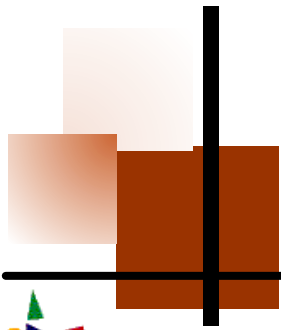


Fairfax ~ Falls Church Community Assessment

2000



Fairfax ~ Falls Church
**Community
Assessment**

2000

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2000 Fairfax~Falls Church Community Assessment

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Introduction

The 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment was designed to collect socioeconomic, demographic, and community perception information from residents that is useful to service providers providing and planning programs in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church. The 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment, conducted at the end of calendar year 2000, is a five-year follow-up survey to the 1995 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Needs Assessment. In addition to providing current information, this report looks at changes and trends that have taken place over time.

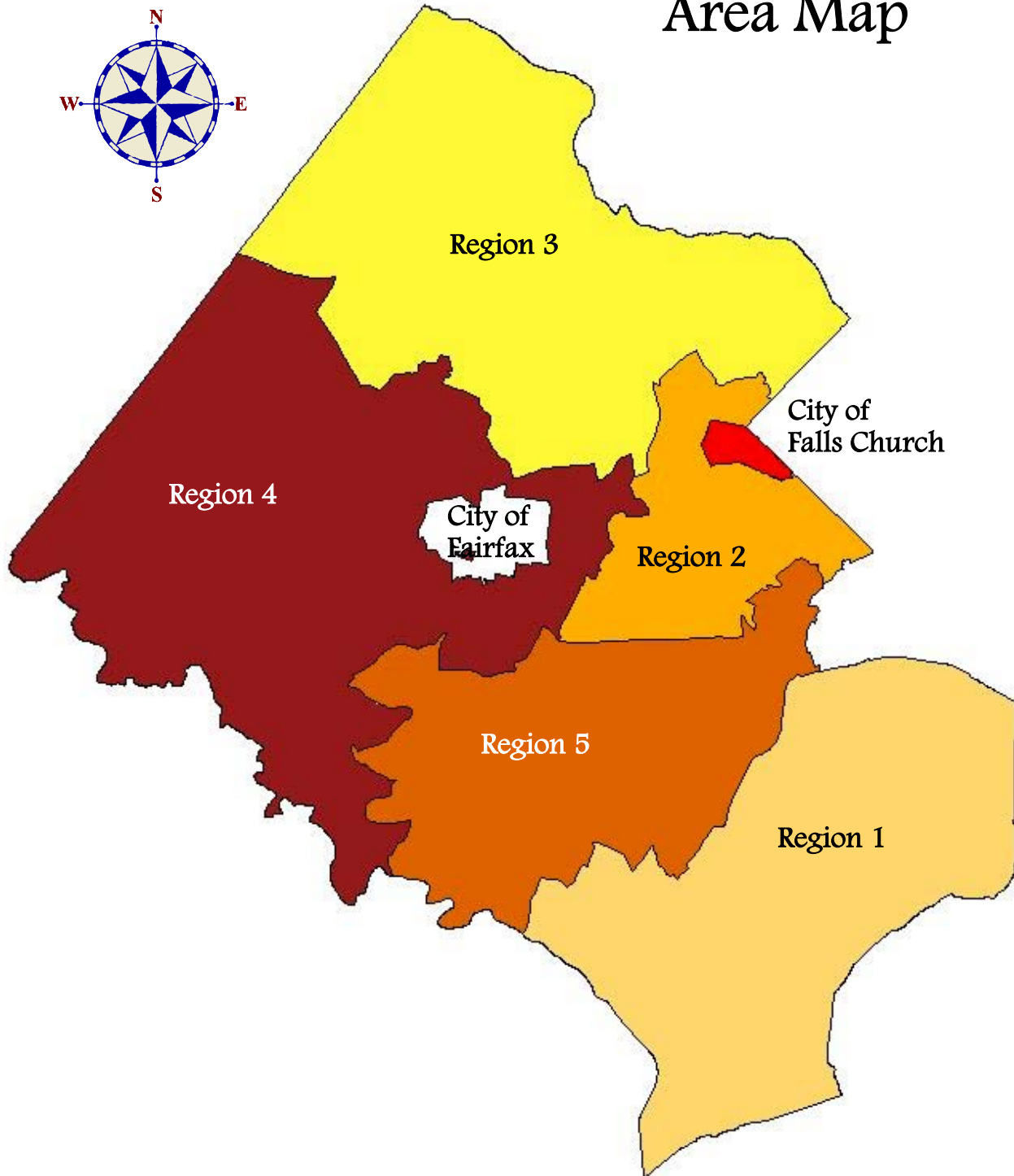
The report is organized into seven sections – Overview of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, Community Perceptions, Poverty Status, Language Spoken at Home, Children 18 Years and Younger, Persons 65 Years and Older, and Persons with Disabling Conditions. The Overview and Community Perception chapters provide a general summary, while the other chapters investigate certain topical areas more thoroughly.

Although the findings of the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment are similar to those from the 2000 Decennial Census on items that appear on both instruments, it should be noted that there are differences between how these two studies are conducted that cause differences in the results.

- Question and response wording are not identical on the two instruments.
- The Census was conducted in April 2000, whereas the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment was conducted at the end of calendar year 2000.
- The Community Assessment is a sample, not a census.
- The Community Assessment only collected information from persons living in housing units (household population), whereas the Decennial Census includes population living in group quarters, such as nursing homes, dormitories, correctional facilities, and military bases.

The 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment, conducted by mail, was a stratified random sample. The results contained in this report are based on responses provided by 6,859 households containing 16,499 persons. The overall response rate was 63 percent. The study was sponsored jointly by Fairfax County, the City of Falls Church, the City of Fairfax, and the Fairfax-Falls Church United Way. A copy of the survey questionnaire is provided in Appendix A and a detailed description of the methodology is provided in Appendix C. The following page is a map of the study area showing the locations of the five human services regions in Fairfax County and the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church.

Fairfax~Falls Church Area Map



Prepared by Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services.

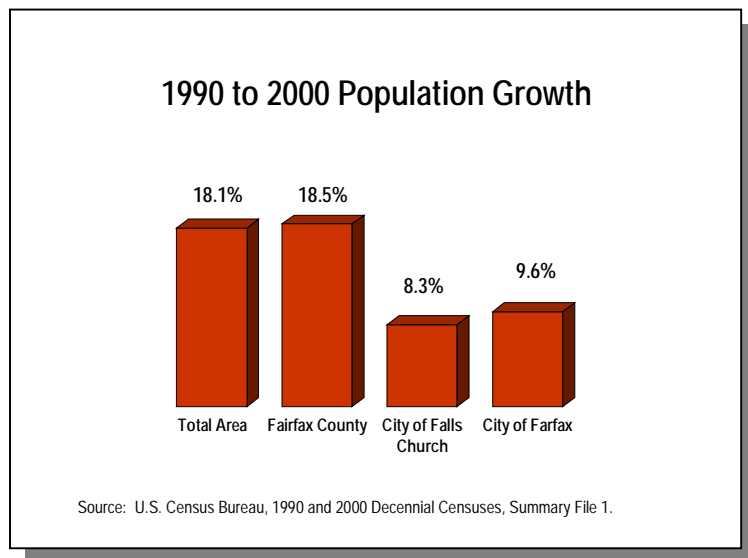
Overview of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area

The 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment was conducted in three jurisdictions – Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church. These three jurisdictions combine to form the survey area that hereinafter will be referred to as the Fairfax-Falls Church Area or simply the area. Fairfax County (County) was further subdivided into five geographic sub-areas for analysis. The boundaries of these sub-areas correspond to the County's five human services regions (regions).

Population Characteristics

According to the Census Bureau, from 1990 to 2000, the total population in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area rose by 18.1 percent. While the population increase in the area outpaced the national growth rate (13.2 percent), it has slowed from the 35 percent growth rate experienced in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area between 1980 and 1990. In Fairfax County, total population grew by 18.5 percent between 1990 and 2000,

compared to a 9.6 percent increase in the City of Fairfax and an 8.3 percent increase in the City of Falls Church. The 2000 Decennial Census reports a total population of 969,749 persons for Fairfax County, 21,498 persons for the City of Fairfax and 10,377 persons for the City of Falls Church as of April 1, 2000. Census total population numbers include approximately 11,000 persons residing in group quarters such as nursing homes, military bases, dormitories, and prisons which are not included in the household population numbers reported in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment. This group quarters population comprises only 1 percent of total area population and, therefore, does not preclude comparisons between the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment's results and those of the 2000 U.S. Decennial Census on many attributes. From the 2000 Community Assessment results, the estimated household population as of late calendar year 2000 is 959,500 persons in Fairfax County, 21,000 persons in the City of Fairfax and 10,300 persons in the City of Falls Church. Throughout the report, it is this household population that is used as the base for analysis of the information from the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.



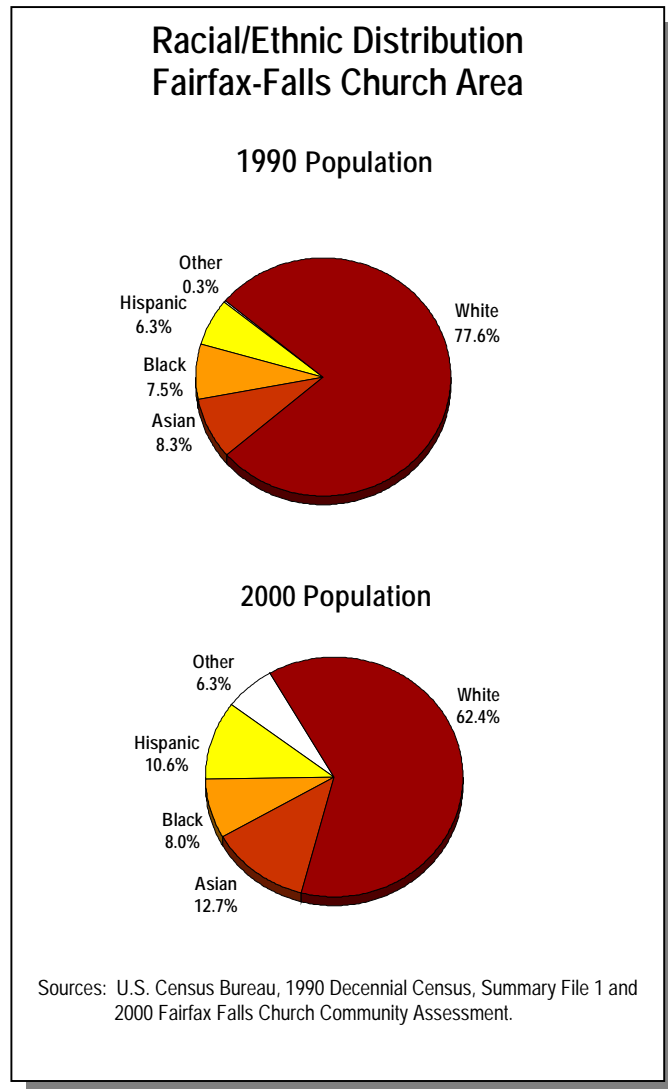
Race and Ethnicity

One measure of diversity is the racial or ethnic distribution of the area. Racial and ethnic minority populations grew substantially in all three jurisdictions between 1990 and 2000, expanding the racial/ethnic diversity of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. Although the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment results include only household population and therefore vary slightly from total population in composition, the racial/ethnic distribution can be compared to that of the 1990 Census total population. The Hispanic population has increased more rapidly than any other racial/ethnic group between 1990 and 2000, increasing from 6.3 percent of total population to 10.6 percent of household population. The Asian population also increased rapidly, growing from 8.3 percent of 1990 total population to 12.7 percent of 2000 household population.

The Black population grew as a percent of population from 7.5 percent in 1990 to 8.0 percent in 2000. However, the White population decreased as a percent of population in the area from 77.6 percent to 62.4 percent. Although the White population now comprises a smaller proportion of total population than in 1990, the actual number of White persons did grow slightly during the decade when Census counts are compared.

Age and Sex Distributions

Age and sex distributions and how these distributions are changing over time are important information for many service providers. Persons in different age groups require different menus of services – for example, school and childcare services for children and specialized housing and health services for older adults. Sex distributions are particularly important to health care providers as males

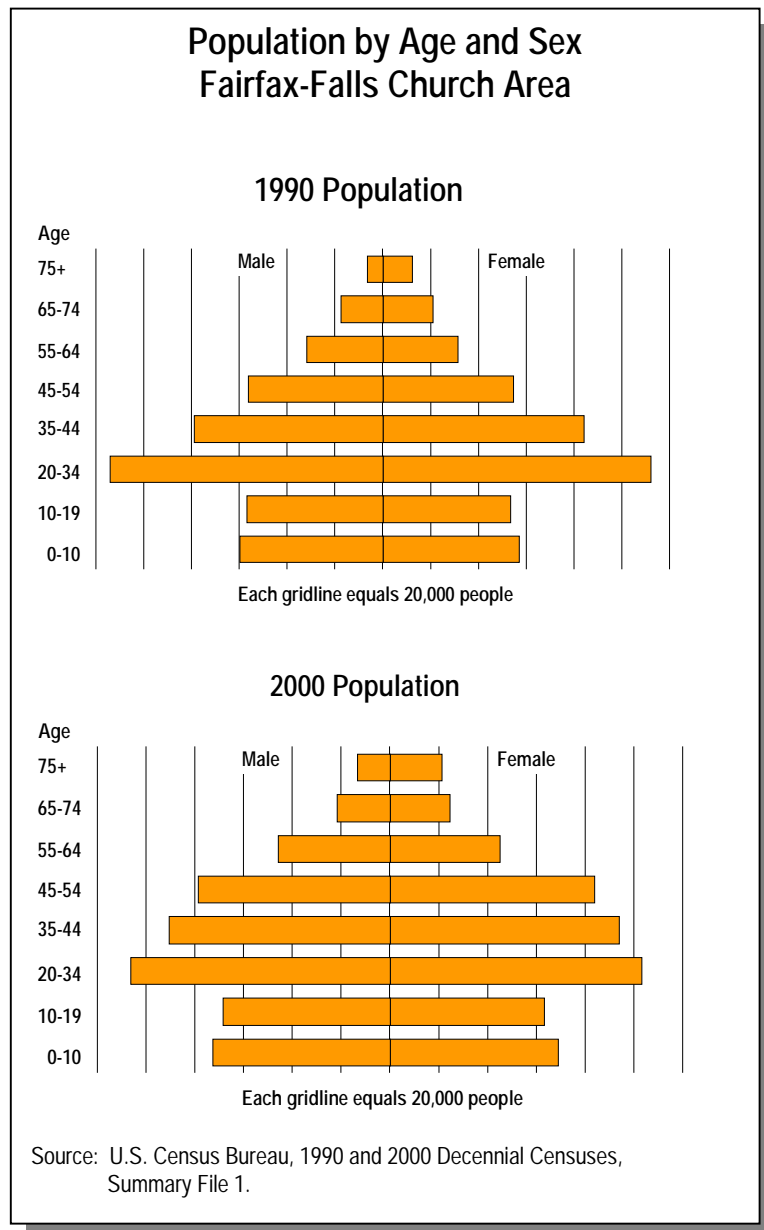


have health needs that differ from females. In general the Fairfax-Falls Church Area has grown older over the past decade and males have increased as a proportion among the older age groups.

The ratio of men to women decreases as age increases. In the below 20 years of age group, there are more males than females. The 1990 male/female ratio among those 19 years and younger was 106 males to 100 females. However among men and women age 65 to 74, the ratio dropped to 82 males per 100 females and then declined substantially to 50 males per 100 females among those 75 and older.

In 2000, approximately half of all people in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area are male (49.6 percent) and half are female (50.4 percent). The 2000 ratios of males to females by age group are similar to those in 1990 except for the age group 75 years and older. Among this age group, 75 years and older, the male to female ratio in 2000 is 62 males per 100 females, an increase of 12 males for every 100 females over the decade. Under 20 years of age, the male-female ratio is 107 males per 100 females. Among persons 65 to 74 years, there are 88 males per 100 females.

As measured by median age, Fairfax County has the youngest population among the three jurisdictions comprising the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. The 1990 Decennial Census reported the median age of Fairfax County residents was 33.2 years; the median age in the City of Fairfax was 33.8 years of age, while the City of Falls Church had the highest median age of 38.9 years. During the 1990 to



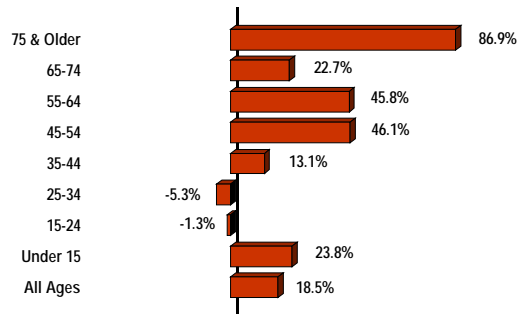
2000 decade, the City of Falls Church had the smallest increase in median age, 0.8 years, while the City of Fairfax had the largest increase, 3.2 years. Median age in Fairfax County increased by 2.7 years over the decade. The small change in the City of Falls Church's median age can be partially explained by looking at population growth by age group.

Although the overall population of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area has grown by 18.1 percent between 1990 and 2000, there has been uneven growth among age groups. In addition, the fastest and slowest growing age groups are not consistent across jurisdictions. Population growth among age groups shows a similar pattern between Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax but the City of Falls Church has a unique growth pattern.

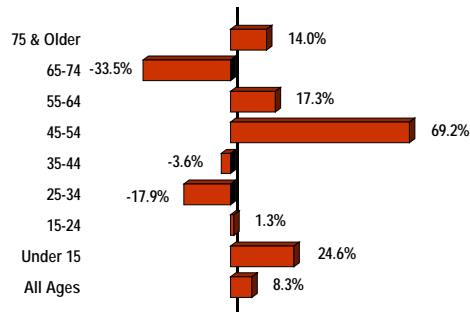
Area-wide, the slowest growing age group is persons age 25 to 34 years. From 1990 to 2000 this age group decreased in all three jurisdictions with the greatest declines occurring in the two cities. The number of persons age 15 to 24 years also have declined area-wide although there is slight growth in this age group in the City of Falls Church. The City of Falls Church, unlike the other two jurisdictions, also experienced a dramatic decline in persons age 65 to 74 years, falling by a

Population Growth by Jurisdiction 1990 to 2000

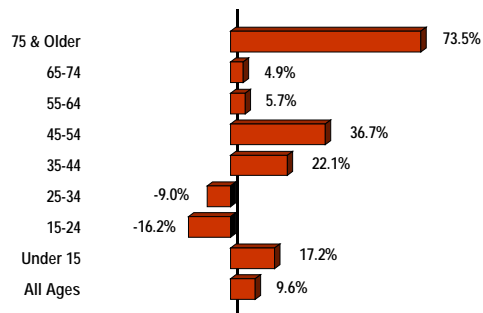
Fairfax County



City of Falls Church



City of Fairfax



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses, Summary File 1.

third. Although the 65 to 74 years age group grew in the City of Fairfax, it only grew at half the rate of the City's total population. In the County, the number of persons age 65 to 74 years grew at a rate faster than the growth of the County's total population.

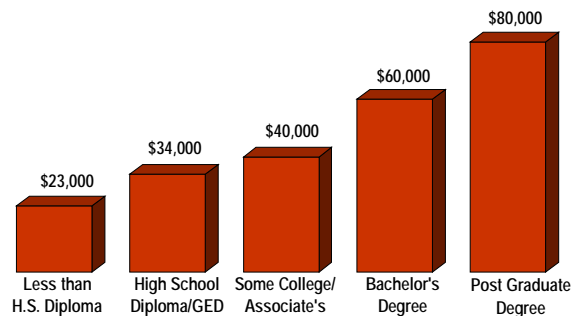
The fastest growing age group area-wide is persons age 75 years and older. The number of persons 75 years and older grew faster than total population in each of the jurisdictions and is the fastest growing age group in both Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax. In the City of Falls Church, however, the age group consisting of persons 75 years and older grew slower than those groups of persons younger than 15 years and 45 to 64 years. The City of Falls Church's fastest growing age group is persons 45 to 54 years, growing 69.2 percent from 1990 to 2000.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is defined as the highest grade of school completed or the highest degree received. It is an important indicator of economic wellbeing because persons with more education tend to earn more income and to have more career opportunities. The results of the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment show a strong relationship between educational attainment and

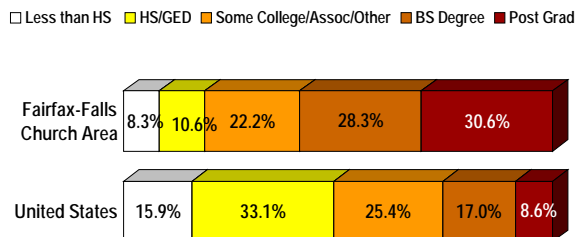
income. For each additional level of education achieved, median individual income rose substantially. Full-time workers age 25 and older with a bachelor's degree earned a median individual income nearly double that earned by full time workers with only a high school diploma. Full-time workers with a post graduate

Median Income by Educational Attainment
Full Time Workers Age 25 and Older



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

2000 Educational Attainment
United States and Fairfax-Falls Church Area
Persons Age 25 and Older



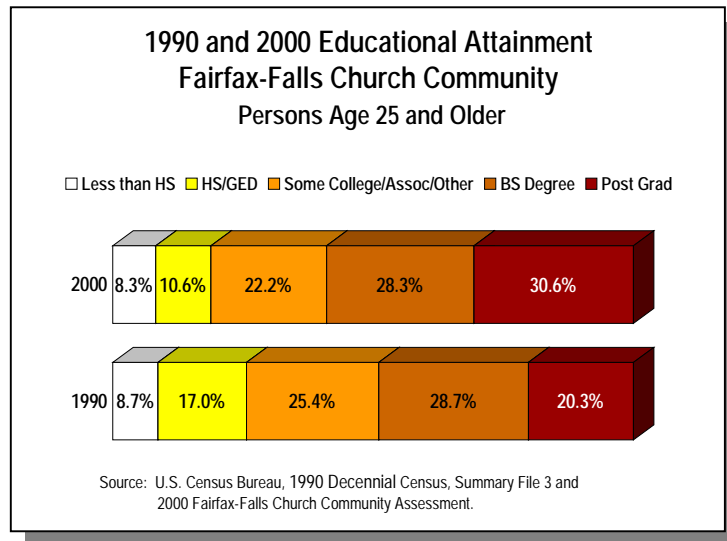
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000 and 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

education have a median individual income that is \$20,000 above that for persons with a bachelor's degree.

The educational attainment of persons 25 years and older in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area is considerably higher than that of the nation. Nationally, approximately half of all persons 25 years and older

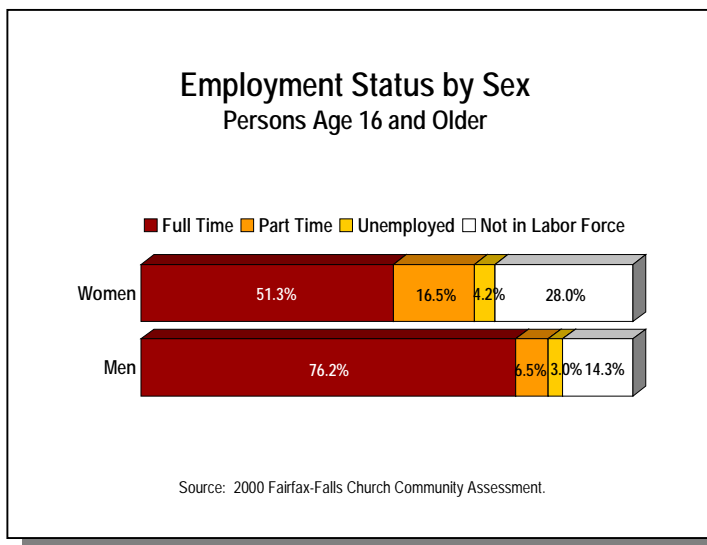
have pursued education beyond high school compared to more than four out of five people in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. Fairfax-Falls Church residents are nearly four times more likely to have a graduate or professional degree and only half as likely not to have completed high school than persons 25 years and older in the nation.

From 1990 to 2000, the educational attainment of people age 25 and older in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area has increased, most notably in the post graduate and professional degree category. According to the 1990 Census, a fifth of all adults age 25 and older had a post graduate or professional degree in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. As of 2000, nearly a third of all adults age 25 and older had earned post graduate or professional degrees. Approximately the same percentage have less than a high school diploma in 2000 as in 1990 but among those who have completed high school, fewer are ending their educational attainment with a high school diploma.



Employment Characteristics

The labor force participation rate is defined as the percentage of all persons, age 16 years or older, who are either employed or unemployed but seeking work. Labor force



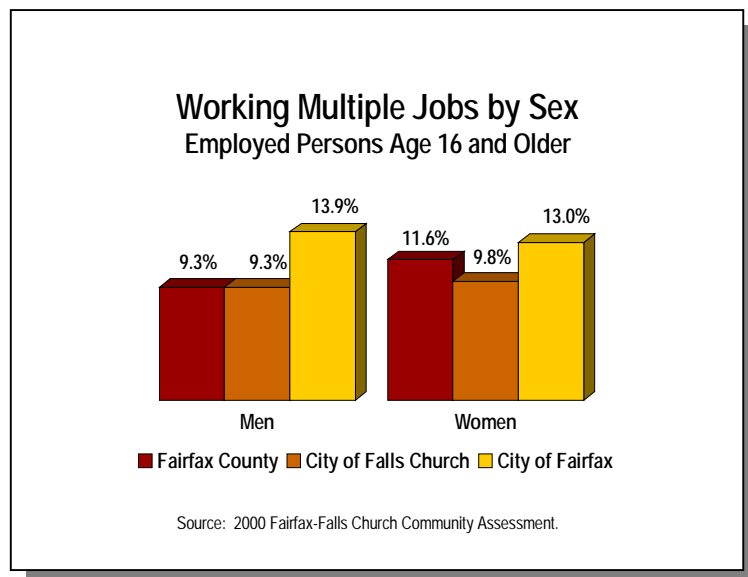
participation rates in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area have remained stable since 1990 and do not vary much by jurisdiction. In 2000, the Fairfax-Falls Church Area labor force participation rate for men is 85.7 percent and for women is 72.0 percent. These labor force participation rates are above the national rates of 74.7

percent for men and 60.2 percent for women.¹ One reason the Fairfax-Falls Church Area has higher labor force participation rates is because this area has fewer persons who are 65 years and older. A second reason is the high educational attainment level of the area's adults. Because there are so many women in the labor force in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, the demand for childcare also is high. About a third of the children age 12 and younger (62,400 children) are currently in or need childcare.

Unemployment in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area is generally low. This is partly due to the influence of the federal government, which helps to moderate recessions. Fairfax-Falls Church Area women are more likely than men to indicate that they are unemployed and seeking work. Among those who are employed, men are much more likely to work full time jobs than women are. In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, three-quarters of employed women work full time while 9 out of 10 employed men work full time.

Working for multiple employers often is associated with financial stress. Research on multiple jobholders found that one out of every five worked multiple jobs to meet regular household expenses or to pay off debts.² The 2000 Community Assessment asked two questions about working multiple jobs. One question was a community perception question that asked if working multiple jobs to make ends meet was a local community problem. Over a third of Fairfax-Falls Church Area households perceived working multiple jobs to make ends meet to be a moderate or major local community problem.

An additional question on the 2000 Community Assessment asked household members how many employers they work for in a typical week. In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area the percentage of employed persons working multiple jobs is nearly double that nationally. Nationally, 5.6 percent of all employed persons age 16 and older held more than one job in 2000.³ Of those persons age 16 and older who are employed in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, nearly 8 percent work for two employers, and 2.6 percent work for three or more employers. Overall, persons living in the City of

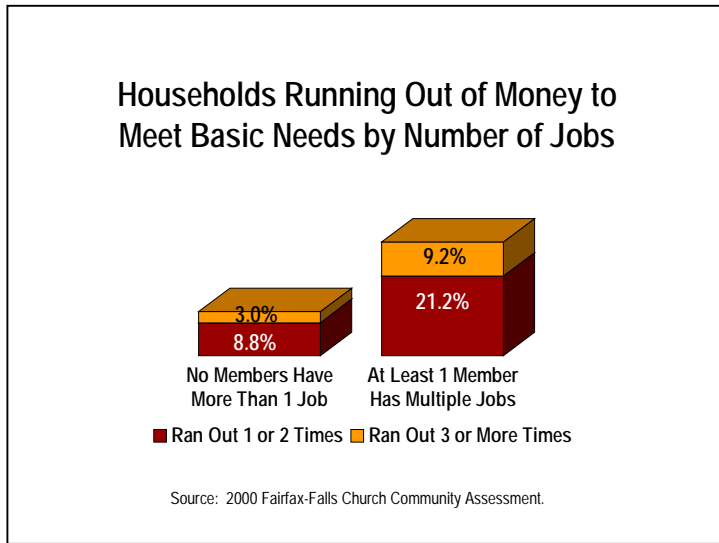


¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, December 2000, Seasonally Adjusted.

