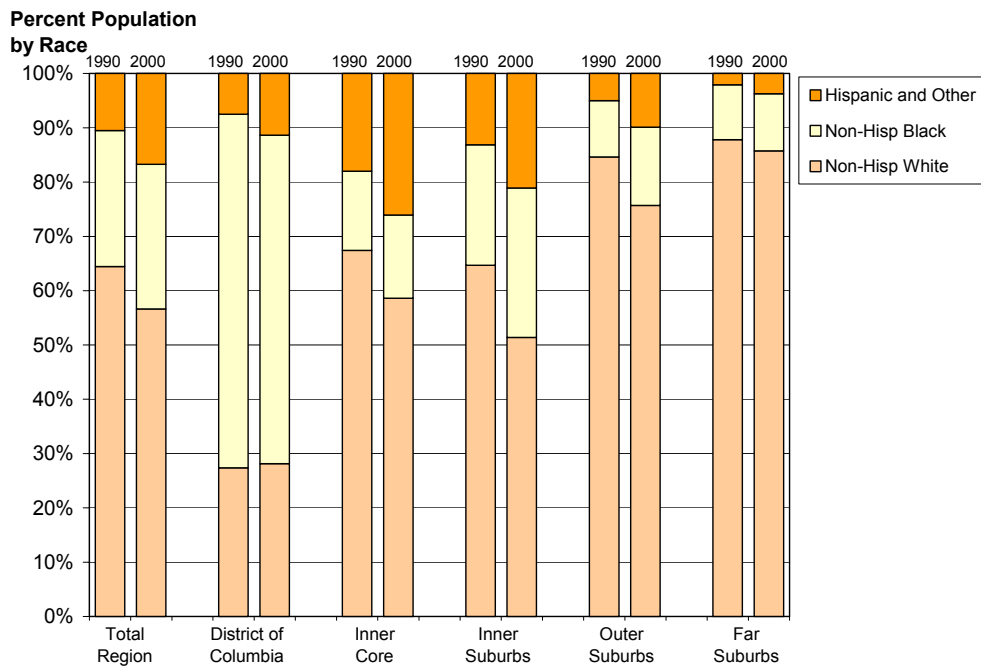


Racial and Ethnic Change in the Region

Recent media reports have highlighted population changes occurring in the Washington area. The rapid growth of the region's racial and ethnic minority communities is one of the most dramatic demographic shifts taking place. The area has experienced a 42 percent increase in its minority population, compared to a 17 percent total increase in the population. This brief highlights growing diversity of our region by comparing population trends across the major sub-regions that make up the Washington MSA, from 1990 to 2000.

- The District of Columbia was the only part of the region to lose minority population. The minority population dropped slightly more (7%) than the total population (6%).
- In the Inner Core, Hispanic and Asian populations are growing especially fast, and now account for more than a quarter of the population.
- Prince George's County accounts for almost half of the minority population in the Inner Suburbs, but minority population grew rapidly in all other counties of the Inner Suburbs as well.
- The outer Suburbs experienced the fastest population growth at 40 percent. The minority population more than doubled from 1990 to a 2000 total of 238,000 (121%).
- The Far Suburbs remain the most predominately white portion of the region, but even there minority population is growing rapidly from 37,000 in 1990 to over 54,000 in 2000.

Racial Change, Washington Region and Sub-Areas



Source: U.S. Census Bureau / UI Neighborhood Change Database

Racial Change, Washington Region and Sub-Areas

Area	Total population		Minority population		Pct change 1990-2000	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	Total pop	Minority pop
Total Region	4,223	4,923	1,501	2,136	17	42
Total Inner Region	3,924	4,545	1,465	2,082	16	42
<i>District of Columbia</i>	607	572	441	411	-6	-7
<i>Inner Core</i>	282	318	92	132	13	43
Arlington County, VA	171	189	52	73	11	40
Alexandria city, VA	111	128	40	58	15	47
<i>Inner Suburbs</i>	2,334	2,676	825	1,301	15	58
Montgomery County, MD	763	873	211	349	15	65
Prince George's County, MD	724	802	423	605	11	43
Fairfax County, VA	819	970	185	338	18	83
Fairfax city, VA	20	21	4	7	8	98
Falls Church city, VA	9	10	1	2	11	52
<i>Outer Suburbs</i>	700	979	108	238	40	121
Calvert County, MD	51	75	9	12	45	38
Charles County, MD	101	121	22	39	19	77
Frederick County, MD	150	195	11	23	30	97
Loudoun County, VA	86	170	11	34	97	220
Prince William County, VA	216	281	42	97	30	134
Stafford County, VA	61	92	6	18	51	175
Manassas city, VA	28	35	5	12	26	116
Manassas Park city, VA	7	10	1	3	50	239

Source: Neighborhood Change Database, 1990 and 2000.

The Data

These findings are based on data from Urban Institute Neighborhood Change Database (NCDB). Comparisons for minority population are made after race bridging has distributed people choosing more than one race. For more information on the NCDB visit <http://www.urban.org/urlprint.cfm?ID=7909>.

The Author

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