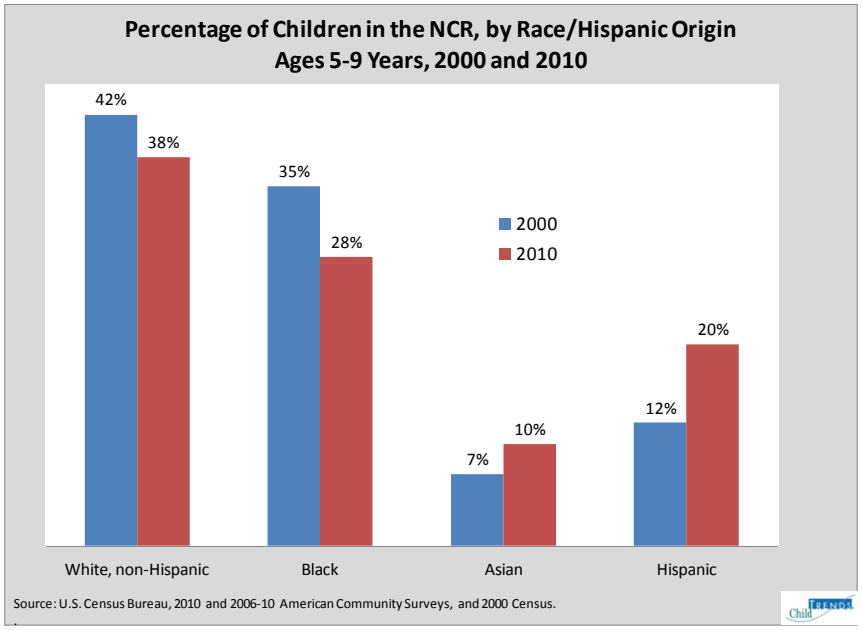


Figure 17. Percentage of children in the District of Columbia, by race/Hispanic origin, ages 5-9 years, 2010

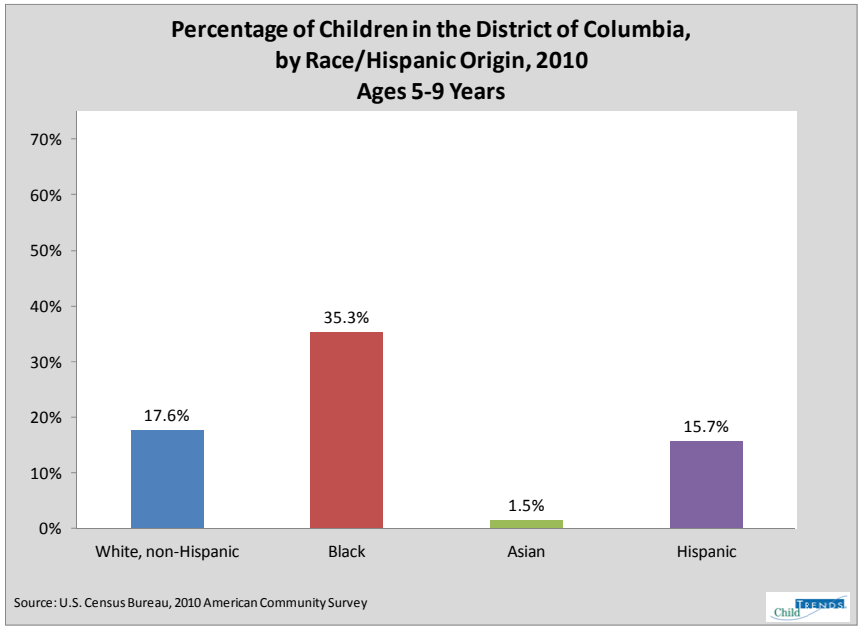


Figure 18. Percentage of children in the NCR, by race/Hispanic origin, ages 10-14 years, 2000 and 2010

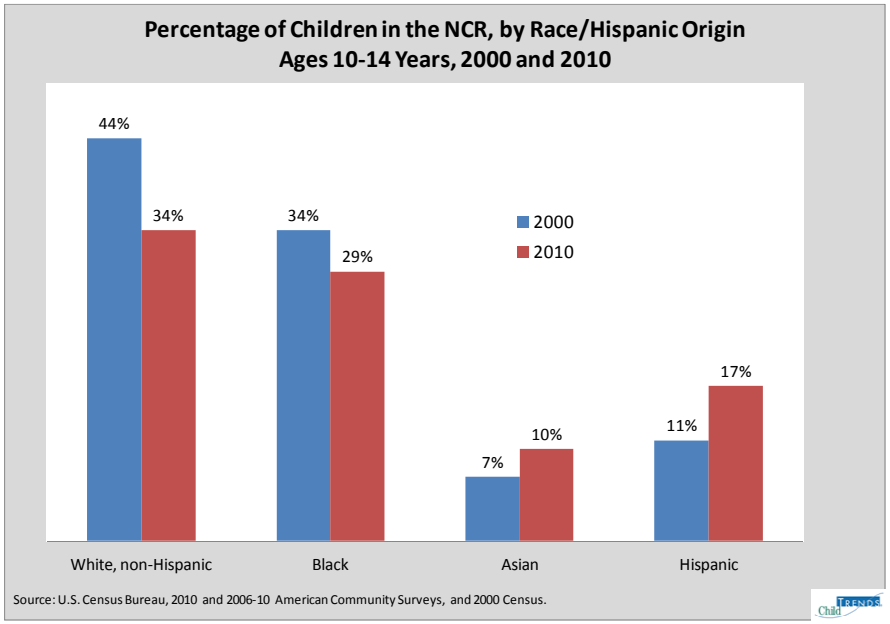


Figure 19. Percentage of children in the District of Columbia, by race/Hispanic origin, ages 10-14 years, 2010

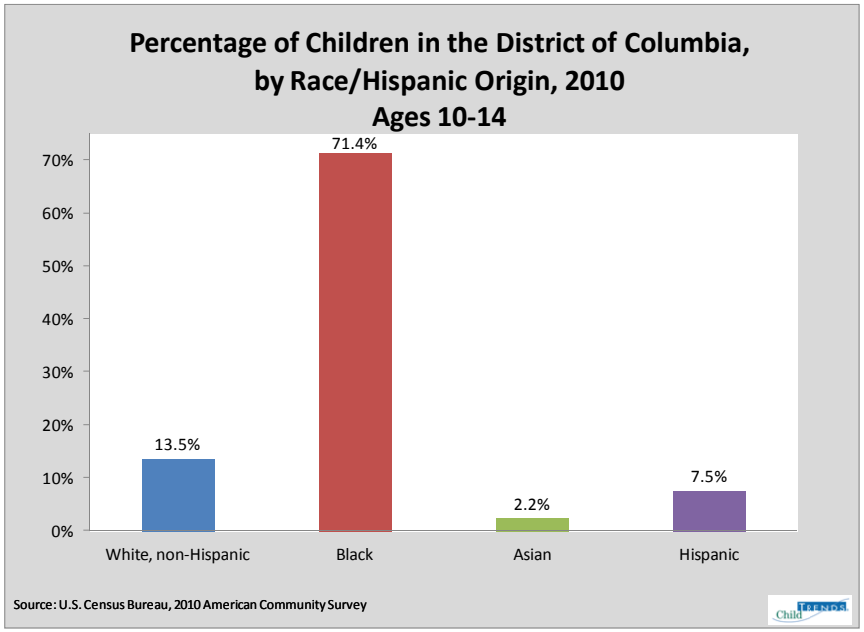


Figure 20. Percentage of children in the NCR, by race/Hispanic origin, ages 15-19 years, 2000 and 2010

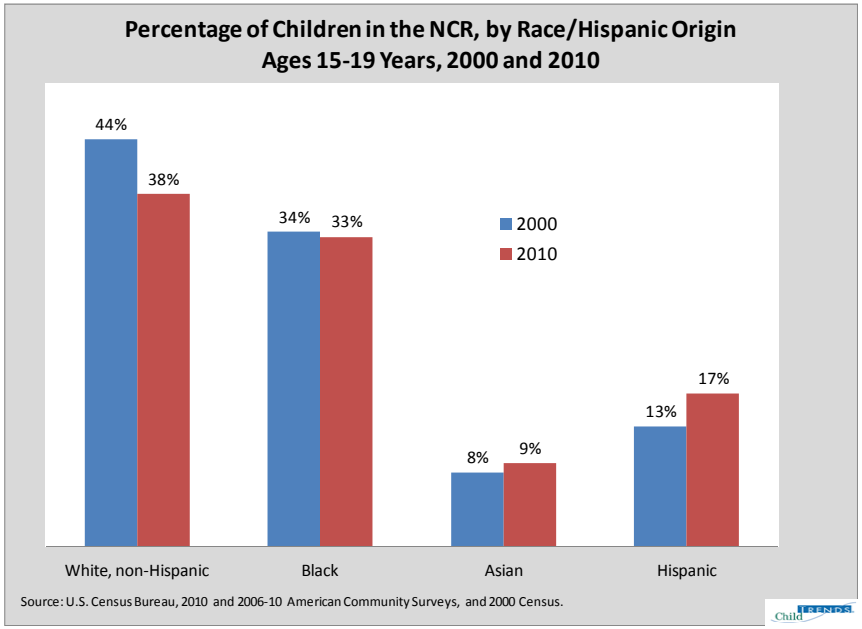


Figure 21. Percentage of children in the District of Columbia, by race/Hispanic origin, ages 15-19 years, 2010

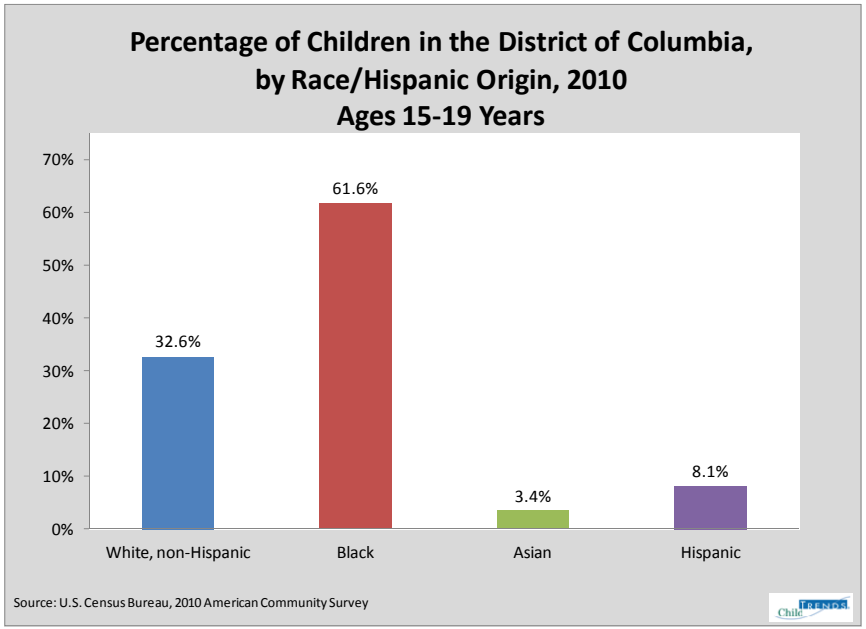


Figure 22. Percentage of children in the NCR, by race/Hispanic origin, ages 20-24 years, 2000 and 2010

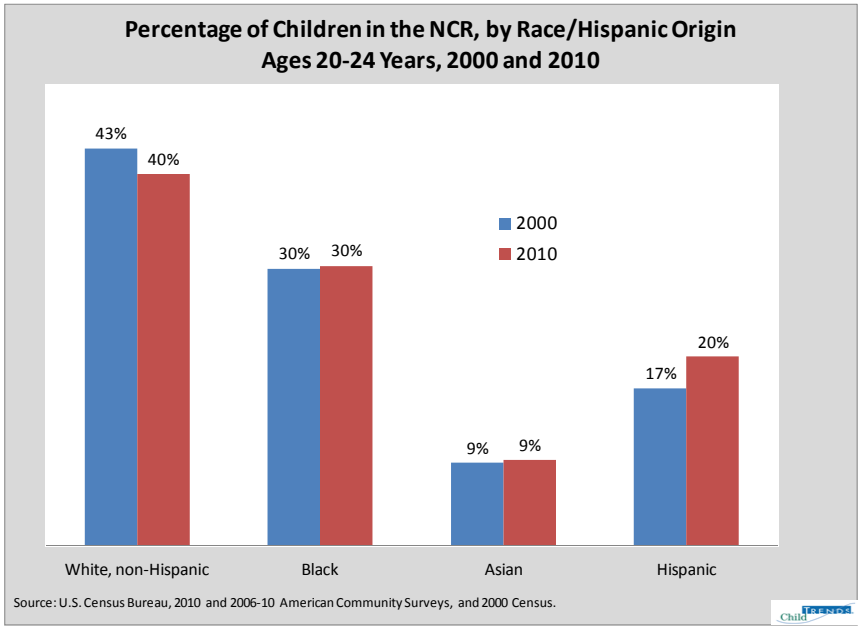
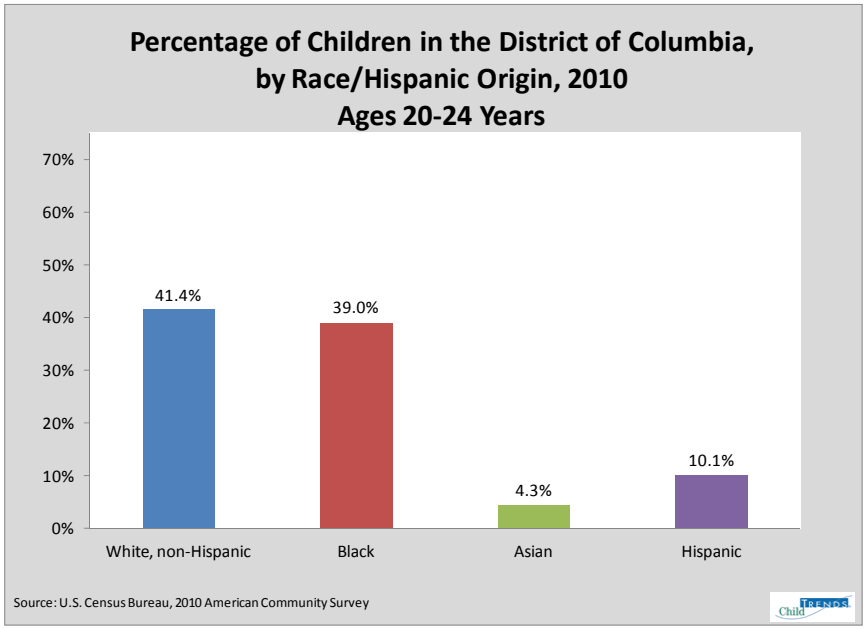


Figure 23. Percentage of children in the District of Columbia, by race/Hispanic origin, ages 20-24 years, 2010



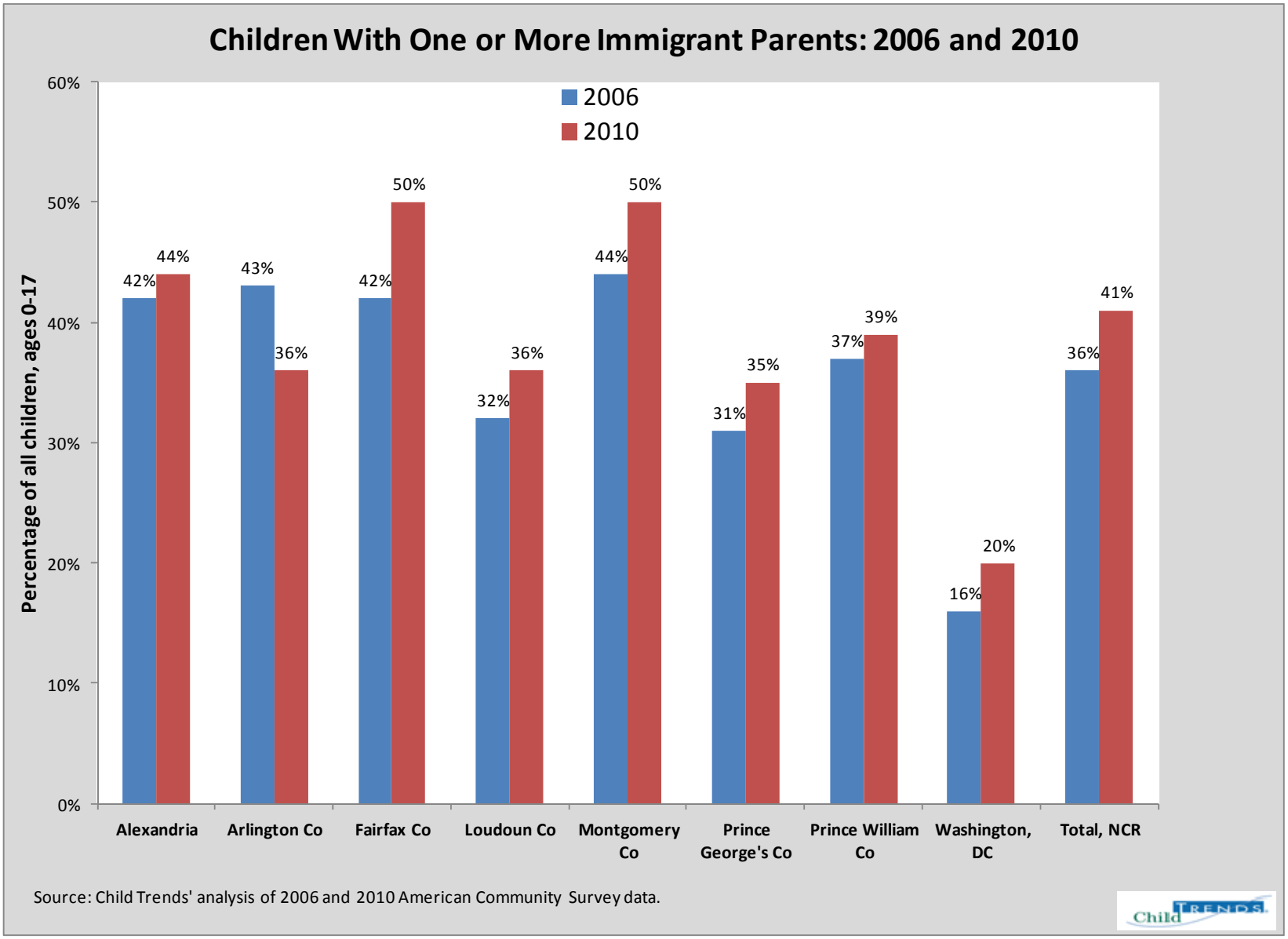
Immigrant children

Recent immigration has changed the make-up of the NCR population in ways that are still unfolding. The most recent wave of immigrants to this area, as in the U.S. as a whole, has been disproportionately young. If we define immigrant children and youth as those who have at least one non-native-born parent, these comprise four in ten (41 percent) of the under-18 population in the NCR in 2010. (See Figure 24 and 25) However, as in the case of so many other indicators, the aggregate data mask considerable intra-Region variation. In Fairfax and Montgomery Counties, immigrant children are fully half of the population (50 percent in each), while their share is as low as one in five (20 percent) in the District. (Data are not available for Falls Church.) Information on the countries of origin for non-native-born parents is not available.

Between 2006 (the earliest year for which this information is available) and 2010, the proportion of immigrant children rose in every area of the NCR except for Arlington County. Throughout the NCR, there was an increase of more than 80,000 in the number of immigrant children. (See Appendix Table A3) The great majority of immigrant children are American citizens, since they were either born in this country or have at least one parent who is a U.S. citizen.

Key Finding: **Four in ten children and youth in the National Capital Region, and fully half in Fairfax (VA) and Montgomery (MD) counties, have at least one immigrant parent.**

Figure 24. Percentage of children (ages 0-17) who have at least one non-native-born parent by region, 2006 and 2010

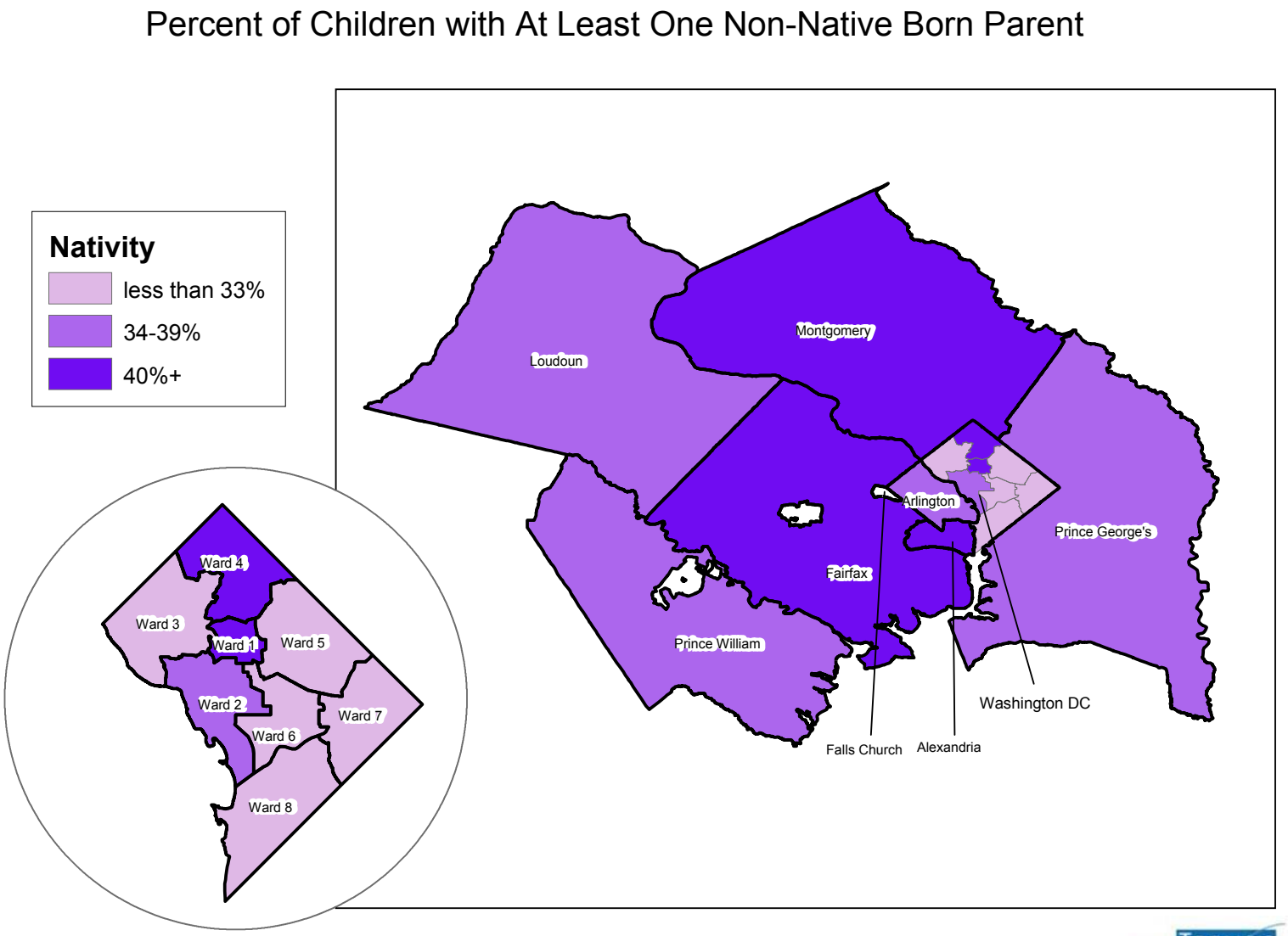


Within Wards of the District, the proportion of children with at least one immigrant parent varies from as low as four percent (in Wards 7 and 8), to more than 40 percent (in Wards 1 and 4). Wards 2 and 3 also have substantial numbers (more than one-third) of children with immigrant parents. (See Table 1 and Figure 25)

Table 1. Percentage of children (ages 0-17) who have at least one non-native-born parent, 2006-10: DC Wards (averaged over census tracts)

Children (ages 0-17) who have at least one non-native-born parent: Percentage (and number), 2006-2010								
	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8
Average	45%	38%	33%	46%	18%	12%	4%	4%
	(3,900)	(1,600)	(3,300)	(6,000)	(2,200)	(1,200)	(600)	(700)
Source: Child Trends' calculations from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2010								

Figure 25: Percentage of children (ages 0-17) with at least one non-native-born parent, 2010



Source: 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Survey

Mobility

The NCR has a reputation for being a highly transient area. Residential mobility is an indicator that is not clearly "good" or "bad." At a neighborhood level, high turnover of residents can hamper the development of community ties; but it can also bring an infusion of human and social capital—new energies, new resources. At an individual or family level, mobility is similarly a "mixed bag." Certainly, moves can be stressful and disruptive for both parents and children. For children and youth, in particular, the loss of ties to previous social networks and youth-centered institutions (preeminently, schools) can be a negative consequence of moving. However, many moves are attended by positive changes in circumstances: a better job, a safer neighborhood, and closer ties with relatives. Thus, we offer no judgment here as to whether mobility is desirable or not; but clearly it is an important consideration in any number of planning efforts.

The ACS reports the number of individuals (one year of age or older) living in an area who moved to the area during the past year. Movers include all who lived in a different house one year ago, regardless of that house's location. (See Table 2) Alexandria leads the Region in the proportion of the youngest children (1-4 years) who are recent movers (32 percent), while Loudoun County has the lowest proportion of movers within this age group (11 percent). For children ages 5-17, Prince George's County (with 15 percent) leads in recent movers; Loudoun County, again, has the smallest proportion (13 percent). Finally, for young adults (ages 18-24), the District (at 40 percent) has the highest proportion of recent movers, whereas Fairfax County has the lowest (26 percent).

Compared with 2005 (the earliest year for which this information is available), the 2010 NCR child and youth population overall was somewhat less mobile, at each of the three age groups. Only in the District were rates higher in 2010 than in 2005; the youngest (birth through four) and oldest (18-24) groups in particular showed considerable increases in the proportion that had moved within the past year. (See Table 2)

Table 2. Percentage of population who moved to the area within the past year, by age group, 2005 and 2010

Population who moved to the area within the past year, by age group: Percentages (and counts), 2005 and 2010											
		Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total**
Ages 1-4	**2005**	-	25%	21%	-	22%	24%	22%	25%	11%	**21%**
		-	(2,600)	(12,600)	-	(4,100)	(12,900)	(11,700)	(6,200)	(3,200)	**(53,100)**
	2010	27%	22%	15%	-	10%	18%	22%	12%	28%	**18%**
		(2,000)	(2,400)	(9,000)	-	(2,200)	(9,000)	(10,300)	(3,000)	(7,800)	**(45,700)**
Ages 5-17	**2005**	-	8%	12%	-	13%	11%	15%	18%	14%	**12%**
		-	(1,700)	(21,400)	-	(6,500)	(19,000)	(23,800)	(13,300)	(10,500)	**(96,100)**
	2010	6%	9%	9%	-	6%	11%	15%	10%	18%	**11%**
		(800)	(1,800)	(17,100)	-	(4,200)	(17,700)	(21,700)	(8,500)	(12,700)	**(84,600)**
Ages 18-24	**2005**	-	56%	33%	-	38%	30%	28%	28%	19%	**30%**
		-	(6,800)	(25,400)	-	(8,500)	(22,100)	(21,800)	(8,900)	(6,100)	**(99,500)**
	2010	33%	32%	30%	-	35%	30%	24%	26%	31%	**29%**
		(3,300)	(6,300)	(26,800)	-	(7,400)	(22,300)	(22,400)	(8,000)	(23,400)	**(120,000)**
Notes: "-": Data not available. Count estimates are rounded to the nearest hundred.											
Source: Child Trends' calculations from U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2005 and 2010.											

Family structure

Family structure is a central feature of children's lives and is strongly associated with many aspects of well-being. In general, research indicates that children raised by single parents face a number of challenges in multiple aspects of health, safety, school success, and economic prospects. In 2010, families with children younger than 18 headed by single mothers comprise as much as 42 percent (in the District), and as few as 13 percent (in Loudoun County). Families headed by single fathers make up small proportions throughout the Region, but account for as much as 11 percent (Prince George's County), and as little as five percent (Fairfax, Arlington, and Loudoun counties). The proportion of families within the NCR that are headed by married couples[5] ranges from 82 percent (in Loudoun County) to 49 percent in the District of Columbia. (See Table 3)

***Key Finding:* Married-couple families are the majority throughout the National Capital Region, but within the District of Columbia, single-mother families comprise four in ten families with children.**

There was little change overall from 2000 to 2010 in the proportions of families with children (ages birth to 17) headed by two married parents, by a single mother, or by a single father. (See Table 3) However, trends varied somewhat by sub-region. The District, as of 2010, has a higher proportion of married-couple families (49 percent) than in either 2000 (43 percent) or 2005 (40 percent). In contrast, Arlington, Fairfax, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties had declining proportions of married-couple families over this period, accounted for mainly by a rise in single-mother families. The number of single fathers raising children represents less than 10 percent of families throughout the NCR; nevertheless, this sometimes-overlooked group totals more than 35,000.

[5] In the American Community Survey, "married couples" include step-parents. Research indicates that, in general, children with married step-parents fare less well than children with two married biological parents. Cohabiting, unmarried parents are counted as single parents in the American Community Survey.

Table 3. Families with own children under 18 years, by family type, 2000, 2005, and 2010: NCR

Families with own children under 18 years, by family type, percentages (and counts): 2000, 2005, 2010										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total**
Married Couple										
2000	68%	79%	84%	76%	86%	80%	61%	79%	43%	**73%**
	(8,300)	(13,400)	(109,100)	(1,000)	(22,100)	(92,400)	(63,400)	(33,400)	(21,700)	**(364,700)**
2005	78%	77%	81%	-	88%	79%	62%	77%	40%	**72%**
	(8,000)	(11,700)	(100,200)	-	(33,100)	(93,600)	(61,900)	(39,700)	(18,900)	**(367,100)**
2010	70%	70%	79%	77%	82%	74%	53%	77%	49%	**70%**
	(9,100)	(11,800)	(103,400)	(1,300)	(41,000)	(87,700)	(48,400)	(41,300)	(20,700)	**(364,700)**
Single Mother										
2000	25%	16%	13%	19%	11%	16%	32%	16%	50%	**22%**
	(3,000)	(2,700)	(16,400)	(300)	(2,700)	(18,600)	(32,600)	(6,800)	(25,200)	**(108,300)**
2005	15%	18%	15%	-	10%	17%	31%	17%	50%	**22%**
	(1,600)	(2,700)	(18,400)	-	(3,800)	(19,600)	(31,200)	(8,500)	(23,500)	**(109,200)**
2010	23%	25%	17%	18%	13%	20%	36%	16%	42%	**23%**
	(3,000)	(4,200)	(21,700)	(300)	(6,500)	(23,600)	(32,300)	(8,700)	(17,700)	**(118,100)**
Single Father										
2000	7%	6%	4%	5%	4%	4%	7%	5%	8%	**5%**
	(800)	(900)	(4,700)	(100)	(900)	(4,800)	(7,500)	(2,300)	(4,100)	**(26,100)**
2005	7%	6%	4%	-	2%	5%	7%	6%	9%	**6%**
	(700)	(900)	(4,700)	-	(800)	(5,900)	(7,200)	(3,100)	(4,400)	**(27,800)**
2010	7%	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%	11%	7%	9%	**7%**
	(900)	(900)	(6,000)	(100)	(2,600)	(7,400)	(10,400)	(3,700)	(3,600)	**(35,500)**
Notes: "-": Data not available. Count estimates are rounded to the nearest hundred.										
Source: Child Trends' calculations from 2000 Census data, and American Community Survey data, 2005 & 2010, except Falls Church (2006-2010 American Community Survey).										

In the District, by Ward there is a wide range in the distribution of family types, with Wards 2 and 3 dominated by married-couple families, and Wards 7 and 8 by single-mother families. Wards 1 and 6 have roughly equal shares of single-mother and married-couple families. Ward 1 also has the greatest proportion of single-father families—more than one in eight (13 percent). (See Table 4)

Table 4. Families with own children under 18 years, by family type, 2006-10: DC Wards

Families with own children under 18 years, by family type, percentages (and counts), 2006-2010: DC Wards								
	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8
Married couple	46%	70%	85%	60%	36%	50%	21%	17%
	(1,900)	(1,800)	(4,600)	(3,800)	(2,000)	(2,600)	(1,500)	(1,400)
Single mother	41%	24%	11%	34%	53%	42%	71%	74%
	(1,700)	(600)	(600)	(2,100)	(2,900)	(2,200)	(5,200)	(6,300)
Single father	13%	6%	4%	7%	11%	7%	8%	10%
	(500)	(100)	(200)	(400)	(600)	(400)	(600)	(800)
Note: Count estimates are rounded to the nearest hundred.								
Source: Child Trends' calculations from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2010.								

Increasing numbers of children are living in households headed by a grandparent. While a small group, relative to other kinds of households with children, it deserves special attention, because these grandparents and grandchildren are more likely to have extraordinary needs. The trend is driven by a number of factors, including increasing numbers of single-parent families and high rates of marriage/partnership dissolution, AIDS, teen pregnancies, parental incarceration, parents' substance abuse, and parental abuse and neglect. Many grandparents, especially when they are the child's primary caretaker, are unprepared for the demands associated with this role.[6]

In the NCR there are approximately 28,000 adults serving as primary caregivers for their grandchildren—about 30 percent of all grandparents living with their own grandchildren. Of these caregiver-grandparents, about 12 percent are living on incomes below the poverty level. Thirty percent are providing care where neither of the child's birth parents is present. The highest proportions of grandparents who are primary caregivers without either of the child's parents present are in Alexandria and the District (44 and 41 percent, respectively).[7]

Table 5.Grandparents solely responsible for children, as a percentage of all grandparents with primary responsibility

Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total**
44% (200)	33% (200)	24% (1,200)	0% (0)	21% (200)	24% (1,000)	30% (2,400)	28% (900)	41% (2,100)	**30% (8,200)**
Notes: Counts rounded to the nearest hundred.									
Source: Child Trends' calculations from 2006-10 American Community Survey data.									

Estimating the numbers of *children* being cared for by grandparents is more difficult, because small sample sizes in the ACS lead the Census Bureau to omit reporting these figures for all but four sub-regions of the NCR: the District, Fairfax County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County. However, across these four areas, nearly 23,000 children have a grandparent responsible for their care, and more than 7,000 of these children live with no parent. The District and Prince George's County each have more than 2,500 children in grandparental care only.[8]

[6] American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. (2011). Grandparents raising grandchildren. Facts for Families, No. 77. Retrieved from http://www.aacap.org/galleries/FactsForFamilies/77_grandparents_raising_grandchildren.pdf
[7] Child Trends' calculations of 2006-2010 American Community Survey data.
[8] Ibid.