² Ibid., *Monthly Labor Review*, October 2000.

³ Ibid., Household Data, Annual Averages 2000.

Fairfax were more likely to hold multiple jobs. In Fairfax County, women were more likely than men to work more than one job. In the cities, women and men were nearly equally likely to hold multiple jobs.



One measure of financial stress that can be ascertained from the information contained in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment is whether the household ran out of money to pay for basic needs such as rent or mortgage, utilities, food, and/or medicine. Households that cannot meet these basic needs are financially at risk. Persons who work multiple jobs in the Fairfax-Falls Church

Area are more likely to live in households that ran out of money for basic needs. In fact, households where at least one member held multiple jobs are three times more likely to run out of money for basic needs. In households where no members worked multiple jobs 11.8 percent ran out of money for basic needs, but in households where at least one member worked multiple jobs nearly a third ran out of money for basic needs. In those households with members working multiple jobs, 21.2 percent ran out of money for basic needs one or two times during the past year and 9.2 percent ran out three or more times.

Household Characteristics

Household Size and Structure

As of the 2000 Community Assessment, there is an estimated 363,200 households in the area, with 350,700 households in Fairfax County, 8,000 households in the City of Fairfax and 4,500 households in the City of Falls Church. The overall average number of persons per household (average household size) has changed very little between 1990 and 2000 in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. This is because of the increasing racial/ethnic diversity of the area. While average household sizes by race of the household head have fallen for each racial/ethnic category except Hispanic, the overall household size has not decreased because Asian and Hispanic households, which have been the fastest growing segments, have larger average household sizes than White or Black households. The largest change in average household size occurred in the City of Falls Church where average household size increased from 2.27 persons per household in 1990 to 2.31 persons per household in 2000. However, the City of

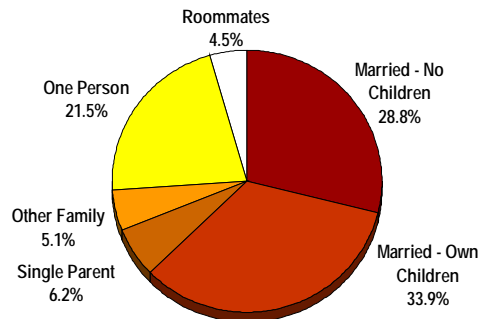
Falls Church's average household size in 2000 is still smaller than that of Fairfax County (2.74 persons per household) or the City of Fairfax (2.61 persons per household). In Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax, average household size changed by only 0.01 persons per household over the decade, decreasing in the County and increasing in the City.⁴

Within each of the jurisdictions that comprise the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, the mix of households by type has not changed much since 1990. The City of Falls Church has a much lower average household size than the other two jurisdictions because more than a third of its households are one-person households, compared to a quarter in the City of Fairfax and a fifth in Fairfax County. The City of Falls Church has a smaller proportion of households that are family households (57.9 percent) than Fairfax County (74.0 percent) or the City of Fairfax (69.0 percent).

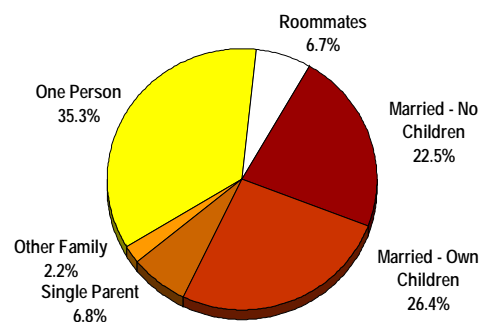
Although there is a greater proportion of family households in the City of Fairfax, a greater proportion of City of Falls Church households contain children age 18 and younger, 30.6 percent and 33.2 percent respectively. In Fairfax County 40.1 percent of households contain children. Of those households containing children in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, four out of five have two parents.

Household Structure, 2000

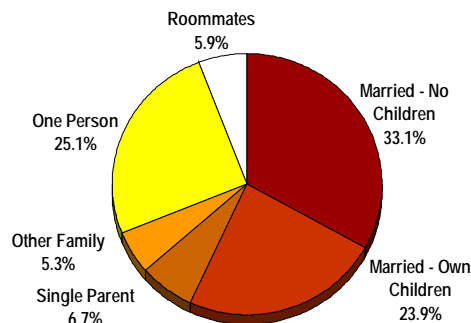
Fairfax County



City of Falls Church



City of Fairfax



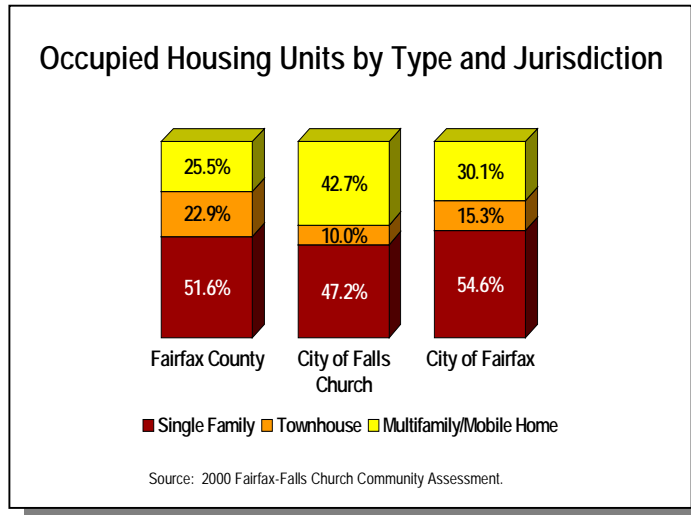
Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses, Summary File 1.

The City of Fairfax contains the highest proportion of married-couple households that do not have children age 18 and younger, 33.1 percent. In Fairfax County 28.8 percent of households are married-couple households without children. In the City of Falls Church 22.5 percent of households are married-couple households without children.

Housing Type

Type of occupied housing units varies within each jurisdiction. The percentage of occupied single-family dwelling units is fairly consistent among the jurisdictions – 47.2 percent of the occupied dwelling units are single family homes in the City of Falls Church, 51.6 percent in the County, and 54.6 percent in the City of Fairfax. The County is the only jurisdiction with mobile homes. The mobile home units are combined with the multifamily units in Fairfax



County for this analysis and account for less than 0.5 percent of all occupied housing units in the combined multifamily/mobile home category. The proportion of occupied townhouses and multi-family units varies widely from one jurisdiction to the next. Multi-family dwelling units include both rental apartment complexes as well as owned multifamily condominium units. In the City of Falls Church, more than two out of five occupied dwelling units are multi-family, compared to three out of ten in the City of Fairfax and one in four in the County. The County has the highest proportion of occupied housing units that are townhouses, 22.9 percent. In contrast 10.0 percent of the occupied housing units in the City of Falls Church and 15.3 percent in the City of Fairfax are townhouses.

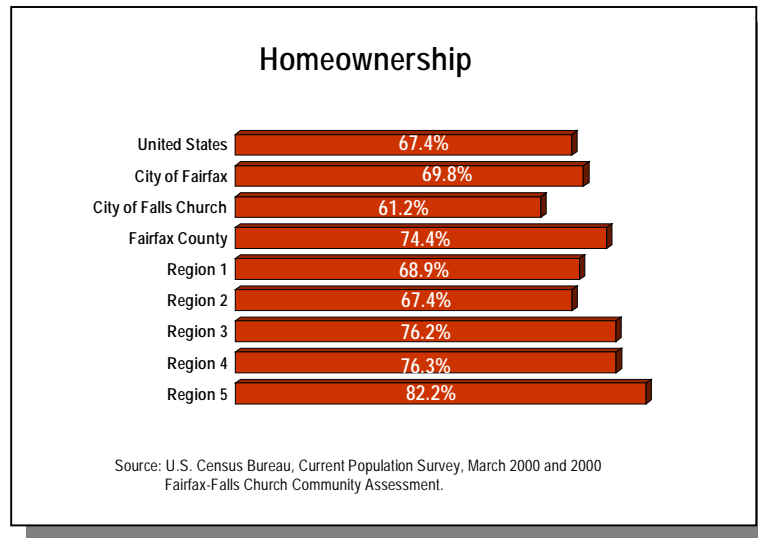
Homeownership

Homeownership rates are directly influenced by wealth and the mix of the type of housing in each part of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. For most of the Fairfax-Falls Church community, the homeownership rate exceeds the national rate of 67.4 percent⁵ of all occupied housing units. In addition, the homeownership rate has increased since 1995. While homeownership in the City of Falls Church (61.2 percent) is below the national rate, it has risen by more than 6 percentage points from the 1995 rate of 55 percent.⁶ The County's overall rate of homeownership in

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey/Housing Vacancy Survey, 2000 Annual Statistics.

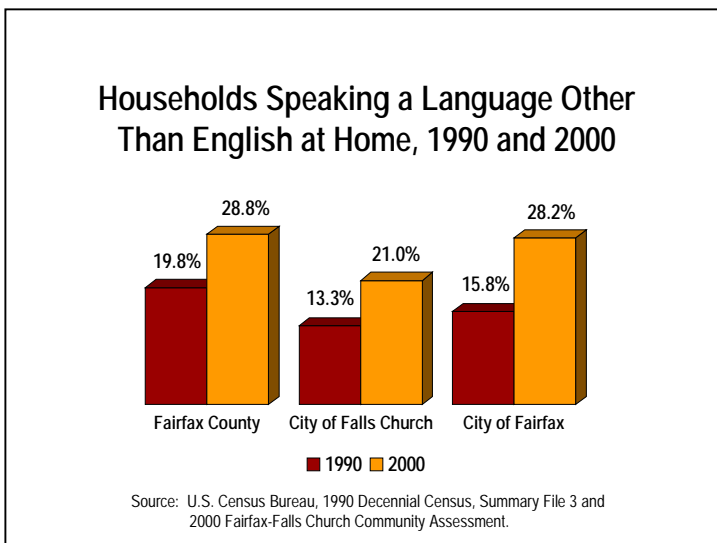
⁶ 1995 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Needs Assessment

2000 is 74.4 percent, which is up from 71 percent in 1995.⁷ The homeownership rate in Human Services Region 2 is the same as the national rate of 67.4 percent, while all other sub-areas have higher rates of homeownership than the national average. The highest homeownership rate is in Region 5 where more than four out of five households live in housing they own.



Language Spoken at Home

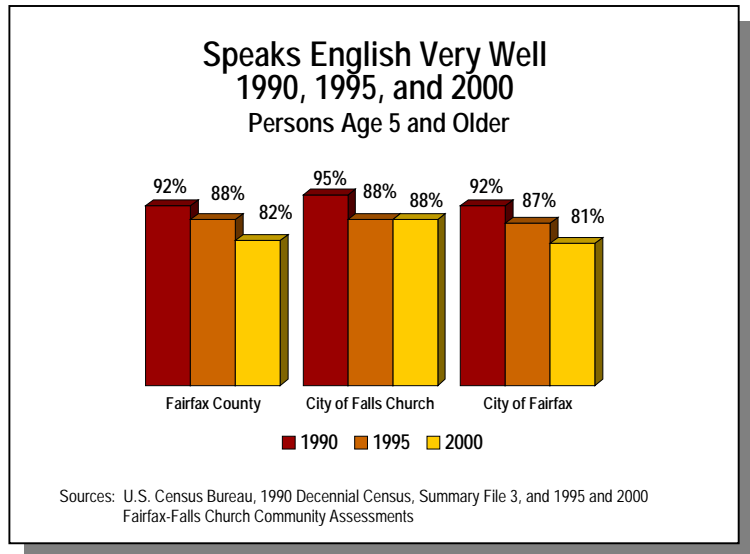
During the past decade, the Fairfax-Falls Church Area has experienced a rapid increase in the number of households speaking a language other than English at home. The 1990 Decennial Census revealed that 60,000 households (19.6 percent) spoke a language other than English at home. From the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment, an estimated 104,400 households (28.7 percent) speak a language other than English at home, an increase of more than 44,000 households. Among the three jurisdictions, the City of Fairfax had the sharpest increase in the percentage of households speaking a language other than English at home rising from 15.8 percent of households in 1990 to 28.2 percent in



2000. Fairfax County (28.8 percent) has the largest percent of households speaking a language other than English at home in 2000 and the City of Falls Church (21.0 percent) has the smallest percent. Within Fairfax County, Human Services Region 2 and Region 5 have the highest percents of households speaking a language other than English at home, 38.9 percent and 32.1 percent respectively.

⁷ Ibid.

Patterned after the decennial censuses, the 1995 and 2000 Fairfax-Falls Community Assessments asked a question about spoken English ability - does this person speak English "Very Well," "Well," "Not Well," or "Not at All?" The U.S. Census Bureau defines linguistically isolated households as households that speak a language other than English at home, with none of the members 14 years and older speaking English very well. The percentage of persons in the area who speak English very well has decreased incrementally since 1990. The number of persons who speak English very well has decreased ten percentage points in the City of Fairfax and Fairfax County since 1990. In the City of Falls Church the percentage of persons who speak English very well has decreased by seven percentage points. These decreases in the percentage of persons who speak English very well have resulted in an increase in linguistically isolated Fairfax-Falls Church Area households from 3.6 percent in 1990 to 7.1 percent in 2000.



Economic Characteristics

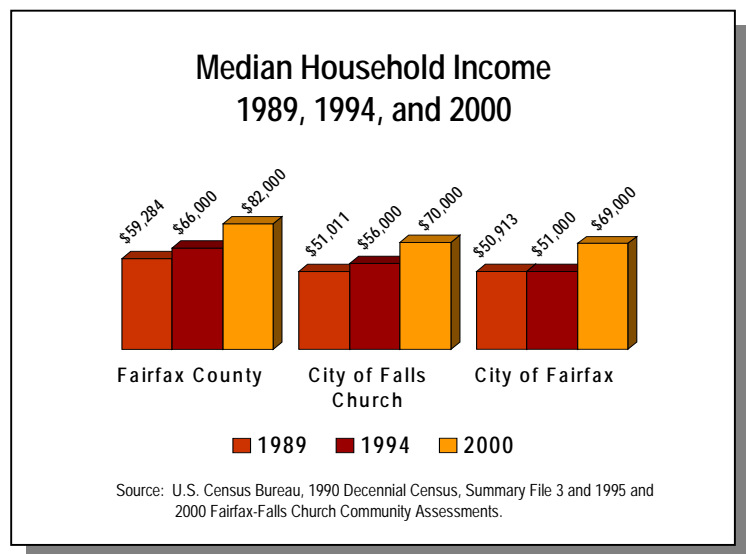
Economic characteristics are those that provide a measure of a household's ability to be financially self-sufficient. The economic characteristics collected by the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment include income, poverty status, housing costs, and the ability to pay for basic needs such as rent or mortgage, utilities, food, and medicine.

Household Income

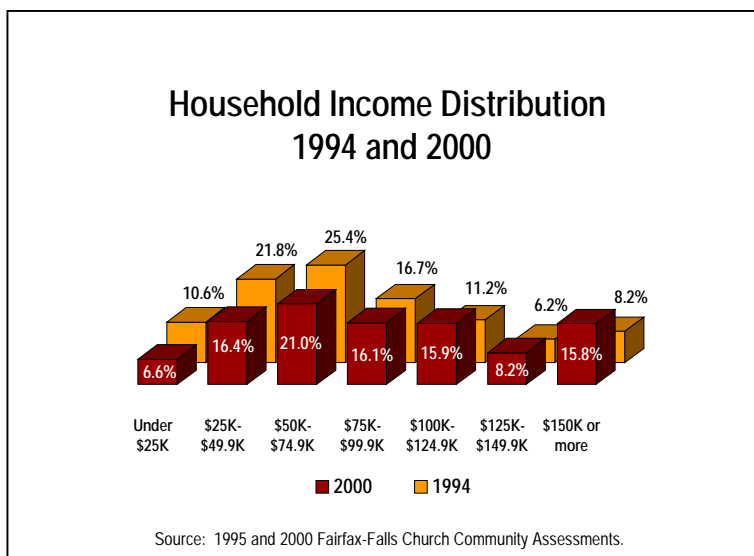
The individual income levels of adults are strongly correlated with educational attainment, years of work experience, and the ability to communicate clearly in English. Household income, however, is considered the single most important measure of a household's financial wellbeing. It is more important than the individual income of household members as a measure of financial wellbeing because households tend to pool their resources. Household income is total money income reported for all household members whether or not they are related. Money income includes wages, business income, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), retirement income, interest income, alimony and child support. It is pre-tax income and does not subtract payroll deductions such as pensions,

FICA, Medicare, union dues, etc. Capital gains, in-kind income, gifts and inheritances and other lump-sum receipts are not included.

Fairfax County households have had the highest median household income in the area since 1989⁸. Median household income has grown more quickly in the last half of the decade than in the first half. Between 1989 and 1994, Fairfax County's median household income grew 11.3 percent, the City of Falls Church's median household income grew 9.8 percent, and the City of Fairfax's median household income remained constant. Between 1994 and



2000 median household income in Fairfax County grew more slowly than in the two cities, a 24.2 percent increase. In the City of Falls Church, median household income rose 25.0 percent while the City of Fairfax had the highest increase in median household income at 35.3 percent.



The overall shape of the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Area household income distribution is similar to the 1994 household income distribution. Using \$25,000 increments, the percentage of households in each income category rises and peaks in the \$50,000 to \$74,999 category for both years. The percentage of households in the income categories above \$74,999

diminish as income rises until reaching \$150,000. In the \$150,000 and above category, an increase in the percentage of households occurs. The curve of the 2000 household income distribution is flatter than that for 1994 and the most rapidly growing income categories are the highest income brackets. In

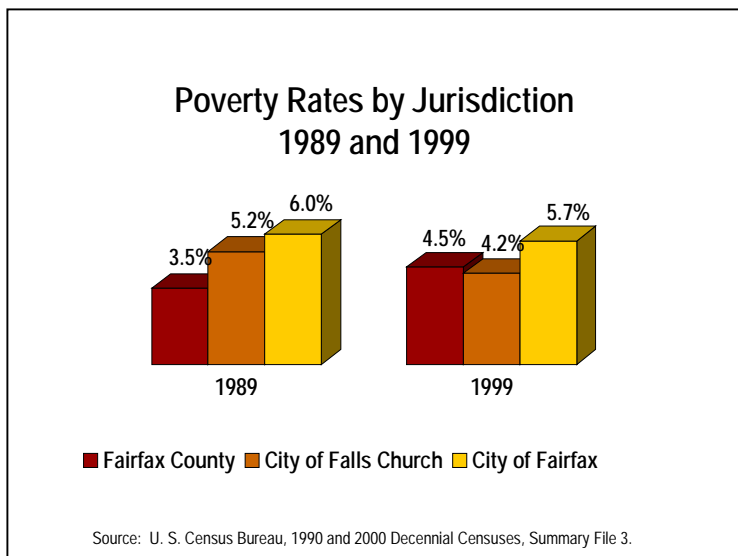
⁸ The 1990 Decennial Census and the 1995 Community Assessment were conducted early in the calendar year and collected income earned in the prior calendar year. The 2000 Community Assessment was conducted at the end of the calendar year and collected income information for that year, 2000.

comparing 1994 and 2000, the percentage of households earning \$100,000 or more has grown 14.3 percentage points since 1994 and the percentage of households earning \$150,000 or more has nearly doubled.

Poverty Status

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services publishes poverty guidelines, a simplification of the poverty thresholds, annually in the *Federal Register*. The poverty guidelines and multiples of the guidelines (i.e. 125 percent of poverty or 200 percent of poverty) are used to determine eligibility for a number of social services programs. The 200 percent of poverty level reflects income levels close to but still generally lower than those calculated by the Wider Opportunities for Women's self-sufficiency income analysis for Fairfax County. The 1998 analysis by Wider Opportunities for Women estimated that a family composed of two adults, a teenager and an elementary school age child would need a household income of more than \$40,000 to be self-sufficient in Fairfax County⁹. In 2000, a family of four is considered at or below poverty if their income is \$17,650 or less and at or below 200 percent of poverty if their income is \$35,300 or less. For each additional person above four, the poverty guideline is adjusted upward by \$3,020. Alternatively, the poverty guideline is adjusted downward by \$3,020 for each person fewer than four.

Poverty rates have varied by less than a percentage point in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area during the last decade. By jurisdiction, 3.5 percent of persons in Fairfax County, 5.2 percent of persons in the City of Falls Church and 6.0 percent in the City of Fairfax lived in poverty in 1989. In 1999, the poverty rate of Fairfax County was 4.5 percent, the City of Falls Church was 4.2 percent and the City of Fairfax was 5.7 percent. As population has grown in the area, the number of persons in poverty has increased from an estimated 29,864 persons to 45,033 persons.¹⁰



⁹ Wider Opportunities for Women, *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area*, Fall 1999.

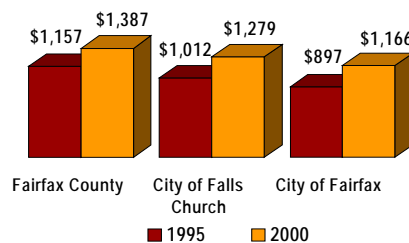
¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses, Summary File 3.

Monthly Housing Costs

Housing and food often are the largest reoccurring expenses that households have. Average monthly housing costs rose more slowly than median income in Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax from 1995 to 2000. In the City of Falls Church, average monthly housing costs rose more rapidly than median income. Average monthly housing costs for both

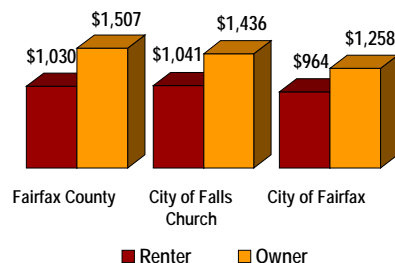
owners and renters in the City of Fairfax rose from \$897 in 1995 to \$1,166 in 2000 – a 30.0 percent increase compared to a 35.3 percent increase in median household income from 1994 to 2000. While average monthly housing costs were highest in Fairfax County in both 1995 and 2000, it had the lowest increase in these costs, 19.9 percent. In the City of Falls Church, average monthly housing costs rose from \$1,012 in 1995 to \$1,279 in 2000. This represents a 26.4 percent increase in monthly housing costs compared to a 25.0 percent increase in median household income between 1994 and 2000.

Average Monthly Housing Costs
All Housing 1995 and 2000



Source: 1995 and 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessments.

Average Monthly Owner and Renter
Housing Costs, 2000



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Monthly housing costs of owners include principle, interest, taxes and insurance. Monthly housing costs of renters include utilities that are paid as part of the rent payment but usually exclude utility costs. Average monthly housing costs of owners are above those for renters in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. The largest differential between average monthly owner costs and renter costs paid in 2000 occurs in Fairfax County,

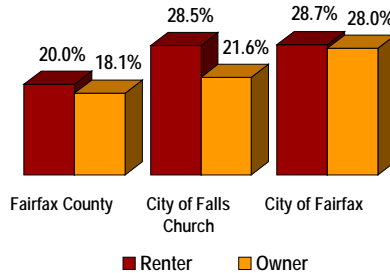
nearly \$480. The City of Fairfax had both the lowest average monthly owner costs and renter costs among the three jurisdictions in 2000.

City of Fairfax residents have incurred the largest increase in average monthly housing costs since 1995, with costs increasing by more than 28 percent.

Although large, this increase in housing costs was less than the increase in median household income for City of Fairfax households of 35.3 percent from 1994 to 2000. The City of Falls Church had the next largest increase in average monthly housing costs. Average

monthly renter costs in the City of Falls Church rose more quickly than median household income, 28.5 percent and 25.0 percent respectively, while average monthly owner costs rose more slowly, 21.6 percent. Average monthly housing costs for Fairfax County households rose more slowly than median household income which rose 24.2 percent from 1994 to 2000. In Fairfax County and the City of Falls Church, average monthly renter costs rose more quickly than owner costs. In the City of Fairfax, renter and owner costs rose at about the same rate.

1995 to 2000 Percent Change in Average Monthly Owner and Renter Housing Costs

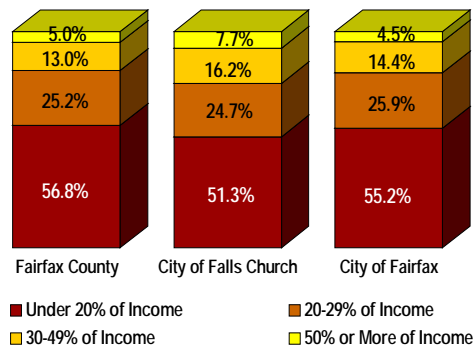


Source: 1995 and 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessments.

Housing Costs as a Percent of Income

When households spend more than 30 percent of their household income on housing costs it is associated with financial stress. Households spending 50 percent or more of their household income on housing costs are at the greatest risk of becoming homeless. The distribution of housing costs as a percent of household income has remained very stable since the 1995 Fairfax-Falls Church

Housing Costs as a Percent of Income



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

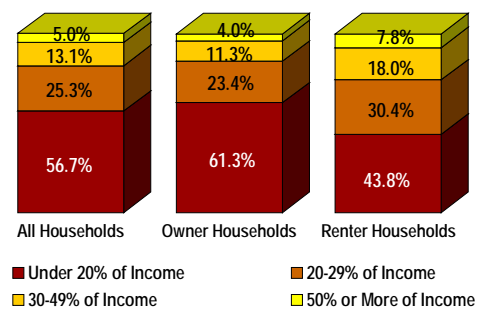
Community Needs Assessment was conducted and there are not dramatic differences between jurisdictions.

Based on the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment, the majority of households spend less than 20 percent of household income on housing costs. Area-wide, however, more than 65,000 households spend at least 30 percent of their household income on

housing costs and more than 18,000 households spend at least 50 percent. Households in the City of Falls Church are the most likely to spend 30 percent or more of household income on housing costs, 23.9 percent of households. Less than a fifth of the households in Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax spend 30 percent or more of household income on housing. City of Falls Church households (7.7 percent) are the most likely to spend 50 percent or more of their household income on housing whereas 4.5 percent of households in the City of Fairfax and 5.0 percent of Fairfax County households spend 50 percent or more of their income on housing.

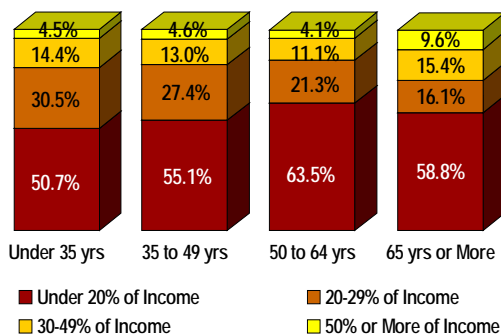
When viewed by tenure, renter occupied households spend a greater proportion of their household income on housing costs than owner occupied households. More than a quarter of renter occupied households spend 30 percent or more of their household income on housing whereas 15.3 percent of owner occupied households spend 30 percent or more of their household income on housing. Almost twice the proportion of renter occupied households compared to owner occupied households spend 50 percent or more of their household income on housing costs. The majority of owner occupied households (61.3 percent) spend less than 20 percent of household income on housing costs compared to 43.8 percent of renter occupied households.

Housing Costs as a Percent of Income
By Household Tenure



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Housing Costs as a Percent of Income
By Age of Household Head



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

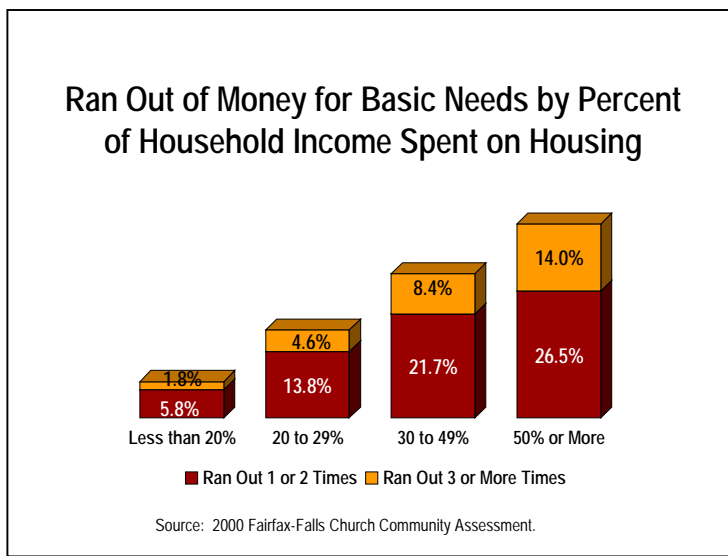
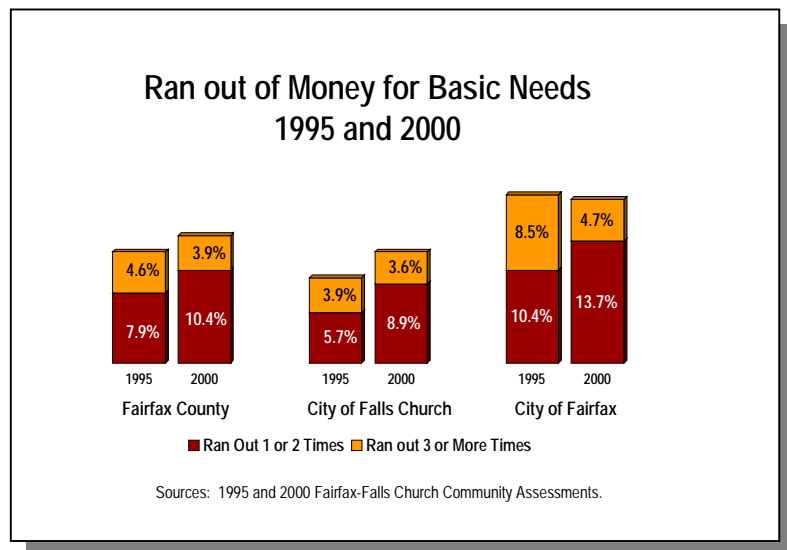
Excluding households headed by persons age 65 and older, there is little variation by age of household head on the proportion of households spending 30 percent or more of household income on housing costs. Younger households, however, are less likely to be spending less than 20 percent of household income on housing costs. Households headed by adults age 65 and older are the most

likely to be spending 30 percent or more of household income on housing costs and are twice as likely to be spending 50 percent or more of household income on housing costs.

