

CAPITAL KIDS

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, SHARED FUTURE


THE STATE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION





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 Explore more of the findings at www.capitalkidsreport.org



INTRODUCTION

The needs of the area's children and youth do not stop at jurisdictional boundaries—and neither should our efforts to ensure their future well-being.

The National Capital Region is one of the most prosperous and well-educated communities in the nation. Even during the Great Recession, the regional economy has remained strong overall, shedding relatively few jobs. We cannot take our continued prosperity for granted, however, given predictions that federal spending cuts will result in the loss of as many as 450,000 local jobs in the coming decade.

While the Region is separated by state and city boundaries; political disagreements; parochial interests; and not one, but two rivers, it is the economic and educational differences that most starkly divide our citizenry. Despite the overall affluence, there remains an enormous gap between those who have the knowledge, skills, opportunities and resources they need to enjoy a healthy, productive life and those who don't—particularly among the area's children and young people.

The Washington, D.C. area has gained a reputation as having a transient population, but the reality is that young people raised here will play a significant role in shaping the Region's long-term economic and social well-being. More than 1.5 million children and youth call the National Capital Region home. This report paints a statistical portrait of the Region's children and youth—what they have in common and how they differ—including, importantly, how they differ by where

they live. Across the Region, there are barriers and opportunities that will shape and influence our young people's odds of future success.

While previous studies have provided important and valuable research on specific issues and/or focused on data from individual communities and specific parts of the Region, this is the first comprehensive look at the state of children and youth across the National Capital Region that identifies the trends and issues that will shape a generation critical to our collective long-term health and sustainability.

By applying a Regional lens to the challenges confronting our youth today, VPP and our partners seek to catalyze a conversation among all stakeholders, including government, business, nonprofit, philanthropic and civic leaders. The data provides a starting point for determining priorities and tracking progress throughout the Region, including the District of Columbia; Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland; the cities of Falls Church and Alexandria; and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudon and Prince William in Virginia.

The needs of the area's children and youth do not stop at jurisdictional boundaries—and neither should our efforts to ensure their future well-being. By examining the strengths and challenges faced by the children and



When our young people fail to reach their full potential, we all pay a price.

youth in the Region, we expect this report will provide a basis for a shared understanding of the issues affecting us individually and collectively.

In an era of diminishing resources, investing in our children makes good sense and provides a strong return. But no local government or individual sector can do this alone. To make a deep and lasting impact on the lives of today's children and for the next generation and beyond, there must be collaboration, innovation and a shared understanding that the cost of inaction will be unacceptably high—not only in terms of lost potential, but in the rising costs of programs and services that will drain away increasingly scarce dollars.

When our young people fail to reach their full potential, we all pay a price. With this report, we call upon leaders throughout our Region to declare the social and financial costs unacceptable and to signal their willingness to chart a new path against the backdrop of a shared destiny.

TOPLINE FINDINGS

- **Poverty** remains a significant problem within the District and a growing concern even in generally affluent suburbs. In sections of the District, the poverty rate among children exceeds those in some developing countries. While child poverty rates in the suburbs are much lower, they have nevertheless doubled or tripled in several jurisdictions. A significant factor—one that is both a cause and an effect of poverty—is the increasing number of children growing up in single-mother households.
- The presence of many new **immigrant** children in our communities, some with limited English skills, require additional resources and services sensitive to their needs so they can achieve educational and economic success.
- An alarming number of children have simply **dropped out** of the system altogether. Throughout the Region, more than 43,000 youth between the ages of 5 and 19, were not enrolled in school in 2010.
- Opportunity youth—the 14,000 youth ages 16 to 19 across the National Capital Region who currently do not attend school and are not employed—could cost our Region an estimated **\$13 billion**¹ over their lifetime in lost tax and economic contributions, as well as their use of social services.
- Males in many jurisdictions, particularly African-Americans, are on the wrong side of an **achievement gap** in key areas such as fourth grade reading, often an indicator of future success. They are also less likely to enroll in college, compared to their female counterparts.

Explore more of the findings at
www.capitalkidsreport.org

1. The White House Opportunity Youth Report - http://www.serve.gov/new-images/council/pdf/econ_value_opportunity_youth.pdf

A SNAPSHOT OF YOUTH IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

The District suffers from some of the highest child poverty rates in the United States, with about one in three children in the city living below the poverty line.

The National Capital Region is extremely diverse and there is no “typical” child or youth, although certain patterns do emerge based on where children live.

- The District suffers from some of the highest child poverty rates in the United States, with about one in three children in the city living below the poverty line. While poverty rates are not as high in the surrounding suburbs, they are trending upward in certain parts of the Region, putting new pressures on local jurisdictions.
- Our Region is extremely diverse with respect to race and ethnicity. Among all jurisdictions, no single race or ethnicity comprises more than 40 percent of children in any age group, although non-Hispanic whites are the single largest category in most localities except for the District and Prince George’s County, which have the largest percentages of African-American youth in the Region.

Children in the National Capital Region: By Race/Ethnicity

Percentage Of Children In The NCR, By Race/Hispanic Origin And Age 2000					
	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-24 years
White, non-Hispanic	42%	42%	44%	44%	43%
Black	32%	35%	34%	34%	30%
Asian	8%	7%	7%	8%	9%
Hispanic	14%	12%	11%	13%	17%

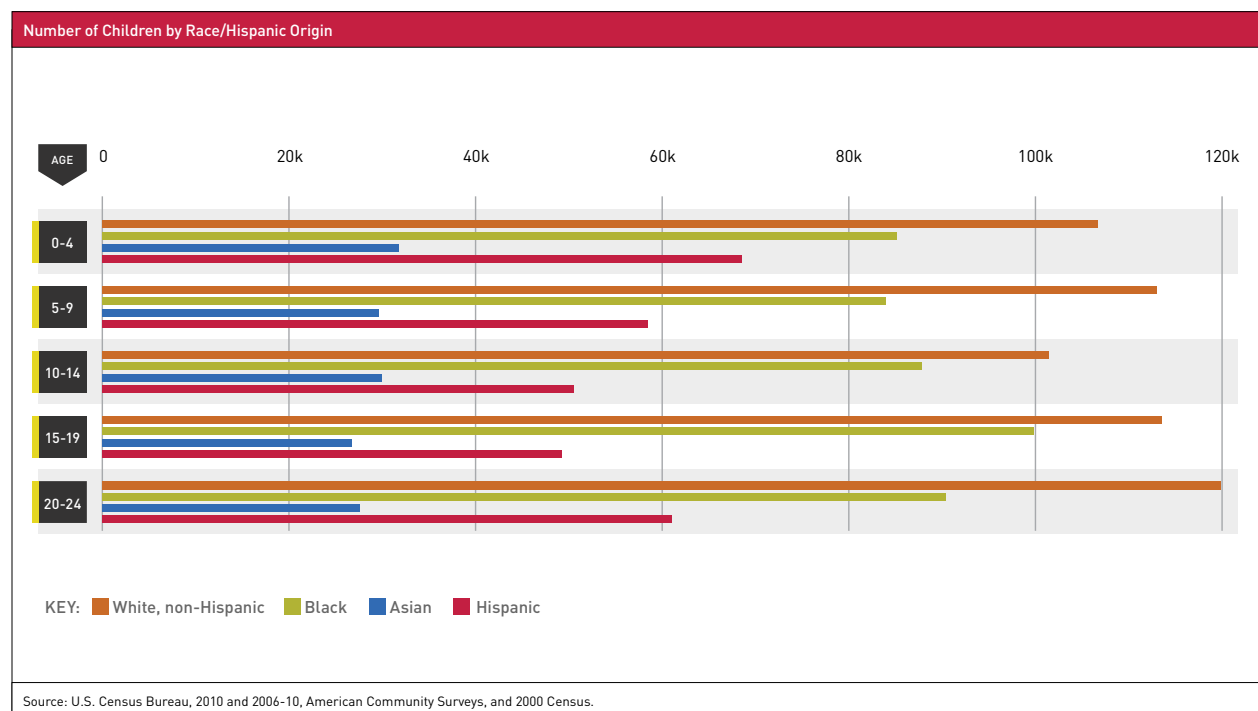
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Surveys, and 2000 Census