Child dependency ratio

Children and youth depend upon the support of many adults (primarily parents, but also teachers, mentors, employers, and taxpayers who support the programs that serve children and youth) in order to thrive. One rough measure of a community's "child-supporting power"—as well as the burdens shouldered by adults—is the ratio of children to working-age adults. (See Table 6 and Figure 26) A higher number here means, in general, that adults have to work more to provide the same level of support that communities with a lower number can provide. Across the NCR in 2010, Arlington County, Alexandria, and the District have the fewest children per working-age adult, whereas Loudoun and Prince William Counties, and Falls Church have the most. We should note that this "child dependency ratio," while intuitively interesting, is still relatively untried as a well-being indicator; more research is need to understand how—or whether—it is associated with more direct measures of well-being.

***Key Finding:* The number of children per working-age adults is more than twice as high in Loudoun and Prince William Counties as it is in Arlington County or the District.**

Table 6. Child dependency ratio, 2010: NCR

Child dependency ratio[1]: 2010									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA*	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2010	23.2	20.7	36.8	37.8	48.6	37.6	35.6	44.8	23.3

[1]The child dependency ratio is calculated by dividing the number of children (ages 0-17) by the number of adults ages 18-64, and multiplying by 100.
"-": Data not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey. *Data for Falls Church from 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

Within the District, there is striking variability in the child dependency ratio. In Ward 8, there are more than 50 children per working-age adult, whereas in Ward 2 there are only seven. (See Table 7)

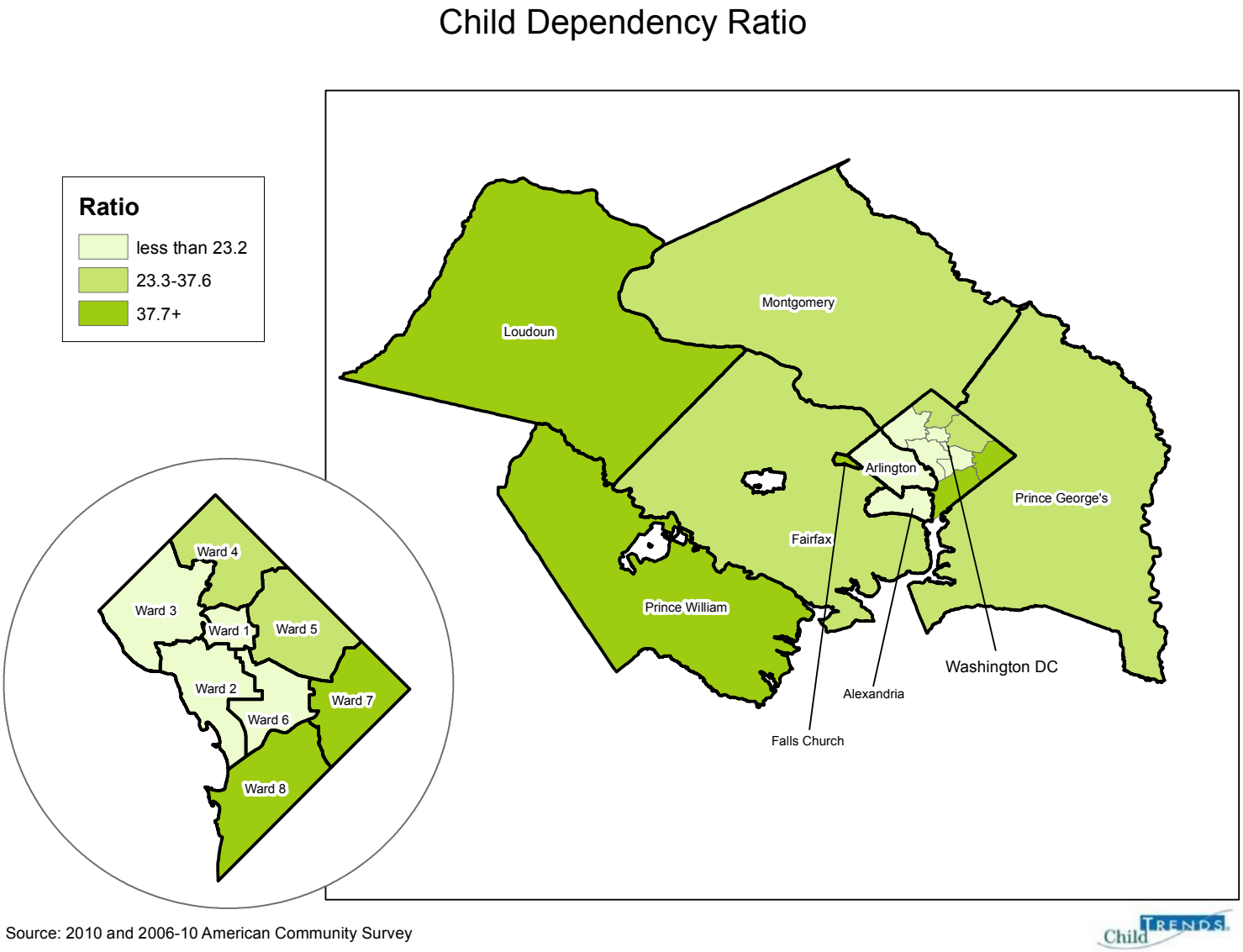
Table 7. Child dependency ratio, 2006-10: DC Wards

Child dependency ratio[1]: 2006-2010							
Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8
17.2	6.8	18.3	29.8	28.3	18.8	45.4	52.2

[1]The child dependency ratio is calculated by dividing the number of children (ages 0-17) by the number of adults ages 18-64, and multiplying by 100.

Source: Child Trends' calculations from U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

Figure 26: Child dependency ratio, 2010.



Source: 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Survey

Summary: Demographics

The NCR is a region in flux, changing rapidly in complex ways. In the past decade, the population of children and youth has shifted slightly older; it remains to be seen whether or not that trend continues. Among the big trends in the Region are growing numbers of children in immigrant families, and children in families headed by single mothers, and declining numbers of non-Hispanic white children. At the same time, there are important differences in population composition across the various jurisdictions of the NCR—variation that defies any simple characterization of the NCR's children and youth.

Indicators of healthy birth and infancy

An important foundation for subsequent health is a healthy start at birth. Children who begin life with compromised health or limited parental resources often face lasting challenges that can affect their ability to succeed in school, meet typical milestones of social and emotional development, and be ready for productive work.

In this section, we provide information on three indicators of healthy birth and infancy for children in the NCR: low birthweight status, infant mortality, and non-marital births.

Low birthweight

Infants born with a low weight (less than 5.5 pounds) start life at risk for both near-term and longer-term negative outcomes, which include threats to health, social-emotional well-being, and educational success.[9] Knowledge to prevent the incidence of low birthweight is still incomplete, although a mother's smoking during pregnancy is an established risk factor. The completeness of data available on this indicator varies among the jurisdictions of the NCR; however, all but the District of Columbia have reported some data for 2009. (See Table 8) Because low birthweight is a condition that generally has a low incidence, small year-to-year fluctuations in numbers can have marked effects on rates; thus, many analysts prefer to report three-year-average data in the case of geographic areas with smaller populations. For the period 2007-2009, the rate of infants who were born with low weight varied from 5.7 percent (in Falls Church), to 10.6 percent (in Prince George's County). The District of Columbia is also on the high end of values for this indicator, at 10.3 percent, as of 2009.

[9] Low and very low birth weight infants. Child Trends DataBank. http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/alphalist?q=node/67

Table 8. Low birthweight infants, percentage (and number), 2000, 2005, and 2009: NCR

Low birthweight infants: Percentage of all births (and counts)										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total**
2000	8.8%	6.7%	6.6%	-	-	7.2%	9.9%	7.0%	11.8%	**8.3%**
	(227)	(181)	(943)	-	-	(961)	(1,223)	(350)	(908)	**(4,793)**
2005	6.8%	6.7%	6.4%	-	6.8%	8.2%	10.5%	6.9%	11.1%	**7.9%**
	(183)	(188)	(942)	-	(351)	(1,117)	(1,317)	(454)	(888)	**(5,440)**
2009	7.7%	7.4%	7.3%	-	6.0%	8.2%	10.4%	7.7%	10.3%	**8.1%**
	(205)	(216)	(1,104)	-	(303)	(1,112)	(1,271)	(507)	(929)	**(5,647)**
Note: "-" Data not available.										
Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Vital Statistics System.										

Looking at low birthweight data by Wards in the District, three-year averages (2006-2008) probably provide the most robust estimates for comparisons. They show the highest rates (13-14 percent) in Wards 8, 7, and 5; the lowest rates (around eight percent) are in Wards 3 and 2. (See Table 9)

Table 9. Percentage (and number) of low birthweight infants, 2006-2008: DC Wards

Low birth weight infants: Percentage of all births (and counts) DC wards									
	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8	**Total**
2006	9.7%	9.4%	8.4%	9.9%	13.8%	9.7%	13.8%	14.8%	**11.5%**
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**(980)**
2007	9.2%	7.0%	7.2%	9.7%	12.8%	11.3%	13.7%	14.1%	**11.1%**
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**(982)**
2008	7.5%	8.5%	7.4%	8.5%	10.9%	10.3%	13.9%	14.0%	**10.4%**
	(98)	(58)	(57)	(126)	(118)	(103)	(168)	(242)	**(949)**
3-year average	8.8%	8.3%	7.7%	9.4%	12.5%	10.4%	13.8%	14.3%	**11.0%**
Note: "-" Data not available.									
Sources: 2006, 2007, 2008 Vital Statistics Data; DC Department of Health, and NeighborhoodInfo DC at the Urban Institute									

Infant mortality

Infant mortality—deaths of babies younger than one year—is an important marker of the adequacy of the maternal and infant health care system, including the range of formal and informal supports and services communities provide for new families. As in the case of low birthweight, use of three-year-average data serves to smooth out fluctuations in rates that typically accompany small numbers. Within the NCR, rates for Prince George's County and the District stand out as considerably higher than other sub-regions; these rates likely reflect the well-established elevated risk for infant mortality among African-Americans. (See Table 10) On the other end of the spectrum, Loudoun County has a notably low rate of infant mortality.

***Key Finding:* Based on recent data, infants are more than twice as likely to die before one year of age in Prince George's County as they are in Loudoun County.**

Table 10. Infant mortality (deaths before 1 year of age, per 1000 births), 2000, 2005, and 2009: NCR

Infant mortality (deaths before 1 year of age, per 1,000 live births)									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2000	4.9	2.2	4.1	-	4.1	4.4	9.9	6.3	11.9
	(12)	(6)	(60)	(0)	(15)	-	-	(32)	-
2005	4.5	3.9	4.1	-	4.9	6.1	8.6	4.8	13.9
	(11)	(11)	(61)	(0)	(25)	-	-	(32)	(110)
2009	6.6	5.5	5.6	6.6	3.8	5.5	8.7	5.1	-
	(17)	(16)	(87)	(1)	(19)	-	-	(34)	-

Note: "-" Data not available.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Vital Statistics System linked birth/death data files; KIDS COUNT Data Center http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/Default.aspx

Infant mortality data by Ward in the District are probably most usefully analyzed as three-year averages, because of the relatively small numbers involved. According to this methodology, there is a more-than-five-fold difference between the lowest rate (Ward 3, 3.5 deaths per 1,000 births), and the highest rate (Ward 8, 18.5 deaths per 1,000 live births). Wards 5, 6, and 7 also stand out as having elevated infant mortality. (See Table 11)

Table 11. Infant mortality (deaths before 1 year of age, per 1,000 births): DC Wards

Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)									
	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8	**Total**
2000	9.4	7.6	1.2	5.3	14	20.1	17.4	17.7	**11.6**
2006	5.0	11.4	4.3	7.0	16.7	8.6	14.8	20.0	**11.4**
2008	6.1	2.9	5.1	10.2	6	8	17.2	17.7	**10.9**
3-year average	**6.8**	**7.3**	**3.5**	**7.5**	**12.2**	**12.2**	**16.5**	**18.5**	**10.6**

Source: 2000, 2006, 2008 Vital Statistics Data; DC Department of Health and KIDS COUNT Data Center http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/Default.aspx

Non-marital births

Children born to unmarried women face statistically higher risks in health and development. The nationwide trend toward greater numbers of non-marital births generally cuts across income- and education-levels of women, though there are marked differences by race. More than half of non-marital births occur to women who are in cohabiting relationships; however, children born to cohabiting, unmarried parents typically do not fare as well as children with married parents.[10] In addition, more than half of unmarried births are unintended.[11] Non-marital births are much less common among women who have a college degree than they are among women with less education.

All areas of the NCR provide 2009 data on unmarried births. (See Figure *27*, and Table A5, Appendix) They show that the proportion of births that are to unmarried women ranges from 15 percent (in Loudoun County and Falls Church), to 56 percent (in the District). In all, more than 23,000 births in 2009 in the NCR were to unmarried women.

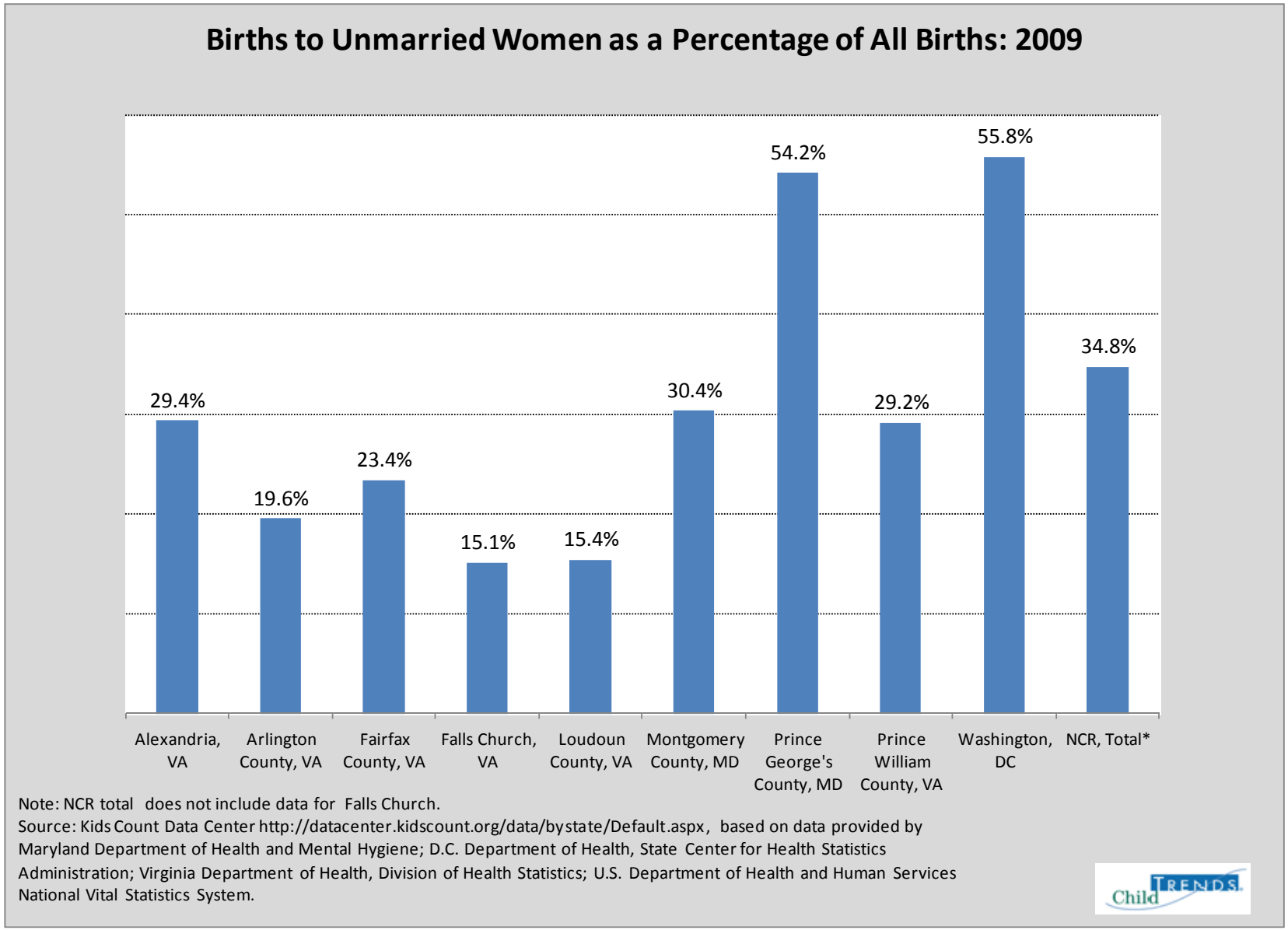
***Key Finding:* Single mothers account for more than half of all births in the District, and Prince George's County, but about one in six in Loudoun County and Falls Church.**

Additional data on births to single mothers, by age group, and by race/Hispanic origin, are presented in Appendix Tables A5-A7.

[10] Child Trends DataBank. (2010). Births to unmarried women. Retrieved from http://childtrendsdatabank.org/alphalist?q=node/196

[11] Wildsmith, E., Steward-Streng, N. R., and Manlove, J. (2011). Childbearing outside of marriage: Estimates and trends in the United States. Child Trends Research Brief. Retrieved from http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2011_11_01_RB_NonmaritalCB.pdf

Figure 27: Births to single mothers, 2009: NCR



As of 2008, in the District overall, the majority of resident women who gave birth were unmarried. In Wards 7 and 8, more than eight in ten infants were born to women who are unmarried. In contrast, in Ward 3, only about one in 16 births were to single mothers. (See Table 12)

Table 12. Births to single mothers, 2006-2008: DC Wards

Births to single mothers as a percentage of all births DC wards								
	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8
2006	56.9%	29.9%	5.3%	53.1%	68.4%	44.6%	82.5%	83.4%
2007	56.5%	28.2%	7.6%	56.3%	69.8%	42.1%	83.1%	84.1%
2008	57.2%	29.5%	6.2%	59.0%	71.2%	44.6%	85.8%	89.1%
Source: 2006, 2007, 2008 Vital Statistics Data; DC Department of Health and NeighborhoodInfo DC at the Urban Institute								

Summary: Healthy births and infancy

A good start in life makes a difference for many aspects of well-being. In some parts of the NCR, more than one in ten infants starts out with a status of high risk (judging just by rates of low birthweight). Infant mortality—again, in some though not all corners of the NCR—is on a par with rates in Bulgaria or Costa Rica. Additionally, rates of births to unmarried mothers are high throughout the NCR. Children who start life with parents who are not married to each other face statistically more difficult prospects in life. Although many unmarried mothers are cohabiting, research indicates that cohabiting relationships are typically not as stable as marriage.

Indicators of child and adolescent health and safety

In this section, we provide information on a broad set of indicators of child and adolescent health and safety, including physical and behavioral delays and disabilities, positive family activities, risky behaviors, health insurance coverage, and juvenile arrests.

One important data source we rely on for many indicators in this section is the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH), a federally-sponsored telephone survey of parents of children ages birth to 17. It is designed to yield national- and state-level estimates on a number of well-being indicators. Survey items include not only measures of health, but also questions about shared family activities, children's school engagement, neighborhood safety, and other topics. The NSCH is administered every four years; the most recent data are from 2007.

Using analyses that show that some variation in NSCH indicators at the state level is associated with demographic variables, such as race and family income, Child Trends produced synthetic (adjusted) estimates for the Virginia and Maryland counties within the NCR. (The District of Columbia was treated as a "state" in the original tabulation.) We stress that these are estimates, the precision of which we cannot quantify. Nevertheless, they are likely to be closer approximations of the "true" prevalence of these indicators in the counties than are the state-level estimates. In addition, it is important to keep in mind that the NSCH data are based on parents' reports about their children's status and activities.

Young children with moderate or high risk for developmental, behavioral, or social delays

Having one or more developmental delays, particularly if not identified and referred for treatment, can put children at risk for problems with language acquisition and/or social skills, and can lead to problems in school. This indicator is based on several survey items, asked of parents of children ages four months through five years.

In 2007, about 26 percent of young children nationwide had moderate or high risk in this area, according to parents. In the NCR, the estimated overall figure was 23 percent, but was as low as 18 percent in Loudoun County, and as high as 30 percent in the District. (See Table 13)

Table 13.Children at risk for developmental, behavioral, or social delay, 2007

Children (ages 4 mos - 5 yrs) with moderate or high risk for developmental, behavioral, or social delay										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total**
2007	23%	21%	23%	-	18%	20%	23%	21%	30%	**23%**

"-": Data not available.

*Figure for NCR total does not include Falls Church, VA.

Source: Child Trends' synthetic estimates based on data from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health, and the 2007 American Community Survey.

Children with disabilities

Physical, mental, or emotional conditions can seriously interfere with children's life chances, unless they receive proper diagnosis, referral, and effective treatment. Some disabilities are not preventable, given the current state of knowledge, but many can be managed so as to reduce their impact on children and their families, and others can be prevented. The Census Bureau defines children with disabilities as any who have difficulty with vision, hearing, cognitive functioning, ambulation (mobility), self-care, or independent living (for ages where that is appropriate).

In the NCR, as of 2010, estimated rates of disability among children are low and fairly consistent across the communities, except for the District, where they are two-to-three times as high as in the other jurisdictions. (See Table 14)

Table 14. Percentage (and number) of children (ages 0-17) with a disability, 2010

Percentage (and number) of children (ages 0-17) with a disability: 2010									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2010	2.1%	2.0%	2.2%	-	1.9%	2.5%	3.0%	2.0%	6.1%
	(496)	(666)	(5,738)	-	(1,848)	(5,954)	(6,187)	(2,287)	(6,116)
"-": Data not available.									
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey.									

***Key Finding*: The estimated proportion of children with disabilities in the District of Columbia is nearly one in 16—more than twice as high as in other jurisdictions of the National Capital Region.**

Children who are taking medication for ADHD, emotional, concentration, or behavioral issues

ADHD—Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder—is one of the most common mental health disorders of childhood, with a national prevalence of about nine percent. ADHD is among a group of emotional-behavioral diagnoses in children that have been made increasingly in recent years. A component of treatment for these disorders, in many cases, is medication.

According to the NSCH, about six percent of children ages two to seventeen, nationwide, are estimated to be taking such medications. In the NCR, the estimated prevalence is seven percent. There is little variability on this measure within the NCR, with the exception of the District, where the estimate is four percent. (See Table 15) It is in the nature of this indicator that, without further investigation, we do not know whether disparities reflect real differences in prevalence of these disorders, differences in the likelihood of receiving this diagnosis, differences in access to medication treatment, or some combination of these.

Table 15. Children taking medication for ADHD, emotional, concentration, or behavioral issues, 2007

Children (ages 2 to 17 years) who are taking medication for ADHD, emotions, concentration or behavioral issues										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total***
2007	6%	6%	7%	-	6%	7%	6%	7%	4%	**7%**

"-": Data not available.

*Figure for NCR total does not include Falls Church, VA.

Source: Child Trends' synthetic estimates based on data from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health, and the 2007 American Community Survey.

Looking Toward Solutions: Externalizing (acting-out behaviors)

Programs that teach children and adolescents how to identify and manage their emotions can be effective. The majority of evaluated skills-training programs that teach emotion-regulation skills (such as thinking before acting or breathing deeply) were successful at reducing externalizing behavior. Emotion-regulation approaches seem to work equally well whether targeting children or adolescents. Nearly all family therapy programs, or programs that included a family therapy component, had positive impacts on reducing at least one externalizing behavior in children and in adolescents. Culturally-sensitive programs that typically engage participants in culturally competent ways, and that train facilitators both to be aware of their own culture and sensitive to the culture of participants, are more likely to be effective. Programs and other interventions that teach parents skills related to effective communication, discipline, monitoring, supervision, and limit-setting, as well as those that teach interpersonal and social problem-solving skills to children and youth, have been found to be effective. Examples of social skills include communicating well, having positive interactions with peers, resolving conflicts, and cooperating with others. Examples of social problem-solving skills include identifying a problem, coming up with solutions to the problem, evaluating these solutions, and decision-making.

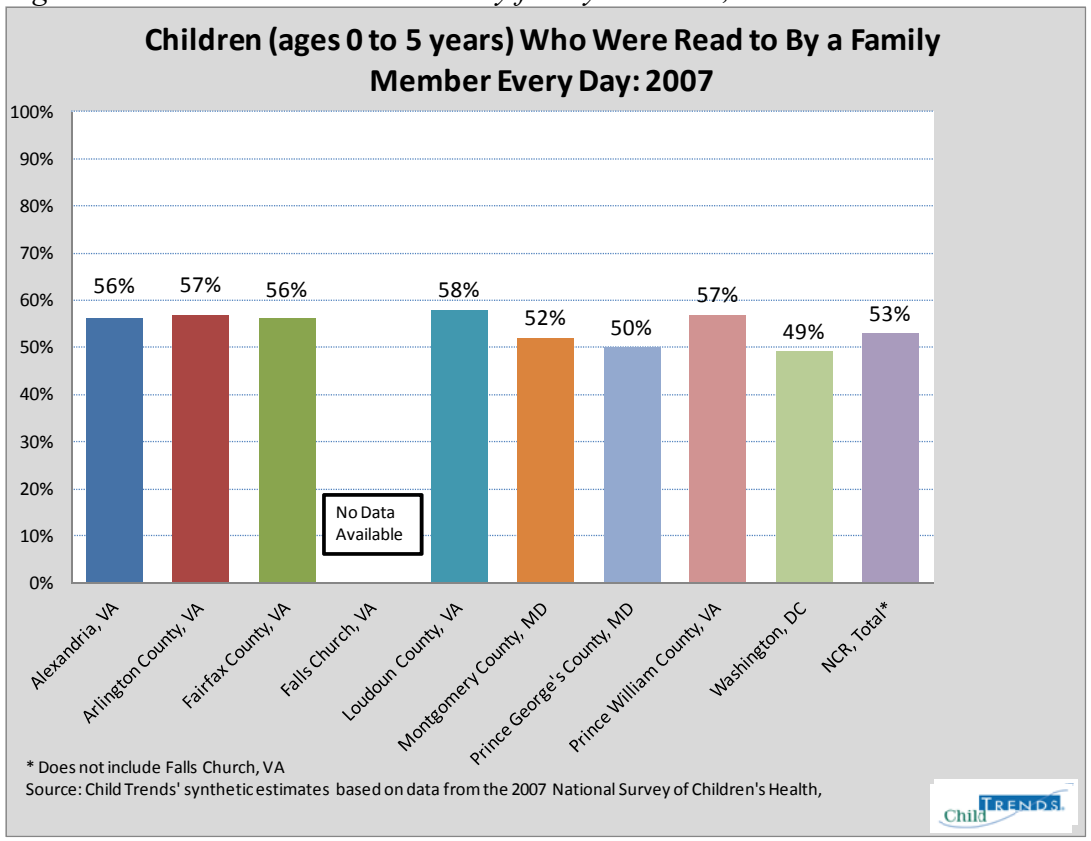
Looking Toward Solutions: Social Competence

Programs that employ multiple instruction strategies, such as modeling and coaching, can promote positive social skills. Integration of instructional technologies, such as DVD curricula, can be effective. In addition, programs that teach problem-solving skills can be highly effective in improving social skills among children and adolescents. Programs that offer incentives can have positive impacts when targeting aggressive behaviors in children.

Young children who are read to by family members

One of the most important activities to promote children's early literacy, as well as to strengthen child-parent bonds, is "shared reading." The personalized attention inherent in a parent's or older sibling's reading (even a picture book) with a young child provides important intellectual, social, and emotional stimulation. Nationwide, about 48 percent of children ages birth to five years are read to every day by a family member. In the NCR, the estimated figure is 53 percent. Nine percentage points separate the proportion in Loudoun County (58 percent) from that in the District (49 percent). (See Figure 28)

Figure 28. Children who are read to by family members, 2007



Reading for pleasure

Once children are able to read on their own, their reading for pleasure is a cornerstone for lifelong learning and for participation in civic life. There is, additionally, evidence that reading for pleasure is associated with higher scores on school assessments of reading ability.[12]

Nationally, about 41 percent of children ages six to 17 spend more than 30 minutes per day reading for pleasure. Of children in the District, an estimated 52 percent do so; however, in Loudoun, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties, just 39 percent do. (See Table 16)

Table 16. Children who read for pleasure every day, 2007

Children (ages 6 to 17 years) who spend at least 30 minutes per day reading for pleasure										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total***
2007	41%	40%	42%	-	39%	39%	39%	41%	52%	**43%**
"-": Data not available.										
*NCR total does not include Falls Church, VA.										
Source: Child Trends' synthetic estimates based on data from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health, and the 2007 American Community Survey.										

***Key Finding:* Estimates suggest children in the District of Columbia are most likely to read for pleasure every day of the week; children in Loudoun, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties are least likely to do so.**

[12] Clark, C. and Rumbold, K. (2006). Reading for pleasure: A research review. London, UK: National Literacy Trust.

Children whose families eat meals together

Another activity researchers have found to be indicative of children's well-being in multiple areas is eating meals together with family members. Sharing family meals, though often challenging in today's busy, multi-tasking families, nevertheless conveys many benefits, not all of which are obvious. Children who frequently eat with family members are more likely to do well in school, avoid a number of risky behaviors, such as substance abuse, and may develop healthier nutrition habits.[13]

According to our estimates, in the NCR, children in Montgomery County are least likely to share family meals every day of the week (40 percent), whereas District children are most likely to do so (48 percent). (See Table 17)

Table 17. Family meals, 2007

Children (ages 0 to 17 years) whose families eat a meal together every day of the week										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total***
2007	44%	43%	44%	-	41%	40%	41%	43%	48%	**43%**
"-": Data not available.										
*NCR total does not include Falls Church, VA.										
Source: Child Trends' synthetic estimates based on data from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health, and the 2007 American Community Survey.										

Key Finding: **Estimates suggest children in the District of Columbia are most likely to eat together with family members every day of the week; children in Montgomery County are least likely to do so.**

[13] Child Trends DataBank. Family meals. Accessible at http://childtrendsdatabank.org/alphalist?q=node/197

Adolescent health

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), sponsored by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is a survey of high school students offered every other year to all the states to administer. It is one of the primary sources of well-being data on this population, covering areas including nutrition, physical activity, car and bicycle safety practices, substance abuse (including alcohol and cigarette use), emotional and physical health, and sexual activity. The chief drawback of school-based surveys is that they miss youth who are not in school—a group we know is at greater risk for many negative outcomes.

The latest YRBS data are from 2011; Maryland, Virginia, and the District all participated. The YRBS data do not lend themselves to any synthetic (adjusted) estimation at a county level; therefore, the state-level data are the best-available estimates of rates on these indicators for the Maryland and Virginia counties that are part of the NCR. Fairfax County has for several years conducted its own Youth Survey, administered in its public schools, at grades six, and eight through twelve.[14] Many of the items on the Fairfax survey are taken directly from the YRBS; others are derived from another well-regarded youth survey, Communities That Care. Results from 2010 are available from the Fairfax survey for many, though not all, relevant indicators.

Data on several important areas of adolescent health—mental health and sexually transmitted diseases—were not available for this report.

National data tell us that nearly one in five Americans experienced mental illness in the past year. Identifying mental disorders in children can be more challenging, but a commonly used estimate of their prevalence among this age group is one in ten.[15] Among youth ages 12 to 17, depression is one of the most common mental disorders, affecting eight percent of the population on a national basis. Among young adults (ages 18-25), rates of mental illness are especially high (more than one in four experiencing symptoms within the past year).[16]

Regrettably, very little information on mental health specific to the NCR is available. Maryland provided counts of children (ages birth to 21) served in the public mental health system, by county. However, many children with mental illness are not included in these counts. From Virginia, we were not unable to obtain any county-level data on this topic; nor were we successful in obtaining information from the District of Columbia.

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[14] See http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/demogrph/youthpdf.htm

[15] Office of the U.S. Surgeon General. (1999). Mental health: A report fo the Surgeon General. Rockville, MD: Author.

[16] U.S. Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration. (19 January, 2012). National report finds one-in-five Americans experienced mental illness in the past year. News release. Accessible at http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1201185326.aspx?from=carousel&position=3&date=01192011

Sexually-transmitted infections can have damaging health effects that are life-long. Young people may be especially susceptible to STIs because of their sexual inexperience, lack of knowledge, and difficulty accessing protection or treatment. Nationally, rates of STIs, particularly chlamydia among females, have risen by nearly 30 percent over the past decade. And the majority of cases of STIs are among youth younger than 25. Yet, we were unable to obtain comprehensive data on STIs (chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis) for this population from any of the NCR jurisdictions.

Youth who are overweight or obese

The rise in the prevalence of overweight or obesity[17] among youth is one of the most serious health issues facing this generation. Youth who are overweight or obese are at increased risk for a number of health and social-emotional problems, both now and into adulthood.

Data on this indicator in the NCR are sparse. However, in Maryland and Virginia more than one in four teens (students in grades 9-12) was overweight or obese, as of 2011. In the District, one in three (33 percent) were obese or overweight. In the District, females appear to have a higher likelihood of being overweight or obese. Hispanic students in the District appear to have an elevated risk in this area, whereas in Maryland and Virginia, black and Hispanic students are most at risk. In the District, the risk appears to increase with grade level, whereas in Maryland and Virginia there is no clear grade-related pattern. (See Table 18)

[17] Obesity is defined as body mass index (BMI) at or above the 95th percentile, by age and sex; overweight is defined as BMI at or above the 85th percentile, but below the 95th percentile.

Table 18. Percentage of high school students who are overweight or obese

Percentage of high school students who are overweight or obese				
	Maryland (2011)	Virginia (2011)	Fairfax County, VA (2010)	Washington, DC (2011)
Total	27%	28%	-	33%
Gender				
Male	29%	29%	-	30%
Female	26%	27%	-	35%
Race				
White	22%	23%	-	-
Black	35%	41%	-	36%
Hispanic	29%	35%	-	43%
Asian	19%	-	-	-
Other/Multiple	26%	-	-	-
Grade				
8th	-	-	-	-
9th	30%	30%	-	26%
10th	28%	32%	-	34%
11th	28%	24%	-	34%
12th	25%	28%	-	38%
"-": Data are not available.				
Source: 2010 Fairfax County High School Students Survey, 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.				

Youth who are physically active

One of the contributors to maintaining a healthy weight, as well as to other aspects of health, is regular physical activity. The YRBS uses several measures of physical activity, one of which we report here: the percentage of youth who participated in vigorous activity on at least five days in the past week. This measure is also available for Fairfax County. The available data suggest that Virginia and Maryland students are considerably more likely than those in the District to pursue this level of activity. Across these sub-regions of the NCR, males are more likely to be active, by this measure, than females are. The likelihood of activity also appears to decline with increasing grade-level. (See Table 19)

Looking Toward Solutions: Obesity/Physical Activity

Programs with focused goals are generally more successful in achieving behavioral improvements in weight management. Additionally, programs that implement a therapy/counseling component can be effective at improving child and adolescent nutrition and physical activity. Long-term programs that address physical activity are often successful; programs that are implemented for longer than six months are associated with increased physical activity among children and adolescents. Teaching skill building is associated with increased physical activity. Such skills include instructing youth on how to incorporate exercise into their daily lives and on how to make physical activity fun and personalized.