Running out of Money for Basic Needs

On both the 1995 and 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessments households were asked if they had run out of money in the past year to pay for basic needs such as rent or mortgage, utilities, food, or medicine. Households that have difficulty meeting basic needs are at risk financially. These households are financially overextended, are incurring unexpected expenses or losses of

income, or are having difficulty managing their money. An estimated 51,900 Fairfax-Falls Church households ran out of money to pay for basic needs at least once during 2000. In all three jurisdictions a higher percent of households in 2000 than in 1995 indicated they had run out of money one or two times in the last year to pay for basic needs and a smaller percent indicated they had run out of money three or more times. In Fairfax County and the City of Falls Church, the proportion of households running out of money to pay for basic needs at least once during a year increased while the proportion remained constant in the City of Fairfax.

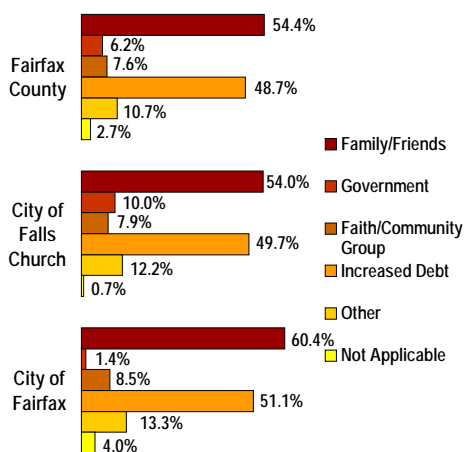


There is a direct correlation between percent of household income spent on housing and the likelihood of running out of money to pay for basic needs. As housing costs consume a higher proportion of income, households become much more likely to incur severe financial difficulties. Whereas 7.6 percent of households that spend less than 20 percent of household income on

housing costs ran out of money for basic needs in the past year, 40.5 percent of households that spend 50 percent or more of household income on housing costs ran out of money. Households that spend 30 to 39 percent of their household income on housing costs are four times more likely to run out of money than those that spend less than 20 percent on housing costs.

Although the questions are somewhat different, both the 1995 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Needs Assessment and the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asked households that ran out of money for basic needs what they did when they ran out of money. Households were given a list of organizations and coping mechanisms and could select more than one answer; thus, the answer categories sum to more than 100 percent. Many of the answer categories on the 1995 Community Assessment varied from those on the 2000 Community Assessment. Three answer categories were the same – family or friends, government, and faith/community organizations. In both 1995 and 2000, the most often used resource was family and friends, 55 percent and 54.5 percent respectively of those households running out of money. The use of debt, which was the second most popular coping method in 2000, was not investigated in 1995. Few households used government or faith/community organizations to help when they ran out of money to pay for basic needs. In 1995, 11 percent of households that ran out of money used faith/community organizations and 9 percent turned to government for help. In 2000 even fewer households turned to these services for help – 7.7 percent of households that ran out of money used faith/community organizations and 6.1 percent used government.

Where Households That Ran Out of Money Turned for Help, 2000



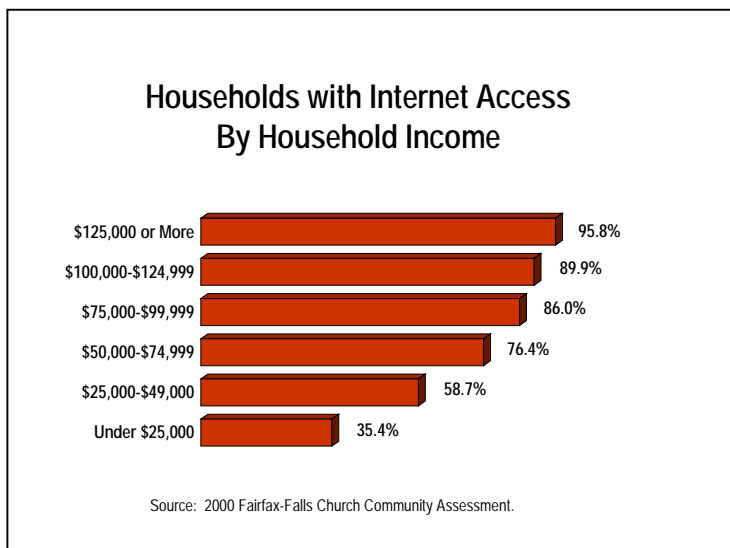
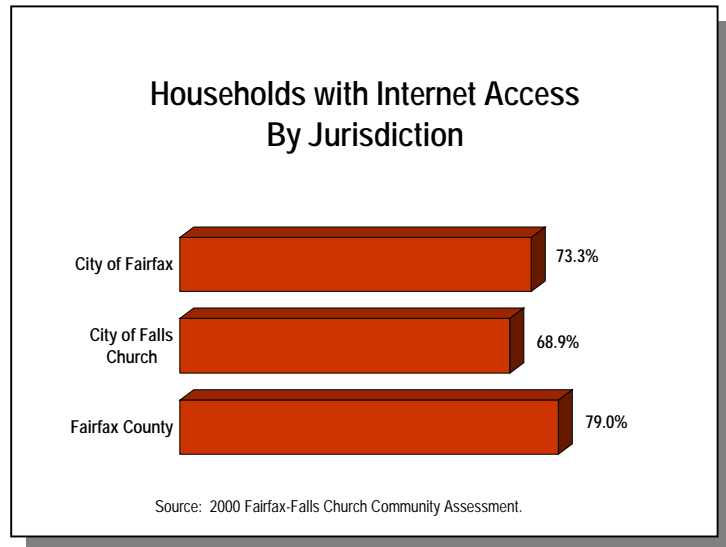
Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

In the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment, the differences by jurisdiction of where households that ran out of money for basic needs sought help were few. In all three jurisdictions, households were more likely to seek help from family or friends than from any other source – 54 percent or more of the households needing help in each jurisdiction. Households in the City of Fairfax were slightly more likely to turn to family or friends than those in the other two jurisdictions. The second most frequently used coping mechanism among households running out of money to pay for basic needs was to increase credit card or other types of debt – approximately half of all households that ran out of money. All other sources of help and/or coping mechanisms were used

much more rarely. Overall, faith and community based organizations (7.7 percent) were sought out as sources of aid more frequently than government (6.1 percent) except in the City of Falls Church. Falls Church households sought help from government (10.0 percent) more frequently than from faith and community organizations (7.9 percent). City of Fairfax households rarely sought help from government, only 1.4 percent of those who ran out of money for basic needs, but turned just as frequently to faith and community organizations as households in other jurisdictions.

Internet Access

A new question on the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asked households if they had access to the Internet from home. The Internet provides households with access to information and tools that cannot be easily obtained through other channels. In addition, the Internet provides a platform for the delivery of certain types of services to residents. The majority of households in all three jurisdictions have Internet access – 79.0 percent in Fairfax County, 73.3 percent in the City of Fairfax, and 68.9 percent in the City of Falls Church.



The differences in the percentage of households with Internet access between the three jurisdictions are partially due to differences in age and household income profiles. Among households headed by persons younger than 65 years, over four-fifths have Internet access at home. Whereas among households headed by persons 65 years and older, only slightly more than half

have Internet access. There also is a very strong relationship between household income and Internet access. As household income increases the likelihood of the

household having Internet access increases. Only 35.4 percent of households with income below \$25,000 have Internet access but almost every household with an income of \$125,000 or more has Internet access.

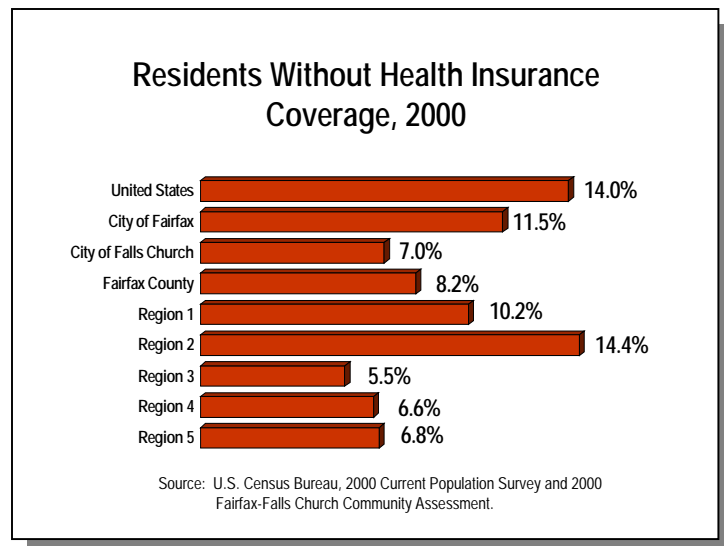
Health Issues

Health Insurance Coverage

Health insurance coverage is an indicator of access to medical care. Persons without health insurance are less likely to have access to health care for preventive services such as physicals and immunizations. Persons without health insurance also are less likely to have a regular health care provider who has access to long-term health records for the individual and tracks their health status over time.

Nationwide, as of March 2000, the Census Bureau estimated that 14.0 percent of the nation's population did not have health insurance.¹¹ The Fairfax-Falls Church Area has a much lower proportion of population without health insurance coverage than the nation. In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, 8.3 percent of the household population lacks health insurance coverage. This percent translates into an estimated 82,100 Fairfax-Falls Church Area residents without health care coverage.

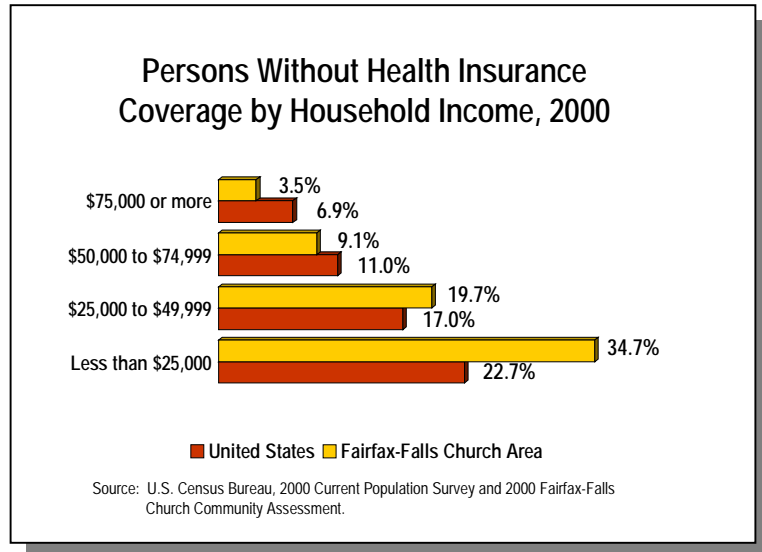
Among the sub-areas surveyed, Human Services Region 2 has the largest proportion of population without health insurance, 14.4 percent, roughly equal to the national rate. Human Services Region 3 has the lowest proportion, 5.5 percent. Among the three jurisdictions, the City of Fairfax has the highest rate of uninsured residents, 11.5 percent – 8.2 percent of Fairfax County residents are uninsured and 7.0 percent of the City of Falls Church residents.



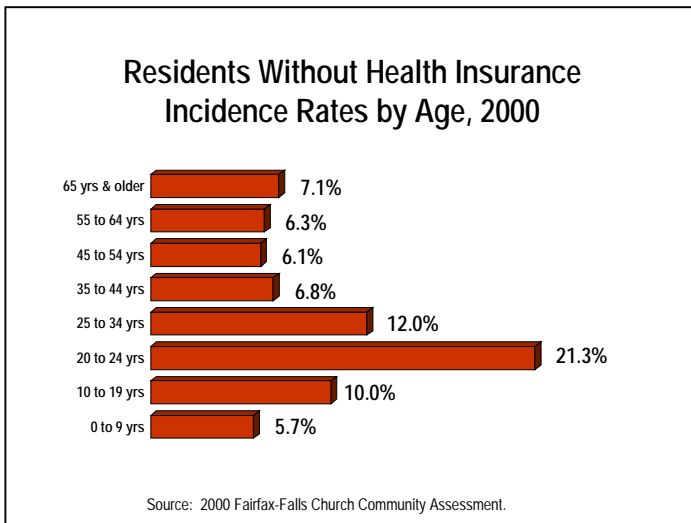
Lack of health insurance is related to income, age, employment status, and educational attainment. As income rises so does the probability of health insurance coverage. Among Fairfax-Falls Church residents at or below 200 percent of poverty, 37.0 percent lack health insurance, whereas only 5.3 percent of residents above 200 percent of poverty lack health insurance. When health

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

insurance rates are examined by household income, the Fairfax-Falls Church Area has a greater proportion of persons without health insurance than nationally at household income levels below \$50,000. Among Fairfax-Falls Church residents living in households with incomes under \$25,000, more than a third (34.7 percent) lack health insurance compared to 22.7 percent nationally. In households with incomes of \$25,000 to \$49,999, a fifth (19.7 percent) of Fairfax-Falls Church Area residents are uninsured, whereas 17.0 percent are uninsured nationally.¹²



Young adults are more likely than other age groups not to have health insurance. These young adults are too old to be included on their parents' health insurance policies and often have not obtained their own health insurance. A fifth of Fairfax-Falls Church adults age 20 to 24 years lack health insurance and 12.0 percent of adults age 25 to 34 years lack health insurance. Among those who are 10 to 19 years old, 10.0 percent lack health insurance, a rate that is higher than that for younger children. Among persons age 65 and older, the Fairfax-Falls Church Area has a much larger proportion of uninsured persons than nationwide. Nationwide less than 1 percent of persons age 65 and older lack health



insurance,¹³ whereas in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area 7.1 percent of this age group report that they have no health insurance. A closer look at persons age 65 and older without health insurance in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area finds that only a quarter speak English "very well" and nearly half did not speak English at all. This suggests that the majority of these persons age 65 and older without health insurance may be

¹² Ibid.

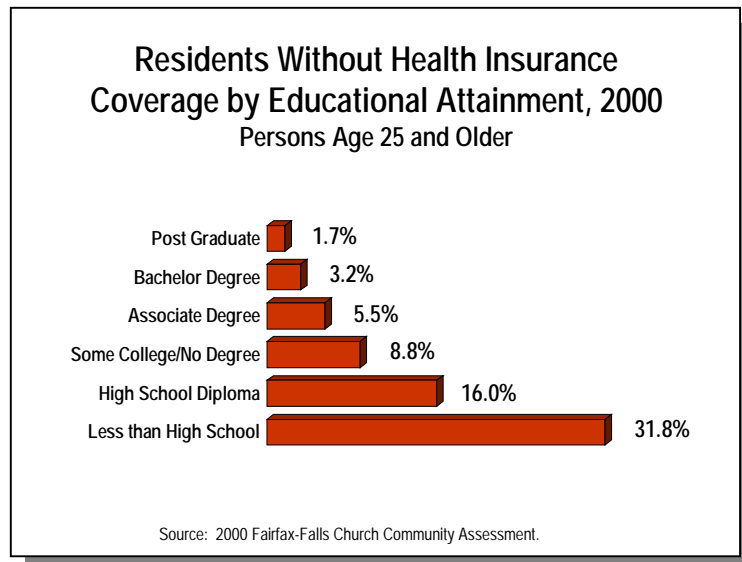
¹³ Ibid.

immigrants. National statistics indicate that foreign born residents are nearly three times more likely to be uninsured than native born residents.¹⁴

Nationwide, 64.1 percent of the population with health insurance were covered by an employment based health insurance plan.¹⁵ Although most persons receive health insurance through employer sponsored plans, being employed does not guarantee that the employee and/or their family has health insurance. Nearly two-thirds of those persons age 16 and older without health insurance are employed – 47.1 percent have full-time jobs and an additional 17.4 percent have part-time jobs. By employment status, full-time workers (93.5 percent) age 16 and older are more likely to have health insurance than part-time workers (87.1 percent). Persons age 16 and older who are unemployed but seeking work (65.3 percent) are the least likely to have health insurance coverage.

When looking at the health insurance status of persons age 25 and older, there is a strong correlation between educational attainment and health insurance coverage.

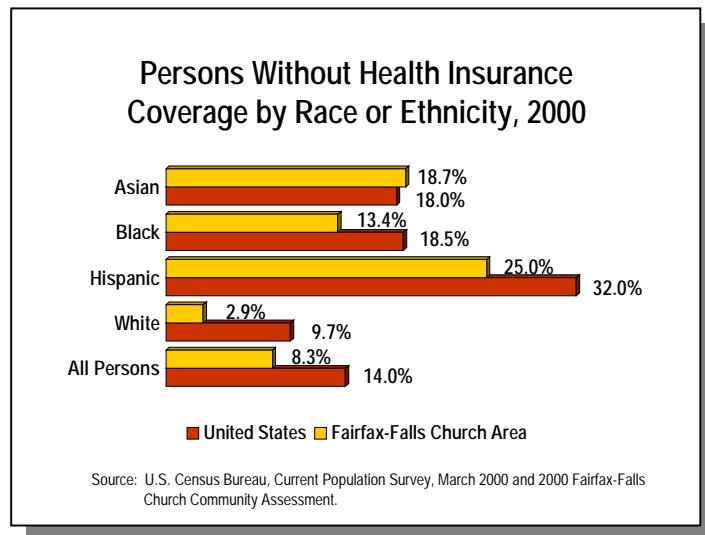
Adults that have more education are less likely to be without health insurance. As educational attainment increases so does income and the likelihood of working for an employer that offers health insurance benefits. Nearly a third of residents who have less than a high school education lack health insurance, whereas only 3.2 percent of adults with a bachelor's degree and less than 2 percent of those adults with post graduate education lack health insurance.



¹⁴ Robert J. Mills, *Current Population Reports, Health Insurance Coverage: 2000*, Series P60-215, U.S. Census Bureau, Economics and Statistics Administration, September 2001.

¹⁵ Ibid.

There also is a strong relationship between race and/or ethnicity and health insurance coverage. National health insurance rates by race/ethnicity have a similar pattern to those for the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. Racial/ethnic minorities are less likely to have health insurance. Hispanic residents are the most likely not to have health insurance – nearly a third nationwide and a quarter in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. Asian residents are the next most likely group to lack health insurance. Locally, approximately the same proportion of Asians lack health insurance as nationally – 18.7 percent and 18.0 percent respectively.¹⁶



Longitudinal trends of health insurance coverage by race/ethnicity only can be discussed for Fairfax County because comparable information is unavailable for the two cities. In Fairfax County, the rates of uninsured persons by race/ethnicity have remained fairly stable since the 1996 Fairfax County Household Survey except among Black residents. The rate of uninsured Black residents has doubled in Fairfax County since 1996, from 6.6 percent to 13.6 percent (a rate slightly higher than that for the entire Fairfax-Falls Church Area).

Mental Health

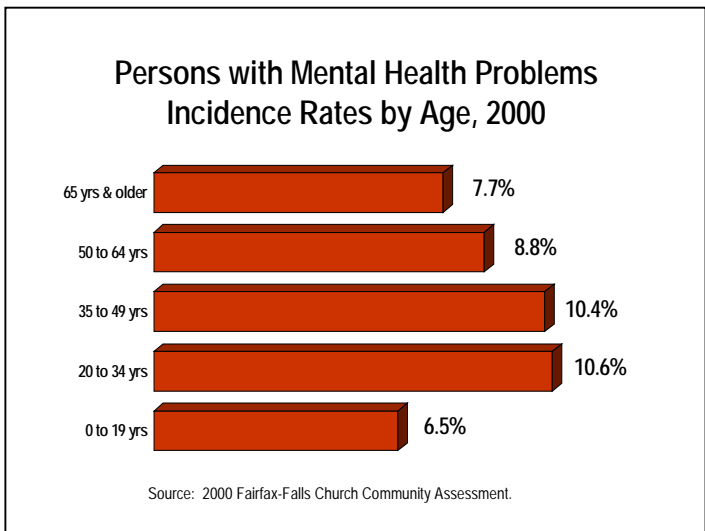
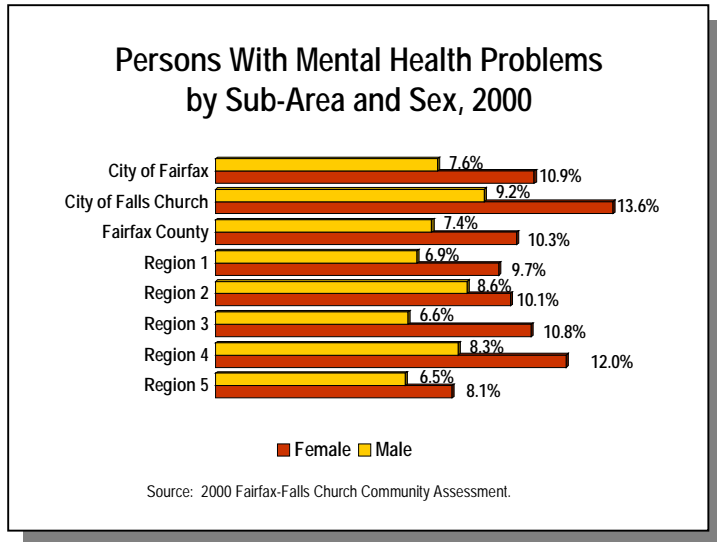
For each household member the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asked, “Over the past year, did this person experience depression, anxiety, mental, emotional, or behavioral problems to the degree you felt help was needed?” Mental health problems are one of the most common causes of disability among persons in developed countries as measured in days of disability.¹⁷ Households containing members with mental health problems not only incur emotional effects but also may incur productivity and economic effects. Area-wide 8.9 percent of the population (an estimated 88,200 persons) indicated that they experienced mental health problems in 2000. This is a slight increase in incidence from the 1995 Community Assessment where an estimated 7.4 percent of the population indicated mental health problems.

¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

¹⁷ World Health Organization, World Bank, and Harvard University, *Global Burden of Disease Study*, 1996.

The overall incidence rates of mental health problems by sub-area vary by three percentage points but more distinct differences are seen between incidence rates by sex. Females are more likely to indicate mental health problems than males, 10.3 percent and 7.4 percent respectively, and there is less variation in mental health incidence rates for males between geographic sub-areas than for females.

Among sub-areas, mental health incidence rates for males vary by less than three percentage points but vary by 5.5 percentage points for females. The City of Falls Church has the highest incidence rates of mental health problems for both males and females – 9.2 percent for males and 13.6 percent for females. The lowest incidence rates occur in Human Services Region 5 where 6.5 percent of males indicated a mental health problem and 8.1 percent of females.



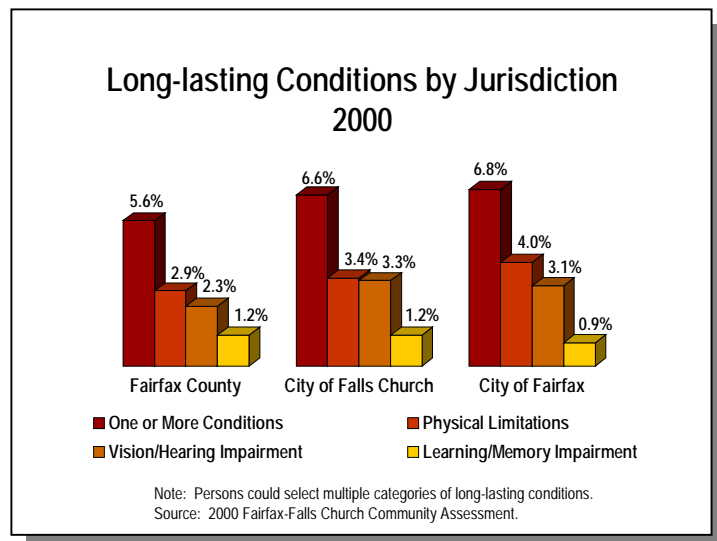
The incidence of mental health problems varies with age and peaks between ages 20 to 49 years in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. Among children under age 20, only 6.5 percent were identified as having mental health problems. From age 20 to 49 years, one out of every ten adults suffer from mental health problems. After age 50, the incidence of mental health problems decreases as age increases. Generally, the incidence rates of mental

health problems in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area by sex and age are similar to national incidence rates for mood or depressive disorders published in the *Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health* released in December 1999.

Long-lasting Conditions

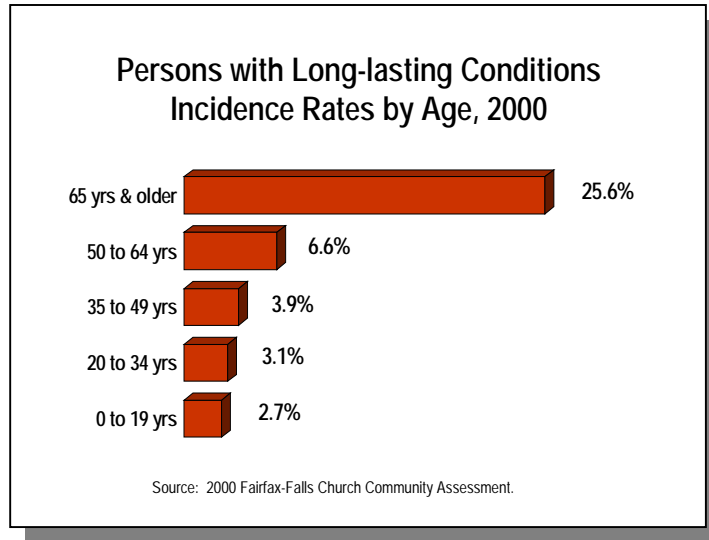
The 1995 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Needs Assessment and the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment took different approaches to collect information on disabling conditions. The 1995 Community Assessment asked two questions about disabling conditions: “Do any of the children or adults in your household have a permanent disability that limits their activities?” and “Over the past year, did you or any of the adults in your household need help with bathing/toileting, dressing, eating, walking, climbing stairs, and/or memory or reasoning?” The 2000 Community Assessment asked one question about disabling conditions: “Does this person have any of the following long-lasting conditions?” Due to differences in the language of the questions in 1995 and 2000, it is not possible to report trends between the two years. The 1995 Assessment estimated that 4.2 percent of the household population had a permanent disability and that 2.3 percent of those age 18 or older needed help with bathing, dressing, etc. The question on the 2000 Assessment found that 5.7 percent of the household population has a long-lasting condition or an estimated 56,300 persons.

Persons with disabling conditions often find themselves less able to care for themselves and to compete in the job market. In addition, persons with disabling conditions may need additional resources to support their special needs. Of the 5.7 percent of Fairfax-Falls Church residents who have long-lasting conditions, 3.0 percent have a condition that substantially limits physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, bathing or dressing; 2.3 percent have a severe vision or hearing impairment; and 1.2 percent have a severe learning or memory problem.¹⁸ Fairfax County has slightly lower rates than the two cities. The higher rates of long-lasting conditions reported in the cities are primarily due to the cities having a greater percent of residents age 65 years and older.