Percentage Of Children In The NCR, By Race/Hispanic Origin And Age 2010					
	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-24 years
White, non-Hispanic	36%	38%	34%	38%	40%
Black	29%	28%	29%	33%	30%
Asian	11%	10%	10%	9%	9%
Hispanic	23%	20%	17%	17%	20%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2006-10 American Community Surveys, and 2000 Census



Children in the National Capital Region: By Race/Ethnicity (cont.)



- Forty percent of children in the area have at least one immigrant parent, although the great majority of these children are American citizens, as they were either born in this country or have at least one parent who is a U.S. citizen.
- Most children and youth in the Region live in married-couple households, although the percentages vary greatly across localities. In the District, for example, 42 percent of households are headed by single mothers, as compared with 13 percent in Loudoun County. We can expect that number to increase as the number of children born to single mothers continues to rise across the Region and the United States.

No single race or ethnicity comprises more than 40 percent of children in any age group.

Families in the National Capital Region

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).										



Families in the National Capital Region (cont.)

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.								

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%	33%	24%	0%	21%	24%	30%	28%	41%	30%
(200)	(200)	(1,200)	(0)	(200)	(1,000)	(2,400)	(900)	(2,100)	(8,200)
Notes: Counts rounded to the nearest hundred.									
Source: Child Trends' calculations from 2006-10 American Community Survey data.									

THE POVERTY FACTOR

Many children who don't technically live in poverty are living in low-income households and facing many of the same threats.

The negative social, academic and health outcomes for children raised in poverty have been well documented. They include a greater incidence of chronic health conditions (such as asthma); mental disorders, including depression; and risky behaviors such as smoking, drugs, alcohol and early sexual activity. Childhood poverty is also associated with poor school attendance and decreased academic achievement, as well as behavioral problems such as delinquency.

Poverty is defined by the federal government (for 2010) as having an income of \$22,113 or less for a family of four. One of 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 National Capital Region are among the highest in the nation, adding to the struggles of low-income families.

In the District, 30.4 percent of children are poor, a rate that exceeds the child poverty rate for Mexico, as reported by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. By comparison, the Region's suburbs report overall rates of child poverty of 14 percent or less, far below the national average of 21.6 percent.

Nonetheless, certain localities have seen sharp jumps in child poverty in recent years. **Between 2005 and 2010, childhood poverty more than doubled in Montgomery County (from 4.1 percent to 9.7 percent), and quadrupled in the city of Alexandria (from 3.4 percent to 13.7 percent)**, suggesting that poverty will become an issue of increasing concern for at least some suburbs.

While most children in our Region don't meet the technical definition of living in poverty, many are living in low-income households, with a family income less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level. In 2010, 51 percent of children in the District, nearly 36 percent in Alexandria, 29 percent in Prince George's County and 28 percent in Arlington were considered low-income.

While cities tend to have a great deal of experience dealing with poverty-related issues and may have services and programs in place to respond to constituent needs, many of the jurisdictions experiencing new levels of poverty lack the infrastructure to adequately serve this population. If trends continue, there are long-term implications for the economic health of the Region.

POVERTY HIGHER AMONG SINGLE-MOTHER HOUSEHOLDS

A significant component of poverty is the increasing numbers of children growing up with just one parent, typically a single mother. In the National Capital Region, the income disparity between households headed by married couples and those headed by single mothers is nearly double the national average. Locally, the average median income for married couples in 2010 was about

\$127,000, versus \$43,000 for single-mother households. This compares with a national median income of \$72,426 for married couples and \$29,220 for single mothers. In keeping with national trends, an increasing proportion of births are to single mothers in the National Capital Region—nearly 35 percent in 2009. Single mothers account for more than half of all births in the District and Prince George's County, and about 30 percent of births in Alexandria, Montgomery County and Prince William

Poverty in the National Capital Region: By Jurisdiction

Median Income, Families With Their Own Children Under 18, By Family Type: 2010										
	Arlington County, VA	Alexandria, 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	\$134,746	\$110,966	\$137,946	-	\$140,522	\$134,182	\$97,418	\$111,354	\$151,153	\$77,443
Single Mother	\$31,812	\$33,816	\$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										

Percent Of Children In Households With Incomes At Multiples Of The Federal Poverty Threshold									
	Arlington County, VA	Alexandria, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
Income below poverty	13.9	13.7	7.2	-	4.3	9.7	11.6	7.1	30.4
Income between 100 and 199 percent of poverty	13.7	21.9	12.2	-	5.4	14.0	16.9	15.0	20.4
Income at 200+ percent of poverty	72.4	64.4	80.6	-	90.3	76.3	66.5	77.9	49.1
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census; 2005, 2010 American Community Survey									

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%	8.3%	7.8%	0.2%	4.3%	-	18.7%	12.0%	42.8%
	[4,088]	[2, 949]	[20,496]	[7]	[4,173]	-	-	[1,421]	-
Notes: * Also known as "food stamps"; "- " Data not available									
Sources: 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									