Table 19. Percentage of high school students who are physically active

Percentage of high school students who were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on at least 5 days in the past week				
	Maryland (2011)	Virginia (2011)	Fairfax County, VA (2010)	Washington, DC (2011)
Total	41%	46%	43%	28%
Gender				
Male	50%	56%	52%	33%
Female	32%	35%	35%	24%
Race				
White	-	49%	50%	-
Black	-	45%	40%	28%
Hispanic	-	36%	36%	21%
Asian	-	-	34%	-
Other/Multiple	-	-	46%	-
Grade				
8th	-	-	49%	44%
9th	-	54%	-	29%
10th	-	50%	43%	27%
11th	-	40%	-	31%
12th	-	38%	36%	27%
"-": Data are not available.				
Source: 2010 Fairfax County High School Students Survey, 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.				

Smoking cigarettes

Although rates of cigarette smoking among youth have declined by more than half in the past 15 years, cigarette smoking is still seen by some youth as a "rite of passage," and poses major health risks. Most smokers begin the habit in their teens, and many become addicted. In the NCR, available data suggest that youth rates of "current smoking" (having smoked cigarettes on at least one day in the past 30) range between seven percent (Fairfax County) and 15 percent (Virginia as a whole); and the proportion rises with grade level. In the District, it appears that males are more likely than females to be current smokers; whereas in Virginia and Maryland, males and females are roughly equally likely to smoke. Hispanic and white students appear to be groups with elevated risk for smoking. (See Table 20)

Table 20. Percentage of high school students smoking cigarettes

Percentage of high school students who smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day in the past 30 days				
	Maryland (2011)	Virginia (2011)	Fairfax County, VA (2010)	Washington, DC (2011)
Total	13%	15%	7%	13%
Gender				
Male	12%	14%	6%	15%
Female	12%	16%	8%	9%
Race				
White	17%	17%	7%	-
Black	7%	9%	6%	12%
Hispanic	12%	22%	9%	16%
Asian	6%	-	4%	-
Other/Multiple	13%	-	7%	-
Grade				
8th	-	-	2%	9%
9th	8%	13%	-	10%
10th	11%	14%	6%	10%
11th	13%	12%	-	14%
12th	18%	22%	13%	16%

"-": Data are not available.

Source: 2010 Fairfax County High School Students Survey, 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.

Use of alcohol

Alcohol is the most widely used illegal substance among youth. In addition to the damage to health that can be attributed to alcohol itself, drinking among teens is associated with other forms of dangerously risky behavior, including impaired driving, drug use, and unprotected sex.

We note here two alcohol-related measures. The first is "current" alcohol use (defined as drinking on one or more of the previous 30 days); the second, often termed "binge drinking," describes a pattern of consuming multiple drinks in rapid succession—"drinking to get drunk." The latter is actually the more common type of alcohol use among teens.

From the data available, it appears that current drinking among teens is most common in Maryland and the District, reported by about one in three ninth- through twelfth-graders (35 and 33 percent, respectively). The frequencies of drinking and binge drinking both rise sharply with grade level. In Maryland, Virginia, and the District, females may be somewhat more likely to drink than males are. White and Hispanic students seem to be at highest risk on this indicator. When it comes to binge drinking, there are few obvious gender differences. As with current drinking, binge drinking seems to be most prevalent among white and Hispanic students. (See Tables 21 and 22)

Table 21. Percentage of high school students drinking alcohol

Percentage of high school students who had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day in the past 30 days	Maryland (2011)	Virginia (2011)	Fairfax County, VA (2010)	Washington, DC (2011)
Total	35%	31%	21%	33%
Gender				
Male	32%	28%	21%	31%
Female	37%	33%	21%	35%
Race				
White	41%	35%	25%	-
Black	29%	21%	17%	31%
Hispanic	30%	27%	24%	31%
Asian	13%	-	12%	-
Other/Multiple	39%	-	22%	-
Grade				
8th	-	-	8%	-
9th	23%	24%	-	22%
10th	33%	26%	20%	31%
11th	38%	31%	-	38%
12th	47%	44%	37%	44%

"-": Data are not available.

Source: 2010 Fairfax County High School Students Survey, 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.

Table 22. Percentage of high school students "binge" drinking

Percentage of high school students who had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least 1 day in the past 30 days	Maryland (2011)	Virginia (2011)	Fairfax County, VA (2010)	Washington, DC (2011)
Total	18%	16%	11%	13%
Gender				
Male	18%	15%	12%	12%
Female	18%	16%	9%	13%
Race				
White	26%	20%	13%	-
Black	10%	6%	9%	12%
Hispanic	17%	19%	13%	16%
Asian	8%	-	5%	-
Other/Multiple	17%	-	10%	-
Grade				
8th	-	-	3%	-
9th	10%	10%	-	7%
10th	18%	13%	9%	11%
11th	18%	17%	-	15%
12th	29%	25%	11%	20%

"-": Data are not available.

Source: 2010 Fairfax County High School Students Survey, 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.

Use of marijuana

Marijuana is the illicit drug most often used by adolescents. Marijuana use by youth is associated with problems in school, delinquent and aggressive behavior, and possible health problems. Within the NCR, student use of marijuana is higher in Maryland and the District than in Virginia. Older students and males show higher prevalence on this indicator. (See Table 23)

Table 23. Percentage of high school students using marijuana

Percentage of high school students who used marijuana one or more times on at least 1 day in the past 30 days				
	Maryland (2011)	Virginia (2011)	Fairfax County, VA (2010)	Washington, DC (2011)
Total	23%	18%	10%	26%
Gender				
Male	26%	19%	13%	29%
Female	20%	17%	8%	24%
Race				
White	23%	18%	12%	-
Black	24%	16%	13%	26%
Hispanic	21%	23%	12%	24%
Asian	9%	-	5%	-
Other/Multiple	29%	-	11%	-
Grade				
8th	-	-	3%	-
9th	15%	13%	-	18%
10th	24%	15%	10%	23%
11th	23%	15%	-	30%
12th	31%	29%	19%	35%
"-": Data are not available.				
Source: 2010 Fairfax County High School Students Survey, 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.				

Looking Toward Solutions: Substance Abuse

Multi-component programs, such as those that target multiple risky behaviors, are generally effective at reducing substance use among children and adolescents. Programs that increase youth knowledge of the health consequences of substance use can increase the likelihood/success of cessation and/or prevent initiation. Programs tailored to address substance-use risks that are specific to particular populations, such as those defined by age, gender, and ethnicity, can be effective at reducing substance use/abuse. In addition, some programs that emphasize drug-resistance skills and reinforcement of anti-drug attitudes have been found to be effective.

Teen childbearing

Young women who have a child while they are still teens risk serious educational, social and economic challenges, as well as negative outcomes for their children. The incidence of teen childbearing differs dramatically across communities in the NCR. There is a more-than-six-fold difference within the NCR in the proportion of births that occur to teens: from less than one percent in Falls Church, to nearly twelve percent in the District. (See Table 24)

Table 24. Percentage of births to teen mothers (under 20 years old), 2000, 2005, and 2009

Births to teen mothers: Percentage of all births (and counts)									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2000	4.8%	4.8%	4.2%	-	-	4.5%	10.2%	8.0%	14.2%
	(122)	(129)	(596)	-	-	(601)	(1,252)	(403)	(1,088)
2005	5.1%	2.7%	4.0%	-	2.3%	4.5%	9.3%	6.8%	11.0%
	(138)	(77)	(582)	-	(117)	(612)	(1,161)	(449)	(874)
2009	3.3%	2.2%	3.2%	0.7%	2.2%	4.6%	9.3%	6.1%	11.7%
	(88)	(65)	(490)	-	(110)	(630)	(1,133)	(404)	(1,060)
*NCR totals do not include data for Falls Church.									
Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Vital Statistics System.									

Condom use among youth who are sexually active

Unprotected sex carries huge risks for teens, including sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and parenthood. Condoms, when used properly and consistently, help to reduce these risks. Among District teens who indicate that they are sexually active, 75 percent said they used a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse. In Fairfax County, a somewhat smaller proportion (68 percent) reported this; data on this topic were not included in the Maryland and Virginia YRBS. (See Table 25)

Table 25. Condom use among sexually active youth

Percentage of sexually active high school students who used a condom last time they had sex				
	Maryland (2011)	Virginia (2011)	Fairfax County, VA (2010)	Washington, DC (2011)
Total	-	-	68%	75%
Gender	-	-		
Male	-	-	72%	82%
Female	-	-	64%	68%
Race	-	-		
White	-	-	70%	-
Black	-	-	70%	77%
Hispanic	-	-	66%	-
Asian	-	-	64%	-
Other/Multiple	-	-	68%	-
Grade	-	-		
8th	-	-	66%	78%
9th	-	-	-	-
10th	-	-	70%	-
11th	-	-	-	76%
12th	-	-	-	72%

"-": Data are not available.

Source: 2010 Fairfax County High School Students Survey, 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.

Looking Toward Solutions: Reproductive Health/Teen Pregnancy

Many different types of programs have been shown to positively affect reproductive health outcomes. Not only school- and community-based sex education programs, but also clinic-based programs, youth development programs, service-learning programs, and programs for young mothers have been found to improve reproductive health outcomes. In addition, providing adolescent mothers with guidance and support while their children are young can decrease subsequent pregnancies and births. Some sex education programs that incorporate community service have been shown to positively affect participants' reproductive health, including delaying initiation of sexual intercourse, reducing frequency of intercourse, and increasing their use of condoms. Two early childhood programs – the Carolina Abecedarian Program and the High/Scope Perry Preschool Program – have been experimentally evaluated and found to have positive impacts on reproductive health years after the programs ended. Abecedarian participants were less likely to become teen parents, and Perry Preschool participants had fewer non-marital births. Both programs had impact on decreasing repeat pregnancies and births, and increasing the interval between births.

Environmental health

Quantifying the quality of a community's physical environment is challenging on several fronts. Some aspects (recreational facilities, parks, abandoned buildings, grocery stores, etc.) reflect the "built" environment, and therefore are fixed in space—although over time their number and location may change. Other aspects, however—the quality of air and water, for instance—are inherently difficult to "fix" to a specific geographic unit, since their distribution follows "natural" rather than imposed delineations.

County Health Rankings (www.countyhealthrankings.org) is a project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Institute. The latest (2011) version includes four environmental health indicators, all of which are relevant to the well-being of children and youth. (See Table 26) Unfortunately, all measures rely on data that are, by now, four to six years old. However, even with these limitations, the data suggest a fair degree of variability across the NCR.

One indicator examines the annual number of days in which air particulates are at a level unhealthy for sensitive populations. Asthma, the most common chronic disease condition in U.S. children, can be triggered by this and other kinds of air pollution. On this measure, the District stands out as especially unhealthy, with nearly twice the number of "bad" days (seven) as any of its neighbors. However, on a second air-quality measure, the number of unhealthy days due to ozone pollution, Prince George's (MD) and Fairfax (VA) Counties exceed the District.

Access to healthy food (defined here as the percentage of Zip codes with one or more grocery stores, produce stands, or farmers' markets), is an important component in a comprehensive strategy to address nutritional deficits in the diets of many children, including those that contribute to overweight and obesity. Data on this indicator range from relatively low levels in Loudoun County, the District, Montgomery County, and Alexandria (72 to 75 percent within this group), to highs in Prince William, Prince George's Counties, and Falls Church, ranging from 87 to 100 percent.

Finally, the number of recreational facilities on a population basis provides some measure of the availability to children and their families of opportunities to engage in healthful physical activity, which, for children, is especially associated with lowered risk for overweight and obesity. Prince George's County ranks at the low end of this distribution, with just eight facilities per 100,000, while Falls Church has access that is more than five times greater.

Table 26. Health of the physical environment

Health of the physical environment									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
Air pollution: particulate matter days[1] (2006)	3	2	4	3	1	0	4	0	7
Air pollution: ozone days[2] (2006)	14	17	27	18	14	10	29	9	22
Percentage of county with access to healthy foods outlets[3] (2008)	75%	82%	83%	100%	72%	74%	91%	87%	73%
Access (per 100,000 residents) to recreational facilities[4] (2008)	12	15	13	44	15	15	8	11	12

[1] Annual number of days that air quality was unhealthy for sensitive populations, due to fine particulate matter.

[2] Annual number of days that air quality was unhealthy for sensitive populations, due to ozone levels.

[3] Based on the percentage of residential Zip codes in a county with at least one grocery store or produce stand/farmers' market.

[4] Recreational facilities are defined as establishments primarily engaged in opearing fitness and recreational sports facilities, featuring exercise, physical fitness conditioning, or recreational sports, such as swimming, skating, or racquet sports.

Source: http://www.countyhealthrankings.org

Health insurance coverage

Health insurance coverage is associated with children receiving more timely care. Estimates for 2009 are available from the Census Bureau for counties on the proportion of children (younger than 19) lacking health insurance. Within the NCR, rates of non-insurance range from 3.9 percent in the District to 7.1 percent in Arlington County. (See Table 27)

Table 27. Percentage (and number) of children under 19 without health insurance, 2009

Percentage (and number) of children under 19 without health insurance: 2009								
Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
-	7.1%	6.2%	-	4.4%	4.9%	6.1%	7.8%	3.9%
-	(2,603)	(16,483)	-	(3,999)	(12,070)	(13,112)	(8,785)	(4,540)
"-": Data not available.								
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates.								

Children with a "medical home"

The term, "medical home" refers to a consistent, ongoing source of regular preventive health care. While there is evidence of the value of a medical home specifically for children with special health care needs, many professionals, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, promote a medical home as being helpful for all children. Ideally, having medical home results in care that is better coordinated, more efficient, and less costly. Children without a medical home may be more likely to get routine care at a local hospital emergency room, or not at all.

Nationally, about 58 percent of children ages birth to 17 receive care that meets the criteria for a medical home; in the NCR, the estimate is 59 percent. The District is lowest, at 50 percent, and Loudoun County is highest, at 65 percent. (See Table 28)

Table 28. Percentage of children with a medical home, 2007

Children (ages 0 to 17 years) receiving health care that meets the criteria for a medical home										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total***
2007	59%	62%	60%	-	65%	61%	58%	61%	50%	**59%**
"-": Data not available. *NCR total does not include Falls Church, VA.										
Source: Child Trends' synthetic estimates based on data from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health, and the 2007 American Community Survey.										

Physical fighting

Violence as a means of dealing with conflict is a dangerous practice to take hold in childhood and youth. Harmful in itself, physical fighting is associated with other risky activities, and can interfere with school success. In general, physical fighting is more common in the earlier high school grades, and among males more so than females. In the District, nearly four in ten students reported that they were involved in a physical fight in the past 12 months; in Maryland, it was closer to three in ten. (See Table 29)

Table 29. Percentage of youth who have been in a physical fight

Percentage of high school students who have been in a physical fight one or more times in the past year			
	Maryland (2011)	Fairfax County, VA (2010)	Washington, DC (2011)
Total	29%	-	38%
Gender			
Male	34%	-	42%
Female	24%	-	34%
Race			
White	24%	-	-
Black	34%	-	42%
Hispanic	33%	-	32%
Asian	13%	-	-
Other/Multiple	32%	-	-
Grade			
8th	-	-	-
9th	33%	-	43%
10th	27%	-	32%
11th	26%	-	40%
12th	29%	-	33%
"-": Data are not available.			
Source: 2010 Fairfax County High school students Survey, 2011 High school students Risk Behavior Surveillance System.			

Juvenile arrests

A young person's formal involvement with law enforcement agencies, beginning with arrest, can signal the presence of other serious problems, such as a lack of adequate adult supervision, exposure to violence, behavior problems, substance abuse, and economic deprivation. Moreover, an arrest record adds to the barriers many young people already face when it comes to staying in school, getting and holding a job, and maintaining pro-social attitudes and a positive sense of the future.

In the NCR, juvenile arrest rates in 2009 for all offenses (for youth younger than 24) vary by a factor of more than four: from as low as 18 per thousand population in Fairfax County, to as high as 86 per thousand in the District. (See Table 30) Further breakdowns of arrest data, by violent and property crimes, are presented here. In interpreting this information, an important consideration is that local law enforcement agencies follow different practices, conditioned both by resources and by policy, when it comes to arrest of juveniles. Thus, these data cannot necessarily be assumed to represent a common measure, or to be the best reflection of the true incidence of juvenile crime. Note also that these are data on numbers of arrests, not numbers of individuals; the same individual may be arrested multiple times within the year.

Juvenile arrest rates (for all offenses) vary by jurisdiction across the NCR, a pattern with a good deal of consistency between 2005 and 2009 (the latest year for which data are available). In both years, Fairfax County had the lowest rates, at three and 17 arrests per 1,000 youth, respectively, although this was also the largest percentage increase of any jurisdiction. The District had the highest rates in both years, but arrests declined by one-fifth over the period (108 per thousand population in 2005, and 86 in 2009). (See Table 30)

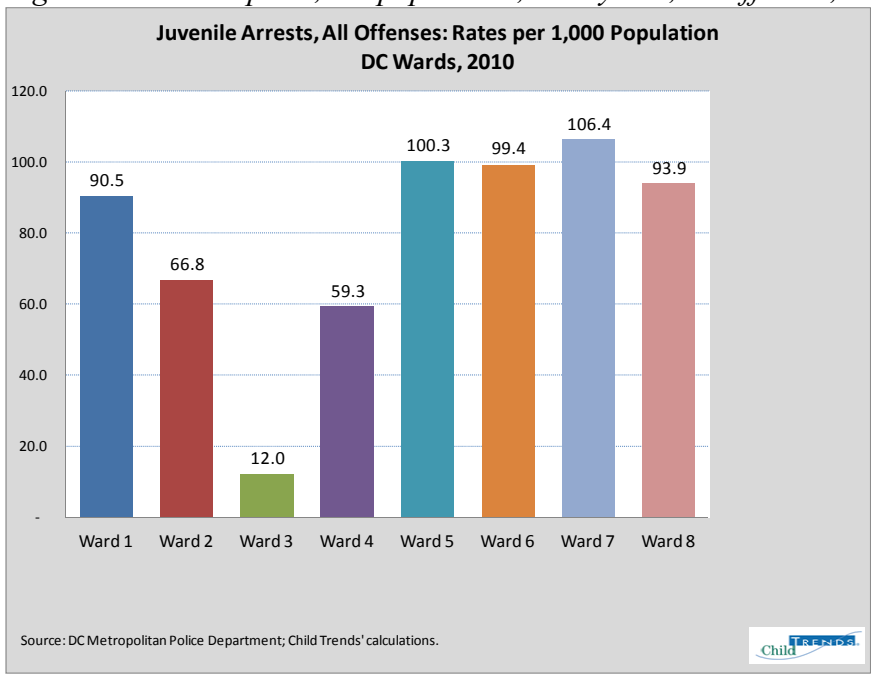
Loudoun, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties all had similar rates (21 to 25 per thousand population, over the period), and small increases between 2005 and 2009. Arlington and Prince William Counties had rates that were largely unchanged between the two years. In both years, Alexandria was at the high end of rates in Virginia jurisdictions of the NCR. Data for Falls Church are available for 2009 only, and—while relatively high—warrant cautious interpretation, because of the relatively small population base. Across the eight DC Wards, juvenile arrest rates vary substantially. In 2010, Ward 3's rate was the lowest, at 12 per thousand populations. With the highest rate, Ward 7's was nearly nine times higher than Ward 3's, at 106, followed closely by Wards 5 (100) and 6 (99) . Rates for Wards 1 and 8 were slightly lower, at 91 and 94, respectively. Wards 2 and 4 had rates near the middle of the distribution, at 69 and 59, respectively. (See Figure 29)

***Key Finding:* 2009 arrest rates for people younger than 25 were highest in the District, Falls Church, and Alexandria. Within the District, 2010 rates were highest in Ward 7.**

Table 30. Arrest rates per 1,000 population, 0-24 years, all offenses, 2005 and 2009s: NCR

Arrests per 1,000 youth, ages 0-24, (and counts): All offenses									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2005	57.1	38.4	2.8	-	21.3	21.5	20.2	36.8	108.2
	(1,868)	(1,810)	(924)	(172)	(2,044)	(6,620)	(6,185)	(4,978)	(15,494)
2009	55.4	32.9	17.7	60.1	22.5	23.9	25.0	39.8	86.0
	(2,214)	(1,894)	(6,175)	(224)	(2,482)	(7,651)	(7,338)	(5,778)	(16,013)
"-" = Data not available									
Source: Child Trends calculations from U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics data/DC Metro Police Department data, and ACS 2005, 2009, and 2006-2010 (for Falls Church) data.									

Figure 29. Arrests per 1,000 population, 0-24 years, all offenses, 2010: DC Wards



Rates of arrest for violent crimes show similar patterns, although numbers are much smaller. For all jurisdictions except the District, violent crimes are defined as including murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. In the District, violent crimes include homicide/manslaughter, rape/sexual abuse, aggravated assault, and robbery/carjacking. NCR jurisdictions in Virginia, with the exception of Alexandria, had the lowest rates of juvenile arrests for violent crimes in both 2005 and 2009. Fairfax County has consistently had the lowest rates, although Loudoun County rates have also been low. Rates for the two Maryland counties (Prince George's' somewhat higher than Montgomery's) have been higher than those in Virginia, but lower than those in the District, which has had the highest rates. (See Table 31)

Table 31. Arrests for violent crimes, per 1,000 population, ages 0-24 years, 2005 and 2009: NCR

Arrests for violent crimes (ages 0-24): Rates per 1.000 population (and counts)									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2005	3.5	1.6	0.1	-	0.3	1.8	2.5	1.4	6.9
	(115)	(75)	(18)	(1)	(25)	(562)	(750)	(183)	(982)
2009	1.9	1.0	0.3	0.8	0.4	2.3	3.2	1.4	6.6
	(76)	(60)	(115)	(3)	(41)	(724)	(946)	(199)	(1,224)

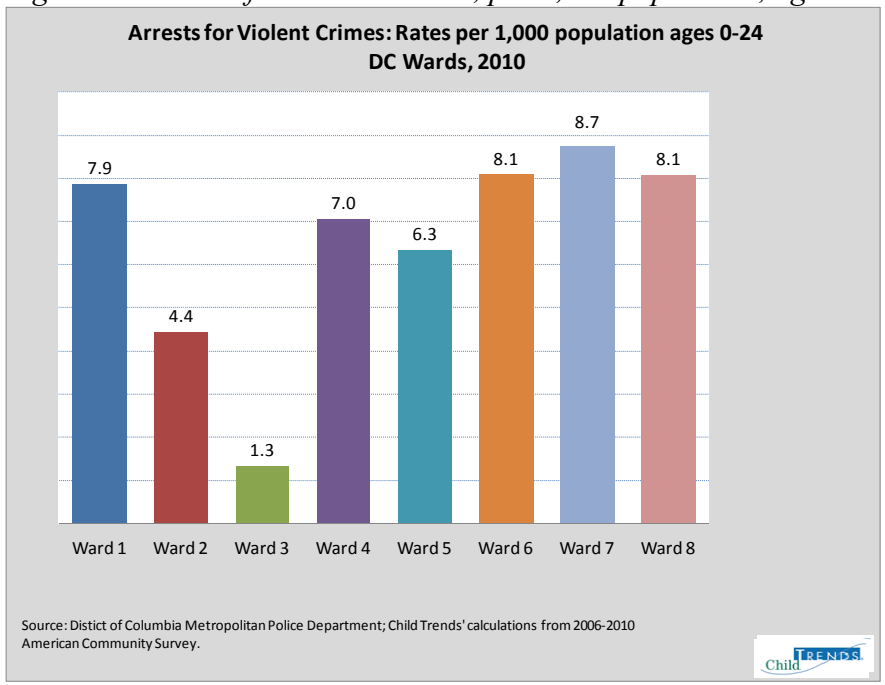
"-" Data not available

Note: For DC, violent crimes include homicide/manslaughter, rape/sexual abuse, aggravated assault, and robbery/carjacking
For all other jurisdictions, violent crimes includes murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Child Trends, calculations of U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics data/DC Metropolitan Police Department data, and ACS 2005, 2009, and 2006-2010 (for Falls Church) data.

Minimal numbers of children below the age of 10 are arrested for violent crimes; most counties reported no such arrests in either 2005 or 2010. When it comes to the 10-17 and 18-24 age groups, there are no consistent patterns. In most jurisdictions the majority of arrests were in the 18-24 age group, with the exception of Prince George's County, where roughly equal numbers of arrests for violent crimes were made for 10- to 17-year-olds and 18- to 24-year-olds. (See Appendix Table A10) Numbers of arrests for violent crime, by race, appear to roughly parallel the population distribution of such categories. (See Appendix Table A11)

Figure 30. Arrests for violent crimes, per 1,000 population, ages 0-24 years, 2010: DC Wards



Rates of arrests for property crimes are consistently higher than those for violent offenses, across the NCR, with the exception of the District, where arrest rates for violent offenses were nearly double those for property offenses. For all jurisdictions except the District, property crimes include burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. For the District, they are defined as burglary, larceny/theft, theft from auto, and arson. Rates across jurisdictions are fairly consistent over time, and follow pattern similar to that shown by arrests for violent crime. Fairfax and Loudoun Counties had the lowest rates in 2009 (3.0 and 2.6 per thousand population, respectively), while Alexandria's and Arlington County's were highest. (See Table 32, Appendix Table A13)

Children under 10 account for very small numbers of property crime arrests, and, once again, there are few clear patterns distinguishing the other two age groups. In 2005, roughly equal numbers of arrests for property crimes were made for the age groups 10-17 and 18-24, although Prince George's County had considerably more arrests in the 10 to 17 group than in the 18 to 24 age group. (See Table A13, Appendix) Numbers of arrests for property crime, by race, appear to roughly parallel the population distribution of such categories. (See Appendix Table A14)

Table 32. Arrests for property crimes, per 1,000 population, ages 0-24 years: NCR

Arrests for property crimes: Rates per 1,000 population ages 0-24 (and counts)									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2005	9.0	6.8	0.5	-	1.4	4.7	5.8	6.1	2.8
	(293)	(322)	(177)	(3)	(136)	(1,446)	(1,758)	(823)	(405)
2009	8.9	11.8	3.0	5.1	2.6	5.1	5.7	6.7	3.7
	(357)	(681)	(1,051)	(19)	(284)	(1,630)	(1,676)	(972)	(698)

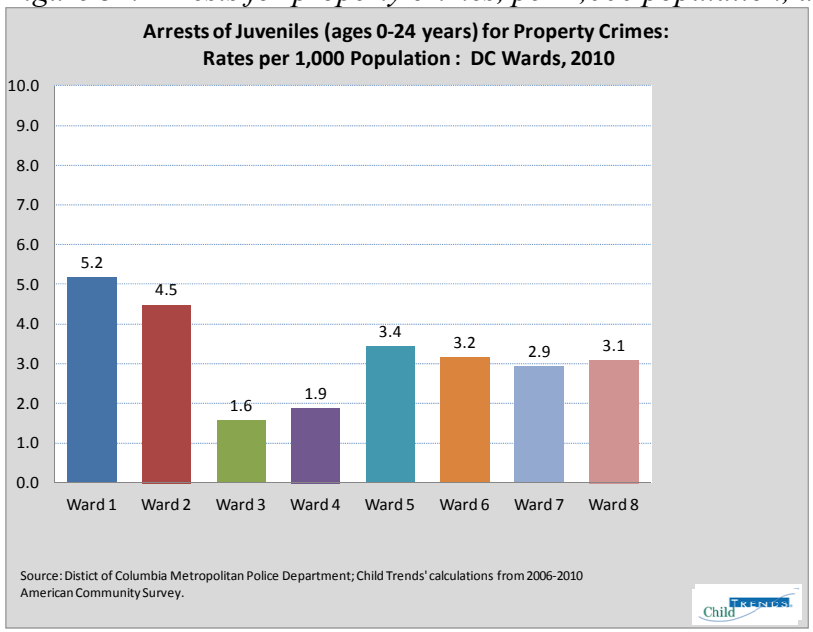
"-" Data not available

Note: For DC, property crimes include burglary, larceny/theft, theft from auto, and arson.
For all other jurisdictions, property crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Source: Child Trends' calculations using U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics data, DC Metropolitan Police Department data, and ACS 2005, 2009, and (for Falls Church) 2006-2010 data.

Within the District, data by Ward show some now-familiar patterns, but with a few notable differences. The rate of arrests for property offenses in 2010 was lowest in Ward 3; Ward 1's was the highest. Ward 7, with the highest rate of arrests for violent offenses, had one of the lowest rates of arrests for property offenses. (See Figures 30 and 31)

Figure 31. Arrests for property crimes, per 1,000 population, ages 0-24 years, 2010: DC Wards



Key Finding: **In the District of Columbia, in 2010, the rate of arrests of young people (under age 25) for violent crimes was nearly double the rate of arrests for property-related crimes.**

Delinquency

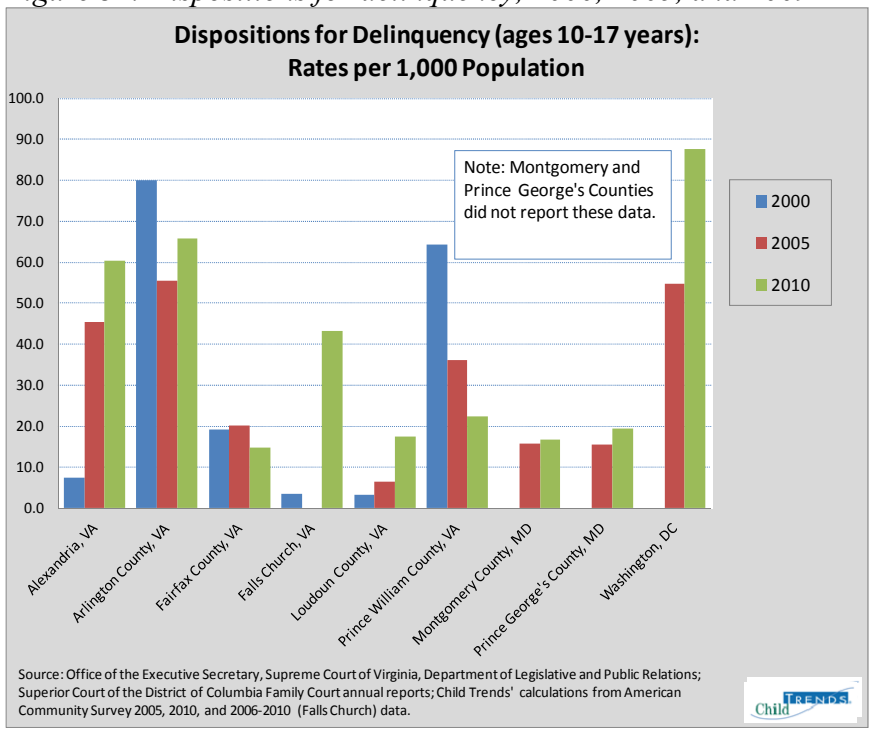
Delinquent offenses are those which, if committed by an adult, would generally be considered crimes. Juvenile justice systems are established to respond to delinquency in ways that acknowledge the special developmental status of youth. Courts that determine (through a "disposition") that a youth has been delinquent may order a range of consequences, from confinement in a secure facility for juvenile offenders, to probation and close supervision within the community, and/or making amends through community service.

Data on delinquency dispositions indicate how many juvenile offenses proceeded to court. While on the one hand this information can be reflective of the numbers of youth engaging in criminal behavior, these data also indicate the number of youth sentenced to some sort of correctional or rehabilitative program. Within the NCR, 2010 rates on this measure vary from low figures (fewer than 20 per thousand population) in Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, to higher than 60 per thousand population in Alexandria and Arlington County, and higher than 80 per thousand in the District. The two Maryland counties in the NCR did not report this measure. It should be noted that disposition rates reflect more than simply the incidence of criminal behavior, since courts have discretion with respect to how juveniles are treated. For example, not all cases brought to the court result in a delinquency disposition; some may be dismissed, or other conditions imposed without a formal disposition.

Looking at rates of delinquency dispositions (per 1,000 youth ages 10-17) across the jurisdictions in the NCR, over time, there are few clear patterns. The District had one of the highest rates in 2005 (55), and the highest rate in 2010 (88), with Arlington County next highest at 80 in 2000, 56 in 2005, and 66 in 2010. Across all years the lowest rates were consistently in Loudoun County. Rates in Montgomery, Prince George's, and Fairfax Counties generally have been in the lower part of the distribution. Prince William County is the only jurisdiction to have had a consistent decline over time in delinquency disposition rates, from 64 in 2000, to 22 in 2010. The most notable increases between 2000 and 2010 were in Alexandria and Falls Church. (See Figure 32, Appendix Table A15)

***Key Finding:* Between 2005 and 2010, rates of delinquency declined in Fairfax and Prince William Counties, while rising in other parts of the National Capital Region.**

Figure 32. Dispositions for delinquency, 2000, 2005, and 2009



Looking Toward Solutions: Delinquency/Violence

Programs that meet consistently and frequently (several days per week for at least 30 minutes) enhance their effectiveness in reducing delinquency and recidivism. Interventions that incorporate family therapy and counseling have had positive impacts on delinquency and violence.

Summary: Child and adolescent health and safety

Sometimes it seems that the threats to health and safety are more than we can enumerate. The food we eat, the air we breathe, the lures of risky (but also dangerous, even fatal) activities—all pose potential threats to our health and to the health of our children. But, at least in part, our perspective is skewed by science that has only relatively recently addressed the health-enhancing, the "protective" factors that can also play important roles in our overall well-being. The positive ways parents and children relate to each other—over a book, or a shared meal, or in physical exercise together—also matter for health. In the NCR, the data show that many children do benefit from such activities. At the same time, many fall into trouble, make poor decisions, or have so little opportunity for positive pursuits that anti-social activity becomes a kind of "career." Of course, still other children are challenged by disabilities over which they may have little control; the relatively high percentage of these children with the District of Columbia is concerning.

Economic well-being

Most children and youth are dependent for their well-being on the economic resources of their families and, less directly, their communities. While, conceptually, availability of economic resources and well-being are not the same, nevertheless income and poverty exert a powerful influence on children's lives. We use "economic well-being" as shorthand for these resources, as they most directly affect children. We look at indicators including income-to-poverty ratio, median family income, and parental unemployment. In addition, we provide information on receipt of public assistance programs by children in the NCR, including food assistance, public health insurance, and child care subsidy programs.

Family income

Poverty and low-income status

Children who grow up in poverty experience a wide range of negative social, academic, and health outcomes.[18] In Table 33, we present estimates based on multiples of the federal poverty threshold, which in 2010 was $22,113 for a family of four living with two related children.

2010 child poverty rates vary across different jurisdictions within the NCR, ranging from 4.3 percent in Loudoun County, to 30.4 percent in the District. More than one in 10 children in Arlington (13.9 percent), Alexandria (13.7 percent), and Prince George's County (11.6 percent) lived in poverty in 2010. However, with the exception of Washington, DC, child poverty rates in the NCR fall well below the national child poverty rate of 21.6 percent. (See Table 33)

A sizable proportion of the children in the NCR lives above the poverty level, but is still considered low-income (with family incomes less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level). For instance, in 2010, more than half of the children in the District (50.8 percent), more than one-third of the children in Alexandria (35.6), and more than one-quarter of the children in Prince George's (28.5 percent) and Arlington Counties (27.6) are low-income. Lower rates of poverty and low-income status are found in Fairfax and Loudoun

[18] Brooks-Gunn, J., & Duncan, G.J., (1997). The effects of poverty on children. *The Future of Children*: *Children and Poverty, 7,* 55-71.
Guo, G. (1998). The timing of influences of cumulative poverty on children's cognitive ability and achievement. *Social Forces, 77*(1), 257-287.
Moore, K.A., Redd, Z., Burkhauser, M., Mbwana, K., & Collins, A. (2009). Children in poverty: Trends, consequences, and policy options. Washington, DC: Child Trends.

counties. Poverty rates in Falls Church could not be calculated, due to small sample sizes, which yield margins of error which are too large to provide estimates in which we can be confident.