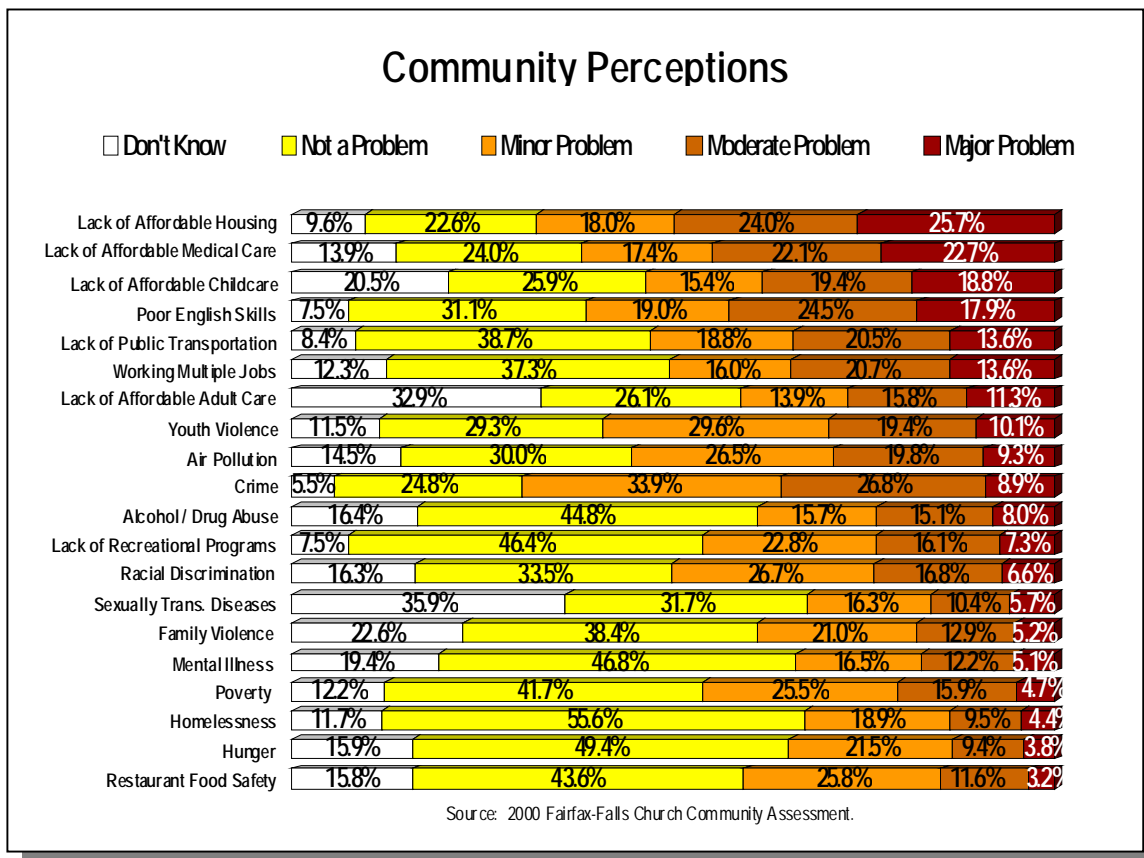
¹⁸ The individual conditions will not sum to the whole because some persons have more than one condition.

The likelihood of disabling conditions increases dramatically after age 65. Only about 3 percent of Fairfax-Falls Church residents under age 35 report long-lasting conditions. Between age 50 and 64, the proportion of persons with long-lasting conditions doubles to 6.6 percent – but after age 64, a quarter of all Fairfax-Falls Church residents report a long-lasting condition.



Community Perceptions

The 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asked residents to give their perceptions about twenty issues facing their local communities. For each issue, residents were asked if they felt the issue was a major problem, moderate problem, minor problem, or not a problem. In addition, residents were given the option of answering “don’t know.” The community perception questions provide insight on what residents perceive as problems in their local community, as opposed to reporting facts about the residents themselves. Because perceptions sometimes can differ from factual data, careful analysis of perception data may highlight possible gaps in information, education, or advocacy.



Generally, the Fairfax-Falls Church Area is perceived by its residents to have few major problems. For all twenty issues, more than a fifth of all households perceive them as not a problem. For seven issues, more than 40 percent of all households perceive them as not a problem. On only two issues, lack of affordable housing and lack of affordable medical care, did more than a fifth of all households perceive a major problem in their local communities.

The issues most frequently identified as a major problem are affordable housing (25.7 percent), affordable medical care (22.7 percent), affordable childcare (18.8 percent), and poor English skills (17.9 percent). In the 1995 Community Needs Assessment, the same four issues were most often perceived as major problems in the local community. These results reflect a consistent concern among residents about their ability to pay for housing, health care, and childcare. Poor English skills are considered a greater problem by households that speak a language other than English at home; this may indicate a concern among those households about the need for sufficient English skills to live successfully in the community. Crime and alcohol/drug abuse, which were perceived as the fifth- and sixth-ranked major problems in 1995, drop to the tenth- and eleventh- ranked major problems in the 2000 Community Assessment. Other community perception issues remain relatively stable in their ranking from 1995 to 2000.

Although most focus is placed on what issues residents perceive as moderate or major problems, it is equally important to look at issues residents perceive as not being problems and at issues for which residents indicate they “don’t know” whether a problem exists. The issues with the highest percentage of households responding “not a problem” are homelessness (55.6 percent), hunger (49.4 percent), mental illness (46.8 percent), lack of recreational facilities or programs (46.4 percent), alcoholism and/or substance abuse (44.8 percent), restaurant food safety (43.6 percent), and poverty (41.7 percent). It is an interesting juxtaposition to note that while lack of affordable housing is the most pressing concern among residents, homelessness receives the most “not a problem” responses. A possible interpretation of these incongruent results is that residents do not perceive the community as having a problem with abject poverty and homelessness but feel housing is too expensive and that they must live in more cramped and less desirable quarters than they prefer.

For issues that receive a substantial number of “don’t know” responses, it may indicate a lack of knowledge, education, or direct experience with the issue. The issues that elicited the highest percent of households answering “don’t know” are AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases (35.9 percent), affordable adult care (32.9 percent), family violence (22.6 percent), and affordable childcare (20.5 percent). Although lack of affordable childcare is perceived as a major community problem by nearly a fifth of households, even more indicate they lacked knowledge about whether childcare costs are a problem. In general, households without young children are much more likely to respond “don’t know” to the childcare issue. Similar results can be seen for the affordable adult care issue. Households that have never sought care for an adult are more likely to respond with a “don’t know” answer.

Regional Differences

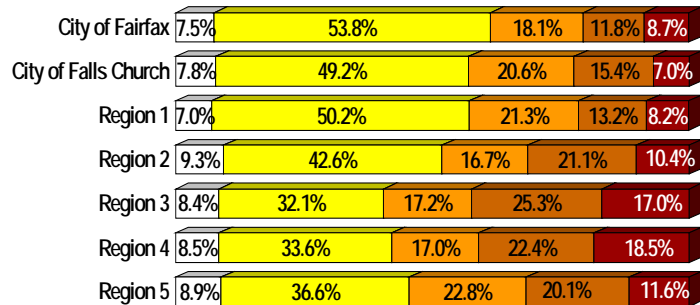
On most of the twenty community perception issues there are only minor differences by region or sub-area. The community perception issues with the most dramatic differences between sub-areas are discussed in this section.

The community perception question on lack of public transportation elicited strong differences by

geographic location. Over 40 percent of households located in Regions 3 and 4 (the western part of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area) think lack of public transportation is a moderate or major community problem. Approximately a third of households in Regions 2 and 5 perceive lack of public transportation as a moderate or major community problem. But less than a quarter of City of Fairfax, City of Falls Church, and Region 1 households think lack of public transportation is a moderate or major community problem and half feel it is not a problem.

Community Perceptions Public Transportation by Area

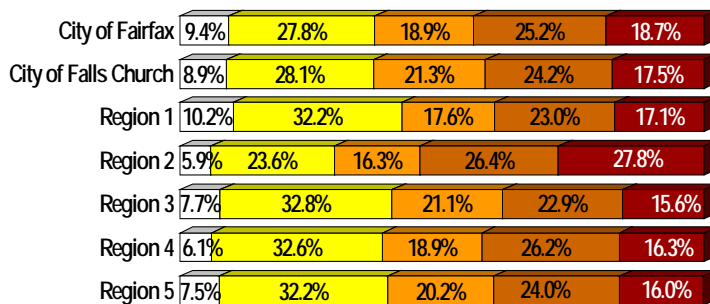
□ Don't Know □ Not a Problem □ Minor Problem □ Moderate Problem □ Major Problem



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Community Perceptions Poor English Skills by Area

□ Don't Know □ Not a Problem □ Minor Problem □ Moderate Problem □ Major Problem



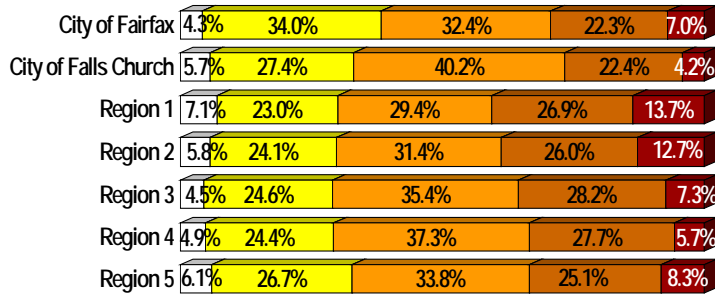
Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Regional variation in perceptions also occurs on the issue of poor English skills. Region 2 households are much more likely to perceive poor English skills as a major or moderate problem than households elsewhere in the area. Region 2 contains a much larger percent of households that speak a language other than English at home, nearly 40 percent. These

households are more likely than are English-speaking households to perceive lack of English skills as a local community problem.

Community Perceptions Crime by Area

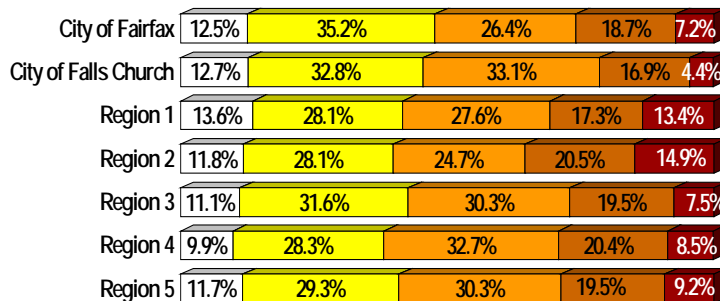
□ Don't Know □ Not a Problem □ Minor Problem □ Moderate Problem ■ Major Problem



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Community Perceptions Youth Violence by Area

□ Don't Know □ Not a Problem □ Minor Problem □ Moderate Problem ■ Major Problem



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

The 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment contained two perception questions regarding criminal activity – one on youth violence and the other on crime in general. Crime rates, especially violent crime rates¹, are low throughout the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. In Fairfax County, crime rates and violent crime rates have fallen over the past five years. The 2000 violent crime rate for Fairfax County is 91.73 offenses per 100,000 persons.² The national violent crime rate of 506.1 offenses per 100,000 persons³ is more than five times the County's rate. Despite the low crime rates enjoyed in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, more than a third of all households perceive crime to be a

moderate or major problem and 8.9 percent perceive crime as a major problem. By sub-area the results of the youth violence and crime questions are similar. Households in the City of Falls Church are the least likely to perceive crime or youth violence as major problems in their local community, while Human Services Regions 1 and 2 households are the most likely.

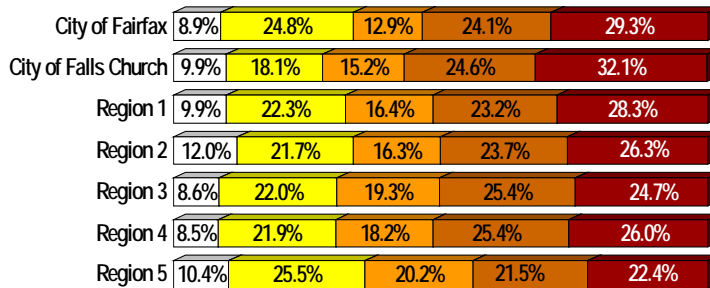
¹ Violent crimes are murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

² Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Population.

³ Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2000 Uniform Crime Reports.

Community Perceptions Lack of Affordable Housing by Area

□ Don't Know □ Not a Problem □ Minor Problem □ Moderate Problem ■ Major Problem



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

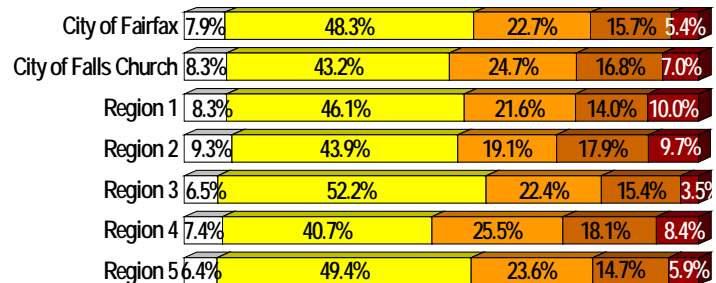
Lack of affordable housing is perceived as the most pressing problem of the twenty issues for each sub-area except Region 2, where it ranks second behind poor English skills. Area-wide, 25.7 percent of households perceive lack of affordable housing as a major problem. However, between the City of Falls Church and Human Services Region 5 there was nearly a 10

percentage point difference in the percentage of households that perceive lack of affordable housing as a major local problem. A third of the households in the City of Falls Church perceive that lack of affordable housing is a major problem while only 22.4 percent of households in Region 5 feel this way.

In general, Fairfax-Falls Church households feel their local communities have adequate recreational facilities and programs – more than 40 percent in each sub-area. Only one out ten or fewer households in each sub-area think lack of recreational facilities or programs is a major local community problem. However, households in Region 1, Region 2, Region 4 and the City of Falls Church are more than twice as likely as households in Region 3 to think lack of recreational facilities or programs are a major local community problem.

Community Perceptions Recreational Facilities or Programs by Area

□ Don't Know □ Not a Problem □ Minor Problem □ Moderate Problem ■ Major Problem



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

As with lack of recreational facilities or programs, poverty and homelessness are not considered major community problems by very many households. There are, however, differences by sub-area in how households responded to these questions.

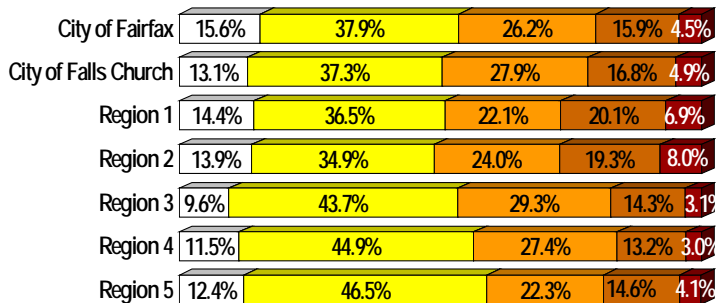
Households in Regions 1 and 2 are more than twice as likely as are households in Regions 3 and 4 to perceive poverty as a major local community problem. In addition, a larger percent of Regions 1 and 2 households perceive poverty as a moderate problem than do households elsewhere in the community.

In every sub-area of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, a larger percent of households responded that homelessness is not a problem than they did for poverty. Area-wide, 55.6 percent of households feel homelessness is not a local community problem. Whether residents see homeless

persons in public places probably influences how households respond to this question. City of Falls Church households along with those in Regions 1 and 2 are the most likely to perceive homelessness as a moderate or major local community problem. Households in Regions 3, 4, and 5 are the most likely to feel that homelessness is not a local community problem.

Community Perceptions Poverty by Area

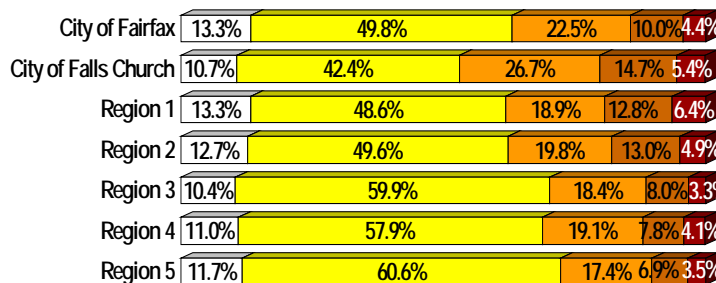
□ Don't Know ■ Not a Problem ■ Minor Problem ■ Moderate Problem ■ Major Problem



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Community Perceptions Homelessness by Area

□ Don't Know ■ Not a Problem ■ Minor Problem ■ Moderate Problem ■ Major Problem



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Poverty Status

Introduction

The term poverty is generally associated with a lack of money or material possessions, but there is a considerable amount of discussion among organizations and individuals about how the concept should be defined and measured. Currently, the federal government produces two official definitions or measures of poverty – poverty thresholds and poverty guidelines. Poverty thresholds form the basis for reporting statistical series on the number of persons and families in poverty. Poverty guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds and are used by health and human services programs to determine eligibility.

Mollie Orshansky, the originator of poverty thresholds, introduced poverty thresholds as a measure of income inadequacy.¹ These poverty thresholds were originally developed while she was employed by the Social Security Administration during the 1960's. The poverty thresholds were based on the cost of purchasing the cheapest of four food plans (the economy food plan) developed by the Department of Agriculture and the assumption that families spent approximately one third of their after-tax income on food. To obtain poverty thresholds the cost of the economy food plan was multiplied by three and adjusted for family size. To account for inflation over time, poverty thresholds are adjusted annually by changes to the consumer price index.

The U.S. Census Bureau uses the Social Security Administration's poverty thresholds with a slight modification to calculate poverty statistics. When calculating poverty status, the Census Bureau applies the thresholds to before-tax money rather than after-tax income. This modification reduces the income households have available to spend below that intended by the original creator of poverty thresholds.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services annually publishes poverty guidelines, a simplification of the poverty thresholds, in the *Federal Register*. The poverty guidelines and multiples of the guidelines (i.e., 125 percent of poverty or 200 percent of poverty) are used to determine eligibility for a number of social services programs. While the poverty guidelines do provide a common definition of "poverty" for program eligibility, they do not provide information about the level of income necessary for financial self-sufficiency in any given community. The current federal measures of poverty do not take into consideration the value of in-kind benefits such as food stamps, ignore significant differences in cost of living across geographic areas of the nation, and have not

¹ Fisher, Gordon M., Department of Health and Human Services, *The Development and History of the U.S. Poverty Thresholds – A Brief Overview*.

been revised for changes to the underlying relationships between costs of basic needs in four decades.²

Federal Poverty Guidelines by Household Size

	Number of Persons					
	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six
100% of poverty	\$8,590	\$11,610	\$14,630	\$17,650	\$20,670	\$23,690
200% of poverty	\$17,180	\$23,220	\$29,260	\$35,300	\$41,340	\$47,380

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, February 2001, based on 2000 income data.

The 200 percent of poverty guideline reflects annual income levels close to but still generally lower than those calculated by the Wider Opportunities for Women's self-sufficiency income analysis for Fairfax County. Wider Opportunities for Women estimated that a family of four would need to earn more than \$40,000 in 1998 to be self-sufficient in Fairfax County.³ Using 2000 income, 200 percent of poverty would be only \$35,300 for a family of four. A family of four is considered at or below poverty if their income is \$17,650 or less. For each additional person, the poverty guideline is adjusted upward by \$3,020. The 200 percent of poverty amount is adjusted upward by \$6,040 for each additional family member.

Using these guidelines, family and single-person households that responded to the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment were identified, based on size of the household, as being at or below 100 percent of poverty, above poverty to 200 percent of poverty, or above 200 percent of poverty. These poverty status calculations, however, do not take into consideration wealth or assets but are based solely on money income. Thus, it is possible to have a person or family at or below poverty that may hold considerable assets.

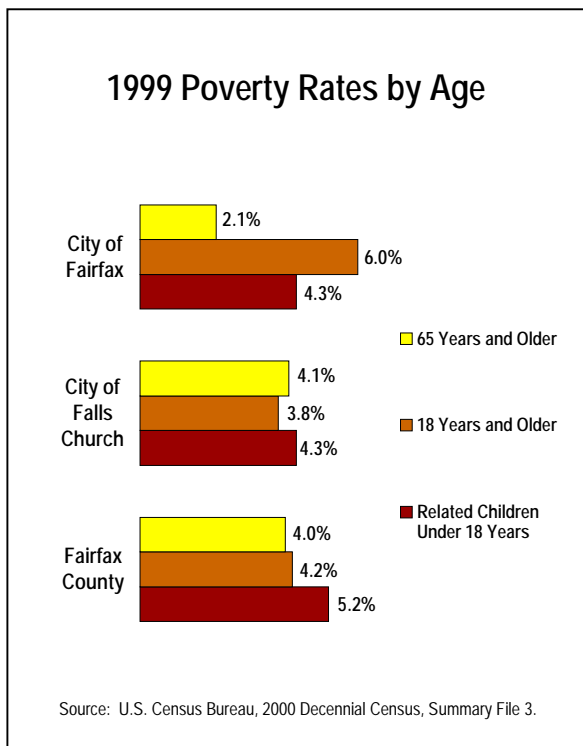
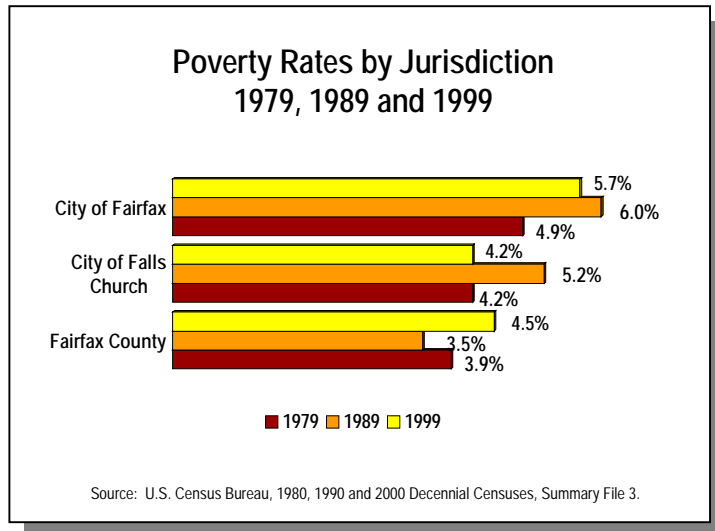
In this report, roommate or boarder households are not included in the household analyses for poverty status, because the poverty status of the individuals in these non-family households may be mixed among several poverty categories. Roommate or boarder households comprise 4.5 percent of the total households in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. Approximately 11 percent of persons who are at or below poverty and four percent of persons who are above poverty to 200 percent of poverty live in roommate or boarder households. These individuals living in roommate or boarder households are included in the person-level analyses on poverty status.

² Citro, Constance F. and Michael, Robert T., editors, Panel on Poverty and Family Assistance, National Research Council, *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach*, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C., 1995

³ Wider Opportunities for Women, *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area*, Fall 1999. Assumes at least one child 12 years or younger.

U.S. Decennial Census

In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, poverty rates have remained relatively constant, varying by approximately a percentage point over the past 20 years. Poverty rates in the City of Fairfax have been slightly higher than the rates in the other two jurisdictions since 1979. Between 1989 and 1999 poverty rates as measured by the Census Bureau decreased for the two cities but increased for Fairfax County. Due to population growth, the actual *number* of persons in poverty in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area has increased each decade despite fluctuating rates. In 1979 the U.S. Census Bureau counted 24,414 persons in poverty in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area and by 1989 that number had risen to 29,864. The number grew again to an estimated 45,033 persons in poverty in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area in 1999.⁴



Based on the 2000 Census, Fairfax-Falls Church Area children under age 18 years are more likely to live in poverty than adults 18 years or older. Area-wide, persons age 65 and older generally have lower poverty rates than other age groups. However, poverty rates for children (4.3 percent) in the City of Fairfax are lower than poverty rates for adults age 18 years or older (6.0 percent).

Among the three jurisdictions, the highest poverty rates for children occur in Fairfax County (5.2 percent). The poverty rates for children in the two cities are 4.3 percent. The City of Fairfax has the highest adult poverty rate of 6.0 percent compared to 4.2 percent in Fairfax County and 3.8

⁴ U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses, Summary File 3. U.S. Census poverty statistics are based on income earned in the prior year.

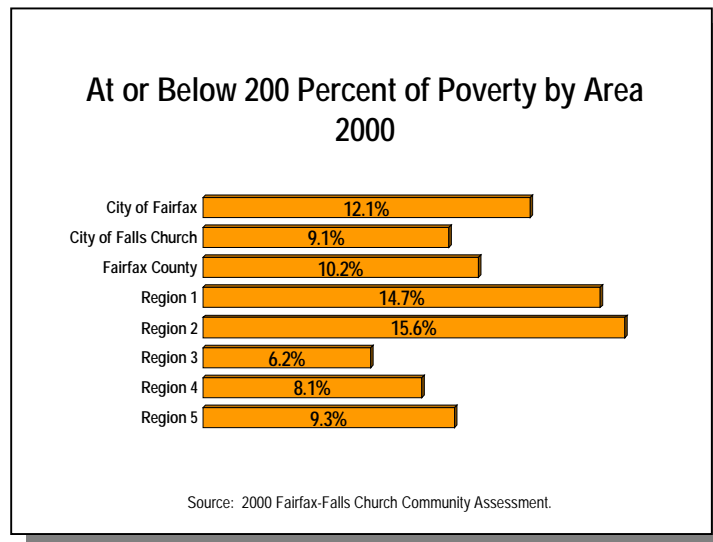
percent in the City of Falls Church. Except in the City of Falls Church, persons 65 years and older have lower poverty rates than the poverty rates for all adults. The poverty rates for persons age 65 years and older range from 2.1 percent in the City of Fairfax to 4.0 percent in Fairfax County and 4.1 percent in the City of Falls Church.

2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment

At the time this report went to publication, the U.S. Census Bureau had not released detailed profiles about persons or households in poverty – only a few summary statistics had been released. Most of the detailed profiles in this report rely on the results of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment, which has a lower estimate of poverty (3.2 percent) in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area than the 2000 Census (4.5 percent). Differences between the results of the 2000 Census and the 2000 Community Assessment can be attributed to sampling error, the time difference in when the surveys were conducted, and differences in populations sampled. Unlike the Census, the 2000 Community Assessment does not include group quarters population such as persons living in nursing homes, shelters, and other institutions or armed forces personnel and their families living on military bases.

Although self-sufficiency studies suggest that income above 200 percent of poverty is needed to live in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, over ten percent of the area's residents live in households that have incomes below this threshold. Based on the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment results, an additional 7.0 percent of household population (69,600 persons) are above poverty to 200

percent of poverty. Persons at or below 200 percent of poverty live everywhere in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area but the percentage of persons at or below 200 percent of poverty varies across sub-areas. In Human Services Regions 2 and 3 more than one out of every seven persons is at or below 200 percent of poverty. The City of Fairfax has the next highest rates, where nearly one out of every eight residents is at or below 200 percent of poverty. The higher rates in the City of Fairfax may partially be due to the large numbers of college students who reside in the City. Human Services Region 3 has the lowest percentage of residents at or below 200 percent of poverty, only 6.2 percent.



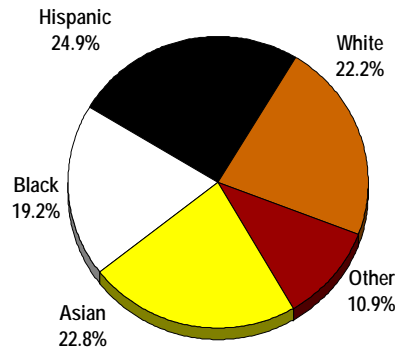
Population Characteristics

Racial/Ethnic Distribution

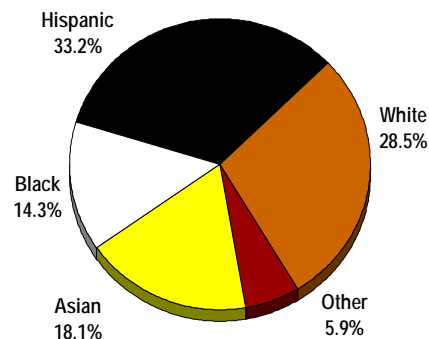
Racial and ethnic minorities living in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area are more likely to be at or below 200 percent of poverty. While the White population accounts for two thirds of the persons above 200 percent of poverty, it comprises only 22.2 percent of those at or below poverty and 28.5 percent of those at 101 to 200 percent of poverty. Hispanics who make up less than a tenth of the population above 200 percent of poverty account for a quarter of the population at or below poverty and a third of those at 101 to 200 percent of poverty. Blacks are 7.2 percent of the population above 200 percent of poverty but are nearly a fifth of those at or below poverty and are a seventh of those at 101 to 200 percent of poverty. While Asians comprise 12.4 percent of the population above 200 percent of poverty, they comprise 22.8 percent of the population at or below poverty and 18.1 percent of the population at 101 to 200 percent of poverty. Persons classified as being of other race or ethnicity include those of other races such as Native Americans, persons who did not designate a race, and

Racial/Ethnic Distribution

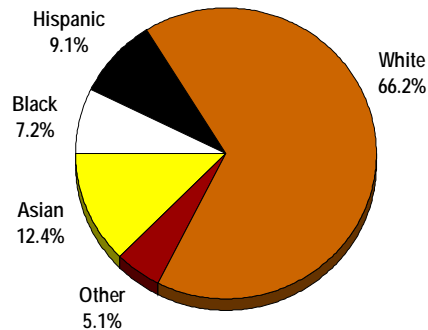
At or Below Poverty



101% to 200% of Poverty

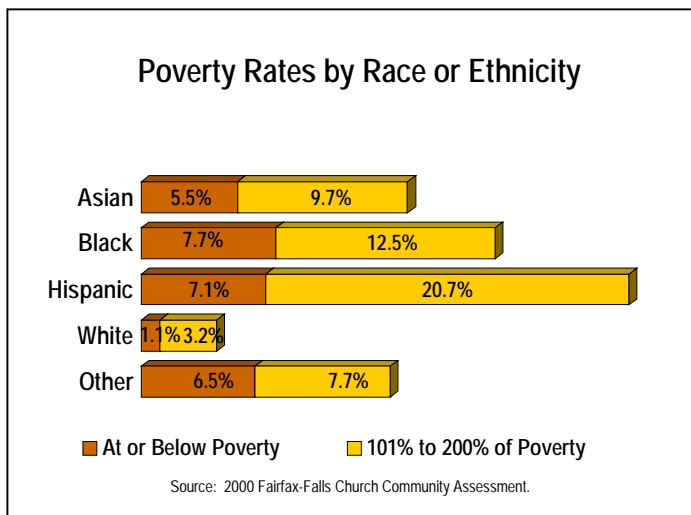


Above 200% of Poverty



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

persons who designated that they are multiracial. Among persons at or below poverty, there is twice the proportion of persons whose race is “Other” than among those above poverty.