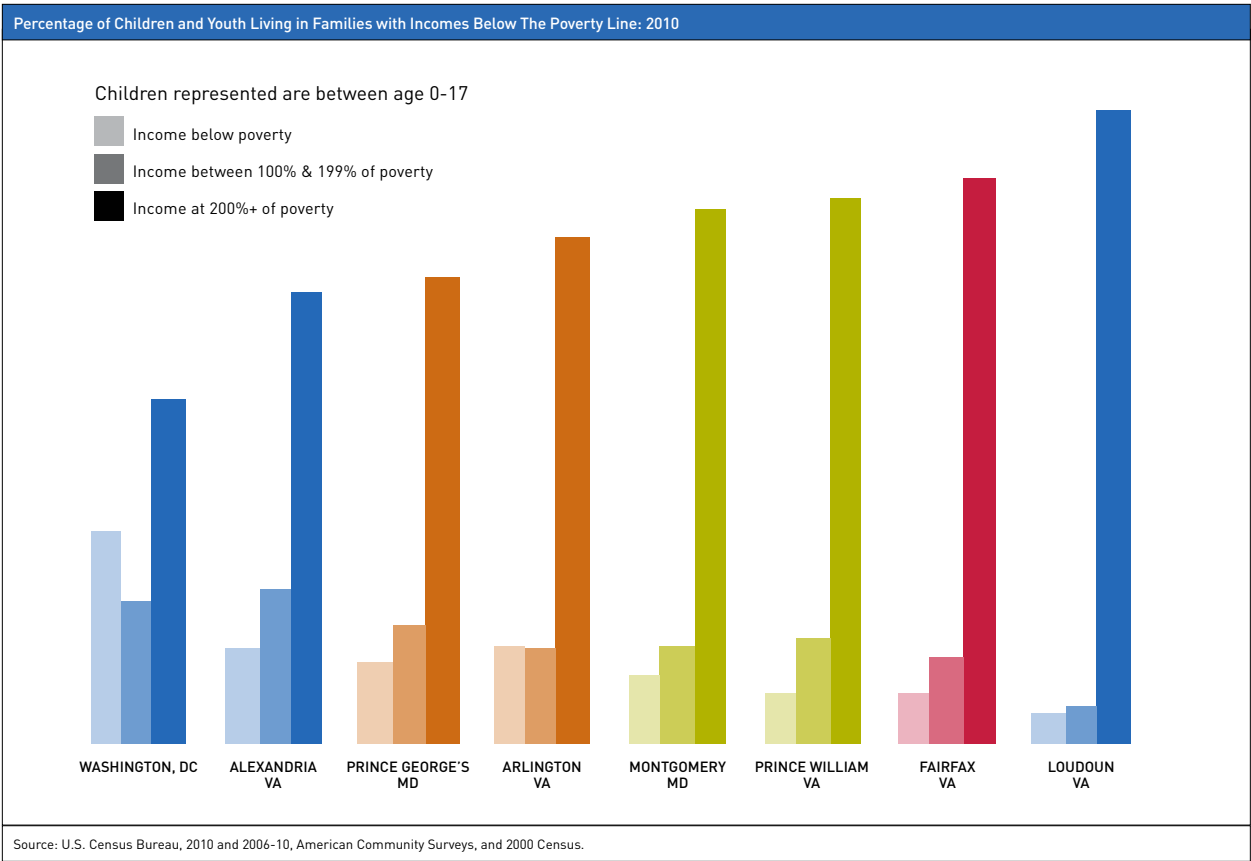
In the National Capital Region, the income disparity between households headed by married couples and those headed by single mothers is nearly double the national average.

County, with rates in Arlington and Fairfax at 20 percent or higher. The percentage of families headed by single fathers remains relatively small throughout the Region, accounting for a high of 11 percent of households in Prince George’s County and a low of 5 percent in Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun counties.

In addition to the increased likelihood of poverty, children who are born to unmarried women face

statistically higher risks to their health and development. Having one or more developmental delays—particularly if not identified and referred for treatment—can put a child at risk for a variety of issues related to language development and social skills, leading to difficulties in school and into adulthood. These risks can be magnified by the absence of an involved father.

Poverty in the National Capital Region: Family Income





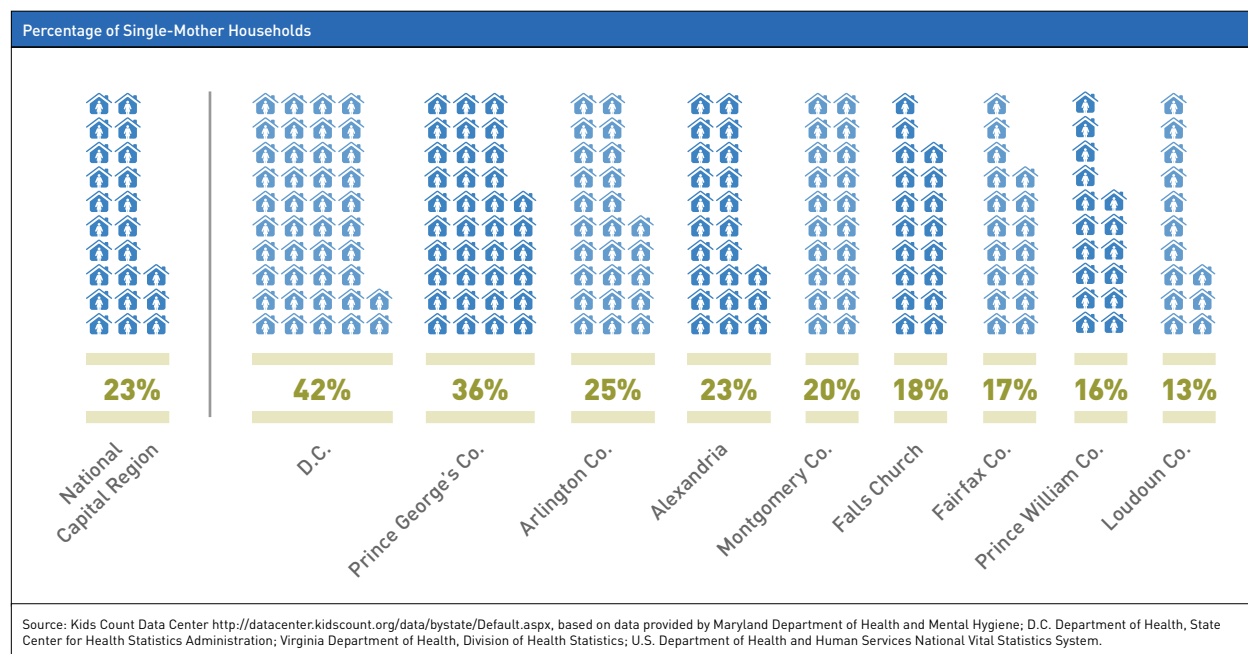
Poverty in the National Capital Region: Single Mothers