Concentrated poverty (sometimes defined as those geographic areas with poverty rates of 20 percent or more) may pose special risks for children and families, beyond those associated with their individual circumstances. More than one in three District residents (35 percent) in 2006-2010 lived in census tracts of this description.[19]

***Key Finding:* In all but one jurisdiction (the District of Columbia), levels of child poverty are lower in the NCR than the national average.**

After a period of rapid economic growth in the 1990s, the period between 2000 and 2010 was marked by an economic downturn that has continued through the present day. Between 2000 and 2010, there were two recessions. The first was milder and shorter, lasting for eight months, from March to November, 2001. The second recession was much longer, lasting approximately18 months from December 2007, to June 2009.

Between 2000 and 2005, the national child poverty rate increased from 16.6 percent to 18.5 percent. Jurisdictions within the NCR did not consistently follow this pattern.[20] In four jurisdictions (Alexandria, and Loudoun, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties) rates declined. However, in four other jurisdictions (Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William Counties, and the District) child poverty increased between those two years (2005 data on this indicator are not available for Falls Church).

Between 2005 and 2010, the period that included the Great Recession, six of the eight jurisdictions for which data are available had child poverty rates that were nominally higher in 2010 than in 2005. In Alexandria, the rate quadrupled between these years; in Montgomery County, it more-than-doubled. The exceptions were Prince William County, where the poverty rate among children was 7.1 percent in both years, and the District, where the rate was 32.2 percent in 2005 and 30.4 percent in 2010. (See Table 33)

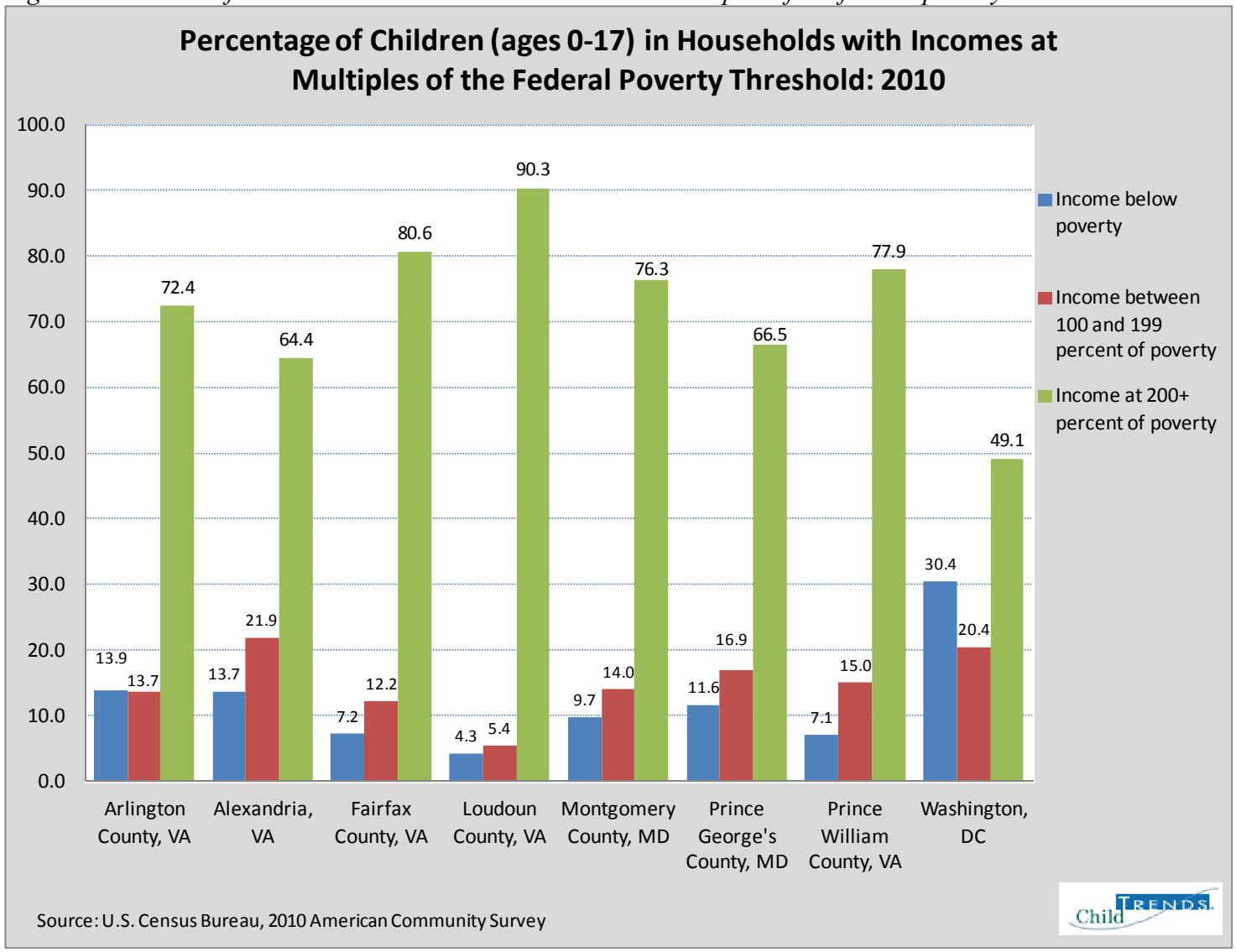
[19] U.S. Census Bureau. 2011). Areas with concentrated poverty: 2006-2010. Retrieved from http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/acsbr10-17.pdf

[20] We describe here general patterns in estimates over time, but did not use statistical tests to determine whether there were significant differences in poverty rates between 2000, 2005 and 2010

Table 33. Percent of children in households with incomes at multiples of the federal poverty threshold, 2000, 2005, and 2010

Percentage of children (ages 0-17) in households with incomes at multiples of the federal poverty threshold: 2000, 2005, 2010										
		Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	U.S.
2000	**Income below poverty**	14.3	9.5	5.4	5.5	2.8	6.2	9.6	6.0	31.7	16.6
	Income between 100 and 199 percent of poverty	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Income at 200+ percent of poverty	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2005	**Income below poverty**	3.4	9.9	7.0		1.6	4.1	9.4	7.1	32.2	18.5
	Income between 100 and 199 percent of poverty	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Income at 200+ percent of poverty	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2010	**Income below poverty**	13.7	13.9	7.2	-	4.3	9.7	11.6	7.1	30.4	21.6
	Income between 100 and 199 percent of poverty	21.9	13.7	12.2	-	5.4	14.0	16.9	15.0	20.4	22.5
	Income at 200+ percent of poverty	64.4	72.4	80.6	-	90.3	76.3	66.5	77.9	49.1	56.0
"-" Data not available											
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census; 2005, 2010 American Community Survey											

Figure 33. Percent of children in households with incomes at multiples of the federal poverty threshold



To take a closer look at the economic well-being of children in the NCR, we collected and mapped census-tract-level data[21] on family income as measured according to four ratios of the federal poverty threshold (See Figures 34-37):

- 100% below the federal poverty level (approximately $22,000 per year for a family of four with two children)
- Below 50% of the federal poverty level ("deep poverty")
- Below 200% of the federal poverty level ("low-income")
- Above 400% of the federal poverty level

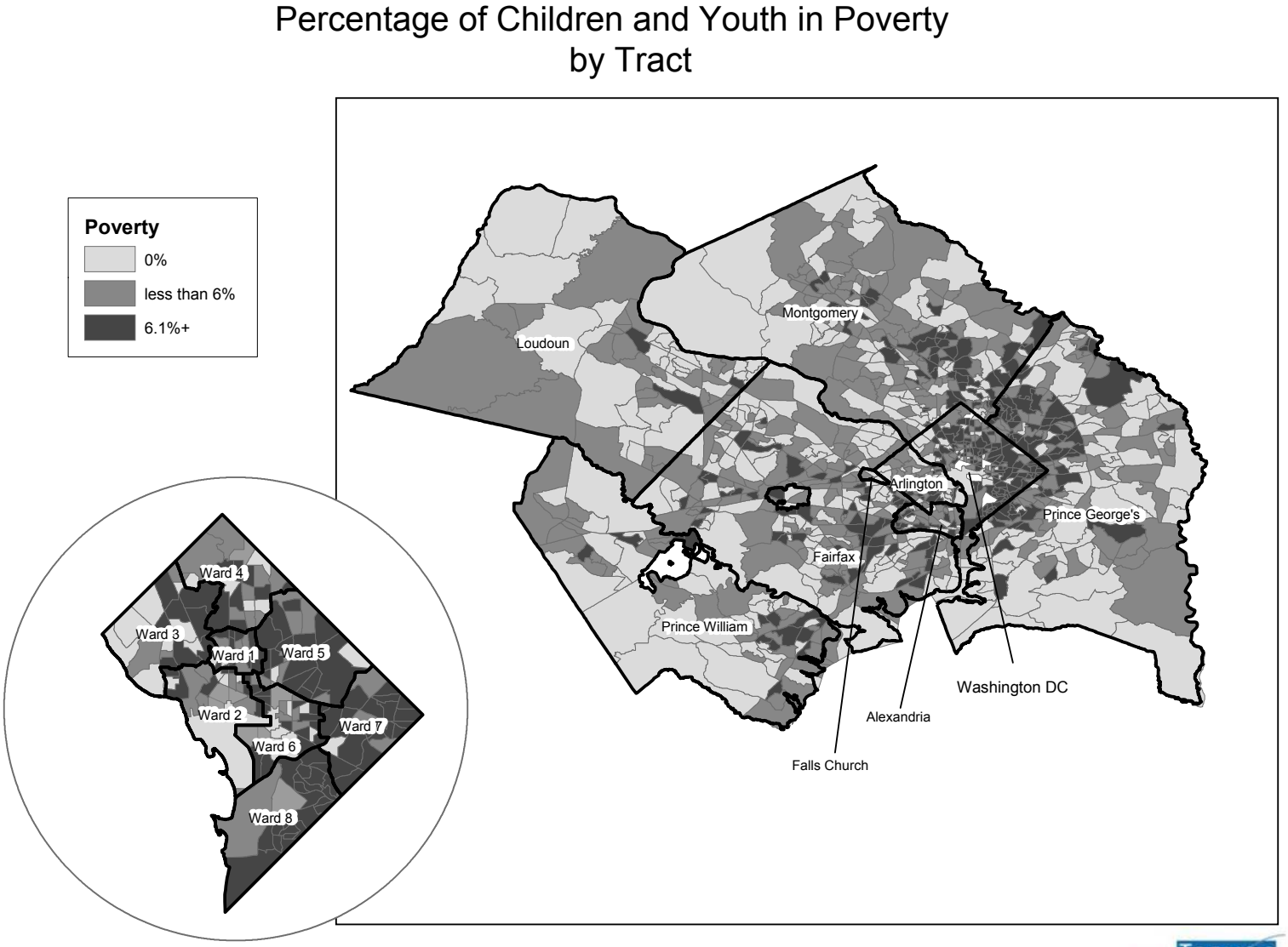
Most jurisdictions within the NCR, including areas (Falls Church, and Prince William and Loudoun Counties) with child poverty rates far below the national average of 21.6 percent in 2010, include at least some tracts where children live in poverty. Nearly all tracts in Alexandria and the District have at least some level of child poverty, and some District tracts have rates as high as 40 percent. Child poverty is also common in some sections of Prince George's County, with higher rates of poverty found in tracts bordering the District, but also to some degree in northern and southeastern parts of the County. Fairfax and Montgomery Counties also have scattered pockets of poverty.

Many fewer tracts in the NCR have a sizeable proportion of children living in deep poverty. In the District, deep poverty among children is concentrated in Wards 7 and 8, although Wards 5 and 6 also have considerable deep poverty.

Tracts with a high proportion of middle- to high-income children are most prevalent in northwestern, central, and southeastern Prince William County; most of Loudoun County; north-central and south-central Fairfax County; eastern and western Montgomery County; and eastern Prince George's County. In the District, the highest proportion of children in wealthier families live in Wards 3 and 4, as well as small pockets of Wards 6 and 7.

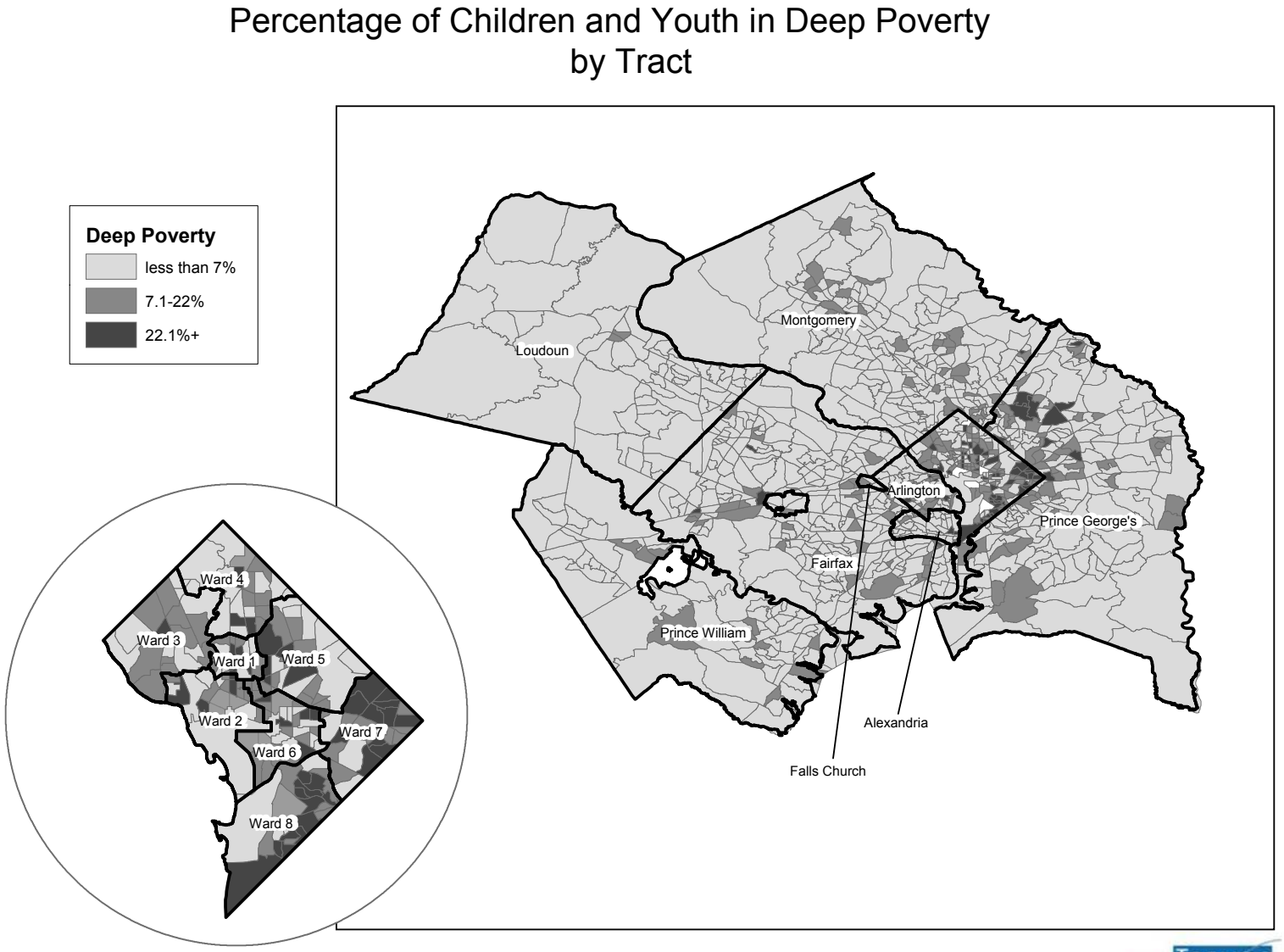
[21] Census tracts generally include between 1,200 and 8,000 people, with an optimum size of 4,000 people.

Figure 34: Percentage of children and youth living in families with incomes below the poverty line, 2010.



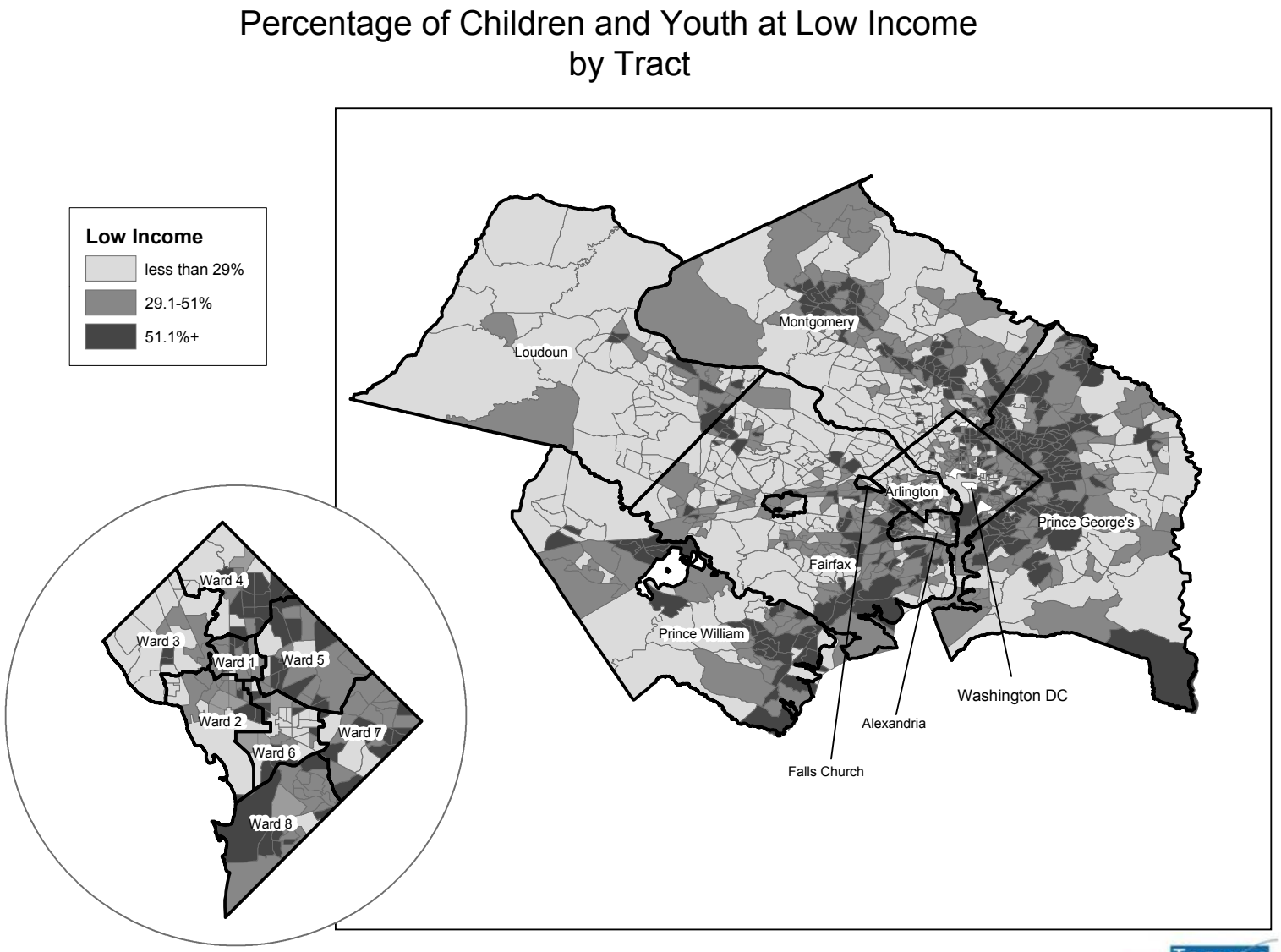
Source: 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Survey

Figure 35: Percentage of children and youth living in families with incomes below50 percent of the poverty line, 2010.



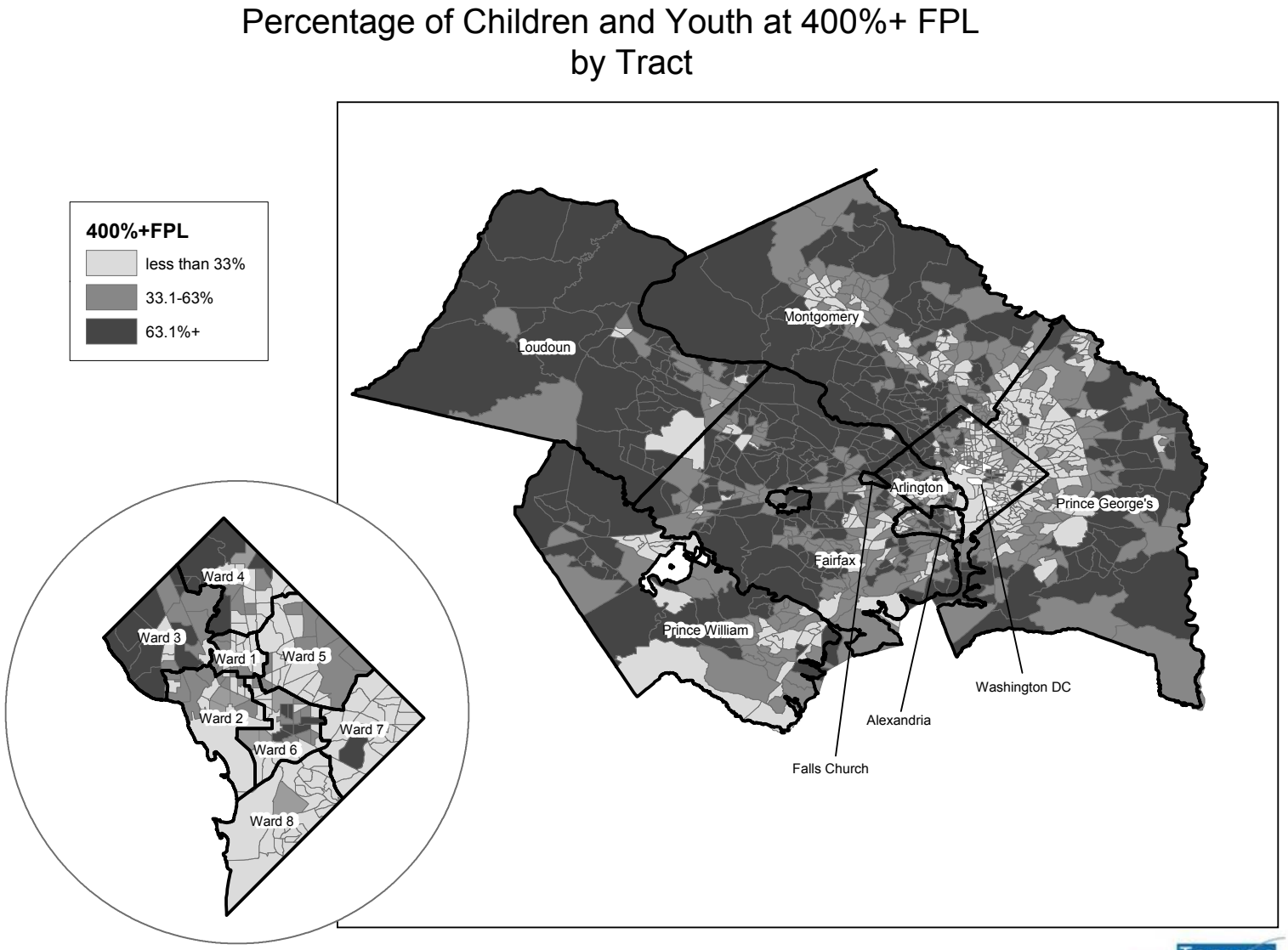
Source: 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Survey

Figure 36: Percentage of children and youth living in families with incomes below 200 percent of the poverty line, 2010.



Source: 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Survey

Figure 37. Percentage of children and youth living in families with incomes greater than four times the poverty line, 2010



Source: 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Survey

Median family income

The median family income for an area is the point on the distribution at which half of families have incomes above, and half below. It provides an additional perspective on the economic well-being of families living in that area. Consistent with long-standing patterns, there is a wide disparity between the incomes of families headed by married couples and those headed by single mothers. Overall, median incomes in the NCR for families living with their own children were much higher than for those found in the U.S. as a whole. For instance, in 2010, the median family income in the U.S. was $60,609; the median income for married-couple families was $77,443; and the median income for families headed by single mothers was $23,184.

In all but one geographic sub-region of the NCR (Prince George's County), the median income for married-couple families with children in 2010 was more than $110,000. In Prince George's County, the comparable figure, at $97,418, was still higher than the national average. Interestingly, the District had the highest median income in the Region for married-couple families with children (at $151,153), but also had the lowest median incomes for single-mother families with children (at $22,934). Indeed, it is striking to note that, in every part of the Region, median incomes in married-couple families are at least twice as high as those in single-mother families; but this ratio is smallest in Prince George's County, and largest (more than six times higher) in the District of Columbia. (See Table 34) Median family income in Falls Church, VA, could not be calculated, due to small sample sizes.

***Key Finding:* In all but one jurisdiction of the NCR (Prince George's County), the median income in 2010 for married-couple families with children was greater than $110,000.**

The median income for families with children in the United States increased in the first decade of the 21st century. In 2000, it was $59,461, in 2005, it was $70,104, and in 2010 it was $77,443. The median income for single mothers increased at a much smaller rate, moving from $20,284 in 2000 to $23,184 in 2010. A similar pattern is evident in jurisdictions in the NCR, with large increases in median income overall for married couples living in the NCR during this time. For instance, the median income of married-couple families with children more than doubled between 2000 and 2010 in the District, going from $73,909 in 2000 to $151,153 in 2010. The median income of single-mother-headed families in most sub-regions of the NCR increased at a smaller rate compared with the increase for married couples. The median income for single-mother headed families moved from $19,656 in 2000 to $22,934 in 2010.

Table 34. Median income, families with own children under 18, by family type, 2010

Median income, families with own children under 18, by family type: 2010										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	US
Married-couple	$110,966	$134,746	$137,946	-	$140,522	$134,182	$97,418	$111,354	$151,153	$77,443
Single Mother	$33,816	$31,812	$50,490	-	$66,954	$45,038	$45,732	$45,312	$22,934	$23,184
"-" Data not available										
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey										

Public assistance programs

Child care subsidy

In most states, poor and low-income families are eligible to receive subsidies which provide assistance to help pay for child care arrangements, which might include early childhood programs as well as before- or after-school arrangements for older children. Table 35 presents data on the receipt of child care subsidy payments in various jurisdictions in the NCR for which data were available. The number of children receiving assistance in 2009 was highest in Fairfax County, with 7,663 children benefiting from subsidies, followed by Prince George's County, with 2,323 children receiving subsidies, and lowest in Arlington County, with 594 receiving subsidies. Data on the number of children receiving child care subsidies in Falls Church, could not be provided due to small sample sizes.

Table 35. Number of children receiving assistance through child care subsidy programs, 2009 and 2010

Children receiving financial support through the child care subsidy program, 2009 and 2010									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2009	1,130	594	7,663	-	733	1,200	2,323	2,033	-
2010	-	-	-	-	-	1,259	2,334	-	1,500

"-": Data not available.

Source: Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Development-Office of Child Care; : U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care, FFY 2009 CCDF Data Tables (Preliminary Estimates), www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/data/index.htm.; Kids Count Data Center http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/Default.aspx

Medicaid/SCHIP

Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) are designed to provide health insurance to poor and low-income children and families who might not otherwise be able to afford it. Table 36 presents the percentage of children receiving Medicaid or SCHIP in the NCR. There is wide variation across jurisdictions in these figures, ranging from a high of 72 percent of children in the District, to a low of two percent in Falls Church. Rates of public health insurance receipt are also high among children in Alexandria (26 percent), and in Prince George's County (37 percent). One reason for differences may be variation across states in eligibility criteria and funding for these programs, particularly for SCHIP. Data for Montgomery County were not available.

Table 36. Percentages of children enrolled in Medicaid/SCHIP, 2010

Children under age 18 receiving Medicaid/SCHIP*, 2010									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2010	25.5%	16.9%	17.0%	2.2%	8.0%	-	37.1%	19.8%	72.1%

"-" Data not available. *State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Source: 2010 American Community Survey; 2005-2009 American Community Survey, KIDS COUNT data center http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/stateprofile.aspx?state=DC&loc=10; Virginia Department of Social Services.

SNAP (food stamps)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, commonly referred to as food stamps) is an important safety net program for poor and low-income children and families. Food stamps increase families' access to food by supplementing the funds available for its purchase. The highest rates of children's receipt of SNAP benefits are in Washington, DC, followed by Prince George's County, Alexandria, and Prince William County. Falls Church (at 0.2 percent) and Loudoun County (at 4.3 percent) have the lowest rates within the NCR. Data for Montgomery County were not available.

Table 37. Percentages of children (and counts) receiving SNAP (food stamp) benefits, 2010

Children under age 18 receiving aid from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), 2010: Percentages (and counts)									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2010	17.0% (4,088)	8.3% (2, 949)	7.8% (20,496)	0.2% (7)	4.3% (4,173)	- -	18.7% -	12.0% (1,421)	42.8% -
Note: "-" Data not available.									
Sources: 2010 American Community Survey; 2005-2009 American Community Survey, KIDS COUNT Data Center									

Table 38. Percentages of children (and counts) receiving SNAP (food stamp) benefits, 2010: DC Wards

Children under age 18 receiving aid from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), 2010: Percentages (and counts)									
	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8	**Total**
2010	36.3 (3,447)	70.5 (2,927)	0.7 (71)	34.1 (4,822)	41.7 (5,573)	49.2 (5,355)	52.3 (9,648)	54.9 (11,856)	42.9 (43,703)
Note: "-" Data not available.									
Source: Child Trends calculations based on DC Department of Human Services, Economic Security Administration data and Census Bureau, ACS 2006-2010 population estimates.									

Within Wards of the District, the percentage of children receiving food stamps varies from less than one percent (Ward 3), to 71 percent (Ward 2). (Table 38)

Parental unemployment

When one or both parents are unemployed, children can suffer. Besides its obvious contribution to a family's economic stability, parental employment may have other positive effects on child well-being. Unemployed parents may be more likely to be depressed, and parental depression is linked to greater risk of problems in children. In addition, permanent job loss (increasingly a feature of recent waves of unemployment) is associated with an increased likelihood of parental divorce, family relocation, and children's repeating a grade; and to decreased earnings when children enter the labor force. Thus, the "scarring" effects of parental unemployment may be multigenerational.[22]

Among single-mother households, rates of parental unemployment in the NCR vary widely across jurisdictions, at 10 percent in Loudoun County, and 41 percent in the District, in 2010. (See Table 38) However, with the exception of the District, unemployment rates of single-mother householders in the NCR were lower than the national average of 29.2 percent.

By contrast, there is much less variation in the rate of dual-parent unemployment in married-couple households with children. In all sub-regions of the NCR, the rate was lower than the national average of 3.9 percent. The rate of dual unemployment in married-couple households living with their own children ranged from 0.6 percent in Prince George's and Prince William Counties, to 1.5 percent in Fairfax County.

Between 2005 and 2010, the rate of parental unemployment remained relatively stable both nationally and within the NCR. In most jurisdictions of the NCR, the percentage of both single-mother and married-couple families with children without a working household head decreased slightly or remained about the same. However, in Montgomery County, the rate of single-mother families with a household head who was unemployed or not in the labor force increased from 13.7 to 18.5 percent. Data on parental unemployment in Alexandria and Falls Church could not be calculated, due to small sample sizes.

Key Finding: **In the District of Columbia, forty percent of single-mother householders living with their own children are unemployed.**

[22] Child Trends DataBank. (2010). Secure parental employment. Accessible at http://childtrendsdatabank.org/alphalist?q=node/192

Table 39. Percentage of families with own children under 18, where both (or the only) householders is unemployed or not in the labor force, by family type, 2005 and 2010

Percentage of families with own children under 18, where both (or the only) householders is unemployed or not in the labor force, by family type: 2005, 2010											
		Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	U.S.
2005	**Married-couple**	-	4.4%	4.8%	-	1.9%	3.2%	3.6%	3.2%	6.1%	4.4%
	Single Mother	-	20.3%	19.4%	-	14.8%	13.7%	16.7%	19.6%	42.2%	28.9%
2010	**Married-couple**	-	1.3%	1.5%	-	0.8%	1.3%	0.6%	0.6%	1.2%	3.9%
	Single Mother	-	21.4%	19.1%	-	10.3%	18.1%	17.4%	16.9%	40.9%	29.2%
"-" Data not available											

Summary: Economic well-being

Among the lines that divide the NCR, perhaps none is more prominent than the one drawn by the level of economic resources. The NCR is a wealthy metropolitan area, as indicated by the relatively high percentage of households with income-to-poverty ratios higher than the national average. The Region is known for having a highly educated population which may, on average, command higher-than-average salaries. However, among the weaknesses of the official poverty measure is that it does not take into consideration geographic variations in the cost of living. Housing and transportation costs in the NCR are, in general, among the highest in the nation. Furthermore, while the NCR as a whole may be financially well-off, one need only drill down by a few orders of geography to realize that while some get along quite well, others barely get by. There are many areas where a sizeable proportion of the child population is poor or low-income. For these families below or just above the margins of poverty, the high cost of living exacerbates their struggles.

Child Welfare

In this section, we provide information on multiple indicators of child welfare, including the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and indicators related to foster care.