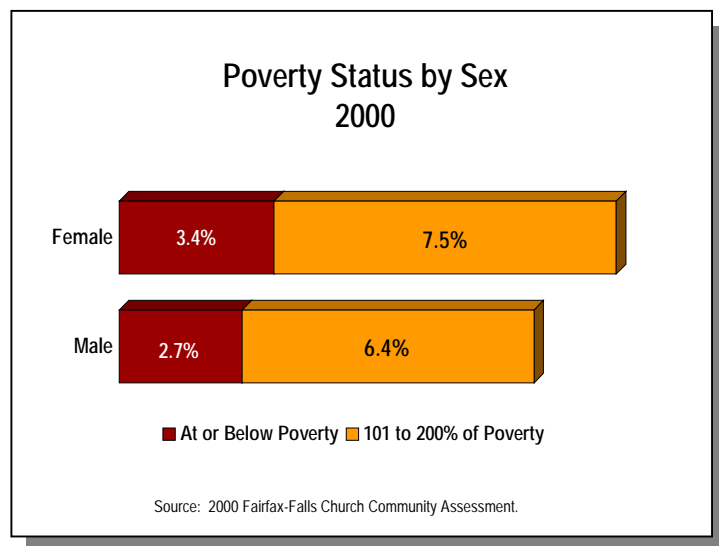


Looking at poverty rates by race or ethnicity, Blacks and Hispanics are the most likely to be at or below poverty, 7.7 percent of Blacks and 7.1 percent of Hispanics. However, a much larger proportion of Hispanics (20.7 percent) have incomes above poverty to 200 percent of poverty than Blacks (12.5 percent). Whites have the lowest poverty rates, 1.1 percent at or below poverty and 3.2 percent above poverty

but at or below 200 percent of poverty. Asians are 3.5 times more likely to be at or below 200 percent of poverty than Whites, 5.5 percent of Asians are at or below poverty and 9.7 percent have incomes above poverty to 200 percent of poverty.

Poverty Status by Sex

Women experience higher poverty rates than men. While 2.7 percent of Fairfax-Falls Church Area males are at or below poverty, 3.4 percent of females are at or below poverty. An additional 6.4 percent of males are above poverty to 200 percent of poverty and 7.5 percent of females.

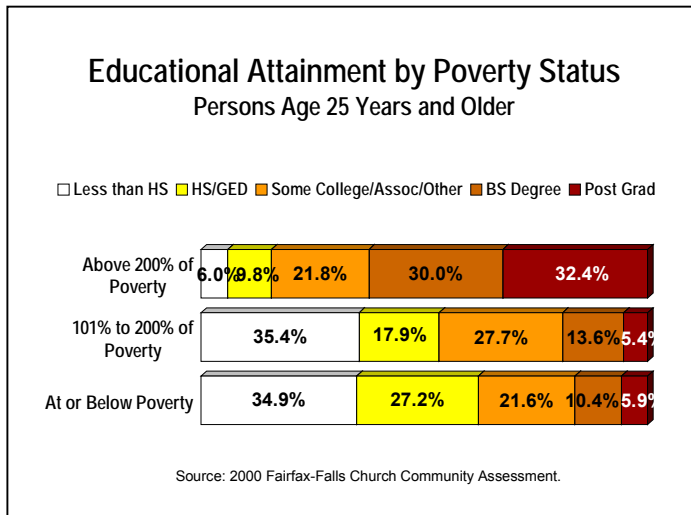


Because there are more females than males in the general population, the actual *number* of females at or below poverty is nearly 37 percent higher than the *number* of males at or below poverty. Of persons at or below poverty, 57.8 percent are females and only 42.2 percent are males. For those above poverty to 200 percent of poverty, 55.8 percent are females and 44.2 percent are males – the *number* of females exceeding males by over 25 percent. Among persons who are above 200 percent of poverty, 51.2

percent are females and 48.8 percent are males – the *number* of females exceeding males by less than 5 percent.

Educational Attainment

Higher levels of educational attainment provide wider employment opportunities and are associated with higher income levels. When looking at educational attainment by poverty status, adults 25 years and older who are above 200 percent of poverty are much more likely to have attained a college education than



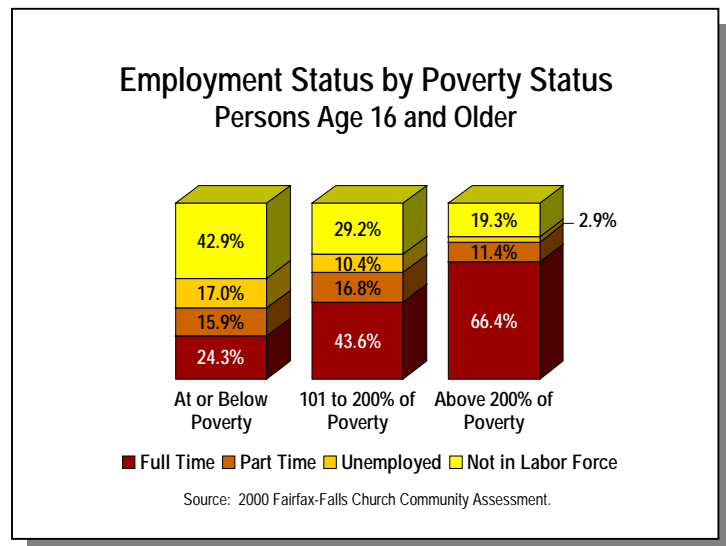
adults who are at or below 200 percent of poverty. Over four fifths of the adults age 25 and older who are above 200 percent of poverty have pursued education beyond high school, 62.4 percent have earned a four year college degree or more education, and 32.4 percent have pursued education beyond a four year college degree. Educational attainment profiles for adults at or below poverty and at 101 to 200 percent of poverty are similar.

Among both of these poverty status groups, over a third of the adults 25 years and older lack a high school diploma, fewer than a fifth have obtained a four year college degree or more education, and less than 6 percent have education beyond a four year college degree. A slight difference between these two groups occurs in the proportions that have pursued some education beyond high school. For those adults age 25 and older who are at 101 to 200 percent of poverty, a higher proportion (almost 47 percent) have pursued at least some education beyond high school than among adults at or below poverty (almost 38 percent).

Employment Characteristics

Employment characteristics are examined for persons age 16 years and older. Overall in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, 63.1 percent of residents age 16 years and older are working full-time and 11.8 percent are working part-time. Only 3.6 percent of residents report they are unemployed, seeking work; and 21.5 percent are unemployed, not seeking work. This latter group includes homemakers, retirees, students, and others who are not actively seeking work.

Although some persons, notably those who are retired, may have income that is not related to employment, the 2000 Community Assessment results are consistent with the notion that people work to increase their income. As income rises in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, the proportion of full time workers increases and the proportion of persons unemployed and seeking work decreases. High rates of persons unemployed but seeking work is an indicator of financial risk and job instability. Of persons 16 years or older who are above 200 percent of poverty, over three quarters are employed – 66.4 percent full time and 11.4 percent part time. Only 2.9 percent of this group are unemployed and seeking work. In contrast, among persons 16 years and older who are at or below poverty, less than a quarter are employed full time, 15.9 percent are employed part time, and 17.0 percent are unemployed and seeking work. The proportion of persons working full time increases to 43.6 percent while the proportion of persons unemployed and seeking work drops to 10.4 percent among those persons age 16 and older who are at 101 to 200 percent of poverty. Persons who are unemployed seeking work are nearly 6 times more likely to live at or below poverty than those who work full time and are twice as likely to be at or below poverty than those who work part time.

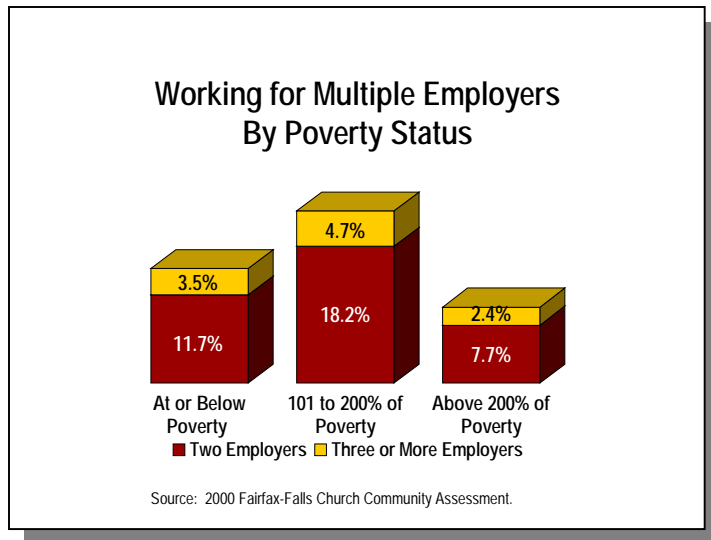


In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, nearly 90 percent of the employed persons age 16 and older had only one employer, while 7.9 percent had two employers and 2.6 percent had three or more employers. As discussed in the Overview Chapter, Fairfax-Falls Church Area households with multiple jobholders are three times more likely than other households to run out of money for basic needs such as rent or mortgage, utilities, food, and/or medicine. The breakdown by poverty status suggests that many people with more than one employer are working multiple jobs in order to make ends meet. A national study also supports this conclusion, finding that one out of every five persons working multiple jobs did so to meet regular household expenses or to pay off debt.⁵

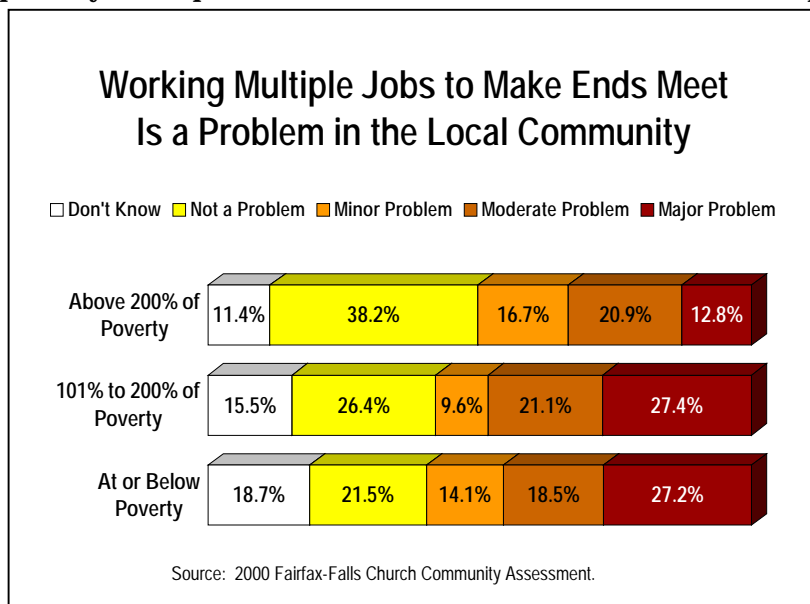
Fairfax-Falls Church Area workers below 200 percent of poverty are more likely to work for multiple employers than workers above 200 percent of poverty. Workers who are at 101 to 200 percent of poverty are the most likely to work for multiple employers in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area – 22.9 percent compared to 10.1 percent of those above 200 percent of poverty and 15.2 percent of those at or

⁵ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Monthly Labor Review*, October 2000.

below poverty. Perhaps the rate of working for multiple employers is higher in this group than in the at or below poverty group because as workers take on multiple jobs it tends to raise their income enough to move them out of the at or below poverty category. Those persons working multiple jobs tend to comprise a very financially fragile group.



Households in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area were asked if they thought working multiple jobs to make ends meet was a problem in their local community. There are significant differences between poverty status groups in how they perceive this issue. Households with income at or below 200 percent of poverty (over 27 percent) are twice as likely to perceive working multiple jobs as a major community problem as those households with incomes above 200 percent of poverty (12.8 percent). On the other end of the scale an opposite pattern is

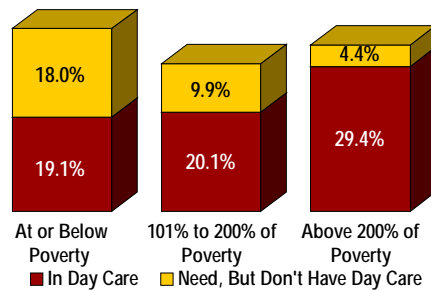


found. Nearly two out of every five households above 200 percent of poverty feel working multiple jobs to make ends meet is not a community problem, whereas 21.5 percent of households at or below poverty and 26.4 percent of households at 101 to 200 percent of poverty feel this way.

Child Day Care Needs

Children, age 12 years and younger, who live in very low-income households are more likely to need day care services but are less likely to get these services. Among children 12 years and younger at or below poverty, 37.1 percent need day care services but nearly half of these children (18.0 percent) are not receiving day care services. In families with incomes at 101 to 200 percent of poverty, 30.0 percent of the children 12 years and younger need day care services but 9.9 percent are not receiving these services – a third of those who need services. Among families with incomes exceeding 200 percent of poverty, a third of all children 12 years and younger need day care services but only 4.4 percent are not receiving these services.

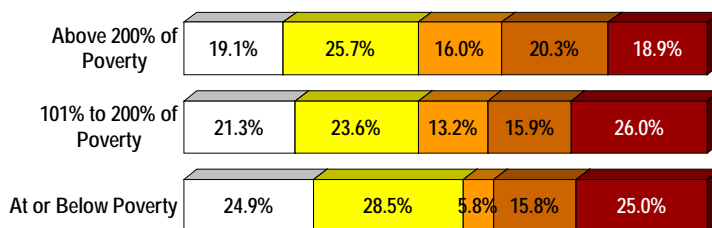
Child Day Care Needs By Poverty Status
Children Age 12 Years and Younger



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Lack of Affordable Day Care for Children Is a Problem in the Local Community

□ Don't Know □ Not a Problem □ Minor Problem □ Moderate Problem ■ Major Problem



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

It is likely that lack of affordable day care services is the primary reason for the large proportion of children who need but are not receiving day care services among families with incomes at or below 200 percent of poverty. The issue of affordable childcare was investigated as a community perception question. Over 38 percent of households at every

income level perceive the lack of affordable childcare as a moderate or major problem, making this issue one of the most prominent concerns among the community perception questions. Although the combined moderate/major problem percents were similar among the three poverty status categories, households with incomes at or below 200 percent of poverty were more likely to

respond that lack of affordable childcare is a major problem. More than a quarter of the households with incomes at or below 200 percent of poverty feel affordable childcare is a major problem, whereas less than a fifth of those with incomes over 200 percent of poverty answered this way.

Household Characteristics

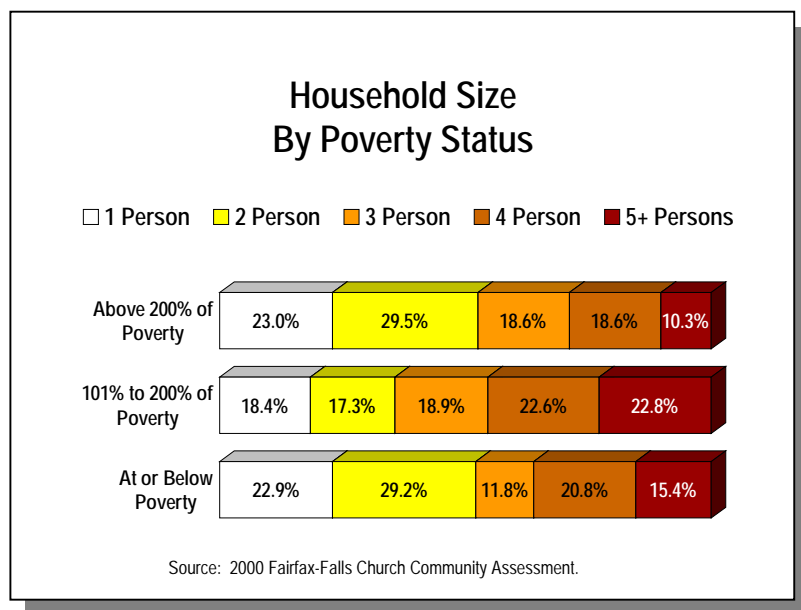
As noted in the introduction, poverty status is determined for one-person households and family households. Poverty status is not determined for non-family households of more than one person, such as roommate and boarder households, because individual members may have varying poverty statuses. Approximately 11 percent of persons who are at or below poverty live in roommate/boarder households and four percent of persons who are above poverty to 200 percent of poverty live in roommate/boarder households. For all income groups, a total of 16,500 Fairfax-Falls Church Area households (4.5 percent) are not included in the discussion of household characteristics by poverty status.

One-person and family households in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area are categorized by poverty status, with 8,700 households (2.5 percent) at or below poverty, 20,400 households (5.9 percent) above poverty to 200 percent of poverty, and 317,700 households (91.6 percent) above 200 percent of poverty. The poverty rates for households are lower than the rates for individuals because households with incomes at or below 200 percent of poverty tend to contain more members and are more likely to contain children than households above 200 percent of poverty.

Household Size

On average, households with incomes at or below poverty contain 3.04 persons and households with incomes of 101 to 200 percent of poverty contain 3.34 persons. In contrast, households with incomes above 200 percent of poverty contain on average only 2.72 persons. As might be expected, the household size distribution pattern

for households earning above 200 percent of poverty is very close to the pattern of distribution by size for all area households. For households with income at or below poverty, there is a smaller proportion with three persons and a larger



proportion with four or more persons than in the households with incomes above 200 percent of poverty. Households with earnings above poverty to 200 percent of poverty are less likely to have one or two persons and are more likely to have four and especially five or more persons. Households with five or more members are more than twice as likely to have incomes at or below 200 percent of poverty than are households with three or fewer members.

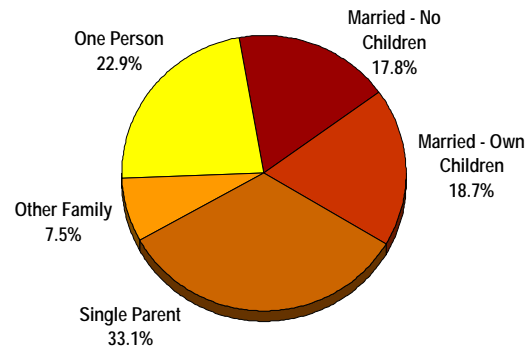
Household Structure

Household structure can provide insight into stress and support factors at work within the household. For example, family households share resources and provide emotional and financial support to each other although the presence of children increases expenses. Stress factors are often higher in single-parent families because income tends to be lower, particularly in those headed by females, and often there are not other adults to provide emotional support.

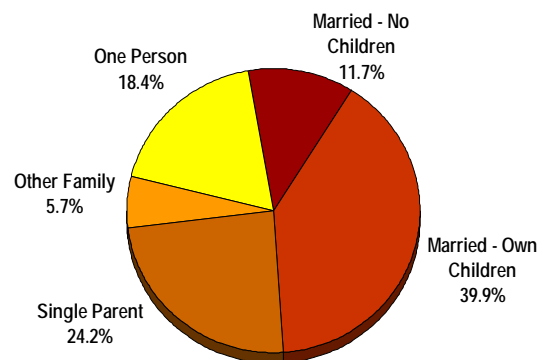
Single-parent families with children 18 years and younger are disproportionately represented among households at or below 200 percent of poverty. Only 5.1 percent of households with incomes above 200 percent of poverty are single-parent families. Single-parent families account for 33.1 percent of households with income at or below poverty and for 24.2 percent of households earning

Household Structure

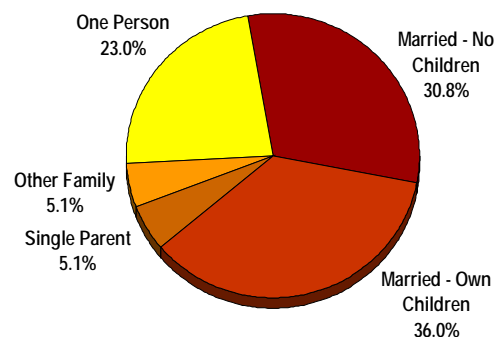
At or Below Poverty



101% to 200% of Poverty



Above 200% of Poverty



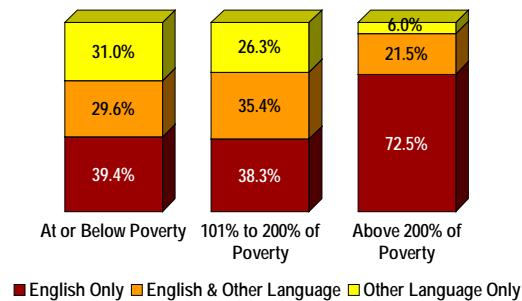
Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

between poverty and 200 percent of poverty. The percentage of childless married couples is lower among households at or below 200 percent of poverty than among households above 200 percent of poverty. Nearly a third of households above 200 percent of poverty are married couples without children, whereas only 17.8 percent of households at or below poverty and 11.7 percent of households at 101 to 200 percent of poverty are married couples without children. Low income impacts heavily on children – over 51 percent of households at or below poverty and 64 percent of households at 101 to 200 percent of poverty include parent(s) with their own children 18 years and younger. Only 41.1 percent of households earning over 200 percent of poverty are parent(s) living with their own children 18 years and younger.

Language Spoken at Home

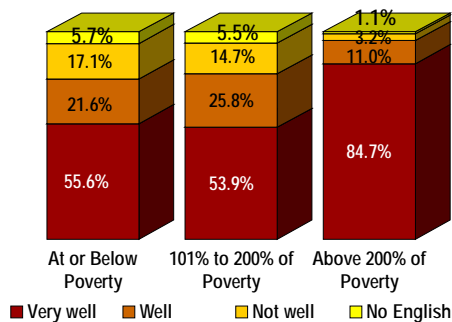
Households that speak languages other than English at home are more likely to have incomes at or below 200 percent of poverty. Over 60 percent of the households at or below 200 percent of poverty speak a language other than English at home and more than one quarter do not speak any English at home. These statistics are reversed among households with incomes above 200 percent of poverty. Among higher-income households, 72.5 percent speak only English at home and only 27.5 percent speak a language other than English at home. Furthermore, only 6.0 percent of higher-income households do not speak any English at home.

Language Spoken at Home
by Poverty Status



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

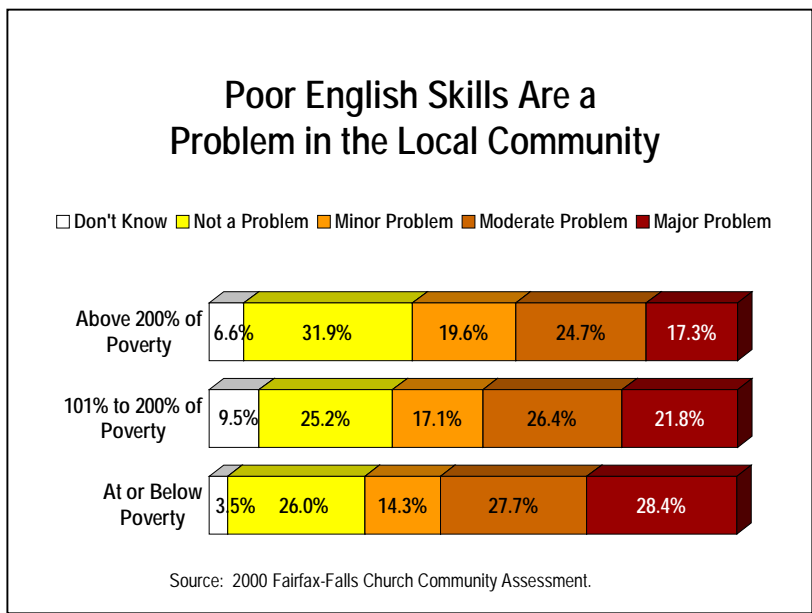
Spoken English Proficiency
Persons Age 5 and Older



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

The spoken English skills of the members of these households are important for financial self-sufficiency. Adults who lack good English language skills are more likely to be very low income. Without good spoken English skills, job opportunities and advancement are limited. More than a fifth of all persons age 5 or older who are at or below 200 percent of poverty speak English “not well” or “not at all.” In

contrast, only 4.3 percent of those who are above 200 percent of poverty speak English “not well” or “not at all.” Among persons age 5 and older who are above 200 percent of poverty 84.7 percent speak English very well whereas only slightly more than half of those at or below 200 percent of poverty speak English very well.

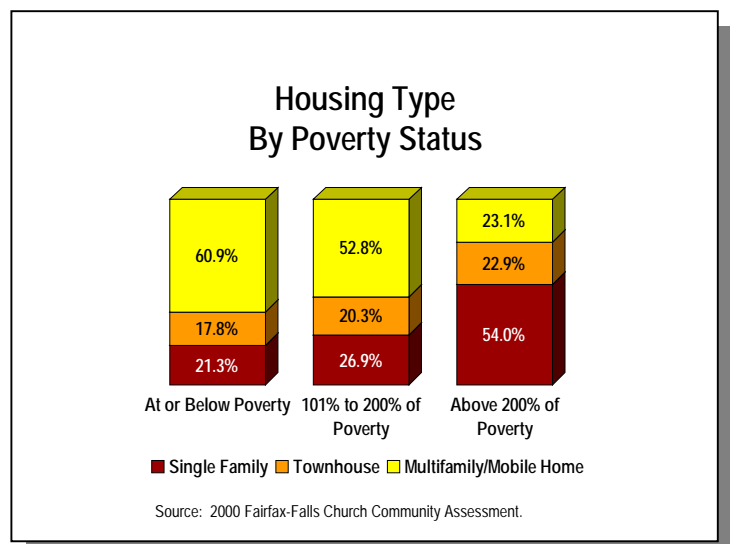


A community perception question was asked on the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asking households if they perceived that poor English skills (reading, writing, and speaking) were a problem in their local community. Lower-income households were more likely to feel that poor English skills are a major problem in their local

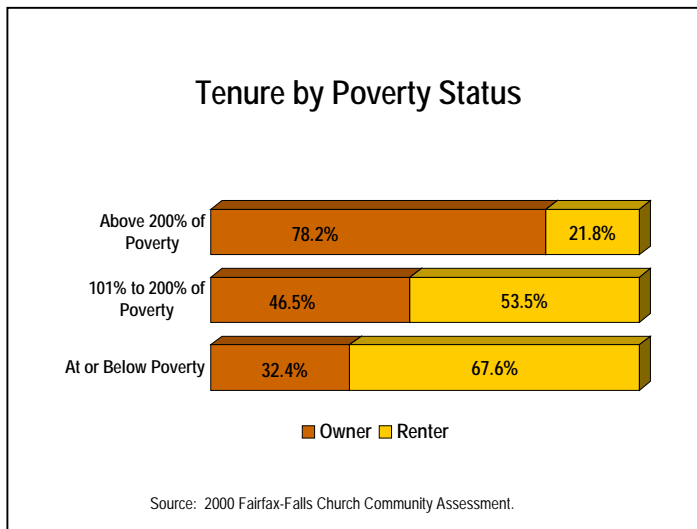
community than higher-income households. Among households with incomes at or below poverty, 28.4 percent perceive poor English skills as a major problem. More than a fifth of households earning 101 to 200 percent of poverty and 17.3 percent of households earning more than 200 percent of poverty feel poor English skills are a major community problem.

Housing Type and Tenure

While households with incomes at or below poverty or between poverty and 200 percent of poverty live in all types of housing, they are much more likely to live in multifamily dwellings and mobile homes than are households with incomes above 200 percent of poverty. Nearly 61 percent of households at or below poverty and almost 53 percent of those between poverty and 200 percent of poverty live in



multifamily dwellings or mobile homes, while only 23.1 percent of households earning above 200 percent of poverty live in multifamily dwellings or mobile homes. Conversely, 54 percent of the wealthier group live in single family dwellings, while just over 21 percent of households at or below poverty and less than 27 percent of households earning between poverty and 200 percent of poverty reside in single family structures.