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%

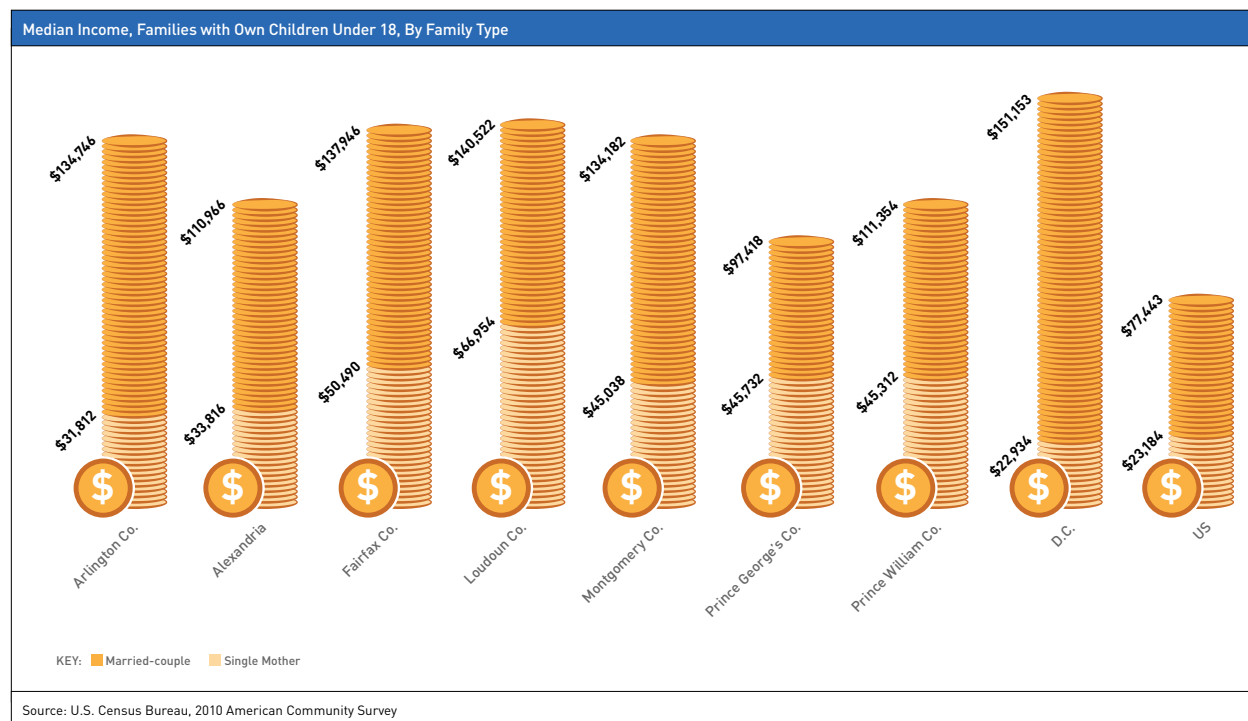
Source: 2006, 2007, 2008 Vital Statistics Data; DC Department of Health and Neighborhood Info DC at the Urban Institute

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.										

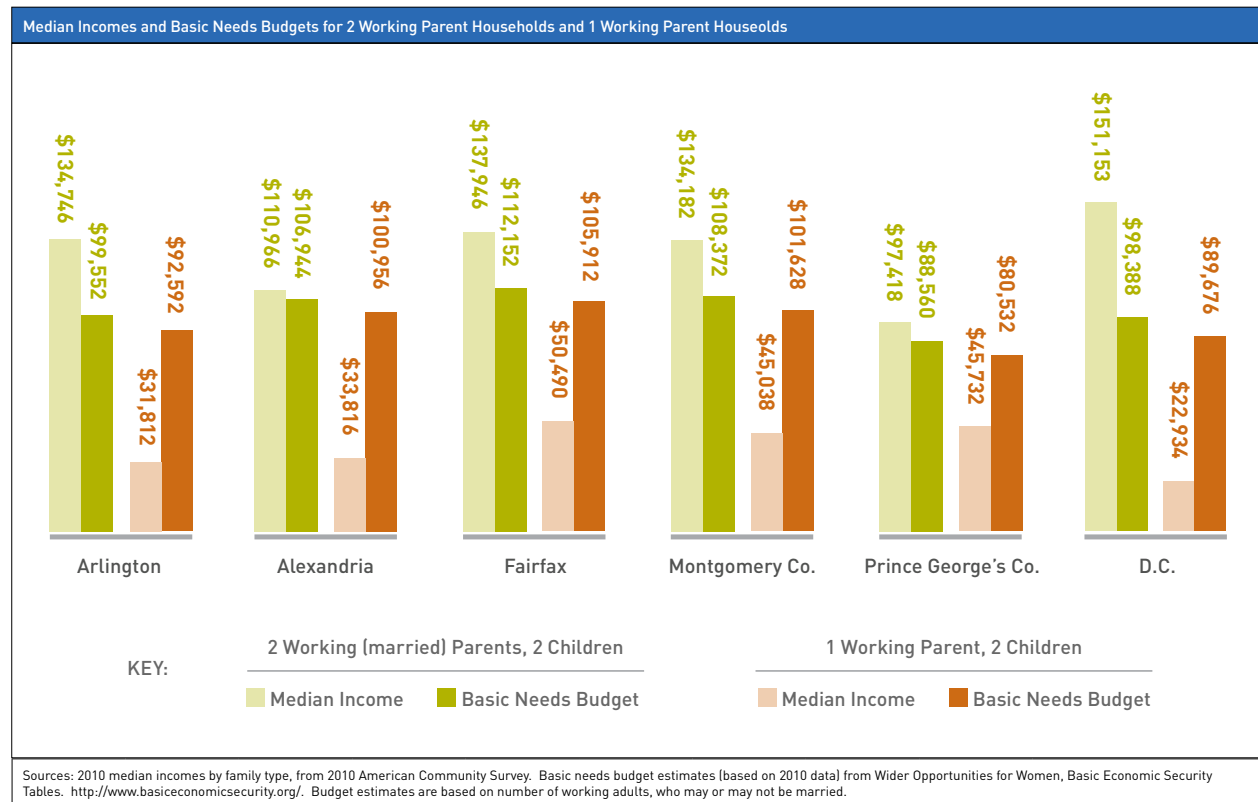
Poverty in the National Capital Region: Single Mothers (cont.)