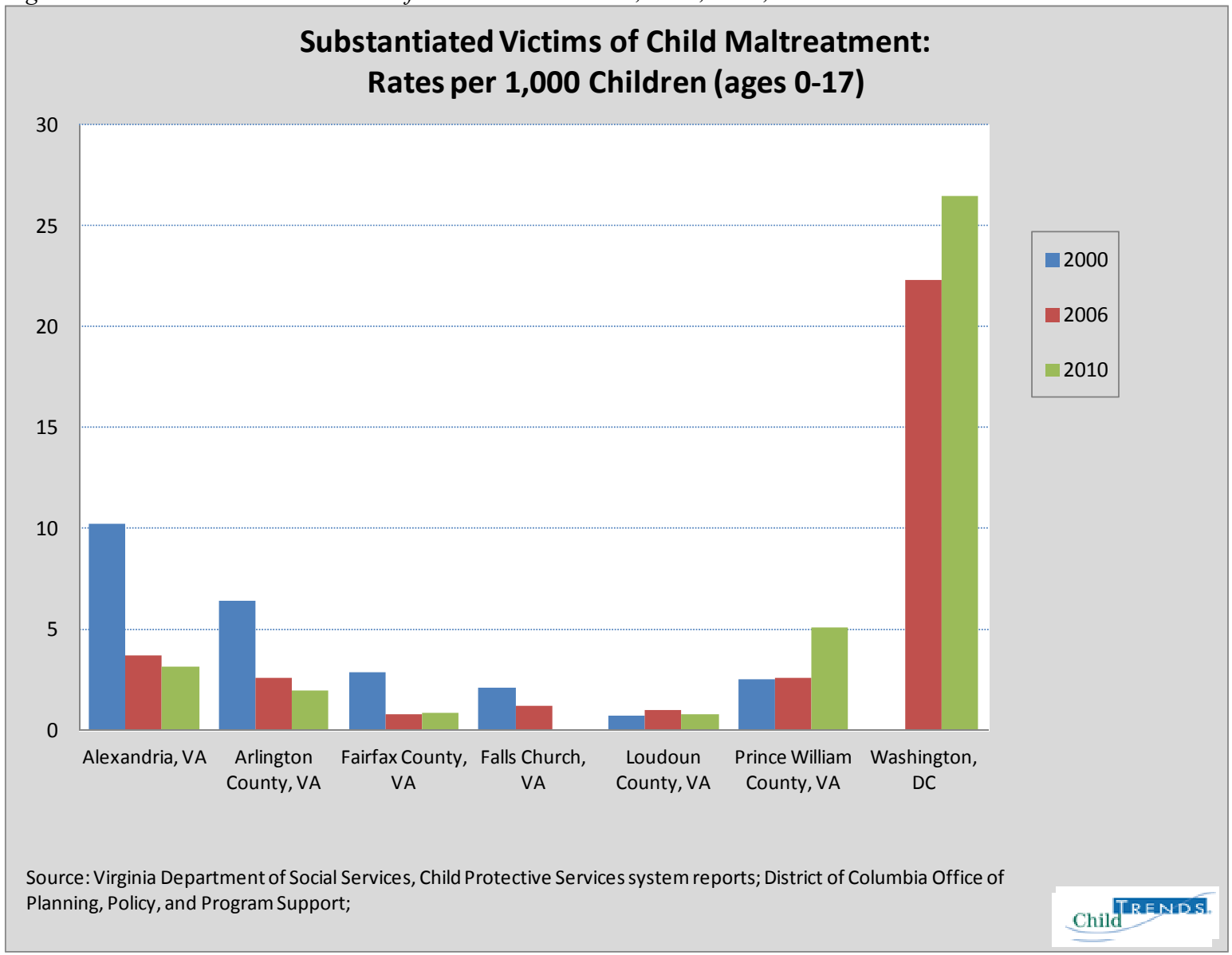
Child abuse and neglect

Most child abuse and neglect occurs, according to national studies, at the hands of family members. Data on child maltreatment are affected by a number of factors. An unknown amount of child maltreatment goes unreported. In addition, states vary in their definitions of abuse and neglect, differing community standards affect what treatment is considered abuse, and jurisdictions may vary in their practices concerning which reports of suspected maltreatment are subject to follow-up, and in how they determine that a given case is "substantiated." Further, the child welfare field is moving toward a new set of practices, sometimes termed "differential response." The aim of this move is to calibrate the responses of the child protection system more appropriately to the needs of individual families. In some families, removal of a child who is at risk may be a less desirable alternative than providing a range of supportive services, based on a comprehensive assessment, that build on family strengths while minimizing risks. In other cases, where a child faces imminent danger, a formal investigation potentially leading to the child's removal, is warranted. Thus, data reported by child protective services agencies provide an imperfect picture of the incidence of maltreatment; nevertheless, they constitute the best available information for Regional comparisons.

Data from 2009 on substantiated maltreatment are currently available for all sub-regions except for the two Maryland counties. The data show rates ranging from zero (Falls Church), to 3.2 (Prince William County) victims per 1,000 child population. (See Figure 38, Appendix Table A17)

Notable in the data on substantiated victims are the high rates, in both 2006 and 2010, for the District—more than four times higher than rates for those same years in other NCR jurisdictions (data for Montgomery County and Prince George's County were not available). In 2000, Alexandria had the highest rate among Virginia jurisdictions in the NCR, but its rates have since declined, as have those for Arlington County and Falls Church. Prince William County's rates have increased slightly across the three years examined here, as have rates in the District between 2006 and 2010.

Figure 38. Child maltreatment: Rates of substantiated victims, 2000, 2006, and 2010



Among types of maltreatment, neglect (physical and medical) accounts for the largest number of incidents, across nearly all jurisdictions. Numbers of cases of sexual abuse and physical abuse are generally somewhat smaller. In the District, for example, there were (in 2010) 510 cases of physical abuse, and 70 cases of sexual abuse, compared with 1,103 cases of neglect. Prince George's County, however, had nearly as many cases of sexual abuse as cases of physical abuse or neglect. Fairfax County also diverges from the predominant pattern, with as many cases of sexual abuse as cases of neglect. (See Table 39)

Table 39: Child maltreatment: Substantiated cases by type of maltreatment, FY 2010

Child maltreatment: Substantiated cases by type of maltreatment, FY 2010									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
Physical Abuse	16	19	64	0	22	-	266	165	510
Sexual Abuse	9	21	84	0	22	-	203	72	70
Neglect	50	35	84	0	41	-	267	402	1,103
Mental Abuse/Neglect	0	5	12	0	2	-	3	24	-
"-" Data not available									
Note: Substantiated cases may involve multiple types of maltreatment.									
Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services Accountability reports; District of Columbia Office of Planning, Policy, and Program Support Child and Family Services Agency; Prince George's County Department of Social Services.									

We also examined substantiated cases of child maltreatment, by race and Hispanic origin, and by age group (data were available in this format for Virginia jurisdictions only). (See Appendix Tables A18 and A19)

Looking Toward Solutions: Child Maltreatment

Programs that teach parents how to manage their children's behavior and use healthy discipline strategies have been found to be effective at decreasing child maltreatment. Home visiting approaches also show promise for preventing or reducing child maltreatment. Nearly all family-based programs that implement counseling and therapy sessions for parents and/or children have had positive impacts on reducing child maltreatment, such as emotional and physical abuse by parents.

Foster care

When children cannot be safely cared for by their parents, they are often placed in foster care. For children's well-being, stability and permanence should be prime considerations in planning their care. This means planning for reunification with birth parents, or in the case where that is not possible, for adoption, legal guardianship, or for a minimal number of placements within foster care. For youth who are "aging out" of foster care, permanence (in this case, a stable living situation), and the skills and opportunities for economic self-sufficiency are also important issues. Children in foster care generally have exceptional needs, including in the areas of physical health, mental health, and managing their behavior, as well as academic performance. The Fostering Connections Act of 2008 provides incentives for states to give greater consideration to the use of relative foster care and subsidized guardianship, extend eligibility for certain services beyond age 18, better coordinate health care for foster youth, and minimize changes in schooling that might otherwise accompany residential moves.

A key issue for youth in foster care is making the transition to adulthood while maintaining and building the kinds of material and emotional supports that youth who are not in foster care typically have. In order to better prepare foster youth for a secure adulthood, including ongoing education and employment, they generally need assistance with housing issues, life skills (such as money management), and counseling for college and/or career. One means of providing these kinds of support is to extend services to these youth at least until age 21. Achieving permanency, as appropriate, through adoption, custody with a relative, or a return to birth parents gives foster youth a better chance at a successful "launch" into adulthood.

Based upon recent data, within the NCR rates of foster care are lowest in Prince William, Loudoun, and Fairfax Counties; they are highest—as much as twenty times higher—in the District of Columbia. (See Table 40)

Key Finding: **The rate of foster care in the District of Columbia is more than three times higher than the next-highest rate (for Alexandria) within the National Capital Region.**

Table 41. Foster care: Rate per 1,000 population, ages 0-17, 2008-2010

Foster care: Rates per 1,000 population, ages 0-17 (and counts)									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2008	6.1	3.8	1.6		1.0	2.5	3.0	0.9	20.2
	(181)	(147)	(394)	-	(87)	(575)	(608)	(99)	(2,264)
2009	6.1	3.7	1.4		1.1	2.3	2.9	0.8	18.5
	(167)	(133)	(370)	-	(97)	(546)	(599)	(91)	(2,103)
2010	5.2	3.5	1.3		0.9	2.2	2.9	0.9	19.8
	(126)	(115)	(337)	-	(83)	(516)	(592)	(110)	(2,007)
Note: Child Trends' calculations using population data from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.									
Source: Counts (as of December 31) from2010 Foster Care Annual Report - National Capital Region, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.									

As with maltreatment rates, rates of new entrants into the foster care system are fairly consistent across the NCR, with the highest rates in the District. In the District, rates of new entrants (per 1,000 youth, ages 10-17) were 4.3 and 6.6 in 2006 and 2010, respectively. The next highest rates, for both years, were in Alexandria. However, Alexandria's rate of new entrants has consistently declined over the years shown. (See Table 41)

Table 42. New entrants into foster care: Rates and counts, FY 2000, 2006, and 2010

New entrants into foster care: Rates per 1,000 youth ages 10-17 (and counts), fiscal years 2000, 2006, and 2010									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2000	2.7	1.3	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.9	1.2	0.3	-
	(58)	(42)	(158)	(0)	(9)	(191)	(268)	(26)	-
2006	2.4	2.1	0.8	0.0	0.4	1.0	0.9	0.8	4.3
	(62)	(75)	(193)	(0)	(30)	(233)	(193)	(83)	(495)
2010	1.6	1.1	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.8	1.0	0.6	6.6
	(38)	(36)	(113)	(0)	(41)	(178)	(199)	(66)	(665)
"-" Data not available									
Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports; District of Columbia Office of Planning, Policy, and Program Support. Child and Family Services Agency; Prince George's County Department of Social Services; Child Trends' calculations from American Community Survey data.									

Rates of foster care entry, by age group, and by race/Hispanic origin, are reported in Appendix Tables A20 and A21.

Summary: Child welfare

Large numbers of children in the NCR are without the kinds of family nurturing and support that most of us take for granted. In some cases, in the interest of protecting these children from further harm, the state steps in. But the state, in general, is a poor parental substitute, even with the best of intentions. Maltreated children and youth, who also make up the large majority of children in foster care, are the "fallout" from families in crisis. Their numbers are thus a measure of just how far society falls short in supporting all families—before they reach a breaking point. The factors involved here are complex, but perhaps within the NCR there are opportunities to learn from jurisdictions that, at least according to available data, have a lower incidence of these cases.

Education: Preschool programs through college

In this section, we provide information on indicators of child care and early learning opportunities; academic achievement, as indicated by performance on statewide assessments; student dropout rates; and rates of college enrollment. We also present additional school-related data such as enrollment, and rates of special education students and English learners.

Child care availability

Historically, in our society, non-parental care for young children has had two broad aims, sometimes pursued together, sometimes independently. First, child care has facilitated parents' working outside the home, and, second, it has provided a foundation of early learning that can help children get a "head start" on success in school. Increasingly, early childhood education is seen as a benefit all young children should have, because research has found that, at least in the case of early learning settings that meet certain quality standards, early childhood education conveys advantages in multiple areas—including social-emotional, language, and cognitive development; later success in school; and even improved prospects for adult well-being.[23]

Data on the availability of licensed center-based care in the NCR are limited. Virginia jurisdictions were unable to provide capacity data for this report. As of 2011, there were about 2,000 licensed, center-based infant/toddler slots in Montgomery County, representing about seven percent of the birth-to-two population. Prince George's County had about 1,500 such slots, also representing about seven percent of its infants and toddlers. For preschoolers (ages three to five), there were about 16,200 licensed center-based slots in Montgomery County, enough to serve about half the children in this age group (55 percent of the population) In Prince George's County, there were approximately 10,200 such slots, or enough for about 43 percent of the population. In the District, capacity is substantially greater for both age groups: sufficient to serve about one in four infants and toddlers (19 percent of the population), and nearly nine in ten preschoolers (89 percent).

[23] Reynolds, A. J., Temple, J. A., Ou, S-R., Robertson, D. L., Mersky, J. P., Topitzes, J. W., and Niles, M. D. (2007). Effects of a school-based, early childhood intervention on adult health and well-being. *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, 161*(8), 730-739.
Lynch, R. G. (2007). Enriching children, enriching the nation: Public investment in high-quality prekindergarten. Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute.
Bradley, R. H. and Vandell, D. L. (2007. Child care and the well-being of children. *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, 161*(7), 669-676.

Table 43. Licensed center-based care: Capacity

Licensed child care centers: Capacity as a percentage of the population (and counts): FY 2009-2011										
		Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
FY2009	**Infants/Toddlers**	-	-	-	-	-	6.3%	5.6%	-	-
	(birth to 2 years)	-	-	-	-	-	(1,786)	(1,392)	-	(4,458)
	Pre-school age	-	-	-	-	-	52.5%	43.3%	-	-
	(3-5 years)	-	-	-	-	-	(14,900)	(10,678)	-	(18,094)
FY2010	**Infants/Toddlers**	-	-	-	-	-	6.3%	6.4%	-	-
	(birth to 2 years)	-	-	-	-	-	(1,825)	(1,603)	-	-
	Pre-school age	-	-	-	-	-	52.9%	43.1%	-	-
	(3-5 years)	-	-	-	-	-	(15, 421)	(10,829)	-	-
FY2011	**Infants/Toddlers**	-	-	-	-	-	6.5%	6.6%	-	19.4%
	(birth to 2 years)	-	-	-	-	-	(1,938)	(1,560)	-	(4,329)
	Pre-school age	-	-	-	-	-	54.5%	42.8 %	-	88.8%
	(3-5 years)	-	-	-	-	-	(16,180)	(10,196)	-	(16,901)

Notes: "-" Data not available.
Percentages represent the proportion of the population in each age group that can be served by licensed child care providers.

Source: Maryland Child Care Resource Network: Child Care Demographics; District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education Division of Early Childhood Education; 2010 American Community Survey

Looking Toward Solutions: School Readiness

High-quality, intensive pre-school programs have been found to be effective at preparing children for school. Interventions and programs that are staffed with well-trained teachers also have positive impacts on school readiness for young children. Supervised instruction and family engagement in program activities are effective practices used by successful programs targeting school readiness. High-quality, intensive early childhood interventions can also positively affect outcomes later in life. Three early childhood programs – the Carolina Abecedarian Program, the Chicago Parent-Child Centers, and the High/Scope Perry Preschool Program – have been experimentally evaluated and found to have positive impacts years after the programs ended.

School enrollment (including public pre-K)

In recent years, many school districts have inaugurated or expanded publicly-funded pre-kindergarten (pre-K) programs. Often co-located in public elementary schools, these programs generally serve children in the year prior to kindergarten. Eligibility is sometimes limited to children whose families are economically disadvantaged (as in Virginia and Maryland); in other locales (such as the District), these programs are open to all residents. Table 43 presents 2011 enrollment numbers for these programs within the NCR. The lack of appropriate population estimates with which to calculate rates makes interpretation difficult, but it appears that the District, and Arlington and Prince George's Counties, have substantially more pre-K availability than Alexandria, or Prince William, Loudoun, and Montgomery Counties.

Table 44. Enrollment in public pre-kindergarten

Enrollment in public pre-kindergarten										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total**
2011	112	524	873	12	300	2,826	4,848	70	9,897	**19,456**

Notes: The Virginia and Maryland pre-kindergarten programs are targeted to serve specific populations. The Virginia Preschool Initiative distributes funds to schools and community-based organizations to provide quality preschool programs for at-risk four-year-olds not served by Head Start. In Maryland, pre-K programs are offered to four-year-old children who are homeless or from economically disadvantaged families. The pre-kindergarten program in the District of Columbia is available to all 4-year-olds who live in the District.

Source: District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education Division of Early Childhood Education Pre-K Capacity Audit; Maryland State Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education

School enrollment data serve as markers of the several transitions from early childhood to adolescence, and from adolescence to independent adulthood. These data also show how many children and youth are engaged with the school system, and serve as indicators of the adequacy of facilities and the human and fiscal resources needed to sustain the education system.

From 2006-07 through the most recent school year of 2010-11, public school enrollment steadily increased for each sub-region of the NCR. The one exception is Prince George's County, which experienced a net loss of 4,343 students. (See Table 44) Looking at earlier trends from 2002-2003 through 2005-2006, most jurisdictions had a decline in public school enrollment, hitting lows in either 2005-2006 or 2006-2007, before experiencing the steady increase seen in more recent years.

Data on public and private school enrollment are presented for young people ages 3 through 24. (See Figure 39 and Table 45) For very young children, public school enrollment may be an indicator of greater access to public school pre-kindergarten slots. Alternatively, it could be an indicator of a greater need for and utilization of free educational and child care services. Among children ages three to four, we see that the District and Prince George's County have the largest total numbers and the largest proportion of

very young children enrolled in public schools, as compared with private schools. In the other jurisdictions, a larger proportion of very young children are either not enrolled in school or enrolled in private schools. ("Private schools" includes home-schooling.)

Comparing the number of school-age children enrolled in public versus private schools highlights issues of demand for and access to high-quality education (public or private), as well as the resources available to families and communities. In the District, older children are less likely to be enrolled in public school than are younger children. Among 5- to 14-year-olds in the District, approximately four in five students attended a public school. However, among 15- to 19-year-old students, just over half were attending public schools, as opposed to private schools. In other sub-regions of the NCR, there is a similar, but less pronounced, pattern (with a larger proportion of elementary school students, compared with students in high school and beyond, attending public schools).

Key Finding: **In all NCR jurisdictions, except for Prince George's County, the number of students enrolled in public schools has increased between the 2006-2007 and the 2010-2011 school years.**

Table 45. Public school enrollment, SY 2000-01 through 2010-11

Public school enrollment counts										
School Year	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total**
2000-01	-	-	-	-	-	134,180	133,723	-	-	-
2001-02	-	-	-	-	-	136,895	135,039	-	-	-
2002-03	10,971	19,133	162,585	1,833	37,532	138,983	135,439	60,541	-	-
2003-04	10,902	19,158	164,235	1,874	40,725	139,201	137,285	63,404	-	-
2004-05	10,996	18,802	164,765	1,898	43,975	139,393	136,095	66,298	77,530	**659,752**
2005-06	10,643	18,463	163,768	1,865	47,326	139,398	133,325	68,462	75,923	**659,173**
2006-07	10,334	18,456	163,962	1,883	50,416	137,814	131,014	70,948	75,536	**660,363**
2007-08	10,570	18,736	165,734	1,936	53,985	137,717	129,752	72,989	73,826	**665,245**
2008-09	11,223	19,599	169,040	1,967	56,922	139,282	127,977	73,918	74,575	**674,503**
2009-10	11,661	20,268	171,959	2,023	60,034	141,722	127,039	76,862	76,233	**687,801**
2010-11	11,999	21,485	174,490	2,084	63,151	144,023	126,671	79,358	77,886	**701,147**
"-" Data not available										

Source: District of Columbia State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; District of Columbia Public Charter School Board Annual Reports; Maryland Department of Education; Montgomery County Schools at a Glance Annual Reports; Prince George's County Schools Annual Reports; Virginia Department of Education.

According to Census Bureau estimates, as of 2010, more than 15,000 children between the ages of five and 14 are not enrolled in school. Some of these may have severe disabilities, since these counts include children in institutional settings. Nearly 28,000 adolescents, ages 15-19, are also not in school. These likely include school dropouts and high school graduates who have not yet continued their education, as well as those in institutional care. People enrolled in "vocational, technical, or business school" such as post-secondary vocational, trade, hospital school, and on-job training were not reported as enrolled in school. (See Table 46)

Key Finding: **As of 2010, more than 43,000 children and youth (ages 5-19) in the National Capital Region were not enrolled in school.**

Figure 39. School enrollment, by type and age group

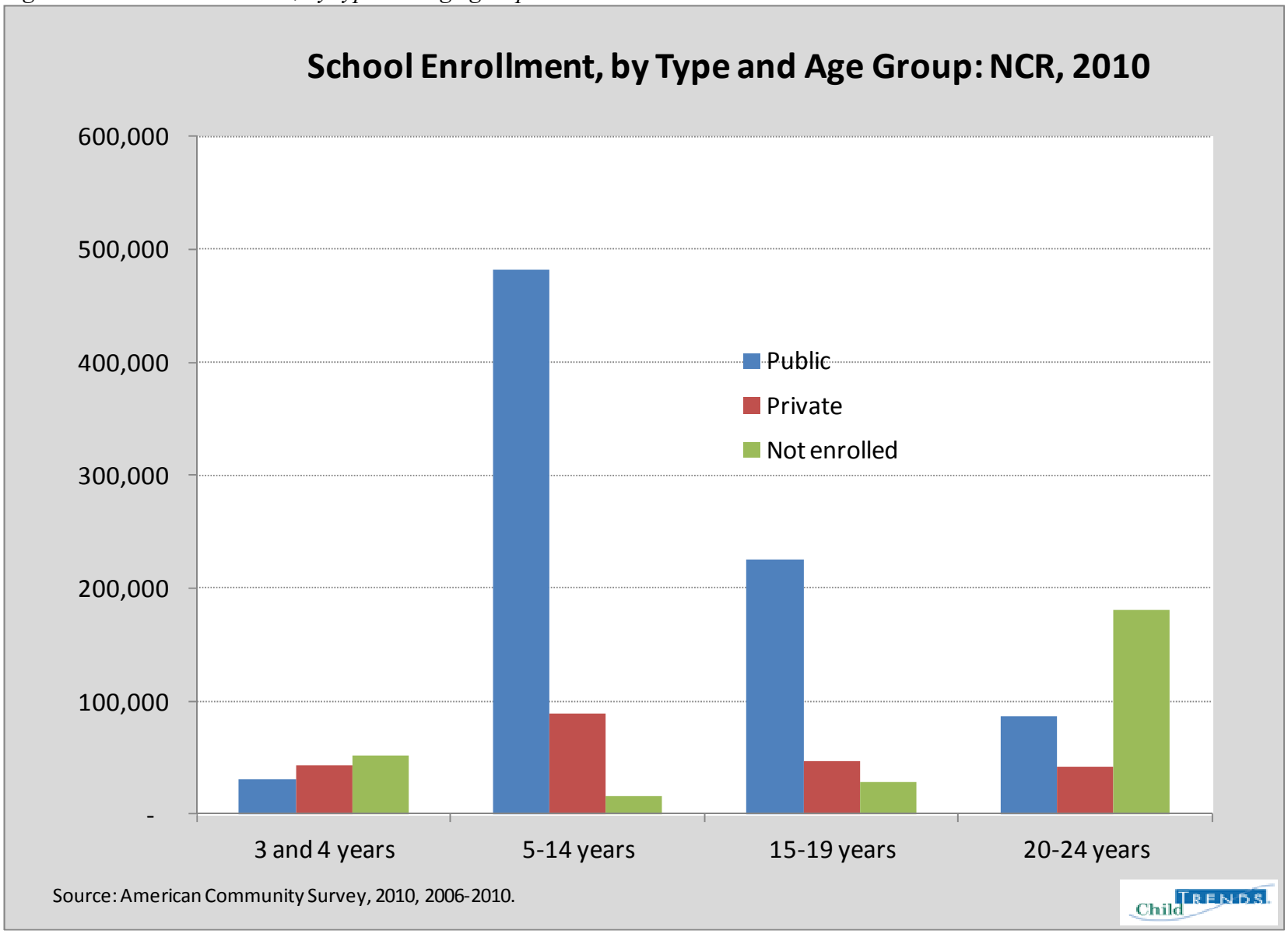


Table 46. School enrollment, by age and school-type, 2010

School enrollment counts, by school type and age: 2010										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA*	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total**
3 and 4 years										
Public	726	1,059	4,515	40	2,430	5,546	8,651	1,931	6,009	**30,893**
Private	771	1,557	12,956	130	5,436	9,941	5,053	4,497	2,699	**43,053**
Not enrolled	2,029	1,604	11,643	57	4,830	11,408	11,168	6,346	3,074	**52,191**
5-14 years										
Public	9,048	15,613	118,934	1,240	45,322	104,227	91,781	55,559	40,577	**482,305**
Private	1,512	1,787	22,086	227	7,890	22,857	16,085	6,976	9,893	**89,159**
Not enrolled	1,025	225	4,740	23	1,446	2,153	2,396	2,577	767	**15,374**
15-19 years										
Public	2,989	4,568	57,639	679	16,492	46,132	54,492	22,374	19,527	**225,109**
Private	841	878	5,892	44	1,389	9,249	8,042	1,446	18,539	**46,325**
Not enrolled	543	366	3,475	28	1,201	4,258	6,735	6,631	4,622	**27,868**
20-24 years										
Public	1,434	3,108	21,766	387	4,809	17,457	24,666	6,057	6,387	**86,019**
Private	531	1,420	4,061	58	1,523	7,526	4,670	1,073	20,603	**41,473**
Not enrolled	5,998	12,934	34,633	300	6,988	29,321	39,846	16,157	33,853	**180,268**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, except Falls Church data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

Key Finding: **Nearly half of District of Columbia residents ages 15-19 who are enrolled in school attend private schools.**

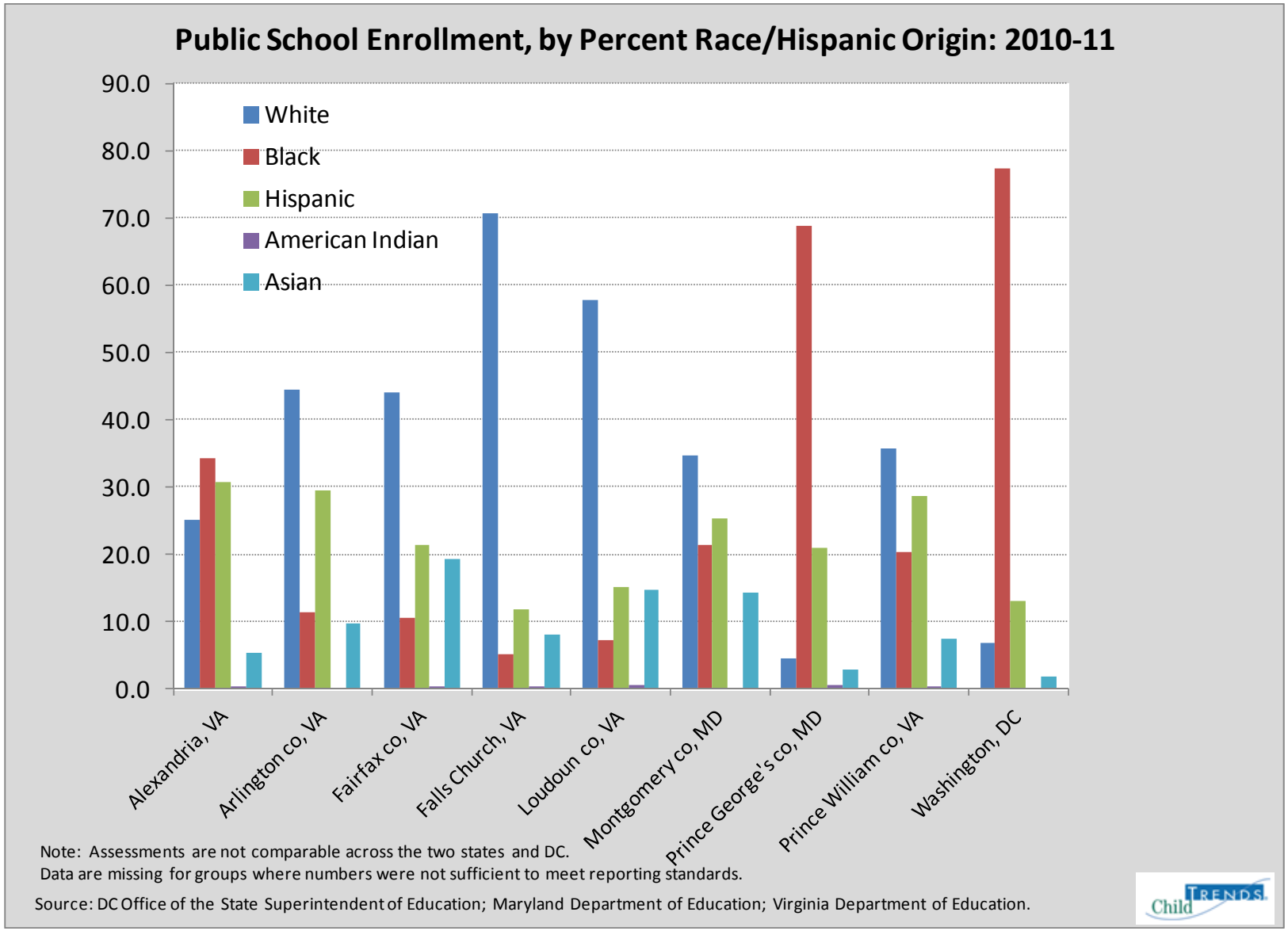
We also examine public school enrollment across NCR jurisdictions by race and Hispanic origin. (See Figure 40, and Appendix Table A23) In every Virginia jurisdiction except for Alexandria, white students make up the single largest percentage of enrolled students; the highest proportion is 71 percent in Falls Church in SY 2010-2011. In other Virginia jurisdictions, the proportion of white students is between about one-third and one-half, but the percentage decreased between 2005-2006 and 2010-2011. Alexandria is the exception, where the proportion of white students has remained at about one in four. In the Maryland counties of the NCR, whites are the single largest group of public school students in Montgomery County, but are fewer than 10 percent (behind black and Hispanic students) in Prince George's. In both Maryland counties the proportion of white students declined between 2005-06 and 2010-11. In the District, white students are the third largest group (after black and Hispanic students), though as a percentage their numbers have increased somewhat over this period.

Black students make up the single largest percentage enrolled in public school in Alexandria, Prince George's County, and the District, and indeed are a majority in these jurisdictions, except for Alexandria, where they account for about one third of the population. In Loudoun County and Falls Church, black students are fewer than ten percent of those enrolled in public schools. In Prince William and Montgomery Counties, blacks make up about one in five public school students.

In every NCR jurisdiction, Hispanics, as of SY2010-2011, represent the second largest group on a percentage basis, with the highest proportion in Alexandria (31 percent) and the lowest in Falls Church (12 percent). Each NCR jurisdiction has had a rise in the proportion of Hispanic students since 2005-06, but the greatest increases are in Prince George's, Montgomery, and Fairfax Counties.

Asian students make up nearly one in five public school students in Fairfax County, and close to one in seven in Montgomery and Loudoun Counties. In the other NCR jurisdictions their numbers are less than one in ten, with the lowest proportion (two percent) in the District. American Indian students make up statistically negligible proportions throughout the NCR.

Figure 40. School enrollment, by race and Hispanic origin



Academic proficiency as assessed by standardized tests predicts students' later success in school and even their subsequent job performance. The Maryland State Department of Education, the Virginia Department of Education, and the District of Columbia Public Schools administer state assessments to elementary and secondary school students. For grades 3 through 8, performance in reading and mathematics is tested. However, for grades 9 through 12, the states vary in what subjects their assessments cover.

In this section, we report on the percentage of students performing at the "proficient" level or higher on the Maryland State Assessment (MSA), the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL), and the DC Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS). Each state determines the content covered in their assessments and how the score cut-offs define "proficiency." Therefore, as with most of the indicators covered in this report, "apples to apples" comparisons can be made only within each state.[24] However, it is still useful to understand how students are performing based on their own state's measure of proficiency, both over time and among sub-groups. (See Tables 46 through 48 and Tables A24-A34 in the Appendix) Notably, the standards for "proficiency" on states' assessments generally fall far below those used by the U.S. Education Department in connection with the subject-matter tests that comprise the National Assessment of Educational Progress.[25]

[24] Even within states, the content and difficulty-level of assessments can change over time, as can the cut-points used to determine scoring categories. These circumstances would make even within-state comparisons problematic.

[25] As of 2009, in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, standards for proficiency in fourth-grade reading all were equivalent to the "below basic" category in the NAEP grade 4 reading assessment; the DC standard for eighth-grade reading proficiency was equivalent to the NAEP "basic" level, whereas the Virginia and Maryland standards for this grade were equivalent to "below basic." In mathematics, both DC's and Virginia's proficiency standards for fourth grade mapped to the "basic" NAEP standard; Virginia's was "below basic." In eighth-grade mathematics, Maryland's proficiency standard mapped to NAEP's "basic" standard, while Virginia's and DC's standards were equivalent to NAEP's "below basic" level. Source: Bandeira de Mello, V. (2011). Mapping state proficiency standards onto the NAEP scales: Variation and change in state standards for reading and mathematics, 2005-2009. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics.

Student assessments: Elementary school

Reading at grade-level by third grade has become a well-established marker of early success in school. Developmentally, this is the time when, ideally, children are making the transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." Children who are not fluent readers by third grade will find it increasingly hard to keep up with normative expectations for achievement in school, in addition to having the burden of being identified as "behind" on an essential skill. Racial and socio-economic disparities in oral language development and other pre-reading competencies are evident in very young children. Thus, data on reading proficiency at third grade also provide some measure of how successful families, schools, and communities have been at reducing such early disadvantages.