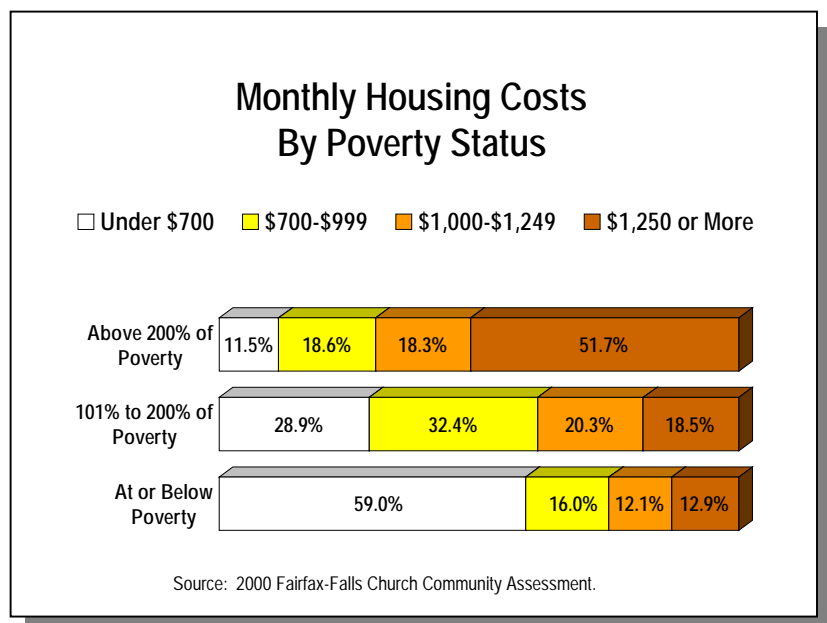
Housing tenure, which is the owner/renter status of households, reflects a similar pattern with homeownership rates rising with income. There is a nearly even distribution between renters (53.5 percent) and owners (46.5 percent) for households earning between poverty and 200 percent of poverty. Households at or below poverty are twice as likely to be renters (67.6 percent) as owners (32.4 percent), while

households above 200 percent of poverty are nearly four times as likely to be owners (78.2 percent) as they are to be renters (21.8 percent).

Economic Characteristics

Housing Costs

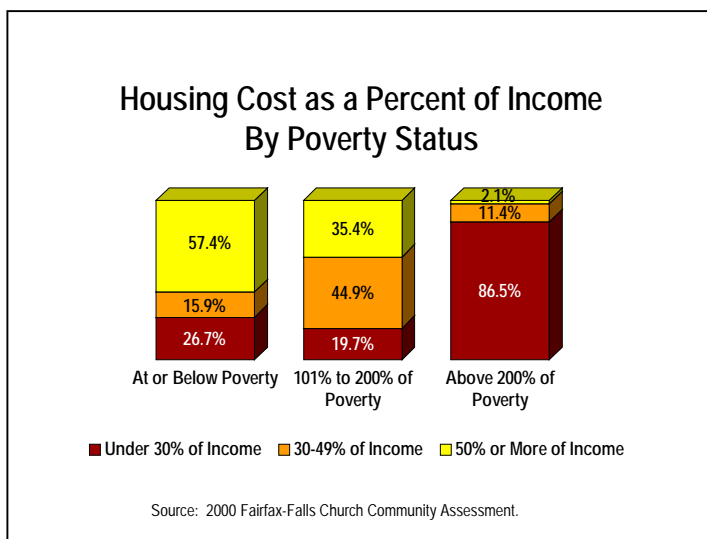
The data from the 2000 Community Assessment show that the amount a household spends on housing depends to a considerable extent on the amount of income available. Three-fifths (59.0 percent) of households with incomes at or below poverty spend under \$700 per month on housing costs; this group includes households that receive some form of housing subsidy. Another 16.0 percent



spend \$700 to \$999 per month on housing costs, while a quarter of households with incomes at or below poverty spend \$1,000 or more per month. Below poverty households spending \$1,000 or more per month on housing costs fall into many different categories – some are large families with five or more members, some are students or seniors drawing down on wealth, while others are households where a head has become unemployed. The majority of households (61.3 percent) earning between poverty and 200 percent of poverty pay less than \$1,000 per month for housing but almost two-fifths pay \$1,000 or more per month.

The pattern for households earning above 200 percent of poverty is virtually reversed when compared with those at poverty or below. Over half (51.7 percent) of these households pay \$1,250 or more per month for housing, while only 11.5 percent pay less than \$700 per month. An additional 18.6 percent pay \$700 to \$999 per month and 18.3 percent pay from \$1,000 to \$1,250 per month.

Housing affordability is typically defined as housing costs that do not exceed 30 percent of income. This standard is used in most federal housing subsidy programs and is a typical guideline for determining whether a prospective renter or mortgage borrower has income sufficient to “afford” monthly rent or mortgage payments. Housing costs in excess of 50 percent of income are considered a severe cost burden. Data from the 2000 Community Assessment were analyzed in percentiles of income paid for housing costs, using the reported income and rent or mortgage figures.



The impact of poverty on this picture is striking. For households with incomes at or below poverty, 57.4 percent (5,000 households) pay 50 percent or more of income for housing, and 35.4 percent or an estimated 7,200 households with incomes at 101 to 200 percent of poverty pay 50 percent or more of income for housing costs. These two groups account for more than two-thirds of all households with a severe

cost burden for housing. Less than a fifth (19.7 percent) of households earning above poverty to 200 percent of poverty pay less than 30 percent of income for housing costs, while nearly half (44.9 percent) pay between 30 and 49 percent of income for housing. In contrast, only 2.1 percent of households earning above 200 percent of poverty have housing costs of 50 percent or more of income, while

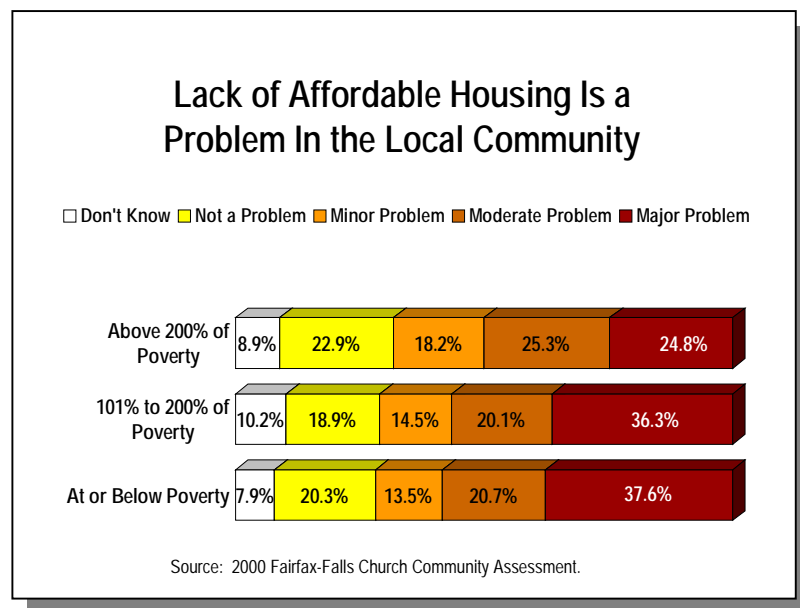
86.5 percent of these households pay under 30 percent of income for housing costs.

Some benefit of housing subsidies and/or below-market rental units appears to be evident for households with incomes at or below poverty. A larger proportion of the at or below poverty group (26.7 percent) pay less than 30 percent of income for housing costs than of the 101 to 200 percent of poverty group (19.7 percent). As noted above, however, the remaining poverty households (57.4 percent) have an extreme cost burden paying more than 50 percent of their incomes for housing costs.

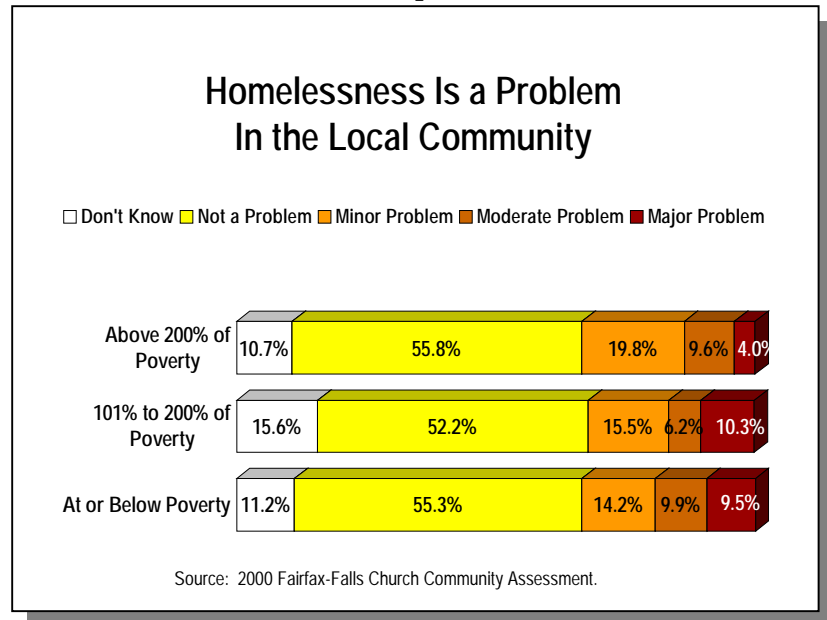
In addition to the economic information collected from each household about housing costs, two community perception questions about housing issues were asked. One question investigated whether lack of affordable housing is a community problem, while the second question investigated whether homelessness is a community problem. Very different results were obtained from these two questions.

Households of all income levels identified lack of affordable housing as the most prominent concern among all of the community perception questions – half of all households feel lack of affordable housing is a moderate or major community problem. However, lower-income households were much more likely to consider affordable housing as a major community

problem. Over 36 percent of households at or below 200 percent of poverty perceive lack of affordable housing as a major problem compared to less than a quarter of households with incomes above 200 percent of poverty. Households with incomes above 200 percent of poverty also were slightly more likely to view lack of affordable housing as “not a problem,” “a minor problem,” or “a moderate problem” than households with incomes at or below 200 percent of poverty.



Unlike the affordable housing issue, the majority of households regardless of poverty status did not perceive homelessness as a local community problem. However, a higher percent of low-income households perceive homelessness as a major community problem than higher-income households. While approximately one out of ten households with incomes at or below 200 percent of poverty perceive homelessness as a local community problem, less than one out of twenty households earning more than 200 percent of poverty feel this way.

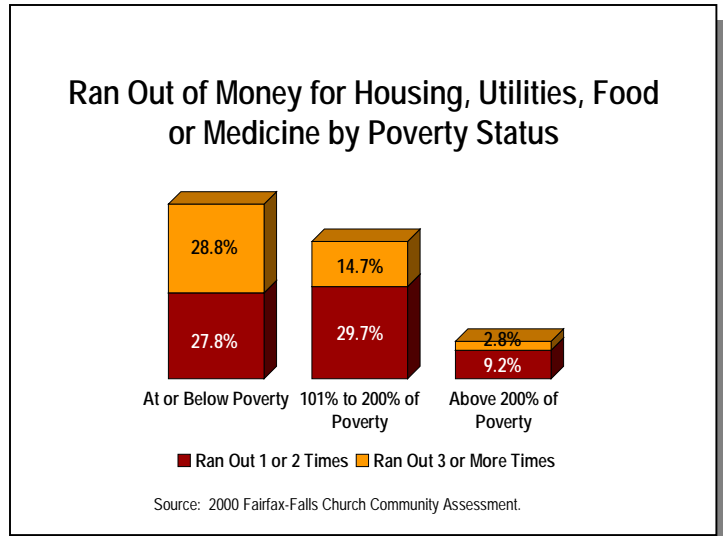


Meeting Basic Needs

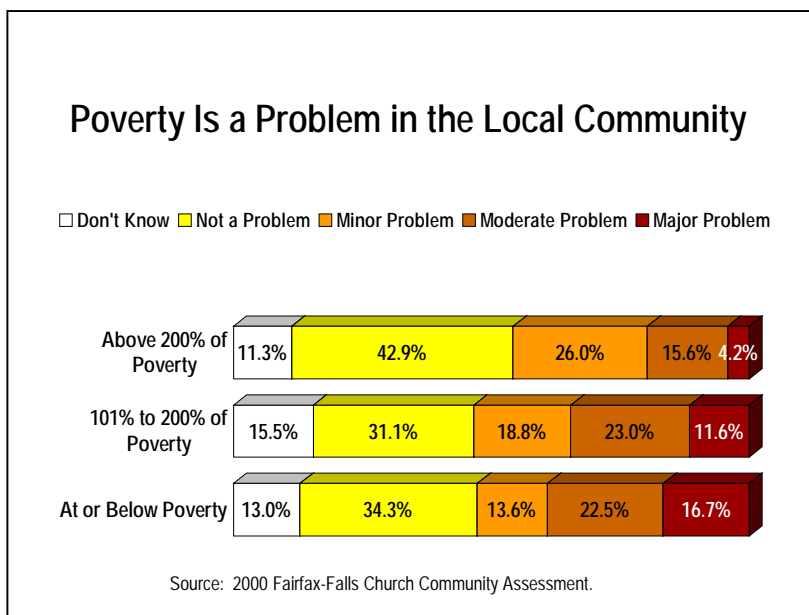
The 2000 Community Assessment asked whether households ran out of money during the last year for basic needs, specifically, for rent or mortgage, utilities, food or medicine. When households are unable to meet these basic living expenses, it is a strong indicator of financial stress – especially when a household runs out of money multiple times during a year. Oftentimes households that run out of money are financially overextended, have incurred an interruption of income, incurred unexpected expenses, and/or have difficulty managing their money. As discussed in the Overview Chapter, running out of money for basic needs is strongly correlated to the percentage of income spent on housing – as households spend a larger proportion of income on housing they become much more likely to run out of money. Area-wide, only 7.5 percent of households that spent less than 20 percent of income on housing costs ran out of money for basic needs. In contrast, nearly a third of those spending 30 to 49 percent of their income on housing and 40.5 percent of those spending 50 percent or more of income on housing ran out of money.

Lower-income households spend larger proportions of income on housing and are much more likely to run out of money for basic needs. Twelve percent of households earning above 200 percent of poverty report running out of money for housing, utilities, food or medicine at least one time in the past year. As discussed previously, nearly three-quarters of households with poverty level incomes spend 30 percent or more of their income on housing and 57.4 percent spend 50 percent or more of income on housing. Thus, it is not surprising that

56.6 percent of households with poverty level incomes report running out of money for basic needs and 28.8 percent of those households ran out three or more times in the last year. Although a larger proportion (80.3 percent) of households with incomes above poverty to 200 percent of poverty spend 30 percent or more of income on housing, a smaller proportion (35.4 percent) spends 50 percent or more of income on housing.



With slightly more income to spend, 44.4 percent of these households indicate that they ran out of money for basic needs one or more times and 14.7 percent of those households ran out of money three or more times in the past year.

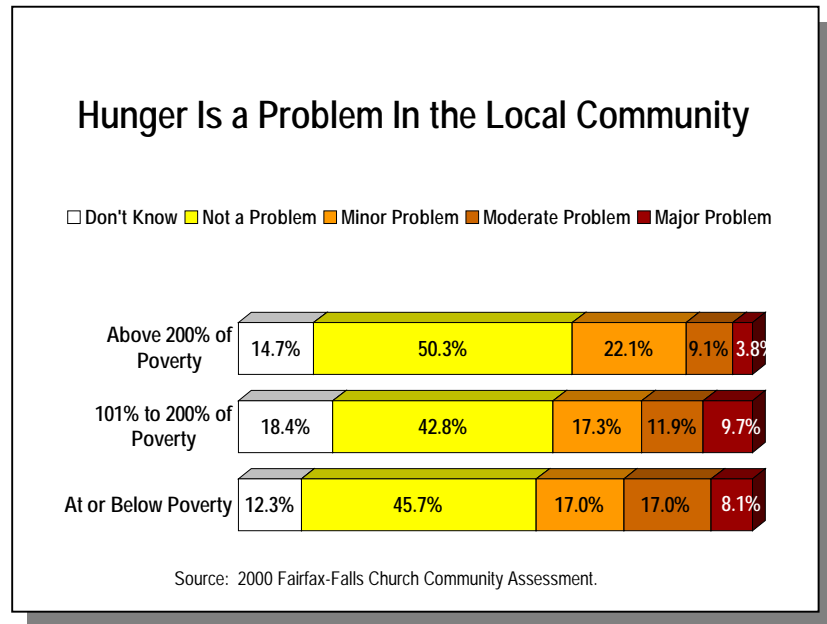


Among the community perception questions was one asking if poverty was a local community problem. Although poverty is not perceived as one of the more prominent community issues, those households living at or below 200 percent of poverty were more likely than higher-income households to perceive poverty as a

moderate or major community problem. Poverty-level households are four times more likely to perceive poverty as a major local community problem than households with incomes above 200 percent of poverty. One ninth of households with incomes above poverty to 200 percent of poverty perceive poverty as a major problem. In addition, more than 22 percent of households at or below 200 percent of poverty feel poverty is a moderate community problem, whereas 15.6 percent of households above 200 percent of poverty feel this way.

Hunger was another topic in the community perception questions. Approximately half of all area households responded that this issue was not a community problem. But as with poverty, lower-income households were more likely to perceive hunger as a moderate or major community problem. Only 12.9 percent of households with incomes above 200 percent of poverty

perceive hunger as a moderate or major problem. Among households with incomes at 101 to 200 percent of poverty, 21.6 percent perceive hunger as a moderate or major problem. For poverty level households, 25.1 percent feel hunger is a moderate or major problem.



Health Issues

Three questions on the Community Assessment related directly to health issues. These questions queried households as to whether members of the household have health insurance coverage; experience mental, emotional, or anxiety problems to the point of needing help; and have long-lasting disabling conditions. Additional information on health concerns is illustrated by the perceptions of respondents on certain issues in their communities, such as the affordability of health care and whether mental illness or emotional problems are community problems.

Health Insurance Coverage

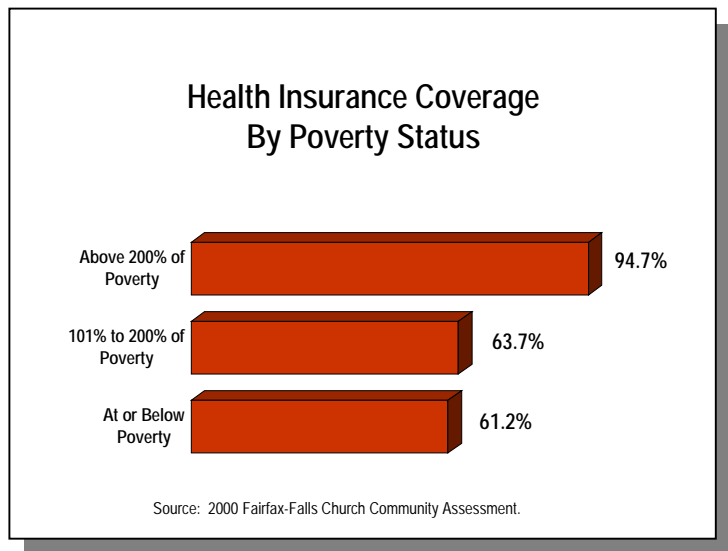
Health insurance coverage provides a direct link to access to health care. Persons without health insurance have less access to routine and preventive health care such as physicals and immunizations. In addition, persons without health insurance are less likely to have a regular provider who has access to long-term health records. Nationally, about three-quarters of persons with health insurance coverage obtain coverage through an employer sponsored program.⁶ Unfortunately health insurance is costly, especially if it is not obtained through an employer. Nationwide in 1999, the average annual cost of employment-based

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000 and 2001.

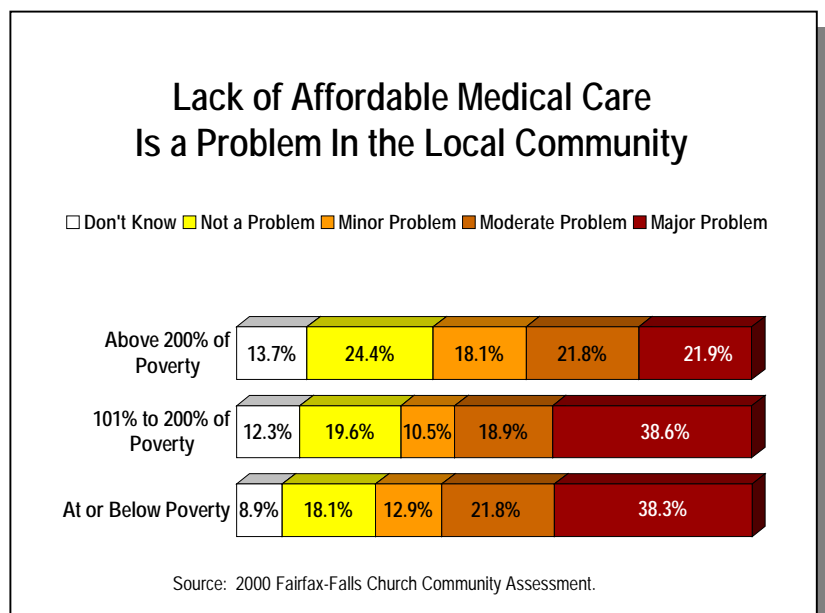
health insurance premiums was \$2,325 for single coverage and \$6,058 for family coverage. On average, employees contributed \$420 annually to pay single coverage premiums and \$1,438 annually to pay family coverage premiums.⁷

Due to the high cost of health insurance premiums, low-income persons have a more difficult time purchasing health insurance coverage than high-income persons. The percentage of persons at or below 200 percent of poverty who have health insurance coverage is considerably lower than for persons above 200 percent of poverty. Slightly more than 60 percent of those living at or below 200 percent of poverty have health insurance while nearly 95

percent of persons living above 200 percent of poverty have health insurance. Because there are nearly nine times as many people above 200 percent of poverty as at or below 200 percent of poverty, the majority of persons without health insurance (56.1 percent) are above 200 percent of poverty.



As with many of the other community perception questions, households with incomes at or below poverty and households with incomes at 101 to 200 percent of poverty answered similarly as to whether affordable medical care was a local community problem. Lower-income households were much more likely to perceive affordable medical care as a local community problem. Nearly twice

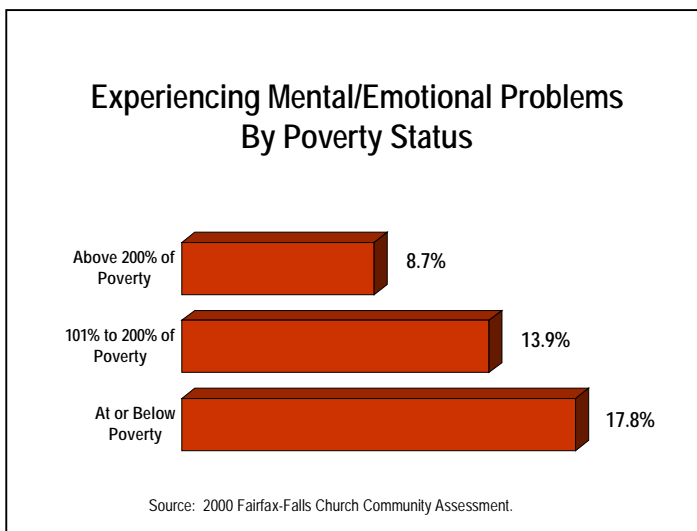


⁷ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, State Health Facts Online, <http://www.statehealthfacts.kff.org/cgi-bin/healthfacts.cgi?>

the proportion of households at or below 200 percent of poverty perceive affordable health care as a major problem than do households earning above 200 percent of poverty.

Mental Health

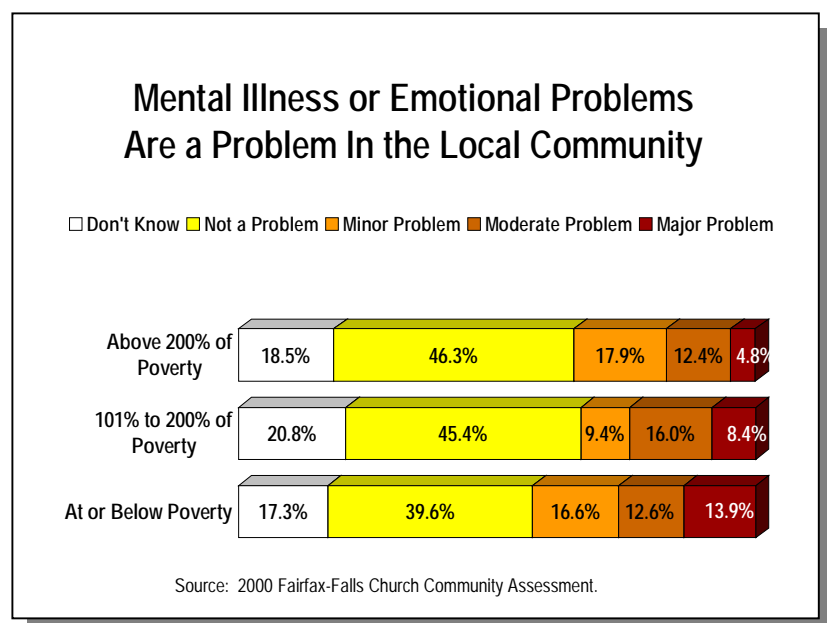
The 2000 Community Assessment asked two mental health questions – whether any household members experience mental, emotional, and anxiety problems to the point of needing help and whether mental health concerns are perceived as a problem in the community. The results of both questions vary by poverty status.



When a member of a household has a mental health problem it affects all members of the household. The effects of mental health problems include not only emotional effects but also productivity and economic effects. Persons living at or below poverty are twice as likely to report that they experience mental health problems as persons living above 200 percent of poverty. Persons living above poverty

to 200 percent of poverty fall in between the other two poverty status groups with 13.9 percent reporting mental, emotional, or anxiety problems to the point of needing help.

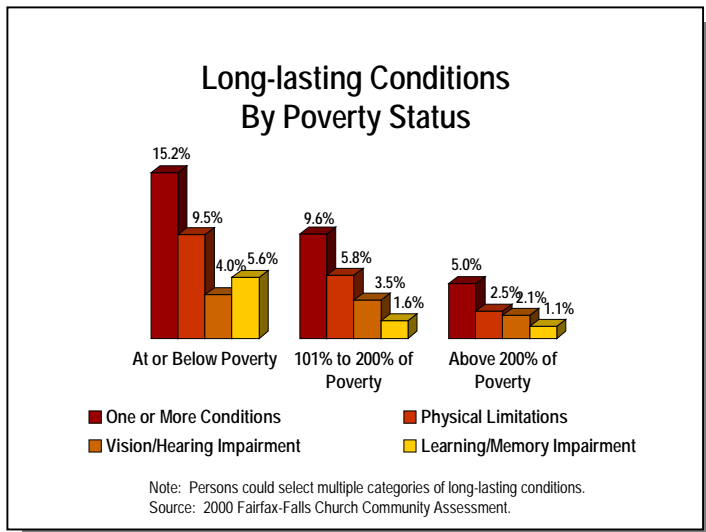
The perception of mental health as a community issue also reveals variation between the poverty status groups. Nearly 14 percent of households with incomes at or below poverty, 8.4 percent of households with incomes at 101 to 200 percent of poverty, and less than five percent of households with incomes above 200 percent of poverty perceive mental illness



as a major problem in the local community. On the other end of the scale, a large proportion of households at every income level perceives that mental illness is not a community problem. Nearly 40 percent of households at or below poverty, 45.4 percent of households at 101 to 200 percent of poverty, and 46.3 percent of households above 200 percent of poverty responded that this issue was not a community problem.

Long-Lasting Conditions

Long-lasting conditions include substantial physical limitations, severe vision



and/or hearing impairments, and severe learning and/or memory problems. Although persons living in lower-income households were less likely to have health insurance, they were more likely to report one or more long-lasting conditions. Overall, 15.2 percent of persons at or below poverty reported one or more long-lasting conditions, while 9.6 percent of persons at 101 to 200 percent of poverty and 5.0 percent of persons above

200 percent of poverty reported long-lasting conditions.

Substantial physical limitations account for the preponderance of the conditions reported by persons who live in lower-income households. Physical limitations affect 9.5 percent of persons at or below poverty and 5.8 percent of those above poverty to 200 percent of poverty. In contrast, only 2.5 percent of persons above 200 percent of poverty report substantial physical limitations. Although the percentages are small, it is notable that severe learning and/or memory problems affected 5.6 percent of persons at or below poverty, but only 1.6 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively, of the two higher poverty status groups. Among all poverty status groups less than 4 percent of persons report severe vision and/or hearing impairments.

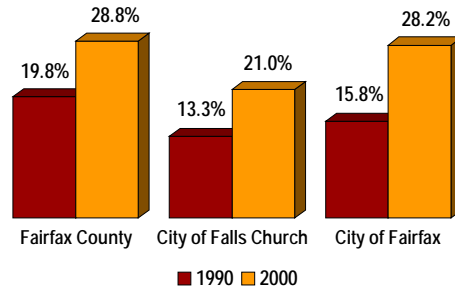
Language Spoken at Home

Household Characteristics

During the past decade, the Fairfax-Falls Church Area has experienced a rapid increase in the number of households speaking a language other than English at home. The 1990 Decennial Census revealed that 59,683 households (19.6 percent) spoke a language other than English at home. From the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment, an estimated 104,400 households (28.7 percent) speak a language other than English at home, an increase of 44,700 households.

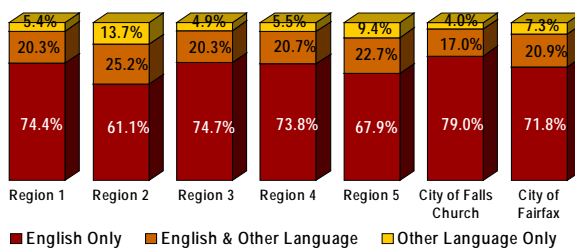
Among the three jurisdictions, the City of Fairfax has had the sharpest increase in the percentage of households speaking a language other than English at home rising from 15.8 percent of households in 1990 to 28.2 percent in 2000. Fairfax County has the largest percent (28.8 percent) of households speaking a language other than English at home in 2000, and the City of Falls Church has the smallest percent (21.0 percent). Within Fairfax County, Human Services Region 2 and Region 5 have the highest percents of households speaking a language other than English at home, 38.9 percent and 32.1 percent respectively.