Poverty in the National Capital Region: By Family Type



Cost of Living in the National Capital Region





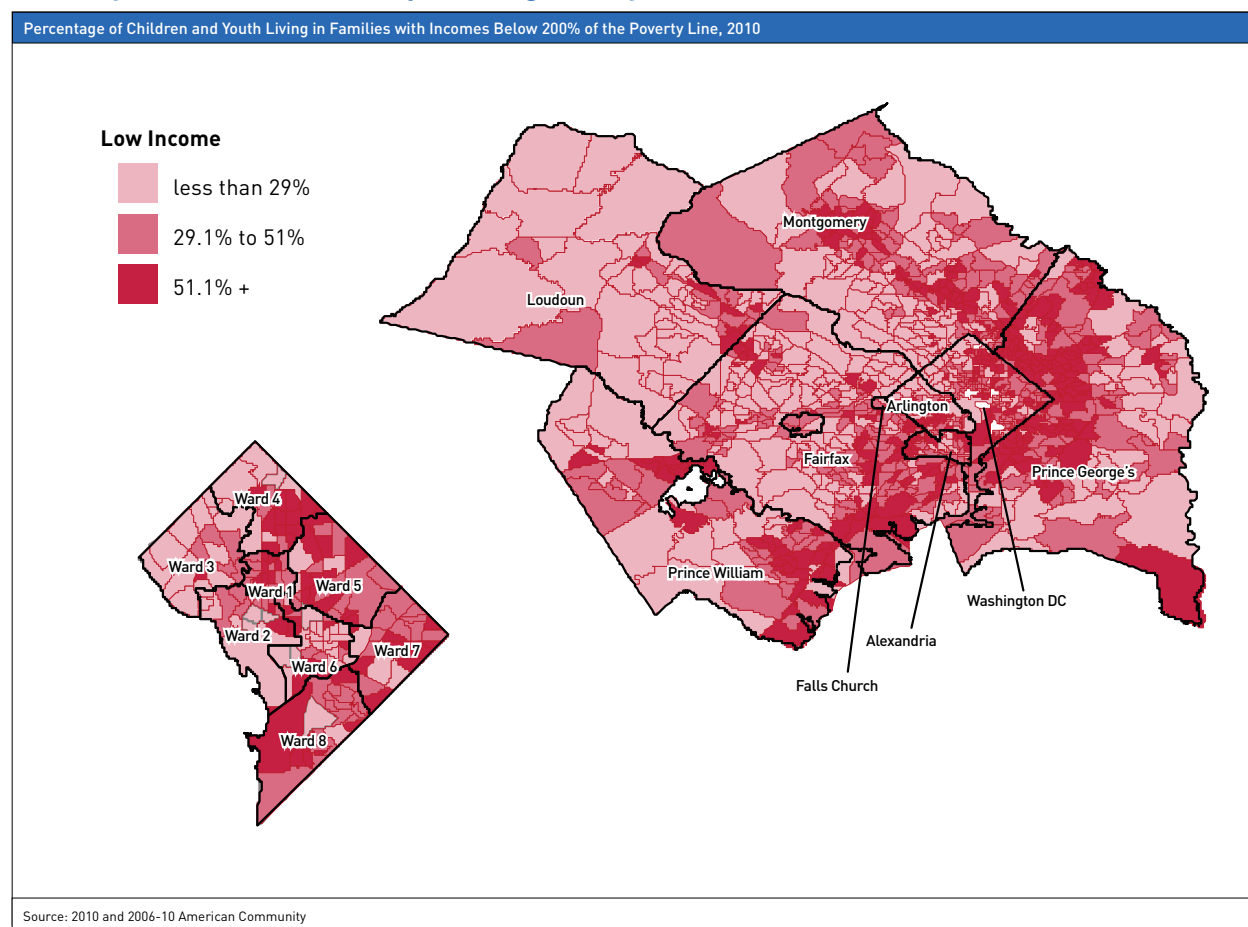
KEY POVERTY FACTS

- ✦ Child poverty rates vary widely in the Region, from a low of 4.3 percent in Loudoun County to a high of 30.4 percent in the District. Deep poverty among children in the District is concentrated in Wards 7 and 8, although Wards 5 and 6 also have considerable deep poverty. (Families in deep poverty have incomes less than half the federal poverty level, which in 2010 was \$22,113 for a family of four living with two related children.)
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Between 2005 and 2010, the childhood poverty rate in Alexandria quadrupled, while in Montgomery County the rate more than doubled.
- ✦ Many children who don't technically live in poverty are living in low-income households and facing many of the same threats to well-being. ("Low income" is defined as a household income below 200 percent of the federal poverty line.)
- ✦ Nearly 43 percent of children in the District received SNAP (formerly food stamp) benefits in 2010. The next-highest percentages are seen in Prince George's County at 19 percent and Alexandria at 17 percent.
- ✦ In every part of the Region, median incomes in married-couple families are at least twice as high as those in single-mother families. More children are being born to unwed mothers, increasing their likelihood of the children living in poverty and experiencing higher risks to health and development.

Housing and transportation costs in the National Capital Region are among the highest in the nation, adding to the struggles of low-income families.

While cities tend to have a great deal of experience dealing with poverty-related issues and may have services and programs in place to respond to constituent needs, many of the jurisdictions experiencing new levels of poverty lack the infrastructure to adequately serve this population.

Poverty in the National Capital Region: By Jurisdiction



IMMIGRATION IMPACT

41 percent of children under the age of 18 in our Region have at least one parent who was not born in the United States.

In recent years, growth in the immigrant population has changed the National Capital Region in ways that are still unfolding. Today, about 41 percent of children under the age of 18 in our Region have at least one parent who was not born in the United States. These families are more likely to live in the suburbs than in the city. In both Fairfax and Montgomery counties, for example, children who have at least one immigrant parent make up half of the child population. That number is 20 percent in the District.

IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AND LITERACY

While most of these children are U.S. citizens, some have limited proficiency in English. Known as English Learners, these students may have fewer educational, social, economic and career opportunities without appropriate support.

Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax have the highest proportions of students who are English Learners, with more than one in five in this category. Between 2005 and 2010, all localities experienced significant fluctuations in their population of English Learners, with the percentage declining in the District and the closer-in suburbs of Arlington and Falls Church. Alexandria and Loudoun saw small increases; Fairfax and Montgomery saw increases of three to four percentage points. The percentage of English Learners in Prince George's County, however, nearly doubled, from 6 to 11.5 percent.

Understanding the diverse needs of students from immigrant families across the Region will be critical for educators, social services providers and policy makers in planning for the school and community based programs to support their success.



Canción
Pasito a Paso Vamos a
estudiar, Pasito a Paso
vamos a jugar"
Un gusanito va despacito, va
despacito por el caminito así!!!