Recent progress in the proportion of third-graders reading proficiently has been mixed across the NCR. In the Maryland Counties there have been substantial gains since 2002-03, with the percentage proficient more than doubling in Prince George's County, and increasing by more than a third in Montgomery County. In the Virginia jurisdictions of the NCR, the picture is more uneven, though, in general, areas started with relatively high baseline percentages. Among this group, Alexandria has maintained the lowest percentage over this period, but has posted impressive gains (a relative improvement of 36 percent). In the District, performance over time on this measure has been essentially flat. (See Figures 41-43)

Figure 41. Percentage of third graders scoring "proficient" or better on state reading assessments: Maryland counties

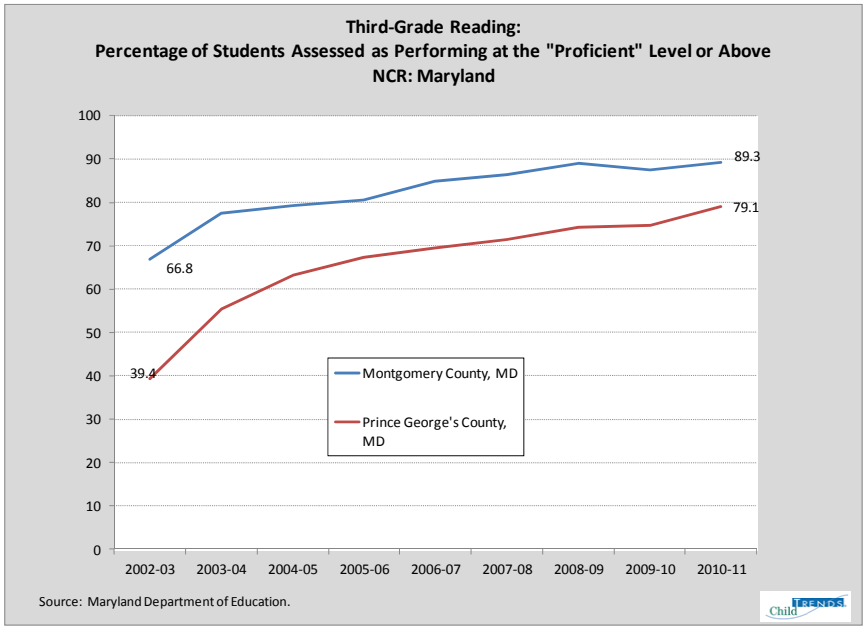


Figure 42. Percentage of third graders scoring "proficient" or better on state reading assessments: Virginia counties

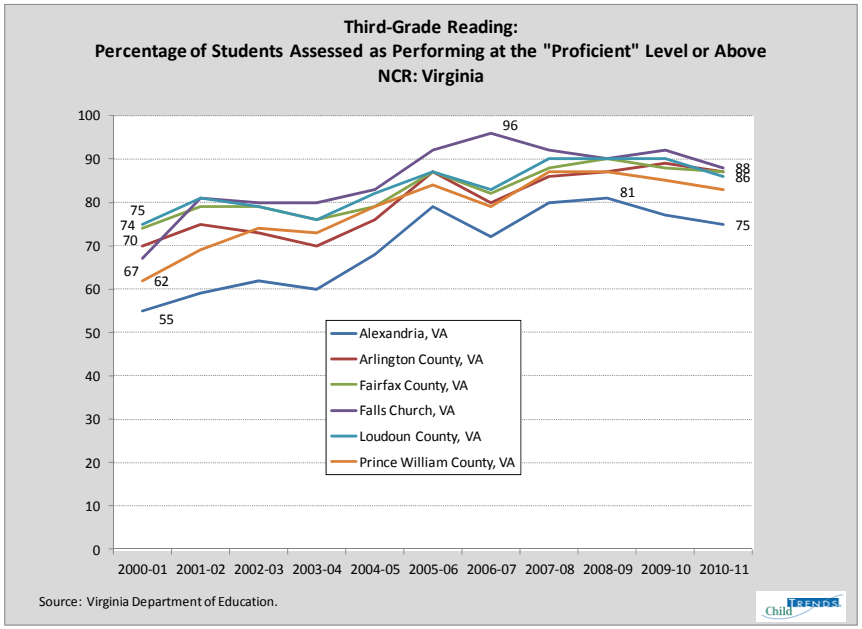
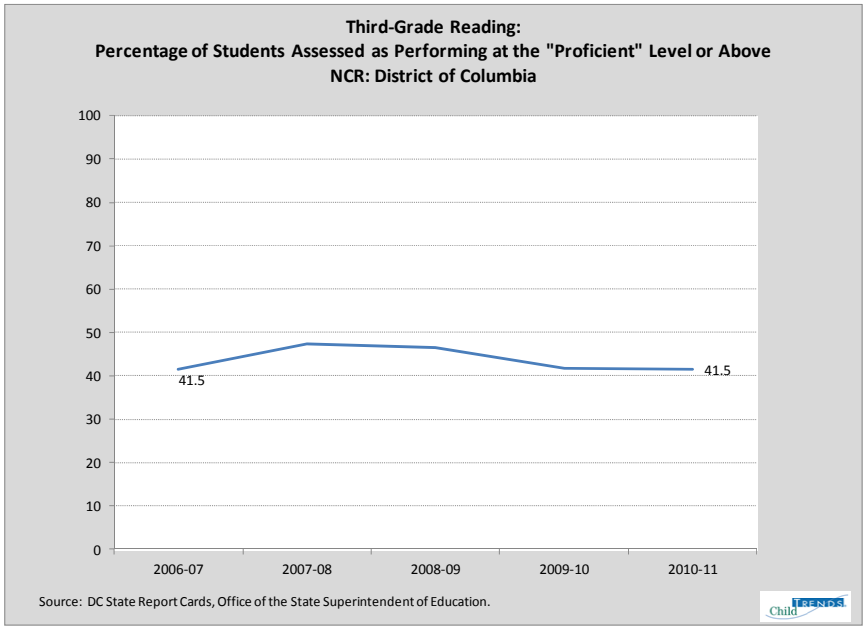


Figure 43. Percentage of third graders scoring "proficient" or better on state reading assessments: District of Columbia.



Examining test performance in grades 3 through 5, Arlington County, Fairfax County, Falls Church, and Montgomery County have the highest percentage of students performing at or above proficiency in reading and math, according to their respective state standards. (See Table 46) In terms of fourth-grade math performance, gains between 2005-2006 and 2010-2011 are evident across jurisdictions. In fourth-grade reading, progress is less clear. While most jurisdictions made gains overall during this period (ranging from three to 20 percentage points), annual percentages of students who are proficient readers fluctuate. (See Figures 44-50, Appendix Tables A25-A28)

Table 47. Percentage of public school students scoring "proficient" or better on state assessments, by grade level (3rd though 5th) and subject, SY 2010-2011

Percentage of students scoring "proficient" or above on state assessments, by grade level (3rd through 5th) and subject: SY 2010-2011										
		Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
3rd grade	**reading**	75.0	87.0	87.0	88.0	86.0	89.3	79.1	83.0	41.5
	math	88.0	94.0	94.0	97.0	94.0	88.9	78.0	93.0	35.9
4th grade	**reading**	79.0	89.0	92.0	95.0	90.0	92.0	82.7	88.0	44.0
	math	82.0	90.0	94.0	95.0	90.0	91.1	84.0	90.0	46.0
5th grade	**reading**	85.0	91.0	94.0	90.0	91.0	94.2	83.9	90.0	46.1
	math	87.0	94.0	92.0	93.0	90.0	86.2	72.6	90.0	45.0
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education										

Table 47 examines disparities by race/Hispanic origin in reading performance at fourth grade in SY 2010-11. In the Virginia counties and the District, white students had the highest percentages scoring proficient or above. The two Maryland counties had equal percentages of Asian and white students scoring proficient and above. Asian students, as a group, had the second-highest achievement levels (after white students) in all other jurisdictions. Black students achieved at levels below that of white and Hispanic students, except in Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William Counties. In the District, just 38 percent of black students scored proficient or above on the fourth-grade reading assessment.

Table 48. Percentage of 4th graders scoring "proficient" or better in reading, by race and Hispanic origin, SY 2010-2011

4th grade reading: Percentage of students scoring "Proficient" or above on state assessments, by race/Hispanic origin, SY 2010-2011									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD*	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
White	94.0	97.0	96.0	95.0	94.0	95.0	92.8	94.0	90.9
Black	71.0	78.0	86.0	-	77.0	84.4	80.6	83.0	38.3
Hispanic	74.0	77.0	83.0	94.0	78.0	86.7	85.7	82.0	45.3
American Indian	-	-	92.0	-	77.0	75.0	66.7	88.0	-
Asian	82.0	90.0	94.0	93.0	93.0	95.0	92.9	92.0	77.1
Notes: Assessments for Virginia, Maryland, and DC are NOT comparable. "-" Data not available (insufficient sample size) *Data for white and Asian students were reported as "≥95%."									
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education									

Similar patterns are evident in fourth-grade math performance. Black students in the District had the lowest achievement rates, with 40 percent scoring at proficient or above. (See Appendix Table A27)

Females consistently outperform males on fourth-grade reading in every NCR jurisdiction, although the margins are small. (See Figure 44) In math, gender differences are smaller and not entirely consistent across jurisdictions, but generally favor females. (See Appendix Table A28)

Key Finding: **In reading assessments at fourth grade, girls consistently score higher than boys.**

Figure 44. Percentage of 4th graders scoring "proficient" or better in reading, by gender

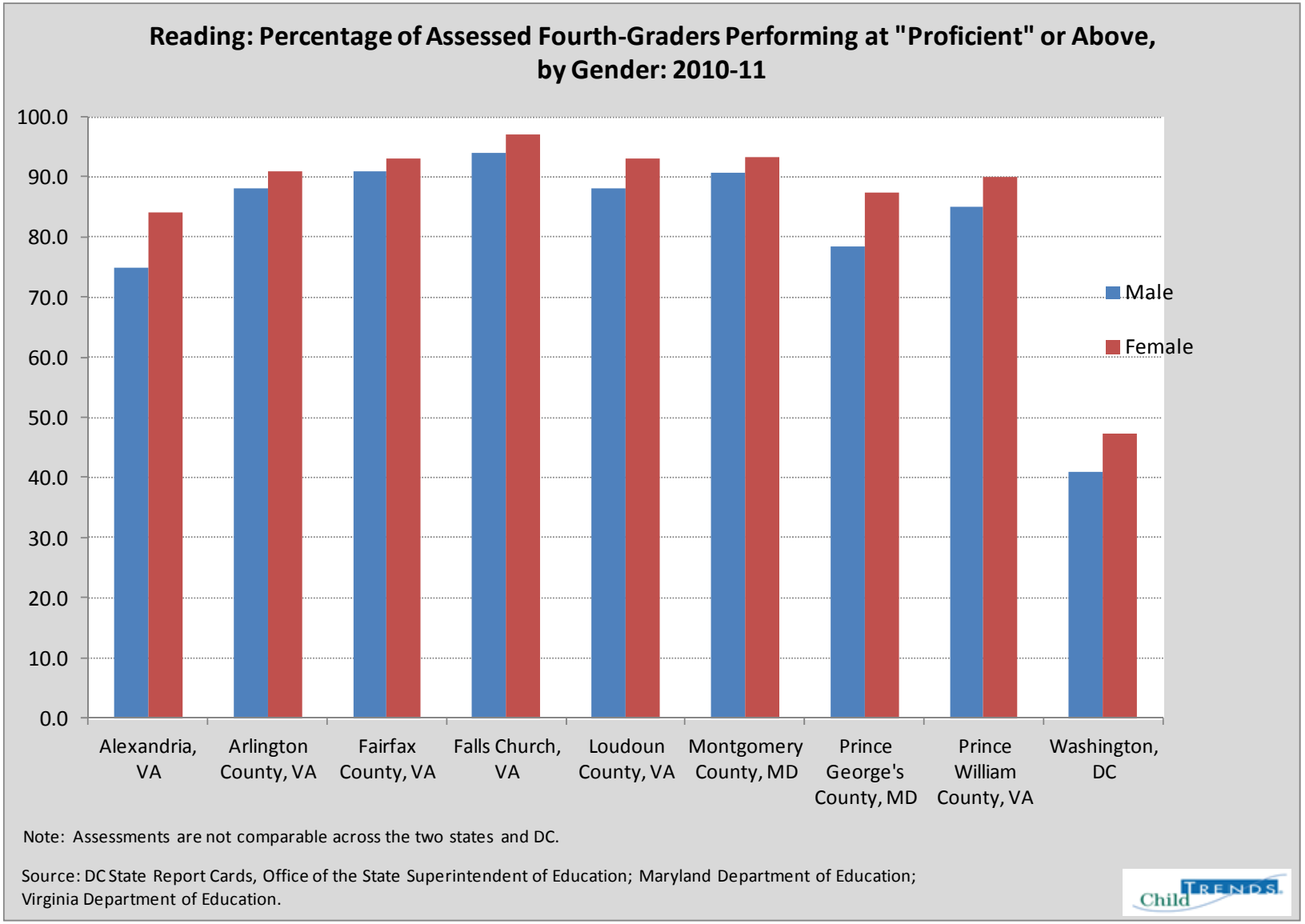


Figure 45. Percentage of 4th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state math assessments: Virginia counties.

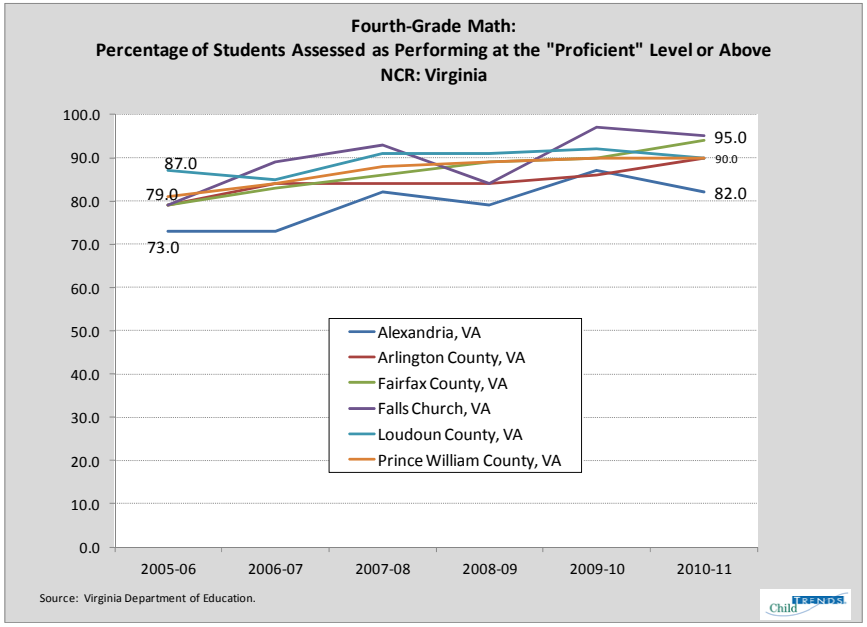


Figure 46. Percentage of 4th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state math assessments: Maryland counties.

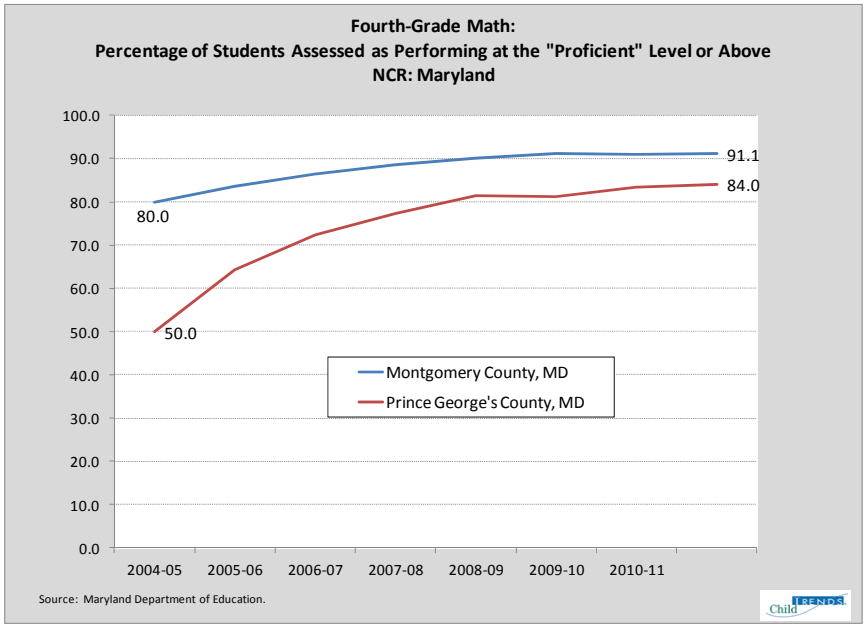


Figure 47. Percentage of 4th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state math assessments: DC.

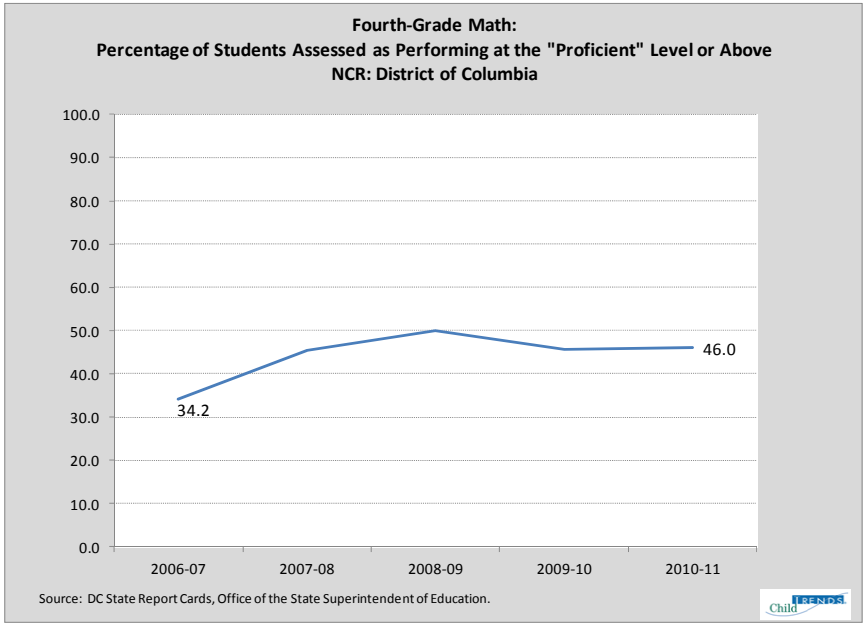


Figure 48. Percentage of 4th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state reading assessment: Virginia counties.

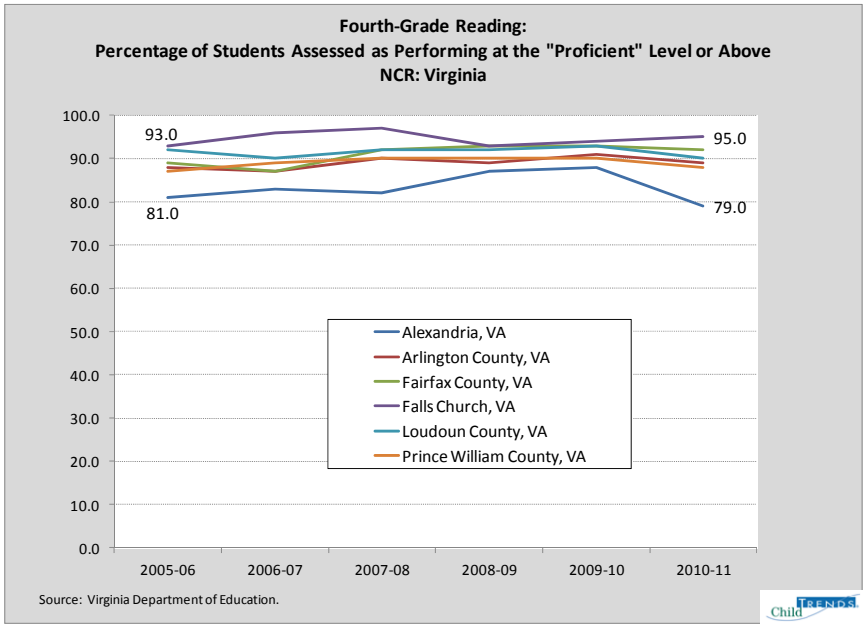


Figure 49. Percentage of 4th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state reading assessment: Maryland counties.

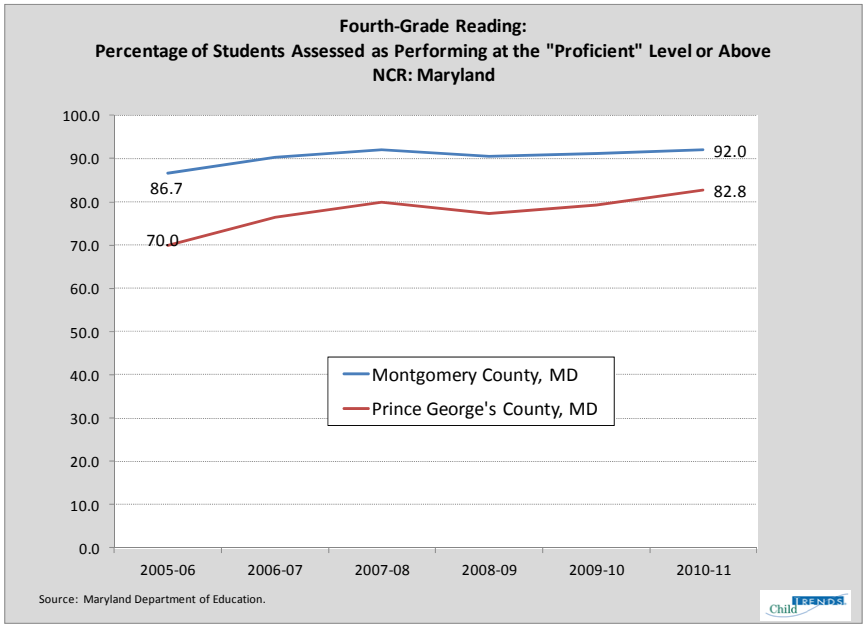
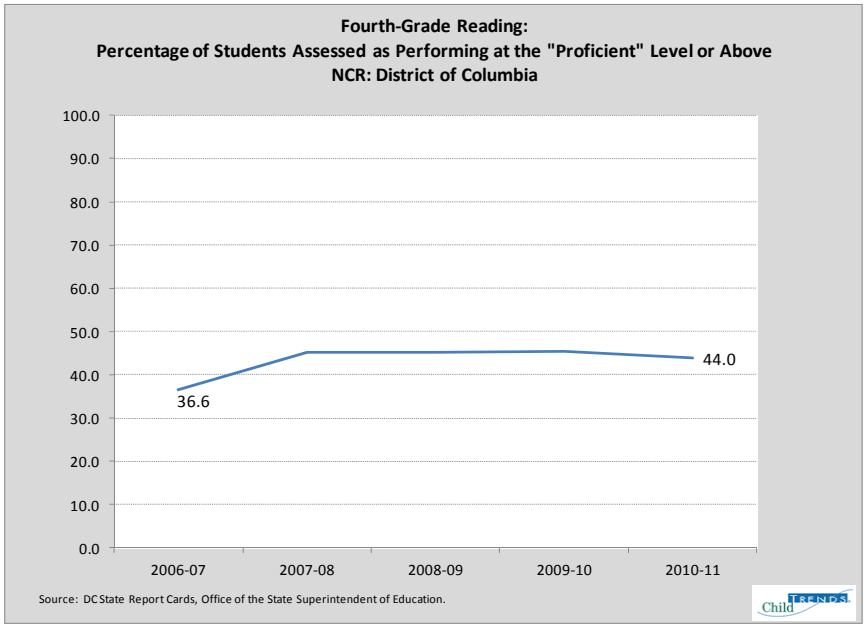


Figure 50. Percentage of 4th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state assessments of reading - DC.



Student assessments: Middle school

At the middle-school level (grades 6 through 8), students in Fairfax County, Falls Church, and Loudoun County are most likely to be performing at or above "proficient" in reading and math, as indicated by their state's standards. (See Table 48, and Appendix Tables A29 and A30)

In general, greater proportions of students were proficient in reading than in math, with the exception of students in the District. Over the past 10 years there have been mostly steady increases, for both subject areas, in the percentage of students proficient, especially in the District, the two Maryland counties, and Arlington County; Alexandria is an exception, where in eighth-grade math this percentage has fluctuated but is essentially the same at both ends of the decade.

Proficiency at eighth grade in reading and math, by race or Hispanic origin, follows a pattern similar in some ways to that seen in the fourth-grade assessments. White and Asian students consistently post the highest proportions scoring at or above the proficient level, whereas black and Hispanic students generally have lower and comparable percentages of students who meet this criterion (See Appendix Tables A31 and A33). In all jurisdictions, higher proportions of females than males scored proficient or above in both reading and math, the one exception being a tie in Alexandria for eighth-grade math achievement. This gender disparity was as high as 11 percentage points in the case of the District's eighth-grade reading scores. (See Appendix Tables A32 and A34)

Table 49. Percentage of public school students scoring "proficient" or better on state assessments, by grade level (6th through 8th) and subject, SY 2010-11

Percentage of students scoring "proficient" or above on state assessments, by grade level (6th through 8th) and subject: SY 2010-2011										
		Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
6th grade	**reading**	81.0	86.0	94.0	95.0	92.0	89.4	78.1	88.0	43.0
	math	54.0	65.0	88.0	76.0	70.0	83.6	72.7	73.0	45.8
7th grade	**reading**	83.0	90.0	95.0	98.0	94.0	90.7	75.1	90.0	49.0
	math	66.0	78.0	89.0	78.0	87.0	80.7	59.7	73.0	56.7
8th grade	**reading**	85.0	91.0	95.0	97.0	95.0	89.2	70.8	92.0	49.6
	math	62.0	81.0	90.0	93.0	80.0	74.7	43.7	89.0	58.4

Note: Assessments used in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are NOT comparable.
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education

Figure 51. Percentage of 8th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state math assessments: Virginia counties.

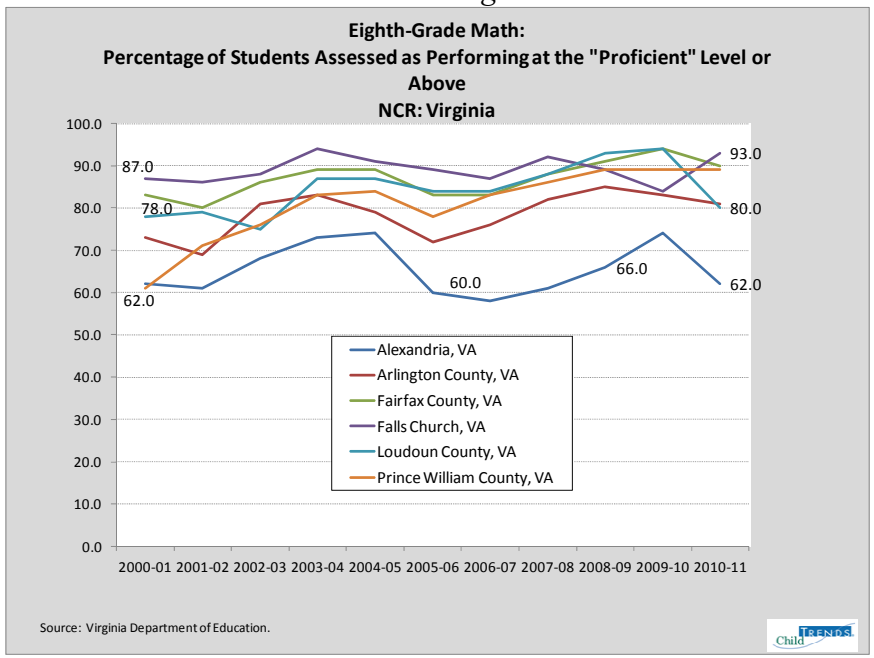


Figure 52. Percentage of 8th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state math assessments: Maryland counties.

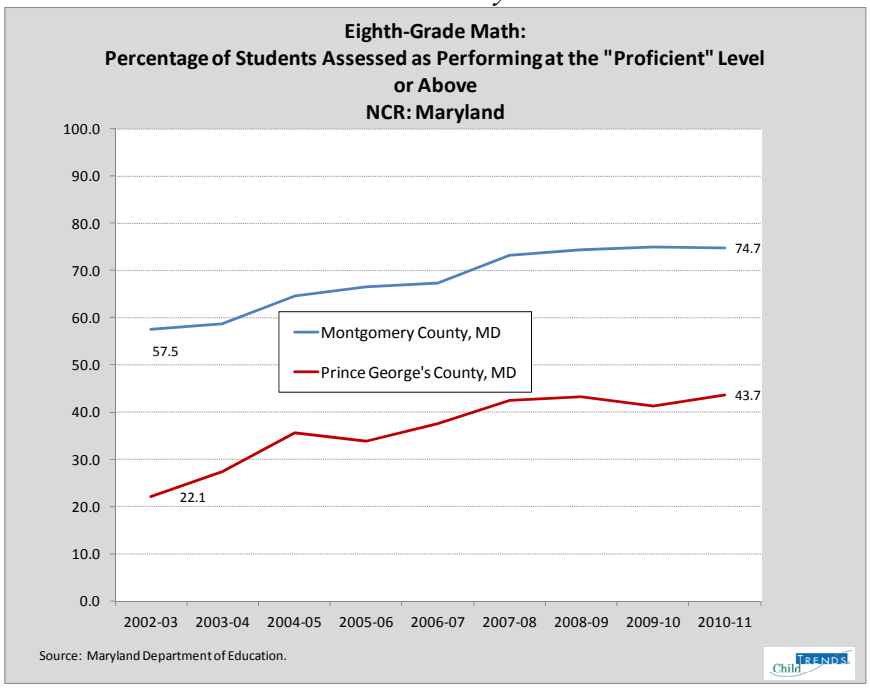


Figure 53. Percentage of 8h graders scoring "proficient" or better on state math assessments: DC.

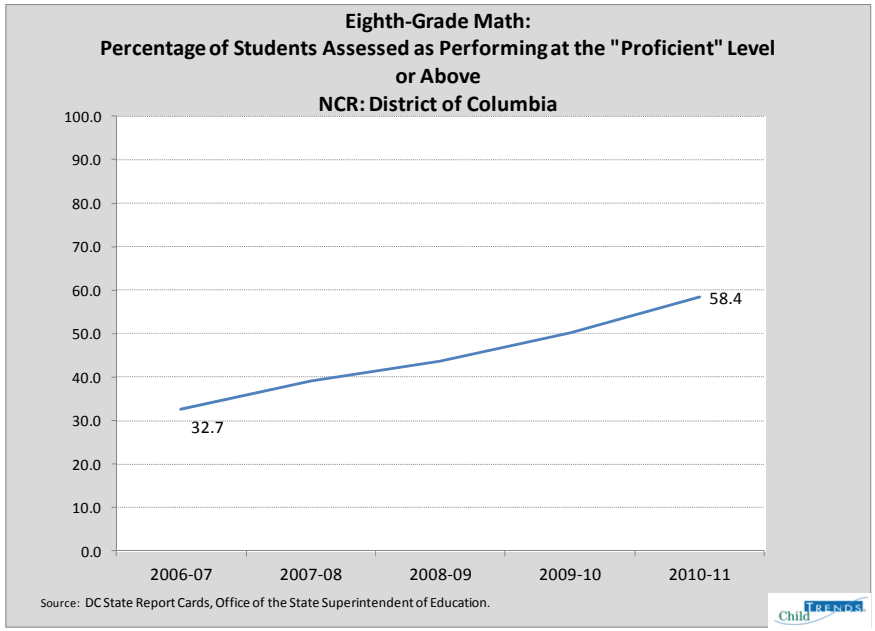


Figure 54. Percentage of 8th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state reading assessments: Virginia counties.

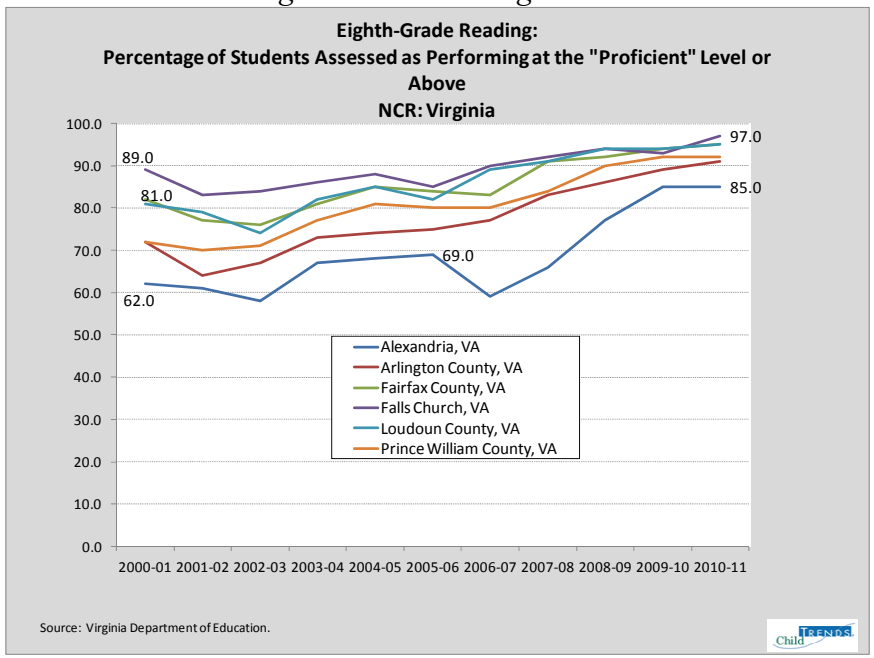


Figure 55. Percentage of 8th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state reading assessments: Maryland counties.

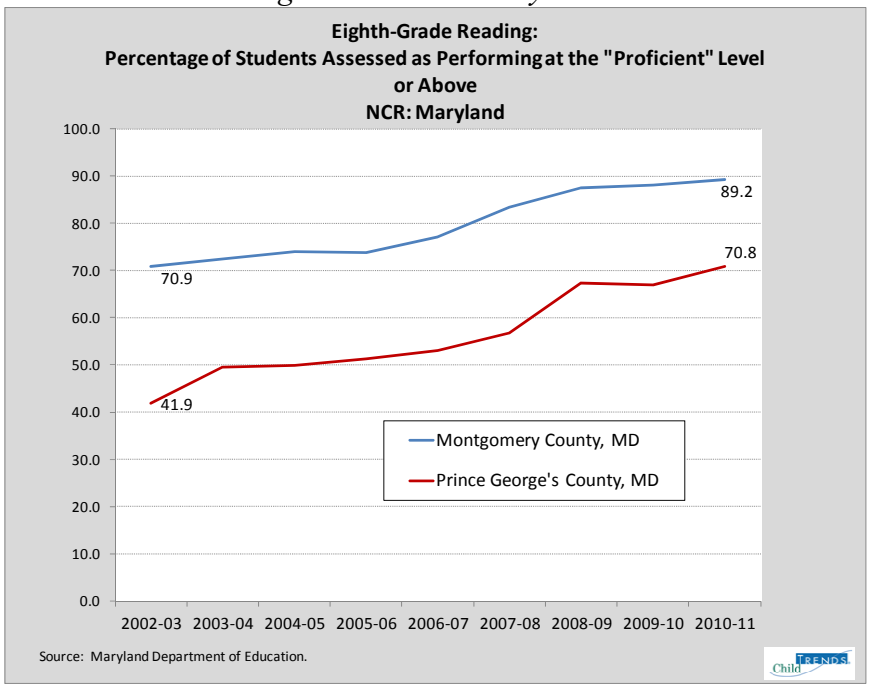
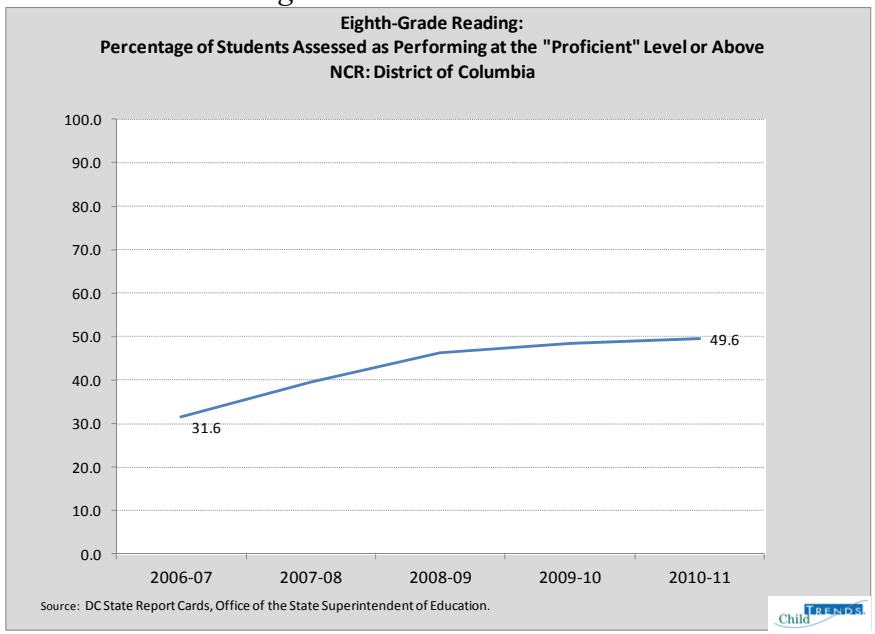


Figure 56. Percentage of 8th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state reading assessments: DC.