Households Speaking a Language Other Than English at Home, 1990 and 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Decennial Census, Summary File 3 and 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Extent to Which English is Spoken at Home by Area

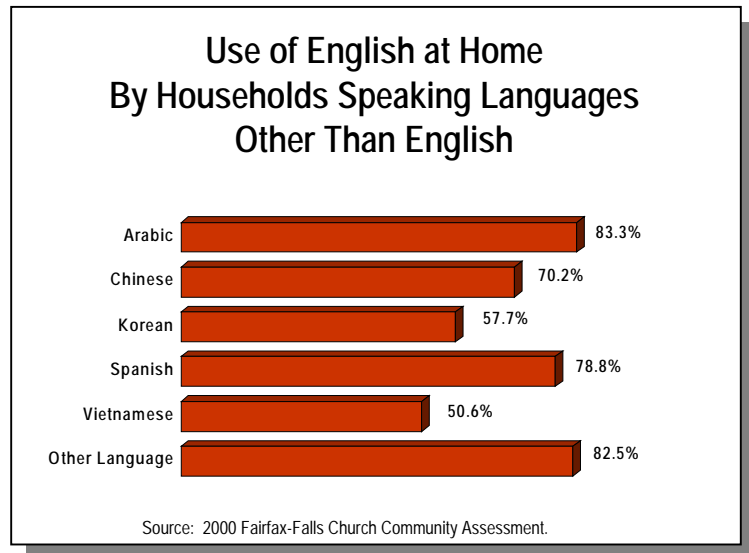


Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Three quarters of the households that speak a language other than English at home also speak some English in their homes. Households located in Human Services Region 2 are the most likely not to use English at home, with 13.7 percent of all households not speaking any English at home. Nearly one out of ten households in Human Services Region 5 and 7.3

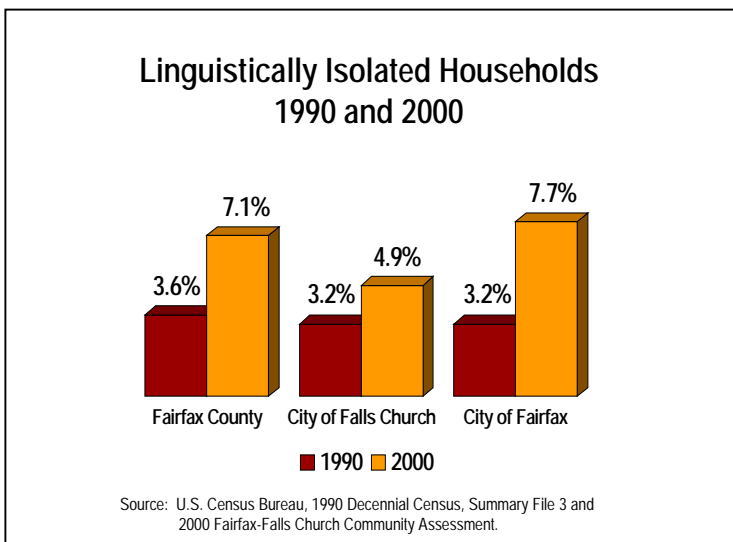
percent of the households in the City of Fairfax do not speak any English at home. In Human Services Regions 1, 3, and 4 and the City of Falls Church, 4.0 to 5.5 percent of households do not speak any English at home.

The most prevalent language other than English spoken at home is Spanish (11.4 percent of households), followed by Vietnamese (2.3 percent), Korean (2.0 percent), Arabic (1.7 percent), and Chinese (1.7 percent). More than three-quarters of the Spanish-speaking households indicated that they use a mixture of Spanish and English at home. Only slightly more than half of the Vietnamese-speaking households use a mixture of English and Vietnamese at home, and 57.7 percent of the Korean-speaking households use a mixture of English and Korean.



Linguistic Isolation

Households that speak a language other than English at home often have members who speak English. By coupling language spoken at home with the ability of the household members to speak English, a measure of linguistic



isolation can be determined. The U.S. Bureau of the Census considers a household linguistically isolated if a language other than English is spoken at home and none of the household members, age 14 or older, speak English “very well.” A linguistically isolated household is more likely to experience stress associated with being unable to effectively communicate with others

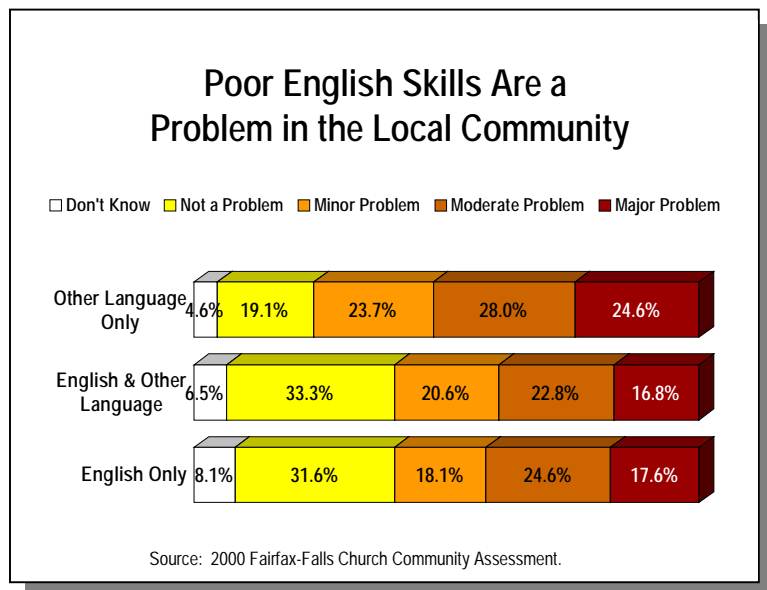
in the community, the household’s children may have difficulty in school, and the household’s adults may have more difficulty obtaining good jobs. In 1990, the

U.S. Bureau of the Census estimated that 3.6 percent of the households in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area were linguistically isolated. The rate of linguistic isolation across the three jurisdictions comprising the Fairfax-Falls Church Area was relatively constant. By 2000 the percentage of linguistically isolated households had grown to 7.1 percent in the total area. The City of Fairfax had the largest percent of linguistically isolated households at 7.7 percent. Fairfax County's rate was 7.1 percent, and the City of Falls Church had the lowest rate at 4.9 percent.

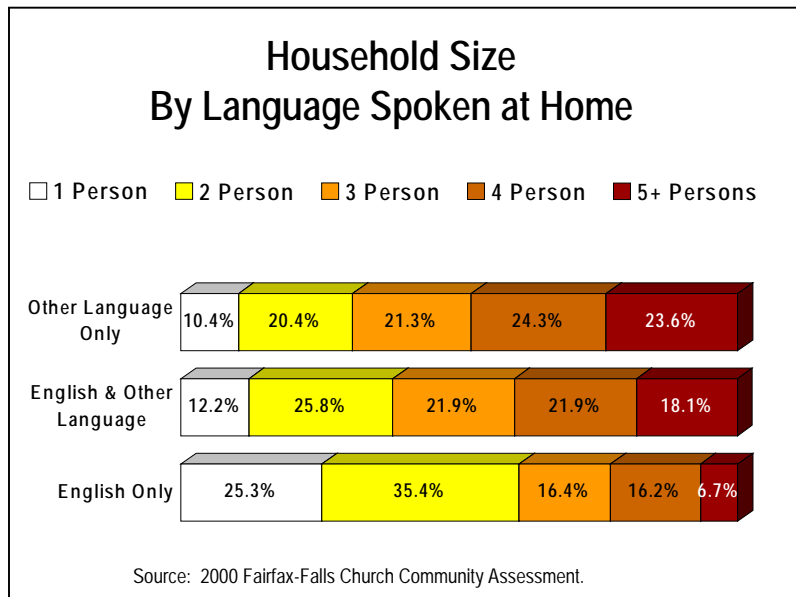
More than half of the households (54.2 percent) that only speak a language other than English at home, and 15.0 percent of those households that use a mixture of English and another language at home are linguistically isolated. Linguistically isolated households are more likely to contain children, are more likely to be low income, and are nearly twice as likely to run out of money for basic needs such as housing, utilities, food, or medicine.

In addition to asking factual information about each household and its members, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment also asked households their perceptions about 20 issues in their local community and if these issues were problems. One of the issues was poor English reading, writing, and speaking skills. Households that speak only another language at home are more likely to perceive poor English

communication skills as a major or moderate problem in their community than households that speak at least some English at home. Almost a quarter of households that do not use English at home identified poor English skills as a major problem, and an additional 28.0 percent identified poor English skills as a moderate problem in their local community. For households that only speak English at home, 17.6 percent think poor English skills are a major problem in their local community and 24.6 percent think it is a moderate problem. Households that speak a combination of English and another language at home responded similarly to those households that speak only English at home.



Household Size and Structure



Households that speak a language other than English at home tend to have more members than those that speak only English at home. Some of the difference in household sizes between these groups can be attributed to different age characteristics. English-only households have a larger proportion of older household heads whose children

may now be grown. On average, households that speak only English have 2.49 members, households that speak a mixture of English and another language have 3.24 members, and households that do not speak any English at home have 3.58 members. The majority of households (60.7 percent) that speak only English at home are one- or two-person households. This compares with those households that use a mixture of English and another language where only 38.0 percent are one-or two-person households. Among those households that do not speak any English at home, less than a third are one-or-two person households.

Household structure is a factor that influences wellbeing. On the positive, family households – two or more persons living together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption – provide each other support and share resources. On the other hand, the presence of children in a household increases the household's expenses; and single-parent family households are often associated with lower economic status, especially those headed by female parents. Nationwide, 68.1 percent of all households are family households.¹ Generally, households in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area are more likely to be family households (73.7 percent), and households that speak a language other than English at home are even more likely to be family households (84.7 percent).

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census, Summary File 1.

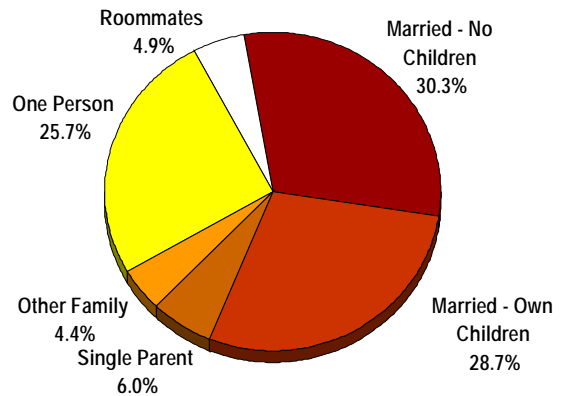
Fairfax-Falls Church Area households are more likely to contain children (39.9 percent) and be headed by a married couple (62.4 percent) than are households nationwide. National estimates show that 36.0 percent of all households contain children and married couples head 51.7 percent of all households.² Fairfax-Falls Church Area households that speak a language other than English at home are more likely to contain children under 18 years old than those that only speak English at home. The majority of households that do not speak English at home or that speak a mixture of English and another language at home contain children, 54.6 percent and 52.1 percent respectively. In contrast, only slightly more than a third of the households that speak only English at home contain children. In addition, Fairfax-Falls Church Area households that speak languages other than English at home are more likely to be married-couple households. More than 70 percent of those households that speak a language other than English at home are married-couple households, whereas 59.0 percent of those households that speak only English at home are married-couple households.

One-person households or households containing two or more unrelated persons are considered non-family households. Almost a third of the households (30.6 percent) that speak only English at home are non-family households. In sharp contrast, only 16.5 percent of those households that speak a mixture of English and another language are

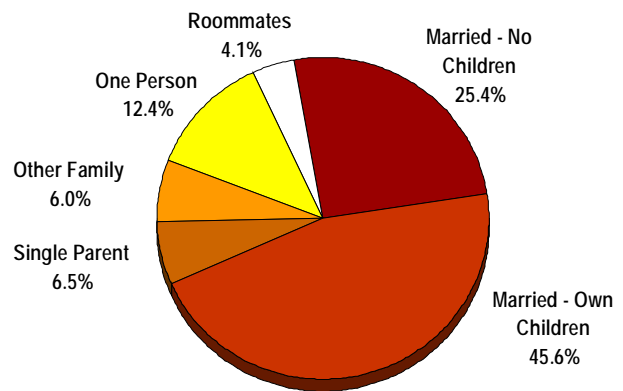
² *Ibid.*

Household Structure

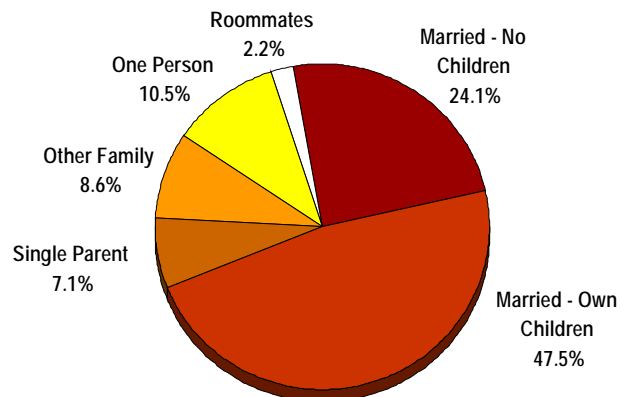
English Only



English and Other Language



Other Language Only



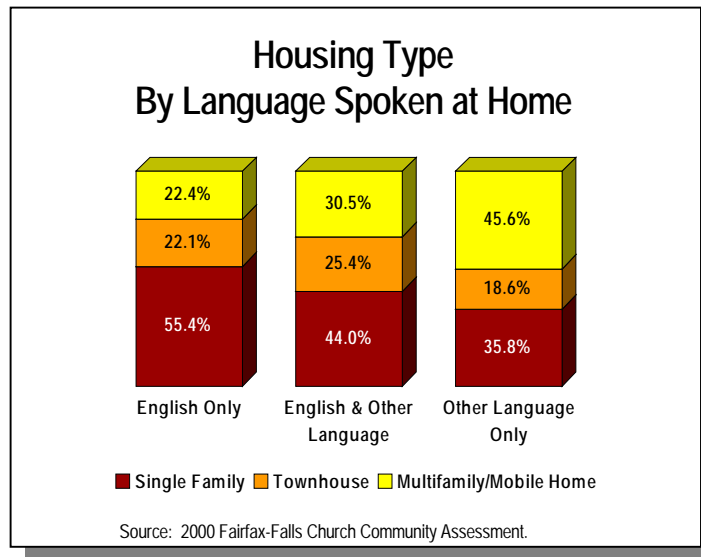
Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

non-family households, and only 12.7 percent of those households that do not speak English at home are non-family households. Age is a factor in these statistics. One-person households are often young adults or seniors. The English-only speaking population has a greater proportion of seniors than the other two groups.

Housing Type and Homeownership

Single-family detached homes comprise just over half of all dwelling units in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, and townhouses (townhouses, duplexes, and multiplexes) represent just under a quarter of all dwelling units. The remaining quarter of dwelling units are comprised primarily of multifamily condominiums and apartments along with a very small number of mobile homes. In general, single-family homes are the most expensive housing and multifamily and mobile home dwellings the most affordable.

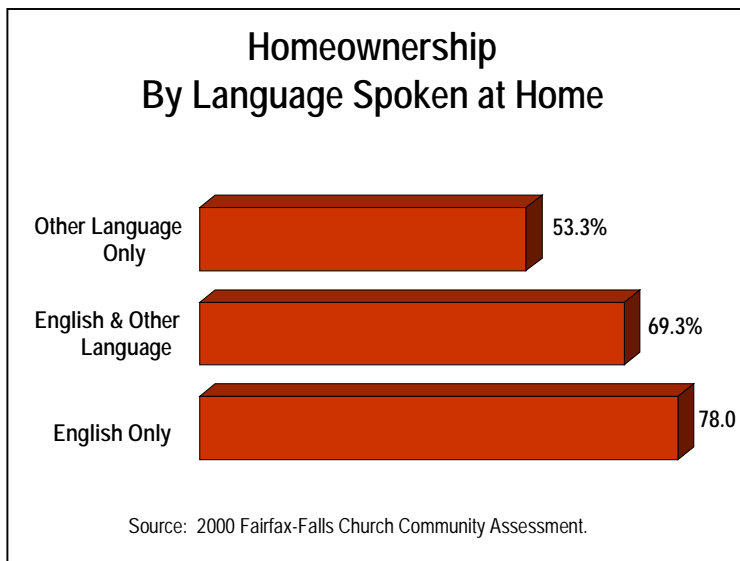
Fairfax-Falls Church Area households that speak a language other than English at home are more likely to live in multifamily dwellings and be renters. The majority of households (55.4 percent) that speak only English at home live in single family homes, 22.1 percent live in townhouses, and 22.4 percent live in multifamily dwellings and mobile homes.



Among households that speak a mixture of English and another language at home, 44.0 percent live in single-family homes, a quarter live in townhouses, and 30.5 percent live in multifamily dwellings and mobile homes. Slightly more than a third of households that do not speak English at home live in single-family homes, 18.6 percent live in townhouses, and 45.6 percent live in multifamily dwellings and mobile homes.

Homeownership is often considered an indicator of financial wellbeing and a measure of neighborhood commitment. Overall, homeownership rates in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area are higher than those nationwide. Nationwide 67.4 percent³ of households are owner-occupied whereas in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area 74.4 percent are owner-occupied. Much of the difference between national

³ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey/Housing Vacancy Survey, 2000 Annual Statistics.



homeownership rates and those of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area can be explained by higher homeownership rates locally among single parent families and one-person households. Stratifying by language spoken at home, the highest homeownership rates are associated with households that speak only English at home (78.0 percent are homeowners). Slightly

more than half (53.3 percent) of the households that do not speak English at home are homeowners, and 69.3 percent of those households that speak a mixture of English and another language are homeowners.

Population Characteristics

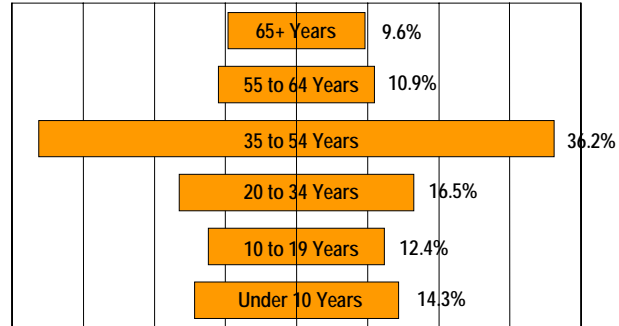
In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, the 1990 Decennial Census estimated that 147,675 persons age 5 years or older (18.7 percent) spoke a language other than English at home. The 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment provides estimates for household population which excludes those persons living on military bases or in group quarters such as nursing homes, dormitories, and correctional facilities. Based on household population, it is estimated that in 2000 the number of persons age 5 years or older who spoke a language other than English at home has more than doubled to 320,000 persons. This represents more than a third (34.8 percent) of all persons age 5 years or older in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. An additional 27,200 children under the age of 5 years live in homes where a language other than English is spoken at home. Of those persons who live in a home where a language other than English is spoken, more than a quarter (27.1 percent) live in homes where no English is spoken. These facts highlight the increased linguistic diversity of the areas included in the Community Assessment survey.

Age Distribution

Age is a factor that influences many aspects of community life. For example, seniors need a different menu of services than children; older teens and young adults are likely to participate in different recreational activities than older adults; and working-age adults are the most likely to contribute to traffic congestion. Persons who only speak English at home tend to be older as a group than those who speak another language at home. At each age cohort under 35 years, there is a smaller proportion of persons who speak only English at home than among those groups who speak another language at home. Of those who speak only English at home, 43.2 percent are under 35 years of age. Among those who speak English and another language at home, 54.2 percent are younger than 35 years; and among those who speak no English at home, 54.5 percent are younger than 35 years. At age 35 and above, each age cohort shows a larger percent for those persons who speak only English at home than the other language groups. These age distributions reflect that a substantial proportion of the immigration of young adults and children to this area are persons who do not speak English as their native language.

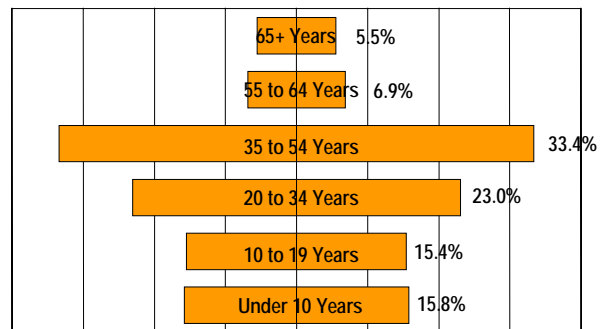
Age Distribution

English Only



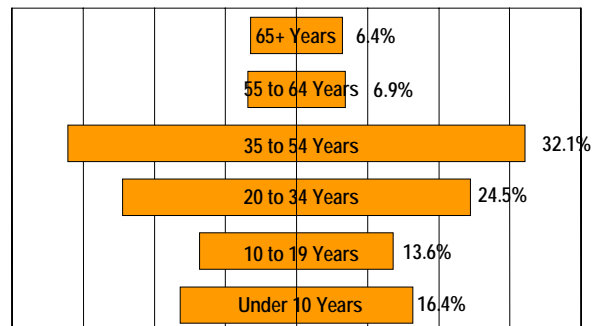
Each gridline equal 5 percentage points

English and Other Language



Each gridline equal 5 percentage points

Other Language Only



Each gridline equal 5 percentage points

Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

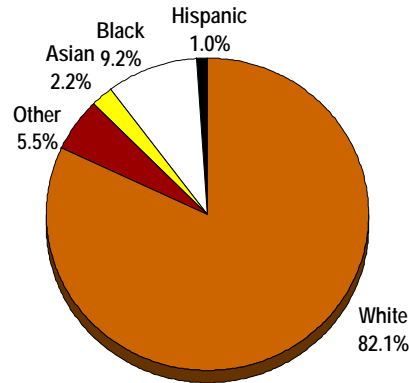
Race or Ethnicity

The Fairfax-Falls Church Area has become much more racially and ethnically diverse since 1980. In 1980 more than 86 percent of the population of this area was White not of Hispanic origin. By 1990, the White not of Hispanic origin population had decreased to under 78 percent of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area population. As of 2000, the White not of Hispanic origin population had fallen to under 65 percent of the area's total population.⁴ The change in the racial and ethnic composition of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area provides only partial clues to its changing diversity. The composition of each racial/ethnic category has become much more diverse over the past two decades as well. Some of this cultural diversity within racial/ethnic categories can be seen by the increasing language diversity within each racial/ethnic category.

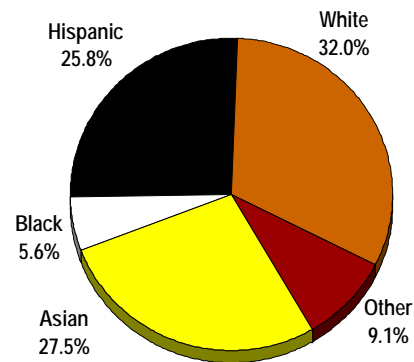
Persons who speak a language other than English at home are more likely to be Asian or Hispanic and are less likely to be White or Black. Of those persons who speak a language other than English at home, 32.3 percent are Asian, 28.2 percent are Hispanic, 26.1 percent are White, 5.6 percent are Black, and 7.8 percent are other races or multiracial. Only 2.2 percent of persons who speak only English at home are

Racial/Ethnic Distribution

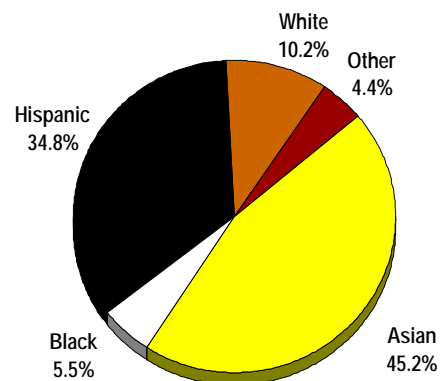
English Only



English and Other Language



Other Language Only

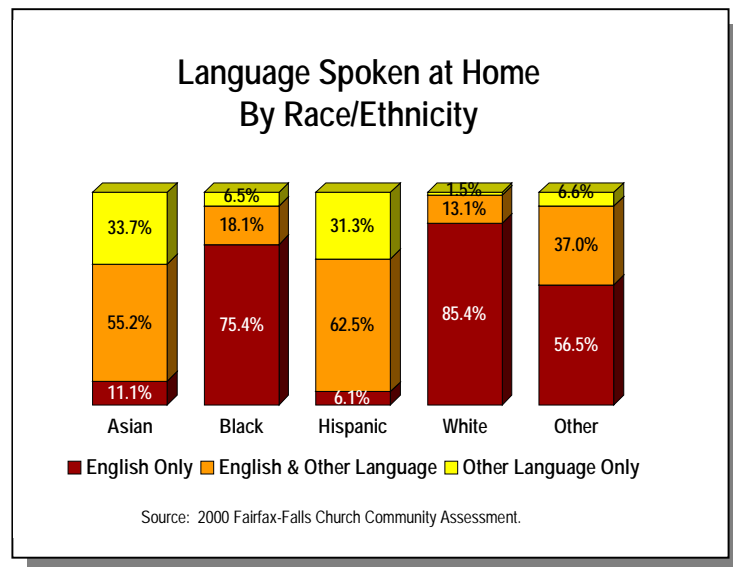


Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990, and 2000 Decennial Censuses, Summary File 1.

Asian, but 27.5 percent of those persons who speak a mixture of English and another language at home are Asian and 45.2 percent of those persons who only speak another language at home are Asian. Hispanics comprise only 1.0 percent of the population who speak English exclusively at home but comprise a quarter of the population who speak English and another language at home and 34.8 percent of those who do not speak any English at home. Conversely, Whites comprise 82.1 percent of the population who speak only English at home, 32.0 percent of the population who speak a combination of English and another language, and 10.2 percent of the population that does not speak English at home.

Persons who identified themselves as Asian or Hispanic have very different English usage profiles from persons who identified themselves as Black or White. Asian and Hispanic residents are much more likely not to use any English at home or to use a mixture of English and another language. Of those persons who identified themselves as Asian,

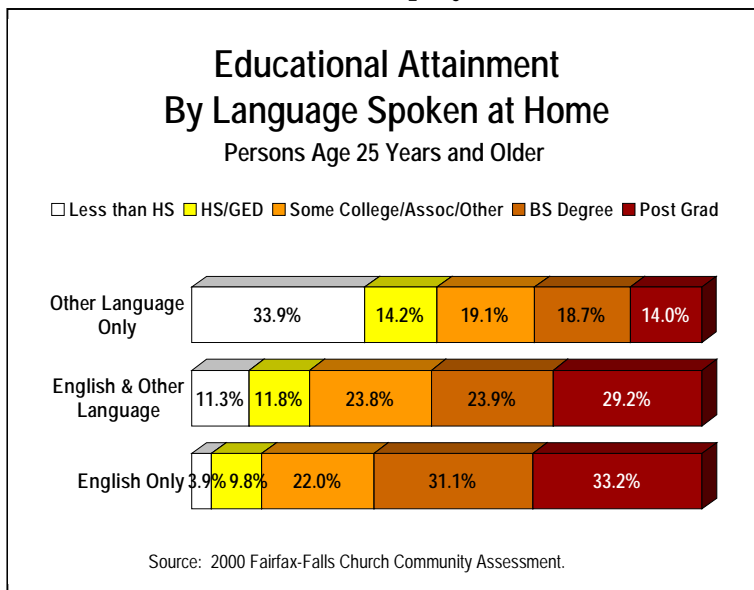


only one ninth indicated that they only spoke English at home. More than half (55.2 percent) of the Asian population speaks a mixture of English and another language at home and a third speaks only another language at home. A similar profile is revealed for those persons who identified themselves as Hispanic. Nearly a third of all Hispanics do not use English at home, and 62.5 percent use a mixture of English and another language at home. Only 6.1 percent of Hispanics use English exclusively at home.

Those persons who indicated their race as either Black or White exhibit a very different profile for language spoken at home. Among Blacks, three quarters speak only English at home while 18.1 percent speak English and another language and 6.5 percent only speak another language at home. An even larger percent of those persons who indicated their race as White speak only English at home (85.4 percent). A very small percent of Whites (1.5 percent) do not speak any English at home, and 13.1 percent speak a combination of English and another language at home. A majority (56.5 percent) of the persons who indicated that they were multi-racial or indicated a race or ethnicity other than Asian, Black, Hispanic, or White spoke only English at home, 37.0 percent spoke a mixture of English and another language, and 6.6 percent spoke only another language at home.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment refers to the highest grade of school completed or highest degree received by a person and is one of the most important indicators of economic wellbeing. The educational attainment of adults age 25 years or older is closely tied to employment opportunities and income. Adults with less than a high school education have more limited employment prospects and tend to earn lower incomes than those adults who have a high school degree or who have pursued college education. In addition, higher educational attainment rates are associated with lower unemployment rates and better health status. Nationally



among adults age 25 years or older, 15.9 percent have less than a high school education and slightly more than a quarter (25.6 percent) have a four year college degree or more education.⁵ The percentage of adults age 25 years or older who have attained a four year college degree or more education in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area is higher than the national rate for each of the

language spoken at home groups. At least a four year college degree has been attained by almost two thirds of those who speak only English at home, 53.1 percent of those who speak a combination of English and another language, and a third of those who only speak another language at home.