- Manos
- Pies
- Cuerpo



family
familia

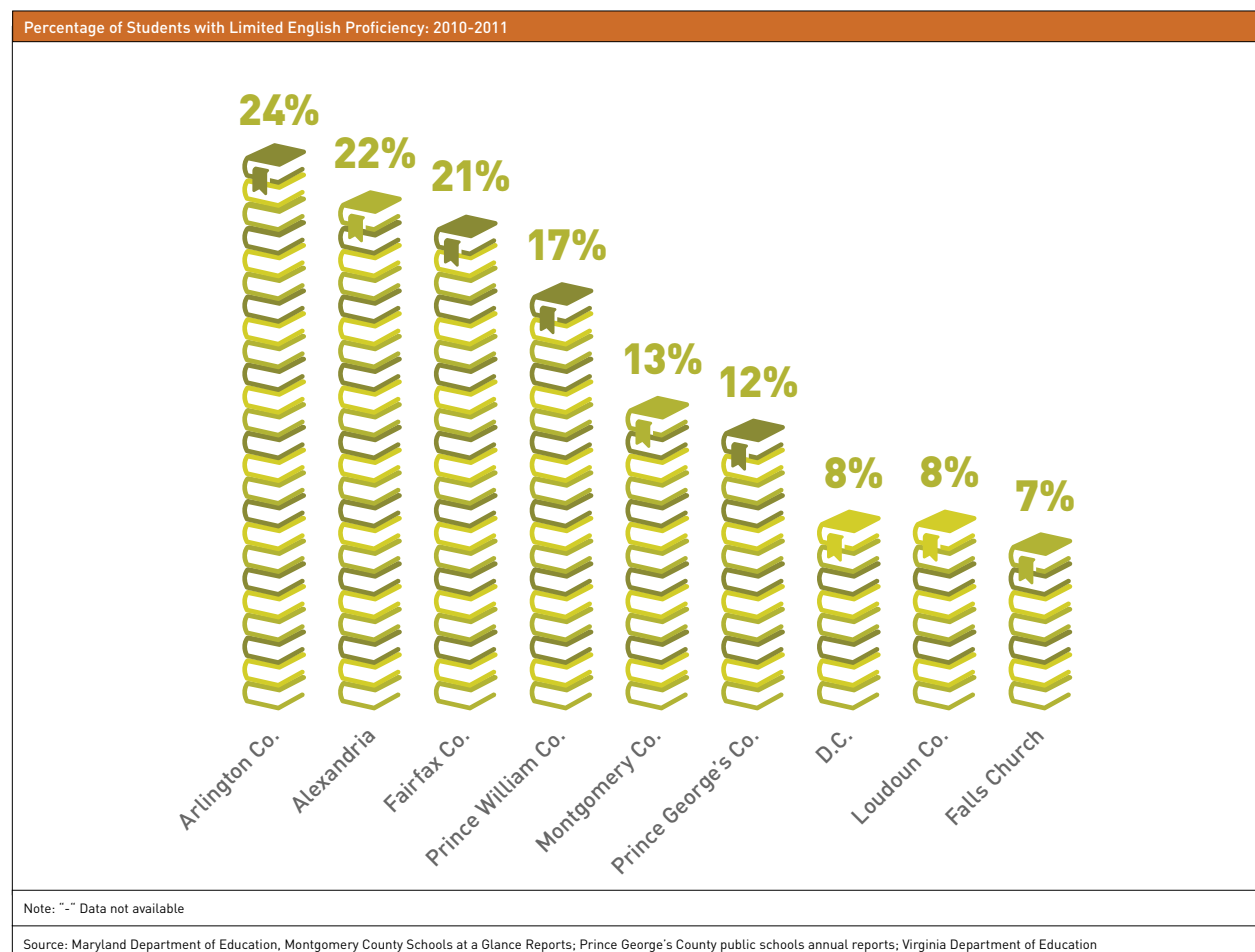




Students in the National Capital Region: English Learners

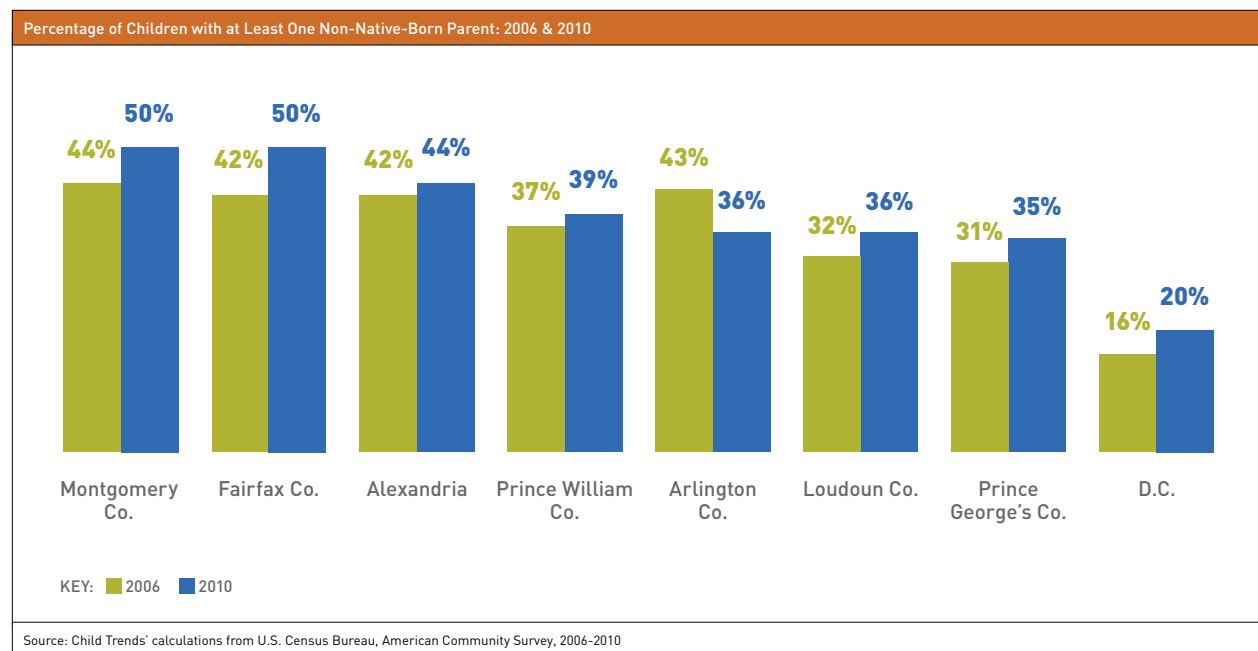
Percentage Of Students With English Learner Status, By Jurisdiction									
School Year	Alexandria, VA	Arlington County, VA	Fairfax County, VA	Falls Church, VA	Loudoun County, VA	Montgomery County, MD	Prince George's County, MD	Prince William County, VA	Washington, DC
2005-06	20.9	28.0	18.3	9.1	6.5	9.4	6.1	14.4	11.6
2010-11	21.9	23.6	20.9	6.6	7.6	13.3	11.5	17.2	7.8

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



These students may have fewer educational, social, economic and career opportunities without appropriate support.

Diversity in the National Capital Region: By Jurisdiction



KEY IMMIGRATION FACTS

- The most recent wave of immigrants to this area, as in the U.S. as a whole, has been disproportionately young.
- 41 percent of children under the age of 18 in the National Capital Region have at least one immigrant parent, with most living in the suburbs.
- One in five students in Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax is an English Learner.
- Between 2006 and 2010, the proportion of immigrant children rose in every jurisdiction in the Region, except for Arlington County.
- Most of these immigrant children are American citizens.
- Some have limited skills in English and could be at a greater risk for learning delays and will require services sensitive to their needs.