Students with limited English proficiency/English learners

Students who have limited English proficiency (LEP) (also known as English learners) are those who primarily use a language other than English to communicate. These students have been assessed as having limited or no ability to understand, read, write, or speak English. The percentage of LEP students may be indicative of the number or type of additional services needed to support students so that they can achieve success in classes that are taught in English.

A relatively large difference exists between jurisdictions in the percentage of students with limited English proficiency. Alexandria, Arlington County, and Fairfax County have the highest proportions, with 22, 24, and 21 percent, respectively; Prince William County has a slightly lower proportion of 17 percent. (See Figure 57) By comparison, Falls Church, Loudoun County, and the District have substantially lower proportions at 6, 7, and 8 percent, respectively. The two Maryland localities, Montgomery County and Prince George's County, have proportions that lie more in the mid-range, at 13 and 12 percent, respectively. While the two measures are presumably related to some degree, the percentage of public school students with LEP status does not map perfectly onto the percentage of children living in that jurisdiction whose parents were not native-born.

Between 2005-06 and 2010-11, six of the jurisdictions within the NCR had increases in the proportion of their students who had limited English proficiency; in Prince George's County, this figure nearly doubled. On the other hand, three jurisdictions (Arlington County, Falls Church, and the District) saw a decline in English learners over the period—in the District, by nearly a third. (See Appendix Table A35)

Key Finding: **In three jurisdictions, Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax, more than one in five children are English learners**.

Special education

A variety of disorders and disabilities can lead to a student's receiving special education services. Rates of receipt of special education indicate not only the number of students who are experiencing a condition affecting their learning, but also the share of a school system's resources devoted to meeting the needs of this population. Schools' practices in qualifying students for special education services are not uniform, resulting in both over- and under-identification of the true need for these services.

The percentage of students receiving special education services varies only slightly across jurisdictions. District of Columbia schools have the highest rates, with 15.5 percent of students receiving such services, followed closely by Arlington County, Fairfax County, and Alexandria (with 14.3, 14.0, and 13.8 percent, respectively). The percentage is somewhat lower in other jurisdictions, at 11.8 percent in Falls Church, 11.6 percent in both Montgomery and Prince William counties, 10.9 percent in Prince George's County, and 10.6 percent in Loudoun County. (See Figure 58 and Appendix Table A36)

Key Finding: **Approximately one in seven public school students in the District of Columbia received special education services during the 2010-2011 school year.**

Figure 57. Percentage of students with English learner status, by jurisdiction

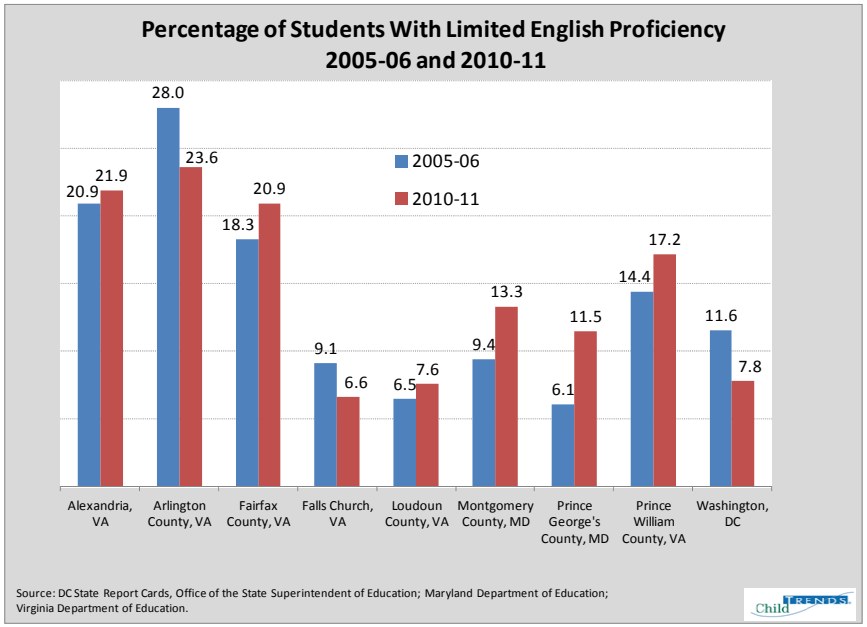
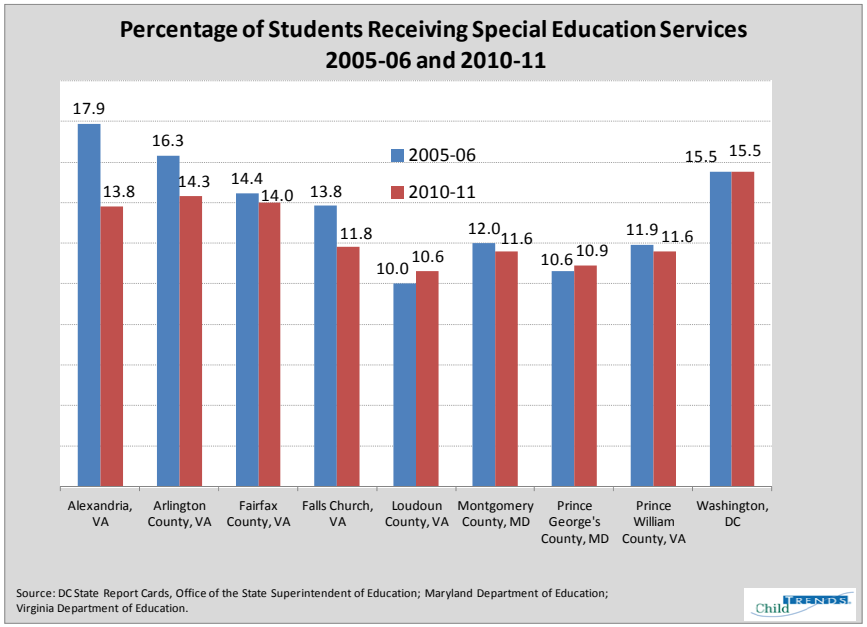


Figure 58. Percentage of students receiving special education services, by jurisdiction, SY 2010-2011

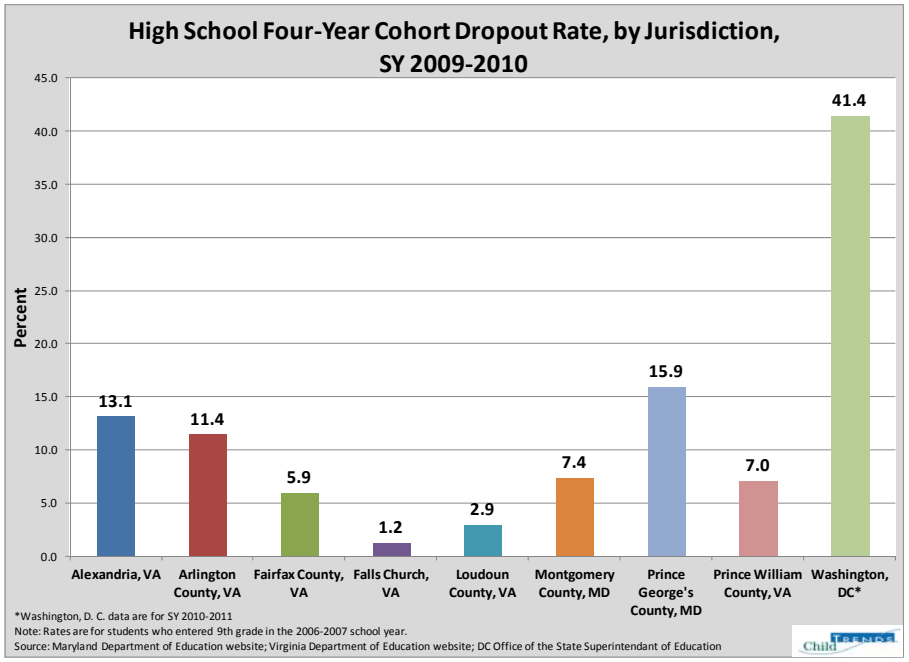


High school dropouts

Dropping out of high school can have significant negative effects on future outcomes for youth. High school completion is usually required to access post-secondary education and is often a minimum requirement for employment. Researchers have developed several different ways to measure high school dropout and graduation rates. As might be expected, the calculated rates of high school dropout or graduation vary depending on how being a dropout is defined. The rates also vary based on the quality of information available on students, and on how well individual student information is tracked over time, within and across school districts. Federal law requires each state to begin using an adjusted cohort graduation rate by 2011. However, not all states, including the District of Columbia, were able to meet compliance standards in time. For comparison purposes, it is best to use a measure that is defined consistently across geographic sub-regions. Thus, here we report on the percentage of the ninth-grade class in the 2006-07 school year that had dropped out by the 2009-10 school year. As shown in Figure 59, rates of high school dropout among public school students vary across the Region, with the highest rates found in Prince George's County (15.9 percent), Alexandria (13.1 percent), and Arlington County (11.4 percent). Dropout rates in the other jurisdictions are much lower, ranging from 1.2 percent in Falls Church, to 7.4 percent in Montgomery County. The District began providing comparable dropout data with the ninth-grade cohort of 2007-08; 41.4 percent were reported as not graduating by 2010-11.

Key Finding: **More than one in 10 students in Alexandria, Arlington County, and Prince George's County who entered public high schools during the 2006-2007 school year dropped out of high school by 2009-2010. The District's dropout rate is close to four in ten.**

Figure 59. Public high school four-year cohort dropout rate, by jurisdiction, SY 2009-2010



Looking Toward Solutions: High School Completion/Post-Secondary Enrollment

Programs that provide academic support or help with homework can have positive impacts on high school completion and post-secondary enrollment. Programs providing support services, such as tutoring, mentoring, and apprenticeships on an ongoing basis have also been effective in these areas. Programs with frequent and intense participation (one to eight hours a day, five or six days a week) are more likely to have positive outcomes.

"Opportunity youth"

It is increasingly recognized that, in today's society, there is no single pathway that leads from a secondary-level education to a job with prospects of a sustainable, livable income. Many youth follow trajectories that may include full- or part-time work, full- or part-time post-secondary education or training, internships or apprenticeships, military service, and spells of unemployment, before reaching a reasonable degree of economic self-sufficiency. However, some youth experience exceptional challenges gaining traction on this route. For a number of reasons, this group—variously termed "idle," "disconnected," or (most recently) "opportunity youth"—are not participating in either school or the labor market. Some of these are high school dropouts who have not been involved in school or work since turning 16. Others have been sidelined by involvement with the criminal justice system, or by pregnancy and parenthood, family responsibilities, or chronic disabilities. Whatever the cause(s), these youth are at risk for much-diminished economic prospects in their adulthood; moreover, they impose a huge burden on society, in terms of "lost" human capital, foregone taxes on earnings, and increased costs related to health, public safety, and welfare assistance.[26]

Here, we follow a definition for these groups that is consistent with data that are available from the American Community Survey. We find that, overall in the NCR, 5.7 percent of all youth ages 16-19 (approximately 14,000) are neither enrolled in school nor employed or in the labor force. By sub-Region, Alexandria has the highest rate of "opportunity youth" at 12.5 percent. The lowest rate is 1.5 percent, in Loudoun County. (See Table 50) Males are slightly more likely than females are to be "opportunity youth": 6.1 versus 5.4 percent, respectively. Among youth not in school who are high school graduates only, 41 percent are "opportunity youth"; among those not in school who are not high school graduates, the rate is 63 percent. (See Table 51)

Table 50. "Opportunity Youth," 2006-10

"Opportunity Youth": Ages 16-19, not enrolled in school, not employed, and not in the labor force (2006-2010)									
Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	NCR
12.5% (500)	4.0% (200)	2.8% (1,500)	3.9% (20)	2.2% (300)	4.7% (2,200)	7.7% (4,400)	5.7% (1,200)	8.9% (3,400)	5.7% (13,700)
Source: Child Trends' calculations from American Community Survey, 2006-2010, Table B14005.									

[26] Belfield, C. R., Levin, H. M., and Rosen, R. (2012). The economic value of opportunity youth. Washington, DC: White House Council for Community Solutions.

Table 51. "Opportunity Youth," by high school graduation status and gender, 2006-10

"Opportunity Youth" in the NCR: Ages 16-19, not enrolled in school, not employed, and not in the labor force (2006-2010): Percentages (and counts) by high school graduation status, and gender			
	All Youth	Males	Females
All Education Levels	**5.7% (13,700)**	**6.1% (7,500)**	**5.4% (6,200)**
Not a high school graduate	**63.1% (6,600)**	57.9% (3,600)	70.8% (3,000)
High school graduate only	**40.7% (7,100)**	38.5% (3,900)	43.7% (3,200)
Note: Count estimates rounded to the nearest hundred.			
Source: Child Trends' calculations from American Community Survey, 2006-2010, Table B14005.			

Youth workforce development

"Work-linked learning," or "career-connected education," is increasingly recognized as essential to fully realize the capacity of our future workforce. An education that leads to a high-skill, high-wage job can no longer be left to chance (if indeed it ever could). Rather, schools and employers need to forge much stronger relationships and system connections if we are to remain competitive in the global economy. Career and technical education (CTE) is still underdeveloped in this country, despite a good deal of evidence that it can have positive impacts on future success, as measured by earnings and continued education.

As of 2009, DC Public Schools operated about 35 CTE programs serving an estimated 2,500 students; however, only about 1,000 of these students were concentrating in CTE—that is, taking a sequence of at least three related CTE courses, or at least one advanced CTE course. Another 2,100 students at public charter schools participated in CTE programs.[27]

Youth Investment Councils (YICs)—subsidiaries of the Workforce Investment Councils federally mandated for each state (and the District)–are additional players in forming stronger links among the business, education, non-profit, and government sectors to promote more strategic workforce investment. Funds from the Workforce Investment Act also support summer and year-round youth employment programs.

The non-profit sector provides additional workforce development support, though the dimensions of this are challenging to measure with accuracy. As of 2008, according to a survey conducted by the Brookings Institution, there were 136 organizations in the District that offered some kind of education, training, or development services to youth or young adults. However, for the most part, workforce services constituted only a portion of their activities. Programs varied along many dimensions: numbers of youth served, "dosage" (e.g., program length), and capacity, with more than a third of surveyed organizations reporting having to turn away applicants. The services offered included GED preparation, academic help, work readiness training, job and internship placement, occupational skills training, and wraparound/case-management services. Nearly 30 programs surveyed provided training leading to industry-recognized certificates.[28]

[27] Ross, M. (2011). Strengthening educational and career pathways for DC youth. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution. Retrieved from http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Files/rc/papers/2011/1005_dc_youth_work_ross/1005_dc_youth_work_ross.pdf
[28] Ibid.

College enrollment

Table 50 shows the percentage of young people, ages 15-24, enrolled in college or graduate school, by gender. Following a trend found in post-secondary institutions nationally, young women in the NCR have higher levels of college enrollment than do men. This pattern was consistent across seven of the nine geographic sub-regions within the NCR.

Because college enrollment data are provided by students' residence, not by parents' residence, variation in college enrollment levels across NCR geographic sub-regions is certainly related to the location of large post-secondary institutions in the NCR, many of which are in the District (e.g., American University, Catholic University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, and the University of the District of Columbia), and in Prince George's County (e.g., Bowie State University, and the University of Maryland-College Park). With the exception of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, most of the large colleges and universities in the state of Virginia are located outside of the NCR.

***Key Finding:* Areas within the NCR have relatively high rates of college enrollment, with the highest levels of enrollment found among 15- to 24-year-olds in the District, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County, due in part to the presence there of large colleges and universities.**

Table 52. Percentage of young people, ages 15-24, enrolled in public or private college or graduate school, 2010, by gender

Percentages, ages 15-24, enrolled in public or private college or graduate school, by gender: 2010									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
Males	18.2%	19.8%	26.1%	33.6%*	28.8%	28.2%	35.3%	16.1%	36.0%
Females	23.9%	27.8%	30.0%	22.0%*	28.2%	31.7%	39.9%	27.1%	46.7%
Source: 2010 American Community Survey									
* Source: 2005-2009 American Community Survey									

Out-of-school-time activities

Many working parents find there is a mismatch between their child's school day and their own work schedule. Out-of-school-time (OST) programs (defined here as programs offered before school, after school, and in the summer for school-age children and teens) address that gap and provide a safe place for children and adolescents to play and learn. The benefits for children and youth of participation in organized out-of-school-time activities can be many. Simply having a safe, adult-supervised setting to go to after school, on weekends, or during school breaks, can be a valuable opportunity. Furthermore, well-designed and well-managed OST programs can promote important social and personal skills, and even improve academic achievement. Studies have found that young people's participation in high-quality OST programs is associated with improved social and educational outcomes.[29]

In the past 12 months, 81 percent of U.S. children between the ages of six and 17 participated in one or more such activities. In the NCR, the corresponding estimate is 85 percent. Estimated participation levels vary across jurisdictions, ranging from 81 percent in the District, to 92 percent in Loudoun County. (See Table 53)

Table 53. Participation in out-of-school activities, 2007

Children (ages 6 to 17 years) who participated in one or more organized activities outside of school, in the past 12 months										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total***
2007	84%	88%	84%	-	92%	87%	83%	86%	81%	**85%**
"-": Data not available. *NCR total does not include Falls Church, VA.										
Source: Child Trends' synthetic estimates based on data from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health, and the 2007 American Community Survey.										

Figure 60 maps the locations of no-cost or low-cost OST programs in the NCR.[30]

As shown on the map, a large number of diverse types of no-cost or low-cost OST programs are available for children and youth in the District, including those operated by community-based organizations, by public schools, and by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Fewer programs are available in Virginia jurisdictions, with most linked to schools, and fewer run by community-based organizations. It appears that even fewer programs are available to families in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. However,

[29] Durlak, J. A., & Weissberg, R. P. (2007). The impact of after-school programs that promote personal and social skills. Chicago, IL: Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning. Moore, K., & Hamilton, K. (2010). How out-of-school time program quality is related to adolescent outcomes. Washington, DC: Child Trends.

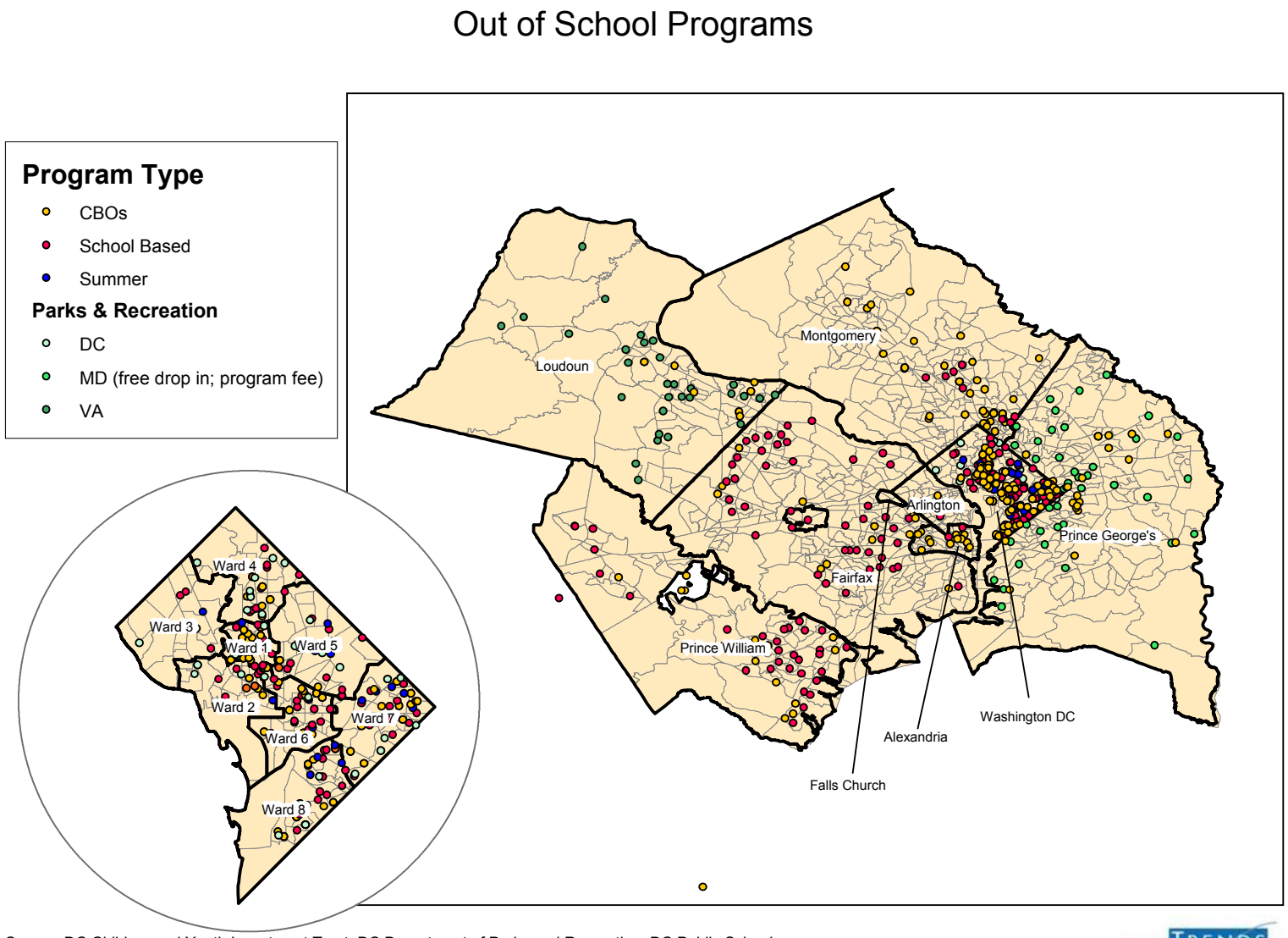
[30] To gather this information, Child Trends contacted representatives from key intermediary organizations in Maryland (Maryland Out of School Time Network), Virginia (Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time), and the District (DC Children and Youth Investment Trust).

neighborhoods in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties (as well as in Virginia jurisdictions) also benefit from community centers operated by their respective parks and recreation departments. These typically offer some free or low-cost drop-in programs, but they charge fees for other programs that may be offered on a more limited basis. Also, unlike in the District and Virginia, school-operated programs in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties charge fees that may make them less accessible for low-income families. For instance, the school-based extended learning before- and after-school programs in Prince George's County are available for a tuition of approximately $3000 per year, depending on the services needed. Parents may use a child care subsidy to off-set the cost of this tuition.

In the District, our analysis (based on the under-14 child population) suggests that Wards 1 and 2 have a larger number of programs than might be expected, given that most tracts in those Wards have a relatively small proportion of young children. Ward 2 also has relatively low levels of child poverty. There may be a disproportionate number of programs in these Wards because they are closer to the center city where many national non-profit organizations are located, and where many young professionals, including potential volunteers, work and live. Our analysis suggests there may be too few programs available in Ward 5, while in Wards 6, 7, and 8, with larger proportions of children as well as more poor children, programs are relatively plentiful.

Our analysis of these programs is only an initial look at access to OST programs. We recommend consulting with additional key informants to identify programs in the Maryland and Virginia jurisdictions that are available on a no-cost or low-cost basis. Other follow-ups could include more detailed information on the demand for OST programs, as well as information on the capacity of existing programs; the range of costs for the "low-cost" programs, relative to the average income of families with children in the area; the quality of the programs; and whether the programs are easily accessible to students (for instance, if they are available at school sites or within a short walking distance, or if they are accessible through public transportation).

Figure 60. Available out of school programs



Source: DC Children and Youth Investment Trust, DC Department of Parks and Recreation, DC Public Schools, Maryland Out of School Time Network, Prince George's Department of Parks and Recreation, Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time

Youth volunteering

In the emerging research literature on positive youth development, the opportunity to "give back" to one's community is often highlighted.[31] Youth (like adults) want to make a difference in their communities, to matter, and to be recognized. Community volunteering is one way they can do so. Nationwide, 37 percent of adolescents ages 12 to 17 volunteer at their school, church, or in their community at least a few times per month. In the NCR, that estimate is 41 percent, with the District leading on this indicator at 49 percent. (See Table 54)

Table 54. Community service

Children (ages 12 to 17 years) involved in community service a few times per month or more										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total***
2007	38%	39%	38%	-	39%	41%	40%	38%	49%	**41%**
"-": Data not available. *NCR total does not include Falls Church, VA.										
Source: Child Trends' synthetic estimates based on data from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health, and the 2007 American Community Survey.										

Summary: Education

Most observers agree that schools have a long way to go before we can be satisfied that they are indeed preparing all children and youth well for the future. Rapid, and global, technological change has overturned many of our prior assumptions about what should constitute that preparation. As a society we spend relatively heavily on the K-12 years of schooling, but our results, in comparison with our peer nations, are only mediocre. New ideas—about the importance of the years before kindergarten, the key roles of teachers, and the importance of linking learning and work—may change the equation. But, for now, too many youth fail to get the education they need before they reach adulthood. In the NCR, we are beginning to collect data that allow us at least to quantify progress, as well as the dimensions of the challenge. The data show that, in many cases, black and Hispanic students experience poorer education outcomes than white and Asian students. The data also show that males—again, with some exceptions—lag behind their female peers in key areas of academic achievement.

[31] Child Trends. (2011). Volunteering. Child Trends DataBank. Retrieved from http://childtrendsdatabank.org/alphalist?q=node/144

Conclusions

Perhaps the greatest challenge associated with this report is a version of the "forest and trees" dilemma. We present dozens of measures with which to understand the status of children and youth within the NCR. These have been further broken down, by sub-region, sometimes for multiple time-points, and by important demographic sub-groups. Clearly, there is no single "message," but rather multiple messages, each of which deserves to be the subject of further exploration, communication and engagement with the most appropriate stakeholders, as well as ongoing monitoring. Nor should we forget that statistical data cannot do full justice to the many "exceptions" embodied in individuals: the "typical" Latino, or female, or eighth-grader, or teen mother is a fiction—albeit a helpful generalization for many purposes.

However,it would be unfortunate if readers lost altogether the "forest" for the "trees." Certainly, the development of children and youth proceeds, if unevenly, within the whole person, not one divided according to the mandates of service systems, or one whose orbit of activities and experience is limited to boundaries on the political map. Moreover, there are some clearly apparent inequities in well-being that follow lines of residence, income, race and Hispanic origin, and gender, sometimes in complex ways; these patterns of data should not be overlooked. To say that the NCR is one of the nation's most diverse regions is to acknowledge one of its greatest assets, but also perhaps its greatest challenge—particularly with respect to the current generation of children and youth.

We hesitate to make any broad generalizations from data that are complex and imperfect. However, according to our analyses, children, youth, and young adults in some jurisdictions of the NCR (Falls Church, and Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, especially; and Arlington, Prince William and Montgomery Counties only somewhat less so) appear to be doing quite well, based on a number of indicators of well-being examined in this report.

Children and youth living in Alexandria, Prince George's County, and the District more often have lower levels of well-being. These are also the areas with the highest proportion of children and youth who are black (See Appendix Table A2). Areas with the highest percentage of children of immigrants, such as Fairfax and Montgomery Counties, do not appear to be those areas where children are most at risk.

Despite the complex jurisdictional divisions, the NCR shares a common labor market, a large regional market for production and consumption (including a considerable tourism sector), and an intertwined transportation system, so the well-being of each jurisdiction affects the overall economic engine. Beyond economics, the NCR shares an identity as a place "at the center of things"—historically, politically, and culturally. That status is threatened by the very deep disparities, the inequities in outcomes faced by its children and youth. Fortunately, the Region has huge resources of talent that it can choose to apply to a Regional approach that lifts up all of its young people.

Appendix A: Additional tables

Table A1 . Population by age group, 2000 and 2010

Population (and percentage of total population), by age group: 2000 and 2010											
		Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**Total, NCR**
0-4 years	**2000**	8,033	10,389	67,560	626	16,306	59,881	57,664	23,775	32,401	**276,613**
		(6.2%)	(5.5%)	(7.0%)	(6.0)%	(9.6%)	(6.9%)	(7.2%)	(8.5%)	(5.7%)	**(6.9%)**
	2010	9,964	11,782	72,960	774	27,538	63,732	58,564	33,223	32,613	**311,250**
		(7.1%)	(5.7%)	(6.7%)	(6.3%)	(8.8%)	(6.6%)	(6.8%)	(8.3%)	(5.4%)	**(6.8%)**
5-9 years	**2000**	5,937	8,810	70,713	629	15,161	63,254	63,530	24,927	34,799	**287,760**
		(4.6%)	(4.7%)	(7.3%)	(6.1%)	(8.9%)	(7.2%)	(7.9%)	(8.9%)	(6.1%)	**(7.2%)**
	2010	6,354	9,173	72,670	830	28,998	64,300	54,482	33,029	26,147	**295,983**
		(4.5%)	(4.4%)	(6.7%)	(6.7%)	(9.3%)	(6.6%)	(6.3%)	(8.2%)	(4.3%)	**(6.4%)**
10-14 years	**2000**	4,675	7,602	68,176	728	12,798	63,329	60,982	23,615	30,442	**272,347**
		(3.6%)	(4.0%)	(7.0%)	(7.0%)	(7.5%)	(7.3%)	(7.6%)	(8.4%)	(5.3%)	**(6.8%)**
	2010	4,630	7,307	72,332	893	25,273	64,663	55,923	31,393	25,041	**287,455**
		(3.3%)	(3.5%)	(6.7%)	(7.2%)	(8.1%)	(6.7%)	(6.5%)	(7.8%)	(4.2%)	**(6.3%)**
15-19 years	**2000**	4,715	7,231	58,849	558	8,844	50,692	57,001	19,869	37776	**245,535**
		(3.7%)	(3.8%)	(6.1%)	(5.4%)	(5.2%)	(5.8%)	(7.1%)	(7.1%)	(6.6%)	**(6.1%)**
	2010	4,953	6,975	67,443	762	19,233	59,862	67,439	28,505	39,919	**295,091**
		(3.5%)	(3.4%)	(6.2%)	(6.2%)	(6.2%)	(6.2%)	(7.8%)	(7.1%)	(6.6%)	**(6.4%)**
20-24 years	**2000**	9,215	16,577	51,214	372	6,923	42,151	58,640	17,569	52,106	**254,767**
		(7.2%)	(8.7%)	(5.3%)	(3.6%)	(4.1%)	(4.8%)	(7.3%)	(6.4%)	(9.1%)	**(6.4%)**
	2010	8,142	17,704	60,139	539	12,720	54,031	70,644	24,028	64,110	**312,057**
		(5.8%)	(8.5%)	(5.6%)	(4.4%)	(4.1%)	(5.6%)	(8.2%)	(6.0%)	(10.7%)	**(6.8%)**
Total: 0-24 years	**2000**	**27,900**	**43,007**	**248,336**	**2,185**	**47,234**	**215,978**	**236,835**	**86,140**	**157,082**	**1,064,675**
		(25.3%)	**(26.7%)**	**(32.7%)**	**(28.1%)**	**(35.3%)**	**(32.0%)**	**(37.1%)**	**(39.3%)**	**(32.8%)**	**(33.4%)**
	2010	**29,413**	**45,634**	**273,212**	**2,905**	**88,489**	**241,925**	**251,129**	**118,785**	**162,789**	**1,501,836**
		(24.2%)	**(25.5%)**	**(31.9%)**	**(30.8%)**	**(36.5%)**	**(31.7%)**	**(35.6%)**	**(37.4%)**	**(31.2%)**	**(32.7%)**
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census											

Table A2. Number of children by race/Hispanic origin, 2010

Number (and percentage) of children by race/Hispanic origin, by age: 2010											
		Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA*	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	NCR, Total
0-4 years	White, non-Hispanic	4,416	6,119	32,123	456	14,905	23,603	4,450	12,929	7,705	106,706
		(44.2%)	(51.7%)	(44.0%)	(61.5%)	(53.0%)	(36.9%)	(7.6%)	(38.6%)	(23.4%)	36%
	Black	2,412	908	7,153	64	1,441	12,760	35,942	5,647	18,818	85,145
		(24.1%)	(7.7%)	(9.8%)	(8.6%)	(5.1%)	(20.0%)	(61.4%)	(16.9%)	(57.3%)	29%
	Asian	363	903	13,114	52	4,015	8,299	2,091	2,517	450	31,804
		(3.6%)	(7.6%)	(18.0%)	(7.0%)	(14.3%)	(13.0%)	(3.6%)	(7.5%)	(1.4%)	11%
	Hispanic	1,323	2,528	16,228	141	4,230	15,741	14,525	9,308	4,535	68,559
		(13.2%)	(21.4%)	(22.2%)	(19.0%)	(15.1%)	(24.6%)	(24.8%)	(27.8%)	(13.8%)	23%
5-9 years	White, non-Hispanic	2,837	5,584	36,946	555	17,920	27,605	3,738	13,207	4,629	113,021
		(37.5%)	(57.4%)	(49.9%)	(75.7%)	(60.9%)	(43.8%)	(6.6%)	(39.2%)	(17.0%)	38%
	Black	1,878	965	6,993	23	1,750	11,128	37,841	6,251	17,184	84,013
		(24.8%)	(9.9%)	(9.4%)	(3.1%)	(5.9%)	(17.7%)	(66.7%)	(18.5%)	(63.0%)	28%
	Asian	311	631	12,443	61	3,716	7,957	1,330	2,745	401	29,595
		(4.1%)	(6.5%)	(16.8%)	(8.3%)	(12.6%)	(12.6%)	(2.3%)	(8.1%)	(1.5%)	10%
	Hispanic	2,088	1,925	12,227	58	3,897	13,327	12,492	8,341	4,122	58,477
		27.6%	(19.8%)	(16.5%)	(7.9%)	(13.2%)	(21.1%)	(22.0%)	(24.7%)	(15.1%)	20%
10-14 years	White, non-Hispanic	1,303	3,242	33,131	569	14,902	27,567	4,032	13,322	3,396	101,464
		(32.4%)	(41.1%)	(46.2%)	(75.2%)	(59.0%)	(41.6%)	(7.5%)	(42.4%)	(14.2%)	34%
	Black	1,155	1,353	8,252	43	2,016	13,377	37,308	6,357	17,990	87,851
		(28.7%)	(17.1%)	(11.5%)	(5.7%)	(8.0%)	(20.2%)	(69.7%)	(20.2%)	(75.1%)	29%
	Asian	126	314	12,813	94	2,656	9,417	2,226	1,739	558	29,943
		(3.1%)	(4.0%)	(17.9%)	(12.4%)	(10.5%)	(14.2%)	(4.2%)	(5.5%)	(2.3%)	10%
	Hispanic	957	2,234	13,894	51	3,311	12,387	8,172	7,597	1,902	50,505
		(23.8%)	(28.3%)	(19.4%)	(6.7%)	(13.1%)	(18.7%)	(15.3%)	(24.2%)	(7.9%)	17%
15-19 years	White, non-Hispanic	1,382	2,809	33,538	506	11,931	25,316	12,350	12,628	13,070	113,530
		(31.6%)	(48.3%)	(50.1%)	(67.4%)	(62.5%)	(42.4%)	(17.8%)	(41.5%)	(30.6%)	38%
	Black	1,780	447	7,097	33	1,827	12,813	44,596	6,558	24,702	99,853
		(40.7%)	(7.7%)	(10.6%)	(4.4%)	(9.6%)	(21.5%)	(64.4%)	(21.5%)	(57.9%)	33%
	Asian	204	494	10,958	157	2,183	6,632	2,576	2,186	1,362	26,752
		(4.7%)	(8.5%)	(16.4%)	(20.9%)	(11.4%)	(11.1%)	(3.7%)	(7.2%)	(3.2%)	9%
	Hispanic	694	1,659	12,138	64	2,681	12,430	9,379	6,852	3,378	49,275
		(15.9%)	(28.5%)	(18.1%)	(8.5%)	(14.0%)	(20.8%)	(13.5%)	(22.5%)	(7.9%)	17%
20-24 years	White, non-Hispanic	3,908	11,563	28,224	392	6,999	21,347	11,332	9,529	26,568	119,862
		(48.5%)	(66.2%)	(46.7%)	(52.6%)	(52.5%)	(39.3%)	(16.4%)	(40.9%)	(43.7%)	40%
	Black	1,628	1,301	6,175	61	1,214	11,152	38,705	5,197	24,980	90,413
		(20.2%)	(7.5%)	(10.2%)	(8.2%)	(9.1%)	(20.5%)	(55.9%)	(22.3%)	(41.1%)	30%
	Asian	737	1,041	10,216	111	1,418	6,253	3,690	1,387	2,733	27,586
		(9.1%)	(6.0%)	(16.9%)	(14.9%)	(10.6%)	(11.5%)	(5.3%)	(6.0%)	(4.5%)	9%
	Hispanic	1,752	2,643	13,835	142	3,082	13,746	12,978	6,371	6,455	61,004
		(21.7%)	(15.1%)	(22.9%)	(19.1%)	(23.1%)	(25.3%)	(18.8%)	(27.4%)	(10.6%)	20%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, except Falls Church* data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

Table A3. Percentage of children (ages 0-17) who have at least one non-native-born parent, 2006 and 2010: NCR

Percentage (and number) of children (ages 0-17) who have at least one non-native-born parent										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total**
2006	42%	43%	42%	-	32%	44%	31%	37%	16%	**36%**
	(9,700)	(14,700)	(102,000)	-	(24,100)	(96,600)	(62,500)	(36,800)	(16,000)	**(362,500)**
2010	44%	36%	50%	-	36%	50%	35%	39%	20%	**41%**
	(10,500)	(11,600)	(126,900)	-	(34,100)	(113,600)	(66,700)	(43,700)	(18,600)	**(425,400)**

Notes: Counts rounded to the nearest hundred.