Diversity in the National Capital Region: By Jurisdiction (cont.)

Percentage Of Children (Ages 0-17) With At Least One Non-Native-Born Parent, 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	44%	36%	50%	-	36%	50%	35%	39%	20%
Source: Child Trends' calculations from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2010									

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								

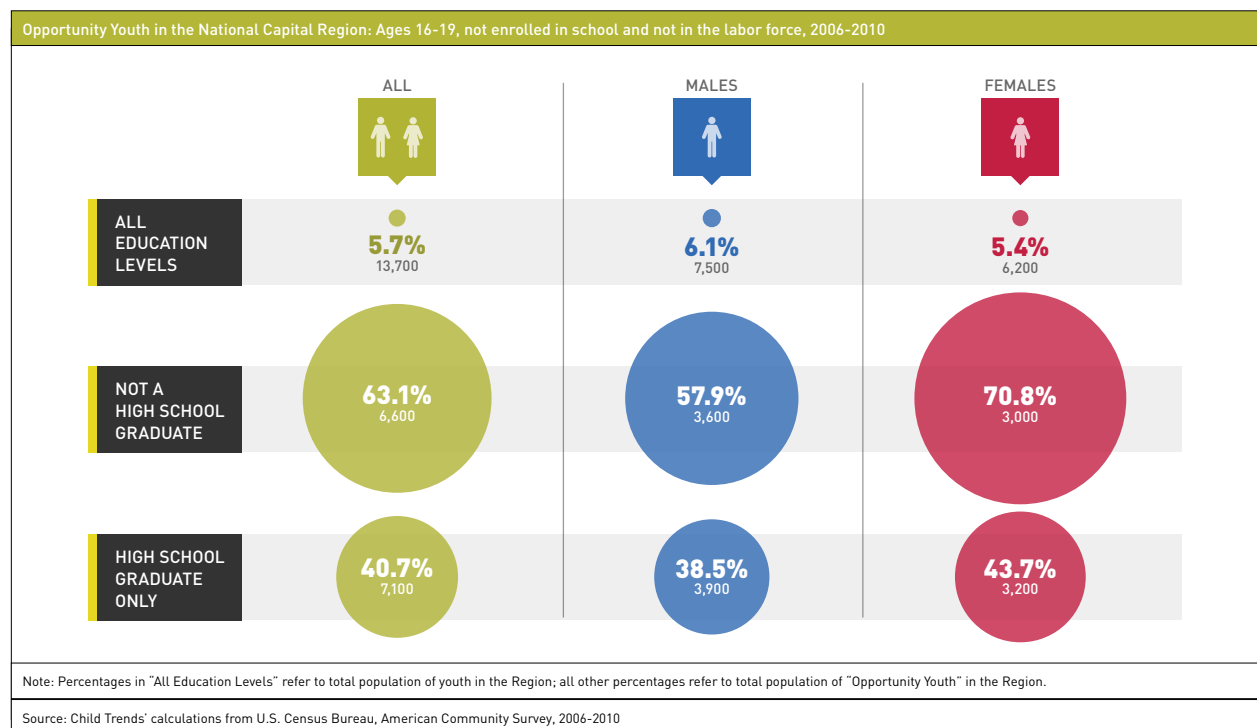
YOUTH IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION: THE OPPORTUNITY DIVIDE

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

Nearly 43,000 young people (about 5 percent as of 2010) in the National Capital Region ages 5-19 are not enrolled in school. Additionally, there are 14,000 youth ages 16-19 that are both not enrolled in school and not employed in the labor force, a category of young people researchers have dubbed “opportunity youth” to shine a positive light on their untapped potential.

Nearly 43,000 young people in the National Capital Region ages 5-19 are not enrolled in school.

Opportunity Youth in the National Capital Region





Students in the National Capital Region: By Race/Ethnicity

PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT, PERCENTAGES BY RACE/HISPANIC ORIGIN, SY 2005-2006 AND 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
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.

Students in the National Capital Region: By School Enrollment

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.

Those Youth Who Are Not Enrolled In School Include:

CHILDREN AGES 5-14

There are 15,000 of these children, representing 2.6 percent of the total number of children in this age group. The data do not tell us why these children are not in school, but likely reasons include having a serious health condition or disability; being institutionalized; their families are in transition or homeless; their families have not registered their children for school to avoid the attention of authorities; or they are home caring for younger siblings while their parents work.

YOUTH AGES 15-19

There are 28,000 of these youth, representing 9.3 percent of their age group. Some of these youth 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; by pregnancy and parenthood; family responsibilities; or chronic disabilities.



African-American males in the National Capital Region lag behind both their non-black peers and African-American females in ways that endanger futures and negatively impact future generations.

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH:

The 14,000 youth not in school or employed—are more likely to be male than female, and are more likely to be African-American or Hispanic than white. In our Region, Alexandria has the highest rate of opportunity youth at 12.5 percent; Loudoun County has the lowest at 1.5 percent.

While these young people typically face much diminished economic prospects, they also pose an enormous cost to society in terms of lost earnings, lower tax revenue and higher government spending associated with health, public safety and welfare assistance.

According to a recent study on the economic impact of opportunity youth released in January 2012 by the White House Council for Community Solutions, the “economic burden from failing to invest in all of America’s youth is substantial.” The study cited data by researchers at Columbia University and City College of New York that found that each opportunity youth imposes—on average

and when compared with other youth—an immediate taxpayer burden of \$13,900 per year and an immediate social burden of \$37,450 per year. The report calculates that a 16-year-old opportunity youth will cost taxpayers \$258,000 over his or her lifetime and impose a total social burden of \$755,900. For the National Capital Region, this translates into a taxpayer burden of as much as \$3 billion and a social burden cost of nearly \$10 billion.

YOUNG MALES (PARTICULARLY AFRICAN-AMERICANS) LAG BEHIND THROUGHOUT THE REGION:

On several key indicators, from the early elementary years through young adulthood, African-American males in the National Capital Region lag behind both their non-black peers and African-American females in ways that endanger futures and negatively impact future generations. As young boys, they are behind in reading and academic achievement. As young men, they are more likely to drop out of school, be incarcerated and be non-resident parents to their children.

Reading is a key indicator of whether a student will be academically successful. When a young child cannot read or lacks other foundational education skills, they are at far greater risk of dropping out in high school.

READING PROFICIENCY VARIES WIDELY BY JURISDICTION AND RACE:

Reading at grade-level by third grade is a well-established marker of early success in school. Children who are not fluent readers by third grade will find it increasingly hard to keep up with expectations for achievement in school, in addition to having the burden of being identified as “behind” on an essential skill.

All suburban jurisdictions have seen solid gains in the proportion of third graders reading proficiently over the past decade, particularly in Montgomery County, Prince George’s County and Alexandria. In the District, the percentage of third graders scoring

“proficient” has stayed flat at about 41.5 percent. Girls consistently outperform boys in reading and math in every jurisdiction.

Among fourth graders, African-American and Hispanic students score lower in reading than white and Asian children. The disparity is highest in the District, where (as of 2011) 91 percent of whites scored proficient, as compared with 38 percent of African-American students and 45 percent of Hispanic students. Reading is a key indicator of whether a student will be academically successful. When a young child cannot read or lacks other foundational education skills, they are at far greater risk of dropping out in high school.

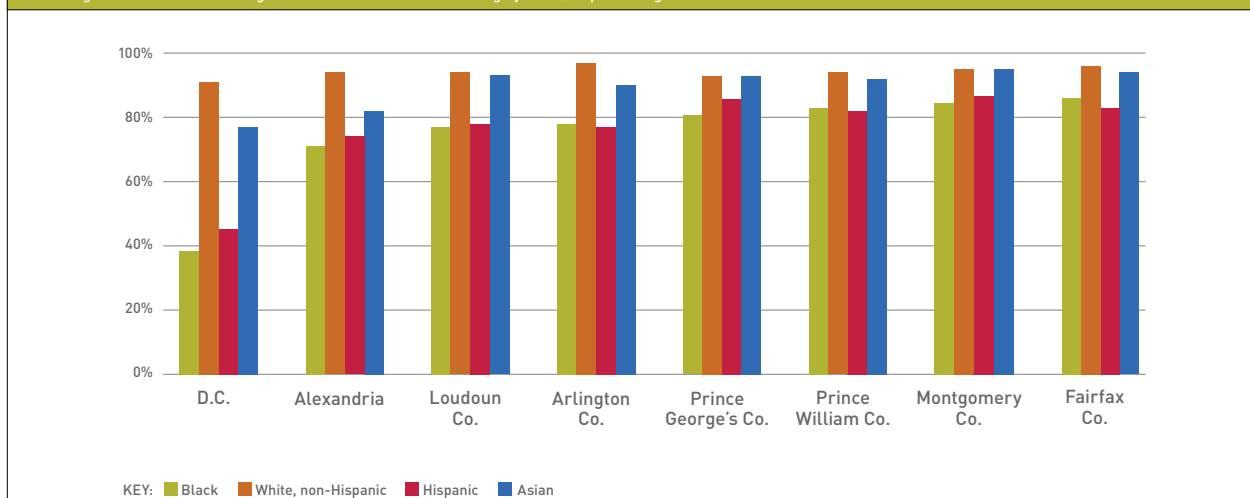
Students in the National Capital Region: Education Results

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
Note: Due to differences in tests, assessments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are not directly comparable										
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education										



Students in the National Capital Region: Education Results (cont.)

Percentage of 4th Graders Scoring "Proficient" or Better in Reading by Race/Hispanic Origin: 2010-2011



Note: Due to differences in tests, assessments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are not directly comparable

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

Students in the National Capital Region: Education Results (cont.)

Percentage Of 4th Graders Scoring "Proficient" Or Better In Reading, By Gender									
	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	75.0	88.0	91.0	94.0	88.0	90.6	78.4	85.0	40.9
Female	84.0	91.0	93.0	97.0	93.0	93.4	87.3	90.0	47.2
Note: Due to differences in tests, assessments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are not directly comparable									
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education, Virginia Department of Education									

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: Due to differences in tests, assessments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are not directly comparable									
"- " Data not available (sample too small)									
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education									

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: Due to differences in tests, assessments in Virginia, Maryland, and DC are not directly comparable									
Source: DC State Report Cards, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Maryland Department of Education; Virginia Department of Education									



HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES

Among suburban jurisdictions, Prince George's County reported the highest dropout rate with nearly 16 percent, followed by Alexandria at 12 percent and Arlington at 11.4 percent (all 2010 data). Boys are more likely to drop out than girls across all Regions. In the District, a full 41 percent of public high school students did not graduate on time in the 2010-2011 school year.

According to a 2007 study from Johns Hopkins University Center for Social Organization of Schools, there are four primary reasons why students drop out:

LIFE EVENTS: They drop out because of something that happens outside of school—they get pregnant, are arrested or need to go to work to help support their family.

FADE OUTS: Students who may be working at or above their grade level, but have become frustrated or bored and no longer see value in going to school. They believe they can be successful without a high school diploma or that a GED is an adequate substitute.

PUSH OUTS: Students who are or are perceived to be difficult, dangerous or detrimental to the success of the school and are subtly—or not so subtly—encouraged to withdraw from the school or transfer to another school.

FAILING TO SUCCEED: Students who fail to succeed in school as the result of poor academic preparation or unmet social-emotional issues. Few students drop out after their initial experience with school failure. Most only drop out after they fall so far behind that success seems impossible.

Students in the National Capital Region: Drop Out Rate

Public High School Four-Year Cohort Dropout Rate, By Jurisdiction, Sy 2009-2010									
	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
2009-10	13.1	11.4	5.9	1.2	2.9	7.4	15.9	7.0	41.4*
* For Sy 2010-2011									
Source: Maryland Department of Education website; Virginia Department of Education website; DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education									



CONCLUSION

Despite complex jurisdictional divisions, the communities of the National Capital Region share a common labor market; a large Regional market for production and consumption (including a considerable tourism sector); and an intertwined transportation system. The well-being of each jurisdiction affects the Region's overall economic engine. But, beyond economics, this Region shares an identity as a place "at the center of things"—historically, politically and culturally. That status is threatened by the deep disparities and inequities in outcomes faced by its children and youth.

Our analysis demonstrates clearly that the Region is divided between those who have access to opportunities and those who do not. To a degree, our Region mirrors the nation on this issue of the gap between the "haves" and "have nots"—though it is more extreme here than in many places.

We have the resources and talents to take a Regional approach to the issues facing our children today and our leaders have the opportunity to create a new model for civic engagement. Such a model would emphasize shared responsibility for improving outcomes for all youth, rather than perpetuating or widening the existing gaps. It is a model that holds the greater promise of a healthy Region that gains strength by fully leveraging the efforts and skills of all of its citizens.

We look forward to seeing this report used as a guide to looking at the National Capital Region's challenges and assets as a whole, and a call to come together across boundaries and sectors to provide a healthier, more successful future for our young people and our Region.

We have the resources
and talents to take a
Regional approach to the
issues facing our children

NOTE ON DATA SOURCES

One primary source for the information in this report is the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, which uses a continuous data-collection methodology to obtain samples representative of geographic areas as large as states and as small as Census blocks. We also utilized the vital statistics system within each state or county, which consist of a set of commonly defined data elements that conform to standards established by the National Center for Health Statistics. The report also used data collected pursuant to the mission of a variety of public agencies and departments, as well as non-Census survey data.

To download the full Child Trends report that expands on data highlighted here, visit www.capitalkidsreport.org.

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The Annie E. Casey Foundation



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