Source: Child Trends' calculations from 2006, 2010 American Community Survey data.

Table A4. Families with children, percentages (and counts) by family type and age of children, 2010

Families with children younger than 18, by family type and age of children: 2010										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total**
Married couple										
Under 6 years only	43%	44%	25%	22%	26%	26%	23%	24%	46%	27%
	(3,900)	(5,200)	(26,100)	(300)	(10,800)	(22,500)	(11,100)	(10,000)	(9,500)	(99,400)
0 to 17 years	21%	20%	20%	15%	22%	18%	24%	23%	17%	20%
	(1,900)	(2,400)	(20,500)	(200)	(9,100)	(15,600)	(11,600)	(9,400)	(3,500)	(74,200)
6 to 17 years only	37%	37%	55%	63%	51%	57%	53%	53%	37%	52%
	(3,300)	(4,200)	(56,700)	(800)	(21,100)	(49,600)	(25,700)	(22,000)	(7,600)	(191,100)
Single mother										
Under 6 years only	18%	43%	22%	27%	24%	14%	17%	21%	24%	20%
	(500)	(1,800)	(4,800)	(100)	(1,600)	(3,400)	(5,400)	(1,800)	(4,300)	(23,700)
0 to 17 years	20%	11%	18%	0%	12%	14%	12%	18%	16%	15%
	(600)	(500)	(3,800)	(0)	(800)	(3,300)	(4,000)	(1,500)	(2,800)	(17,300)
6 to 17 years only	62%	47%	60%	73%	64%	72%	71%	61%	60%	65%
	(1,800)	(2,000)	(13,100)	(200)	(4,200)	(16,900)	(22,900)	(5,300)	(10,700)	(77,100)
Single father										
Under 6 years only	69%	52%	25%	0%	17%	17%	30%	27%	23%	26%
	(600)	(400)	(1,500)	(0)	(400)	(1,200)	(3,100)	(1,000)	(800)	(9,200)
0 to 17 years	0%	14%	19%	0%	0%	20%	21%	21%	15%	17%
	(0)	(100)	(1,100)	(0)	(0)	(1,400)	(2,100)	(800)	(500)	(6,100)
6 to 17 years only	31%	34%	57%	100%	83%	64%	50%	52%	62%	57%
	(300)	(300)	(3,400)	(100)	(2,200)	(4,700)	(5,100)	(1,900)	(2,200)	(20,200)

Note: Count estimates are rounded to the nearest hundred.

Source: Child Trends' calculations from 2010 American Community Survey.

Table A5. Births to single mothers, as a percentage of all births, 2000, 2005, and 2009: NCR

Births to single mothers: Percentage of all births (and counts)										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total***
2000	27.8%	21.8%	16.6%	6.3%	10.7%	19.5%	43.5%	24.8%	60.3%	**30.3%**
	(715)	(592)	(2,380)	-	-	(2,590)	(5,361)	(1,249)	(4,626)	**(17,513)**
2005	28.2%	22.0%	19.9%	15.8%	12.7%	24.4%	46.4%	27.6%	56.1%	**26.3%**
	(758)	(622)	(2,926)	-	(655)	(3,320)	(5,817)	(1,821)	(4,464)	**(17,395)**
2009	29.4%	19.6%	23.4%	15.1%	15.4%	30.4%	54.2%	29.2%	55.8%	**34.8%**
	(761)	(575)	(3,596)	-	(774)	(4,128)	(6,604)	(1,929)	(5,047)	**(23,414)**

"-": Data not available.

*Totals do not include Falls Church data.

Source: Kids Count Data Center http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/Default.aspx, based on data provided by Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; D.C. Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics Administration; Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Vital Statistics System.

Table A6. Births to single mothers, as a percentage of all births, by age, 2000, 2005, and 2009

Births to single mothers: Percentage of all births (and counts), by mother's age									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
Under 15									
2000	100.0% (3)	100.0% (1)	100.0% (8)	- -	- -	100.0% (9)	100.0% (30)	87.5% (7)	100.0% (31)
2005	10.0% (5)	- -	10.0% (7)	- -	100.0% (1)	100.0% (11)	100.0% (25)	100.0% (4)	100.0% (22)
2009	100% (1)	100% (2)	100% (6)		50% (1)	100% (11)	100% (20)	100% (13)	100.0% (26)
15-19									
2000	84.9% (101)	80.5% (103)	79.8% (469)	- -	- -	83.4% (494)	90.4% (1,105)	82.3% (325)	96.0% (1,015)
2005	77.4% (103)	79.2% (61)	82.3% (473)	- -	95.7% (111)	85.9% (516)	91.4% (1,038)	64.7% (288)	96.8% (825)
2009	87.4% (76)	88.9% (56)	85.3% (413)		88.0% (95)	91.0% (563)	93.8% (1,044)	85.9% (336)	96.8% (1,001)
20-24									
2000	55.1% (236)	50.3% (196)	44.3% (796)	- -	- -	50.3% (766)	65.9% (1,825)	44.4% (486)	82.7% (1,581)
2005	59.1% (218)	58.4% (194)	52.1% (986)	- -	48.9% (244)	58.7% (1,007)	69.5% (1,935)	49.3% (635)	84.9% (1,553)
2009	62.3% (193)	65.0% (154)	57.4% (1,054)		50.6% (237)	64.4% (1,129)	78.3% (2,230)	54.1% (646)	87.7% (1,612)

"-": Data not available.

Source: Kids Count Data Center http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/Default.aspx, based on data provided by Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; DC Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics Administration; Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics.

Table A7. Births to single mothers, as a percentage of all births, by race/Hispanic origin, 2005 and 2009

Births to single mothers: Percentage of all births, (and counts), by race/Hispanic origin : 2005 and 2009										
		Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
White	**2005**	46.4%	69.7%	75.1%	-	80.6%	42.4%	19.8%	64.7%	7.0%
		(352)	(434)	(2,198)	-	(528)	(1,410)	(1,157)	(1,180)	(315)
	2009	58.4%	71.4%	77.5%	-	79.4%	61.0%	25.7%	63.1%	14.4%
		(445)	(411)	(2,790)	-	(615)	(2,521)	(1,698)	(1,218)	(729)
Black	**2005**	47.6%	21.3%	19.6%		14.8%	49.8%	78.3%	31.6%	91.9%
		(361)	(133)	(576)		(97)	(1654)	(4560)	(577)	(4,106)
	2009	39.1%	21.9%	18.1%	-	15.3%	35.2%	72.0%	34.1%	82.8%
		(298)	(126)	(654)	-	(119)	(1,456)	(4,756)	(659)	(4,179)
Hispanic	**2005**	48.4%	65.7%	59.7%	-	45.6%	48.8%	24.8%	44.7%	16.8%
		(367)	(409)	(1,747)	-	(299)	(1,621)	(1,443)	(815)	(750)
	2009	46.7%	59.3%	62.2%	-	49.6%	53.1%	26.4%	36.0%	0.3%
		(356)	(341)	(2237)	-	(384)	(2,193)	(1,749)	(696)	(16)
Asian/Pacific Islander	**2005**	5.8%	8.8%	5.1%		4.5%	7.4%	1.5%	3.3%	0.9%
		(44)	(55)	(150)		(30)	(248)	(89)	(61)	(41)
	2009	2.3%	0.6%	4.1%	-	4.9%	3.3%	2.0%	2.6%	2.4%
		(18)	(36)	(148)	-	(38)	(137)	(134)	(51)	(123)
American Indian	**2005**	0.1%	-	0.1%	-	-	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%
		(1)	-	(2)	-	-	(8)	(11)	(3)	(2)
	2009	-	0.3%	0.1%	-	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%
		-	(2)	(4)	-	(2)	(14)	(16)	(1)	(16)

"-": Data not available.

Source: Kids Count Data Center http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/Default.aspx, based on data provided by Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; DC Department of Health, State Center for Health Statistics Administration; Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics.

Table A8. Arrest rates per 1,000 population, 0-24 years, all offenses: DC Wards

Juvenile arrests, all offenses: DC Wards								
	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8
2000	2,459	1,997	301	1,214	2,582	2,827	2,083	2,715
2005	1,695	2,095	272	1,399	2,058	2,257	1,841	2,387
2010	1,924	1,759	263	1,264	2,332	1,919	2,652	2,837
Rates per 1,000 population ages 0-24: 2010	90.5	66.8	12.0	59.3	100.3	99.4	106.4	93.9
Source: DC Metropolitan Police Department; Child Trends' calculations.								

Table A9. Arrests for violent crimes per 1,000 population, ages 0-24 years: DC Wards

Arrests of juveniles (ages 0-24 years) for violent crimes: DC wards								
	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8
2000	166	90	14	79	141	216	131	237
2005	121	74	26	90	113	144	134	156
2010	167	117	29	150	147	156	218	244
Rates per 1,000 population ages 0-24: 2010	7.9	4.4	1.3	7.0	6.3	8.1	8.7	8.1
Note: For DC, violent crimes include homicide/manslaughter, rape/sexual abuse, aggravated assault, and robbery/carjacking.								
Source: Distict of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department; Child Trends' calculations from 2006-2010 American Community Survey.								

Table A10. Arrest for violent crimes, by age group, 2005 and 2009

Violent crimes: Counts by age group										
Ages	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total**
2005										
<10	1	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	1	**8**
10-17	59	19	1	0	4	209	397	63	413	**1,165**
18-24	55	56	17	1	21	351	349	120	568	**1,538**
2009										
<10	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	**4**
10-17	25	27	18	1	12	326	491	78	543	**1,521**
18-24	51	33	97	2	29	397	452	121	681	**1,863**

Note: For DC, violent crime include homicide/manslaughter, rape/sexual abuse, aggravated assault, and robbery/carjacking.
For all other jurisdictions, violent crimes include murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, and DC Metropolitan Police Department.

Table A11. Arrests for violent crimes, by race, 2005 and 2009

Arrests for violent crimes: Counts by race (ages 0-17)											
		Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total**
2005	**White**	22	4	0	0	4	60	29	23	13	**155**
	Black	37	15	1	0	0	146	368	40	398	**1,005**
	American Indian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
	Asian/Pacific Islander	1	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	**10**
2009	**White**	8	11	11	0	8	94	25	34	8	**199**
	Black	17	16	6	1	4	227	469	44	534	**1,318**
	American Indian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
	Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	**7**

Note: For DC, violent crimes include homicide/manslaughter, rape/sexual abuse, aggravated assault, and robbery/carjacking.
For all other jurisdictions, violent crimes include murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, and DC Metropolitan Police Department.

Table A12. Arrests for property crimes, per 1,000 population, ages 0-24 years, 2000, 2005 and 2009: DC Wards

Arrests of juveniles (ages 0-24 years) for property crimes: DC wards								
	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8
2000	49	101	40	37	35	65	43	58
2005	46	85	26	23	45	49	26	43
2010	110	118	34	40	80	61	73	93
Rates per 1,000 population ages 0-24: 2010	5.2	4.5	1.6	1.9	3.4	3.2	2.9	3.1

Note: Property crimes include burglary, larceny/theft, theft from auto, and arson.

Source: Distict of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department; Child Trends' calculations from 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

Table A13. Arrests for property crimes, by age group, 2005 and 2009

Arrests for property crimes: Counts by age group										
Ages	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total**
2005										
<10	1	0	1	0	0	3	7	3	0	**15**
10-17	155	178	13	0	29	621	1112	308	139	**2,555**
18-24	137	144	163	3	107	822	639	512	266	**2,793**
2009										
<10	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	**3**
10-17	151	397	191	7	62	664	899	354	248	**2,973**
18-24	206	283	860	12	222	965	776	618	450	**4,392**

Note: For DC, property crimes include burglary, larceny/theft, theft from auto, and arson.
For all other jurisdictions,property crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, and DC Metropolitan Police Department.

Table A14. Arrests for property crimes, by race, 2005 and 2009

Arrests for property crimes: Counts by race (ages 0-17)											
		Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total**
2005	**White**	45	43	9	0	22	252	103	192	7	**673**
	Black	110	133	5	0	7	352	1012	115	131	**1,865**
	American Indian	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	**4**
	Asian/Pacific Islander	1	2	0	0	0	17	3	4	0	**27**
2009	**White**	40	68	108	7	46	264	62	202	13	**810**
	Black	111	330	78	0	14	382	834	151	233	**2,133**
	American Indian	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	**3**
	Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0	5	0	2	16	4	1	2	**30**

Note: For DC, property crimes Index includes burglary, larceny/theft, theft from auto, and arson
For all other jurisdictions, Property Crime Index includes burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson

Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, and DC Metropolitan Police Department.

Table A15. Dispositions for juvenile delinquency, 2000, 2005, and 2010 (rates per 1,000 population ages 10-17)

Dispositions for juvenile delinquency: Rates (and counts)									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2000	7.3	80.1	19.2	3.4	3.3	-	-	64.2	-
	(56)	(969)	(2,085)	(4)	(62)	-	-	(2,375)	-
2005	45.3	55.4	20.2	-	6.3	15.7	15.6	36.1	54.8
	(358)	(666)	(2,254)	(36)	(183)	(1640)	(1600)	(1,506)	(2,526)
2010	60.3	65.7	14.7	43.2	17.5	16.6	19.4	22.4	87.7
	(396)	(742)	(1,707)	(57)	(682)	(1770)	(1751)	(1,122)	(3,607)

"-" Data not available

Note: Rates are per 1000 youth ages 10-17.

Source: Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia, Department of Legislative and Public Relations; Superior Court of the District of Columbia Family Court annual reports; Child Trends' calculations from American Community Survey 2005, 2010, and 2006-2010 (Falls Church) data.

Table A16. Median income of families with children, 2000, 2005, and 2010

Median income, families with own children under 18, by family type, 2000, 2005, and 2010											
		Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	US
2000	**Married couple**	$70,000	$81,850	$96,355	$108,621	$94,232	$94,232	$74,323	$75,228	$73,909	$59,461
	Single Mother	$25,261	$30,293	$39,762	$42,115	$40,596	$36,263	$32,809	$33,499	$19,656	$20,284
2005	**Married couple**	$90,853	$126,923	$117,774	-	$117,626	$115,972	$91,258	$96,209	$100,970	$70,104
	Single Mother	$52,973	$56,052	$39,851	-	$49,643	$41,063	$40,410	$39,479	$22,487	$22,037
2010	**Married couple**	$110,966	$134,746	$137,946	-	$140,522	$134,182	$97,418	$111,354	$151,153	$77,443
	Single Mother	$33,816	$31,812	$50,490	-	$66,954	$45,038	$45,732	$45,312	$22,934	$23,184
"-" Data not available											
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census; 2005 and 2010 American Community Survey											

Table A17. Cases of substantiated child abuse and neglect (per 1000 children, 0-17), 2000, 2006, and 2010

Substantiated victims of child maltreatment: Rates per 1,000 children (ages 0-17) (and counts)									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2000	10.2	6.4	2.9	2.1	0.7	-	-	2.5	-
	(220)	(201)	(721)	(5)	(34)	-	-	(216)	-
2006	3.7	2.6	0.8	1.2	1.0	-	-	2.6	22.3
	(92)	(86)	(215)	(3)	(74)	-	-	(278)	-
2010	3.1	2.0	0.9	0.0	0.8	-	-	5.1	26.5
	(86)	(70)	(220)	(0)	(73)	-	-	(567)	-
"-" Data not available									
Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services system reports; District of Columbia Office of Planning, Policy, and Program Support; Child and Family Services Agency; Maryland Department of Human Resources, Child Protective Services reports; Prince George's County Department of Social Services.									

Table A18. Children in substantiated cases of maltreatment, by race, 2010

Child maltreatment: Children in substantiated cases, by race/Hispanic origin, FY 2010									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
White	19	43	144	0	21	-	-	283	-
Black	49	20	34	0	6	-	-	199	-
Hispanic	12	25	92	0	12	-	-	154	-
Asian	1	7	0	0	0	-	-	11	-
American Indian	4	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-
"-" Data not available									
Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services system reports									

Table A19. Children in substantiated cases of maltreatment, by age group, 2010

Child maltreatment: Children in substantiated cases, by age group, FY 2010									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
Less than 1 year	5	5	22	0	6	-	-	38	-
1 to 3 years	16	16	26	0	9	-	-	113	-
4 to 7 years	22	11	33	0	17	-	-	127	-
8 to 11 years	13	12	37	0	15	-	-	105	-
12 to 15 years	10	17	47	0	17	-	-	94	-
16 to 17 years	1	4	11	0	5	-	-	33	-
"-" Data not available									
Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services system reports.									

Table A20. Foster care: new entrants, by age group, 2000, 2005, and 2010

Foster care: New entrants, by age group										
		Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2000	**Less than 1 year**	7	8	34	0	3	-	-	1	-
	1-5 years	23	8	42	0	1	-	-	2	-
	6-10 years	18	13	33	0	1	-	-	12	-
	11-15 years	14	5	47	0	4	-	-	9	-
	16-18 years	4	9	15	0	0	-	-	4	-
	19+ years	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-
2005	**Less than 1 year**	10	11	19	0	5	-	-	2	-
	1-5 years	23	12	35	0	9	-	-	8	-
	6-10 years	12	9	37	0	5	-	-	15	-
	11-15 years	17	19	48	0	9	-	-	32	-
	16-18 years	4	6	24	0	2	-	-	29	-
	19+ years	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-
2010	**Less than 1 year**	8	3	16	0	4	26	-	5	-
	1-5 years	11	11	35	0	5	44	-	13	-
	6-10 years	6	6	26	0	8	37	-	14	-
	11-15 years	6	14	29	0	14	53	-	23	-
	16-18 years	10	6	15	0	10	18	-	14	-
	19+ years	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	-

"-" Data not available

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports; Montgomery County Child Welfare Services; Prince George's County Department of Social Services.

Table A21. Foster care: new entrants, by race/Hispanic origin, 2000, 2005, and 2010

Foster care: New entrants, by race/Hispanic origin	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2000									
White	3	5	60	0	6	-	-	13	-
Black	58	17	67	0	3	-	-	14	-
Hispanic	2	18	32	0	0	-	-	1	-
Asian	3	1	6	0	0	-	-	0	-
American Indian	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-
2005									
White	5	6	48	0	13	-	-	34	-
Black	39	30	58	0	4	-	-	27	-
Hispanic	16	19	42	0	7	-	-	15	-
Asian	2	0	11	0	0	-	-	0	-
American Indian	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-
2010									
White	2	4	39	0	18	55	6	16	-
Black	24	18	38	0	6	90	176	27	-
Hispanic	12	14	32	0	13	9	16	21	-
Asian	1	3	4	0	1	5	0	4	-
American Indian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
"-" Data not available									
Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports; Montgomery County Child Welfare Services; Prince George's County Department of Social Services.									

Table A22. Percentage of children who are read to every day by family members, 2007

Children (ages 0 to 5 years) who are read to by a family member every day										
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC	**NCR, Total***
2007	56%	57%	56%	-	58%	52%	50%	57%	49%	**53%**

"-": Data not available.
*NCR total does not include Falls Church, VA.

Source: Child Trends' synthetic estimates based on data from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health, and the 2007 American Community Survey.

Table A23. School enrollment, percentages by race and Hispanic origin, 2005-06—2010-11

Public school enrollment, percentages by race/Hispanic origin, SY 2005-2006 and 2010-2011									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington co, VA	Fairfax co, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun co, VA	Montgomery co, MD	Prince George's co, MD	Prince William co, VA	Washington, DC
2005-06									
White	23.8	45.1	50.4	75.7	67.3	42.2	6.1	44.4	4.5
Black	42.1	14.1	10.7	4.9	8.2	22.8	74.4	22.3	82.9
Hispanic	26.3	29.5	15.8	8.0	11.5	20.0	13.6	22.5	10.9
American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2
Asian	5.8	10.2	17.4	11.0	10.9	14.7	2.9	6.7	1.4
2010-11									
White	25.0	44.4	44.1	70.7	57.9	34.6	4.5	35.8	6.8
Black	34.2	11.5	10.5	5.0	7.2	21.3	68.9	20.3	77.3
Hispanic	30.7	29.6	21.3	11.9	15.2	25.3	21.0	28.6	13.0
American Indian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.1
Asian	5.3	9.7	19.2	8.1	14.6	14.3	2.9	7.5	1.8

Source: Child Trends, calculations based on data from District of Columbia Public Schools, Office of Data and Accountability and District of Columbia Public Charter School Board. Annual Reports; CT calculations based on data from Maryland Department of Education, Montgomery County Schools at a Glance Annual Reports, and Prince George's County. Schools Annual Reports; CT calculations based on data from Virginia Department of Education.

Table A24. Percentage of third-graders with reading proficiency, 2000-01—2010-11

3rd grade reading: Percentage of students scoring "proficient" or above on state assessments									
School Year	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2000-01	55.0	70.0	74.0	67.0	75.0	-	-	62.0	-
2001-02	59.0	75.0	79.0	81.0	81.0	-	-	69.0	-
2002-03	62.0	73.0	79.0	80.0	79.0	66.8	39.4	74.0	-
2003-04	60.0	70.0	76.0	80.0	76.0	77.6	55.3	73.0	-
2004-05	68.0	76.0	79.0	83.0	82.0	79.2	63.1	79.0	-
2005-06	79.0	87.0	87.0	92.0	87.0	80.6	67.3	84.0	-
2006-07	72.0	80.0	82.0	96.0	83.0	84.9	69.5	79.0	41.5
2007-08	80.0	86.0	88.0	92.0	90.0	86.4	71.5	87.0	47.3
2008-09	81.0	87.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	88.9	74.3	87.0	46.6
2009-10	77.0	89.0	88.0	92.0	90.0	87.5	74.7	85.0	41.8
2010-11	75.0	87.0	87.0	88.0	86.0	89.3	79.1	83.0	41.5

"-" Data not available

Note: Virginia, Maryland, and the District each use different assessments, and their own determinations of what constitutes "proficiency." In addition, the content of assessments may not be constant from year to year. Thus, caution is urged in making any comparisons across states, or between years.

Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education

Table A25. Percentage of 4th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state assessments of math, 2000-01—2010-11

4th grade math: Percentage of students scoring "proficient" or above on state assessments									
School Year	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2000-01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001-02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2002-03	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2003-04	-	-	-	-	-	80.0	50.0	-	-
2004-05	-	-	-	-	-	83.5	64.2	-	-
2005-06	73.0	79.0	79.0	79.0	87.0	86.5	72.4	81.0	-
2006-07	73.0	84.0	83.0	89.0	85.0	88.6	77.2	84.0	34.2
2007-08	82.0	84.0	86.0	93.0	91.0	90.0	81.4	88.0	45.5
2008-09	79.0	84.0	89.0	84.0	91.0	91.1	81.3	89.0	50.0
2009-10	87.0	86.0	90.0	97.0	92.0	91.0	83.4	90.0	45.7
2010-11	82.0	90.0	94.0	95.0	90.0	91.1	84.0	90.0	46.0
"-" Data not available. Assessments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are NOT comparable.									
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education									

Table A26. Percentage of 4th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state assessments of reading, 2000-01—2010-11

4th grade reading: Percentage of students scoring "proficient" or above on state assessments									
School Year	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2000-01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001-02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2002-03	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2003-04	-	-	-	-	-	81.9	58.6	-	-
2004-05	-	-	-	-	-	86.4	67.9	-	-
2005-06	81.0	88.0	89.0	93.0	92.0	86.7	70.0	87.0	-
2006-07	83.0	87.0	87.0	96.0	90.0	90.4	76.5	89.0	36.6
2007-08	82.0	90.0	92.0	97.0	92.0	92.0	80.0	90.0	45.3
2008-09	87.0	89.0	93.0	93.0	92.0	90.6	77.2	90.0	45.2
2009-10	88.0	91.0	93.0	94.0	93.0	91.1	79.3	90.0	45.5
2010-11	79.0	89.0	92.0	95.0	90.0	92.0	82.8	88.0	44.0
Notes: Assessments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are NOT comparable. "-" Data not available									
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education									

Table A27. Percentage of 4th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state assessments of math, by race/Hispanic origin, 2010-11

4th grade Math: Percentage of students scoring Proficient or above on state assessments, , by race/Hispanic origin: SY 2010-2011									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
White	97.0	97.0	97.0	95.0	93.0	≥ 95.0	92.2	95.0	92.1
Black	74.0	80.0	89.0	-	75.0	82.6	82.0	84.0	39.6
Hispanic	74.0	79.0	88.0	88.0	78.0	84.7	86.7	88.0	50.4
American Indian	-	-	88.0	-	93.0	81.8	80.0	96.0	-
Asian	89.0	93.0	97.0	92.0	95.0	≥ 95.0	93.7	97.0	85.0
"-" Data nota available (sample too small)									

Note: Assessments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are NOT comparable.
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education

Table A28. Percentage of 4th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state assessments of math, by gender, 2010-11

4th grade Math: Percentage of students scoring Proficient or above on state assessments, , by gender: SY 2010-2011									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
Male	81.0	89.0	94.0	95.0	90.0	90.2	81.7	90.0	44.5
Female	83.0	92.0	94.0	94.0	90.0	91.9	86.5	91.0	47.5

Note: Assessments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are NOT comparable.
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education

Table A29. Percentage of 8th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state assessments of math, 2000-01—2010-11

8th grade Math: Percentage of students scoring "proficient" or above on state assessments									
School year	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2000-01	62.0	73.0	83.0	87.0	78.0	-	-	61.0	-
2001-02	61.0	69.0	80.0	86.0	79.0	-	-	71.0	-
2002-03	68.0	81.0	86.0	88.0	75.0	57.5	22.1	76.0	-
2003-04	73.0	83.0	89.0	94.0	87.0	58.8	27.3	83.0	-
2004-05	74.0	79.0	89.0	91.0	87.0	64.6	35.6	84.0	-
2005-06	60.0	72.0	83.0	89.0	84.0	66.6	33.9	78.0	-
2006-07	58.0	76.0	83.0	87.0	84.0	67.4	37.6	83.0	32.7
2007-08	61.0	82.0	88.0	92.0	88.0	73.2	42.4	86.0	39.0
2008-09	66.0	85.0	91.0	89.0	93.0	74.4	43.2	89.0	43.7
2009-10	74.0	83.0	94.0	84.0	94.0	75.0	41.2	89.0	50.2
2010-11	62.0	81.0	90.0	93.0	80.0	74.7	43.7	89.0	58.4
"-" Data nota available. Assessments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are NOT comparable.									
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education									

Table A30. Percentage of 8th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state assessments of reading

8th grade reading: Percentage of students scoring "proficient" or above on state assessments,									
School year	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2000-01	62.0	72.0	82.0	89.0	81.0	-	-	72.0	-
2001-02	61.0	64.0	77.0	83.0	79.0	-	-	70.0	-
2002-03	58.0	67.0	76.0	84.0	74.0	70.9	41.9	71.0	-
2003-04	67.0	73.0	81.0	86.0	82.0	72.4	49.5	77.0	-
2004-05	68.0	74.0	85.0	88.0	85.0	73.9	49.9	81.0	-
2005-06	69.0	75.0	84.0	85.0	82.0	73.8	51.2	80.0	-
2006-07	59.0	77.0	83.0	90.0	89.0	77.1	53.0	80.0	31.6
2007-08	66.0	83.0	91.0	92.0	91.0	83.3	56.8	84.0	39.6
2008-09	77.0	86.0	92.0	94.0	94.0	87.4	67.3	90.0	46.3
2009-10	85.0	89.0	94.0	93.0	94.0	88.0	66.9	92.0	48.4
2010-11	85.0	91.0	95.0	97.0	95.0	89.2	70.8	92.0	49.6
"-" Data nota available. Assessments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are NOT comparable.									
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education									

Table A31. Percentage of 8th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state assessments of reading, by race/Hispanic origin, 2010-11

8th grade reading, percentage of students scoring Proficient or above on state assessments, by race/Hispanic Origin: SY 2010-2011									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
White	94.0	98.0	98.0	100.0	97.0	≥ 95.0	83.5	97.0	86.1
Black	83.0	78.0	89.0	75.0	92.0	82.3	70.5	87.0	46.7
Hispanic	79.0	82.0	90.0	86.0	88.0	80.4	65.6	88.0	51.7
American Indian	-	-	93.0	-	78.0	86.7	71.0	83.0	-
Asian	90.0	96.0	97.0	100.0	97.0	94.6	84.4	95.0	77.4
Note: Assessments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are NOT comparable.									
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education									

Table A32. Percentage of 8th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state assessments of reading, by gender, 2010-11

8th grade Reading: Percentage of students scoring Proficient or above on state assessments, , by gender: SY 2010-2011									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
Male	82.0	88.0	94.0	95.0	94.0	86.7	65.9	91.0	44.4
Female	88.0	93.0	96.0	99.0	96.0	91.8	76.0	93.0	54.9
Note: Assessments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are NOT comparable.									
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education									

Table A33. Percentage of 8th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state assessments of math, by race/Hispanic origin, 2010-11

8th grade Math: Percentage of students scoring Proficient or above on state assessments, by race/Hispanic origin: SY 2010-2011									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
White	87.0	92.0	95.0	96.0	85.0	89.1	69.1	93.0	92.1
Black	59.0	64.0	81.0	-	70.0	58.5	40.9	82.0	55.4
Hispanic	54.0	68.0	80.0	75.0	73.0	58.4	42.2	84.0	61.8
American Indian	-	-	80.0	-	91.0	60.0	51.7	90.0	-
Asian	63.0	88.0	96.0	93.0	84.0	90.7	77.1	95.0	88.6
"-" Data nota available (sample too small)									
Note: Assessments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are NOT comparable.									
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education									

Table A34. Percentage of 8th graders scoring "proficient" or better on state assessments of math, by gender, 2010-11

8th grade Math: Percentage of students scoring Proficient or above on state assessments, , by gender: SY 2010-2011									
	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
Male	62.0	79.0	89.0	89.0	78.0	74.6	40.9	86.0	55.1
Female	62.0	83.0	91.0	97.0	83.0	74.8	46.6	91.0	61.8
Note: Assessments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are NOT comparable.									
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education									

Table A35. Percentage of children with limited English proficiency, 2000-01—2010-11

Percentage of students with limited English proficiency									
School Year	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2000-01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001-02	-	-	-	-	-	7.8	-	-	-
2002-03	22.0	26.1	12.9	6.5	4.7	8.5	-	9.1	-
2003-04	27.6	32.0	16.7	9.9	4.7	9.1	-	9.8	-
2004-05	21.6	29.2	17.9	8.7	5.5	9.4	-	12.5	12.4
2005-06	20.9	28.0	18.3	9.1	6.5	9.4	6.1	14.4	11.6
2006-07	21.1	27.4	18.5	8.4	7.4	10.3	8.5	16.7	7.3
2007-08	22.9	26.6	19.8	9.9	7.9	11.9	10.1	18.4	7.4
2008-09	25.6	26.9	20.2	9.2	7.8	12.2	11.4	17.8	6.7
2009-10	22.5	26.3	19.8	6.9	7.9	12.5	11.9	18.2	6.8
2010-11	21.9	23.6	20.9	6.6	7.6	13.3	11.5	17.2	7.8
"-" Data not available									
Maryland Department of Education; Montgomery County Schools at a Glance Reports; Prince George's County public schools annual reports; Virginia Department of Education.									

Table A36. Percentage of children receiving special education services, 2000-01—2010-11

	Percentage of students receiving special education services								
School Year	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2000-01	-	-	-	-	-	11.5	10.5	-	-
2001-02	-	-	-	-	-	11.3	9.4	-	-
2002-03	17.8	17.0	14.3	16.1	11.2	11.7	9.4	12.2	-
2003-04	18.3	17.1	14.3	14.6	10.9	12.2	9.0	11.9	-
2004-05	18.0	16.6	14.4	14.0	10.5	12.0	10.7	11.9	15.5
2005-06	17.9	16.3	14.4	13.8	10.0	12.0	10.6	11.9	15.5
2006-07	17.4	15.8	14.5	14.6	9.8	11.9	10.0	11.4	15.5
2007-08	16.8	15.1	14.3	13.1	9.9	11.6	19.8	11.3	15.5
2008-09	16.3	15.0	14.2	13.1	10.4	11.9	10.3	11.4	14.7
2009-10	15.0	14.7	14.0	12.4	10.4	11.4	10.6	11.6	15.2
2010-11	13.8	14.3	14.0	11.8	10.6	11.6	10.9	11.6	15.5

"-" Data not available

Source: District of Columbia Public Schools, Office of Data and Accountability; District of Columbia Public Charter School Board annual reports; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education.

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