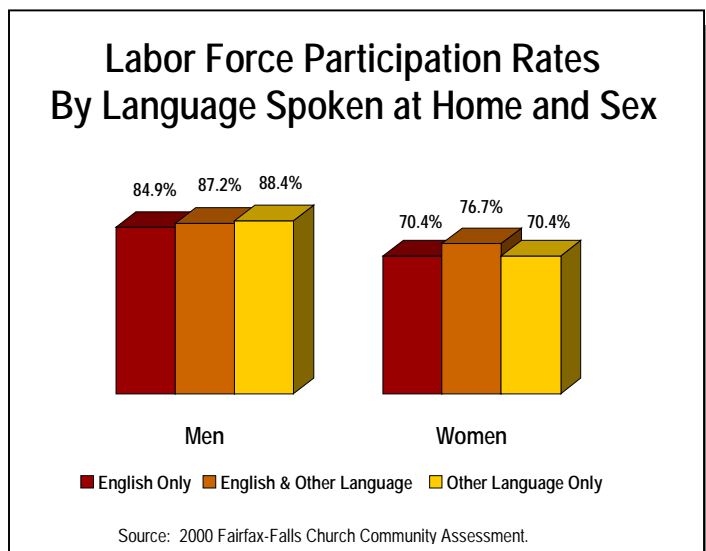
Looking at the other end of the educational spectrum, adults with less than a high school education, there are large disparities between the language spoken at home groups. The two groups that use at least some English at home have a lower percent of adults without a high school degree than all households nationwide. Among those that only speak English at home, 3.9 percent of adults age 25 years or older have less than a high school degree; and among those that use a combination of English and another language at home, 11.3 percent have less than a high school degree. In dramatic contrast, a third of adults who only speak another language at home have less than a high school degree – twice the national rate.

⁵ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

Employment Characteristics

Labor force participation is measured as the percentage of population, age 16 years and older, that is employed or actively seeking employment. While labor force participation rates for men in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area have remained relatively stable over the past 50 years, female labor force participation rates have risen dramatically from approximately 28 percent in 1950⁶ to 72.0 percent in 2000. Some see this increase in female labor force participation as a measure of women's increasing economic independence while others see it as a response to financial stress by families.

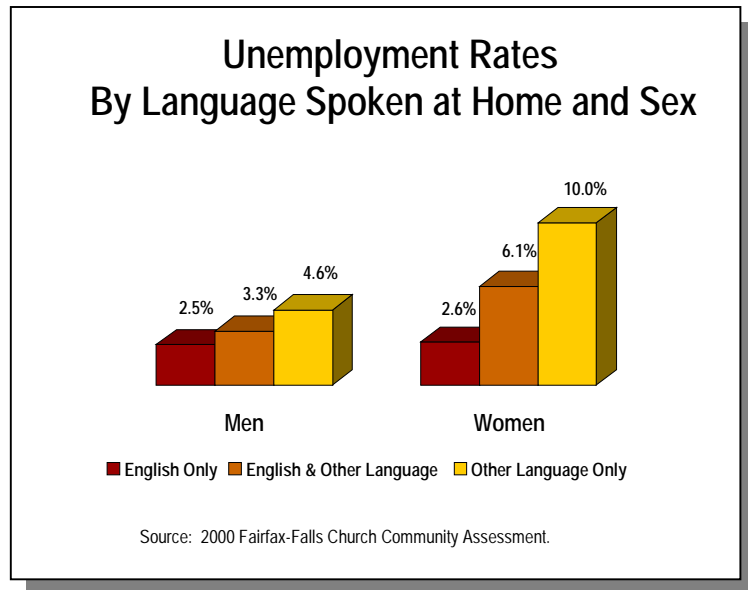
Male and female labor force participation rates do not vary dramatically by language spoken at home. Male labor force participation rates tend to be slightly higher for those men age 16 years and older who speak a language other than English at home. The slightly higher labor force participation rates exhibited by men who speak a language other than English at home may be due primarily to age differences. There are fewer persons of retirement age among those who speak other languages at home. The female labor force participation rate is highest among those women who live in households that speak a mixture of English and another language at home (76.7 percent). Women who speak only English at home or who speak only a language other than English at home had the same labor force participation rate of 70.4 percent.



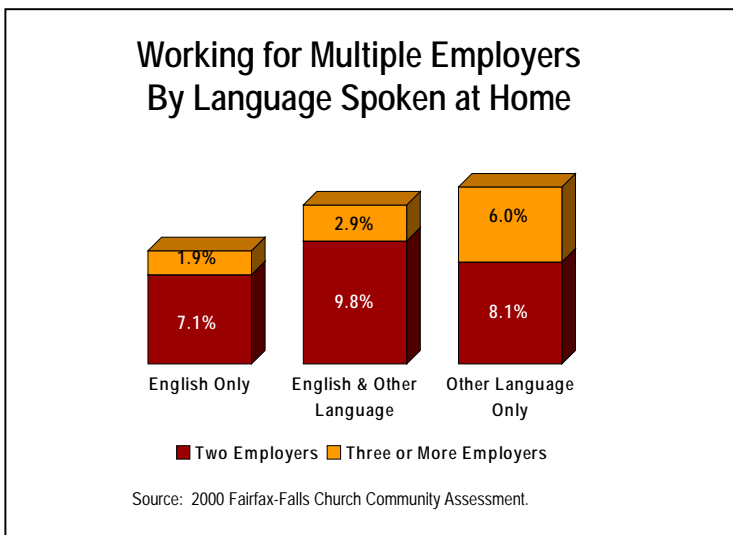
Unemployment rates are an indicator of financial risk and job instability. In general, unemployment rates are higher among those persons who speak a language other than English at home, especially among women. These trends may be due to factors such as educational attainment and ability to communicate in English. Persons with lower educational attainment and/or poor English skills have fewer job options open to them.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, 1950 Decennial Census.

The unemployment rate for men who speak only English at home is 2.5 percent. For men who speak a combination of English and another language at home, 3.3 percent are unemployed; and, for men who only speak another language at home, 4.6 percent are unemployed. The unemployment rates for women are 2.6 percent for those speaking only English, 6.1 percent for those speaking English and another language, and 10.0 percent for those speaking only a language other than English at home.



Working for multiple employers is often associated with financial stress. Nationally two out of every five persons working multiple jobs does so to meet regular household expenses or to pay off debts⁷. In the Fairfax-Falls Church



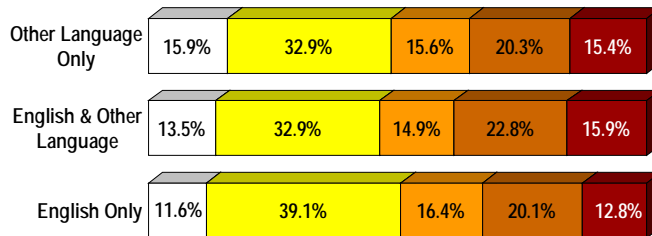
Area, employed persons age 16 years and older who speak a language other than English at home are more likely to work for multiple employers. One out of every seven employed persons who only speak a language other than English at home work multiple jobs and 6.0 percent work three or more jobs. Among those employed persons who speak a mixture of English and another language at

home, 12.7 percent work for multiple employers and 2.9 percent work for three or more employers. Nine percent of those employed persons who live in households that only speak English at home work multiple jobs and 1.9 percent work for three or more employers.

⁷ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Monthly Labor Review, October 2000.

Working Multiple Jobs to Make Ends Meet Are a Problem in the Local Community

□ Don't Know ■ Not a Problem ■ Minor Problem ■ Moderate Problem ■ Major Problem



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

When households were asked if they perceived that working multiple jobs to make ends meet was a problem in their local community, more than a third responded that they thought it was a not a local community problem. Households that speak a language other than English at home were slightly more likely to perceive this issue as a major problem.

Working multiple jobs to make ends meet was

perceived as a major problem by 15.4 percent of households that only speak a language other than English at home, 15.9 percent of households that speak a combination of English and another language, and 12.8 percent of households that only speak English.

Day Care

The high labor force participation rates among both men and women in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area result in high demand for day care services. Area-wide, two-thirds of all children live in homes where all of the adults present are in the labor force and a third of children under the age of 13 years are currently in or need day care. One out of eight Fairfax-Falls Church Area households have children who are enrolled in day care or not currently enrolled in day care but need these services.

Day Care Needs of Households By Language Spoken at Home

Day Care Needs of Households	English Only	English & Other Language	Other Language Only
Household Has No Day Care Needs	88.7%	82.2%	80.6%
Child Currently Using Day Care	9.7%	12.3%	10.8%
Child Not in Day Care But Needs Day Care	1.0%	3.9%	6.4%
Day Care Needs for Someone Over Age 13 Years	0.8%	2.3%	3.3%

Note: Percents may sum to more than 100 percent because persons could select multiple answers.

Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Households that speak a language other than English at home are more likely to use and/or need child day care services. More than 11 percent of the households that only speak English at home use and/or need day care services. These services are primarily needed for children age 12 years or younger. Nearly 18 percent of the households that speak a mixture of English and another language and 19.4 percent of the households that only speak a language other than English use and/or need day care services. While two-thirds of the households that currently have children in day care only speak English at home, nearly two-thirds of the households who say their children are not in day care but need these services are households that speak a language other than English at home.

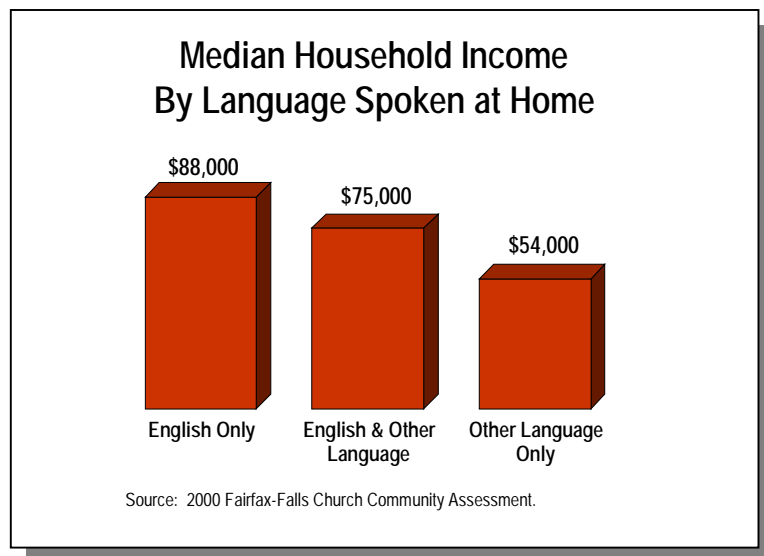
Economic Characteristics

Economic characteristics attempt to measure the ability of households to be financially self-sufficient. The 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment captured four primary indicators of economic health. These economic indicators are household income, housing costs, poverty rates, and the ability of households to meet basic needs such as housing costs, utilities, food, and medicine.

Household Income

Household income is a very important economic indicator because it shows the level of pooled financial resources within the household. The individual income levels of adults are strongly correlated with educational attainment, years of work experience, and the ability to communicate clearly in English. The Fairfax-Falls Church Area is one of the wealthiest places in the nation with a median 2000 household income of

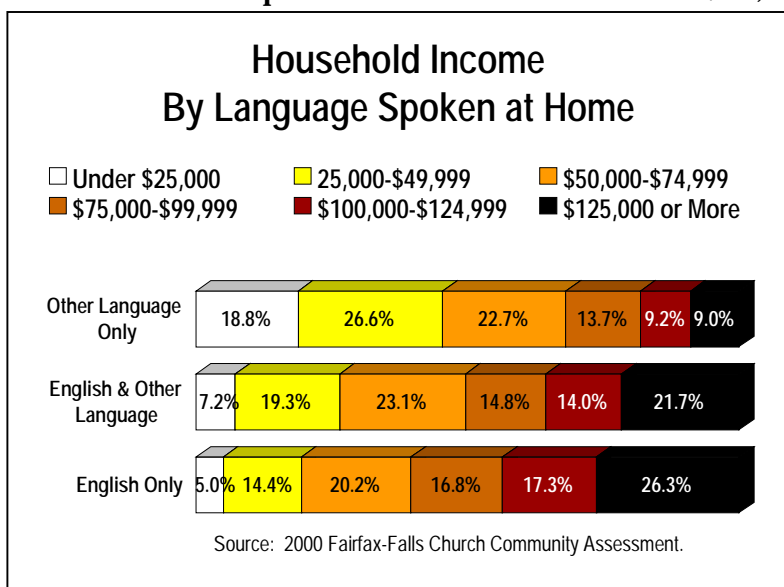
\$81,000, well above the national median household income of \$42,148.⁸ However, due to high housing costs and other living expenses, a recent self-sufficiency study suggested that a four-person household in Fairfax County would



⁸ U.S Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division.

need a 1998 household income of more than \$40,000 just to meet basic living expenses.⁹ Households that only speak English at home have a higher median household income (\$88,000) than that for the Fairfax-Falls Church Area as a whole, whereas households that use other languages at home have lower median household incomes. Households speaking a mixture of English and another language at home have a median household income of \$75,000, and households that only speak a language other than English at home have a median household income of \$54,000.

The distribution of household income by language spoken at home provides additional information on economic self-sufficiency. Among households that only speak English at home, 5 percent have household incomes below \$25,000 and another 14.4 percent have incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,999. On the



other end of the income spectrum, more than a quarter of the households that only speak English at home have incomes of \$125,000 or more. In sharp contrast are the households that do not speak English at home – more than two out of every five of these households have household incomes below \$50,000 with 18.8 percent below \$25,000. Only 9

percent of the households that only speak another language at home have incomes of \$125,000 or more. Among those households that speak a mixture of English and another language at home, 7.2 percent have incomes below \$25,000, 19.3 percent have incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,999, and 21.7 percent have incomes of \$125,000 or more.

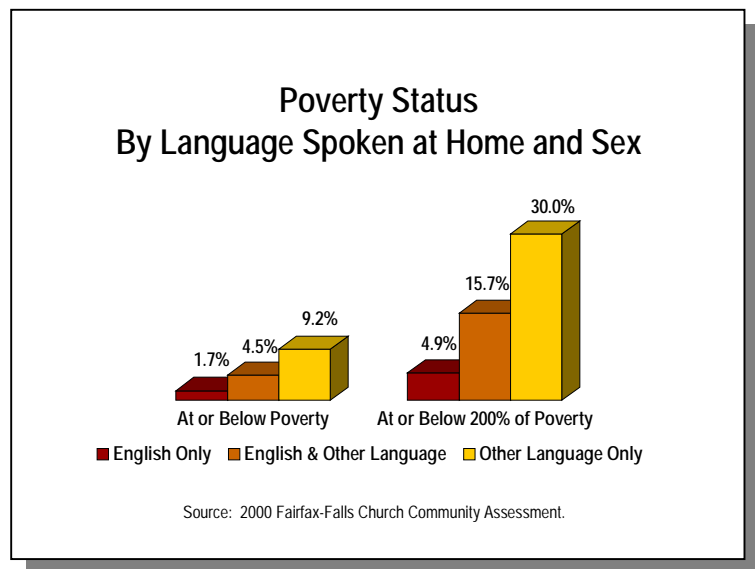
⁹ Wider Opportunities for Women, “*The Self-Sufficiency Standard for the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area*,” Fall 1999. Assumes at least one child 12 years or younger.

Poverty Status

Poverty is a federal definition. Poverty thresholds were originally developed by the Social Security Administration during the 1960's, based on the assumption that families spend approximately one-third of their after-tax income on food. To obtain poverty thresholds, the cost of the Department of Agriculture's economy food plan was multiplied by three and adjusted for family size. When calculating poverty status, the Census Bureau, however, applies the thresholds to before-tax money rather than after-tax income. This further reduces the income households have available to spend. Poverty thresholds are adjusted annually by changes to the consumer price index.

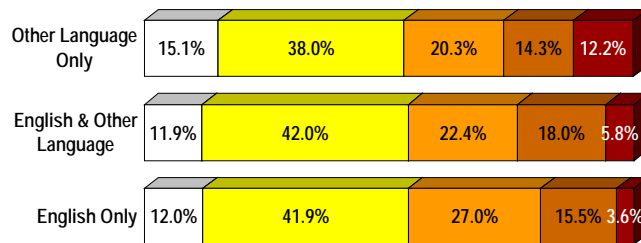
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services publishes poverty guidelines annually in the *Federal Register*. The poverty guidelines and multiples of the guidelines (i.e., 125 percent of poverty or 200 percent of poverty) are used to determine eligibility for a number of social services programs. In this report, a family of four is considered at or below poverty if their income is \$17,650 or less and at or below 200 percent of poverty if their income is \$35,300 or less. For each additional person above four, the poverty guideline is adjusted upward by \$3,020. Alternatively, the poverty guideline is adjusted downward by \$3,020 for each person fewer than four.

Persons who speak a language other than English at home are much more likely to be at or below poverty and at or below 200 percent of poverty. Less than 5 percent of those persons who only speak English at home are at or below 200 percent of poverty, and only 1.7 percent of those who speak only English at home are at or below poverty. Among those persons who speak no English at home, 30.0 percent are at or below 200 percent of poverty and 9.2 percent are at or below poverty. Persons who speak a mixture of English and another language at home have approximately half the poverty rate of those who speak only another language other than English at home.



Poverty Is a Problem in the Local Community

□ Don't Know ■ Not a Problem ■ Minor Problem ■ Moderate Problem ■ Major Problem



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Less than one out of every 20 households in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area perceives poverty as a major problem for their local community. However, a dramatically different perception emerges between those households that do not speak any English at home and those that do. Nearly one out of every eight households (12.2 percent) that do not use English at

home perceives poverty as a major issue in their local community. In contrast, 5.8 percent of households that speak a mixture of English and another language and 3.6 percent of households that only speak English at home perceive poverty in the local community as a major problem.

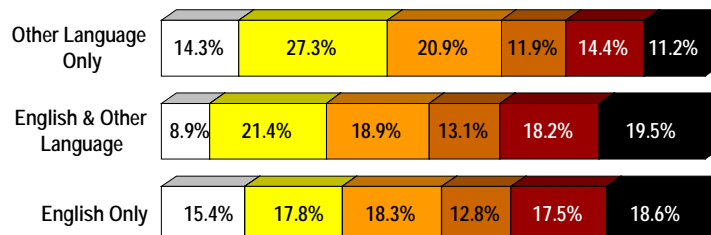
Housing Costs

Along with food, housing costs tend to be one of the largest household expenditures. Average monthly housing costs do not vary dramatically between language groups. The highest average monthly housing costs (\$1,446) are paid by households that speak a mixture of English and another language at home.

For households who only speak English at home, average monthly housing costs are \$1,377. The average monthly housing costs for those who only speak a language other than English at home are \$1,237. One reason average monthly housing costs are lower for those who only speak English at home than for those who speak a combination of English and another

Monthly Housing Cost By Language Spoken at Home

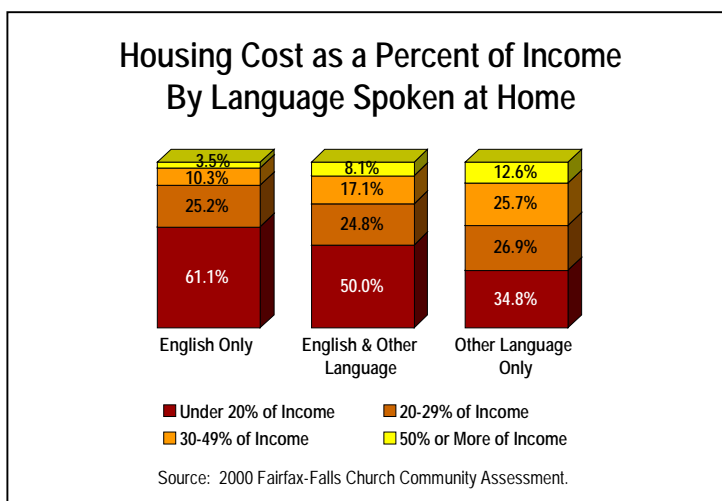
□ Under \$700 ■ \$700-\$999 ■ \$1,000-\$1,249 ■ \$1,250-\$1,499 ■ \$1,500-\$1,999 ■ \$2,000 or More



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

language may be the larger proportion of older residents among the English-only speaking population. It is likely that these older residents have owned their housing longer and purchased it at lower prices.

A glance at the distribution of monthly housing costs shows that a third of those households who only speak English at home pay less than \$1,000 per month for their housing and 15.4 percent pay less than \$700 per month. Nearly 42 percent of those households that speak no English at home pay less than \$1,000 per month for housing and 14.3 percent pay less than \$700 per month. Among those households that speak a mixture of English and another language at home, less than a third pay less than \$1,000 per month and only 8.9 percent pay less than \$700 per month for housing.



Although monthly housing costs do not vary dramatically among language groups, the percentage of income spent on housing does vary dramatically. Mortgage companies and rental complexes use 30 percent of income as an upper guideline for housing costs when qualifying potential buyers or renters.

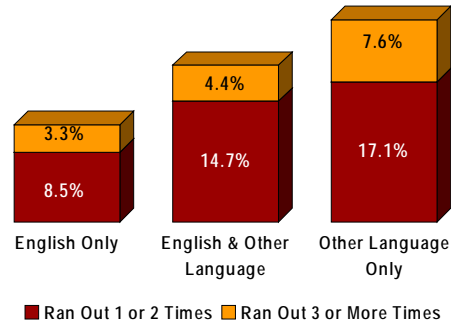
Households that expend 30 to 49 percent of their

income on housing are considered to be at financial risk of losing their housing if they incur an unexpected decrease in income or increase in other expenditures. Generally, households spending half or more of their income on housing are considered to be at the greatest risk of becoming homeless. Of those households that do not speak English at home, one out of eight spends 50 percent or more of their income on housing and a quarter spend 30 to 49 percent of their income on housing. One out of twelve of those households that speak a combination of English and another language at home spend 50 percent or more of their income on housing, and 17.1 percent spend 30 to 49 percent of their income on housing. Very few (3.5 percent) of the households that speak only English at home spend 50 percent or more of their income on housing, and 10.3 percent spend 30 to 49 percent of their income on housing.

Meeting Basic Needs

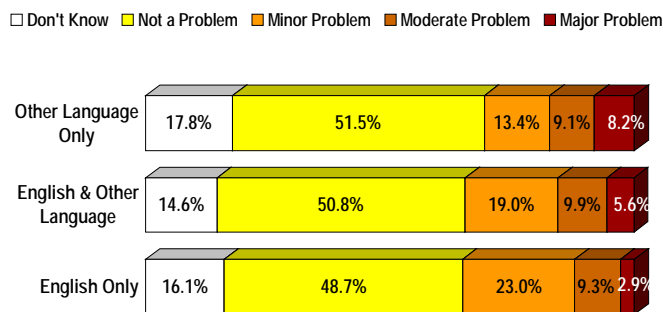
To help evaluate self-sufficiency, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asked households if they had run out of money to pay for basic needs such as rent or mortgage, utilities, food, or medicine during the past year. Area-wide, one out of every seven households indicated that they had difficulty paying for these basic needs one or more times during the past year. Lower income households were more likely to encounter difficulties than higher income households. Households that only spoke English at home were less likely to run out of money than those that spoke other languages at home. The percentage of households running out of money to pay for basic needs was 11.8 percent of households that speak only English at home, 19.1 percent of households that speak a combination of English and another language at home, and 24.7 percent of households that speak only a language other than English at home.

Ran Out of Money for Housing, Utilities, Food or Medicine by Language Spoken at Home



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Hunger Is a Problem In the Local Community



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asked households if they perceived hunger as a local community problem. Overall, few households perceive hunger as being a major local community problem. Regardless of language spoken at home, approximately half of all households said that hunger was not a problem in their

local community. Of those households that perceived hunger as being a major problem in their local community, a larger proportion of households that speak a language other than English at home answered this way. Only 2.9 percent of

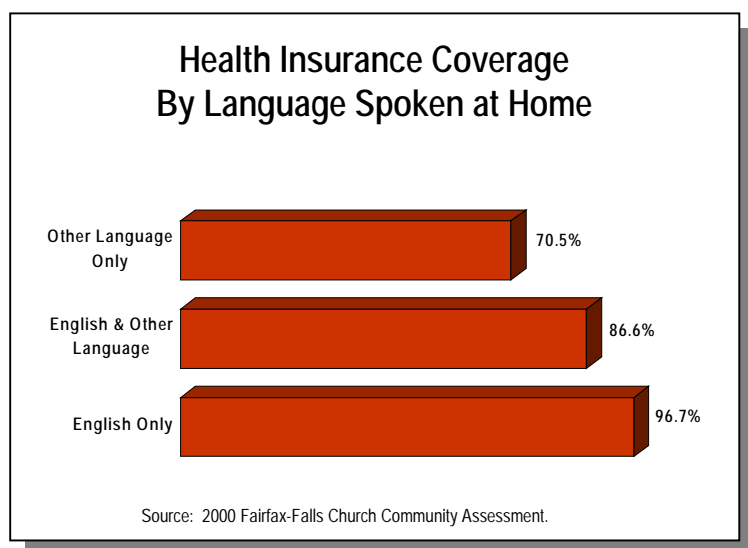
those households that only speak English at home perceived hunger as a major problem in their local community, whereas 8.2 percent of households that speak only another language at home felt hunger was a major problem. Households that speak a combination of English and another language fell between these groups with 5.6 percent perceiving hunger as a major problem. This difference in perception is likely associated with income differences between these groups.

Health Issues

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asked several questions about health issues affecting household members – health insurance coverage, mental health problems, and long-lasting conditions. In addition, the survey asked households about their perceptions of whether various health issues were problems within the community. These community perception issues included “lack of affordable medical care,” “mental illness or emotional problems,” “alcoholism and/or drug abuse,” “AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases,” “safety of restaurant food,” and “health hazards due to air pollution.”

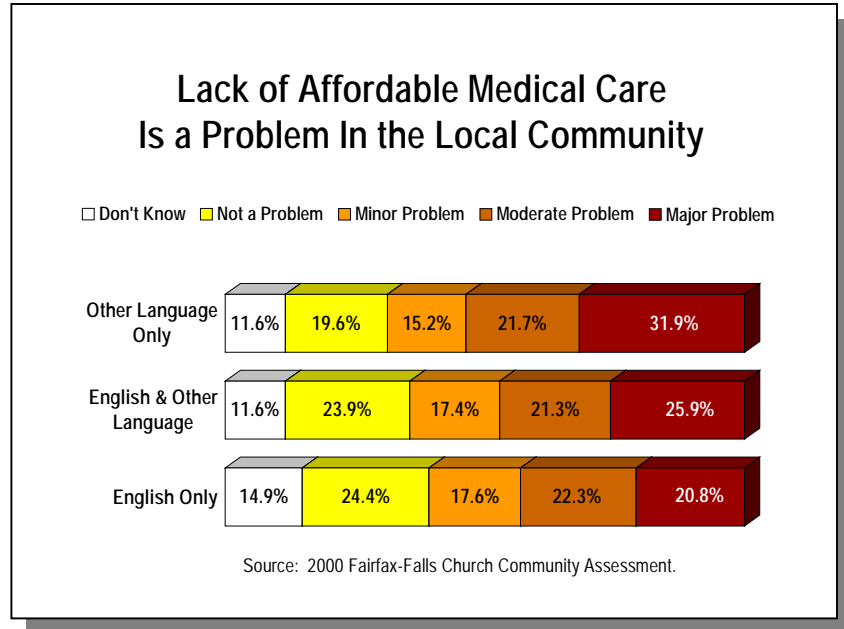
Health Insurance Coverage

Health insurance coverage is an indicator of access to medical services. Persons who are uninsured are less likely to seek preventive health services such as routine physicals and are less likely to have a regular healthcare provider. Nationwide, 14.0 percent of the population lacks health insurance¹⁰ whereas only 8.3 percent of the household population in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area lacks health insurance. However, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment found that persons who speak a language other than English at home are much more likely not to have health insurance coverage. Nearly 30 percent of those persons who live in households where no English is spoken at home do not have health insurance. In households where a mixture of English and another language is spoken, 13.4 percent of the members are uninsured. In sharp contrast, only 3.3 percent of those persons who live in households where only English is spoken lack health insurance.



¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

When asked if they thought lack of affordable medical care was a problem for people in their local community, households that spoke a language other than English at home were more likely to indicate that this was a major problem in the community. Nearly a third of households that do not speak any English at home feel lack of affordable medical care is a major community problem. Slightly more than a quarter of the households that speak a combination of English and another language and a fifth of the households that only speak English at home agreed that lack of affordable medical care is a major community problem. However, households that only speak English at home (14.9 percent) were somewhat more likely than the other two groups (11.6 percent) to say they did not know if lack of affordable medical care is a problem in the community.

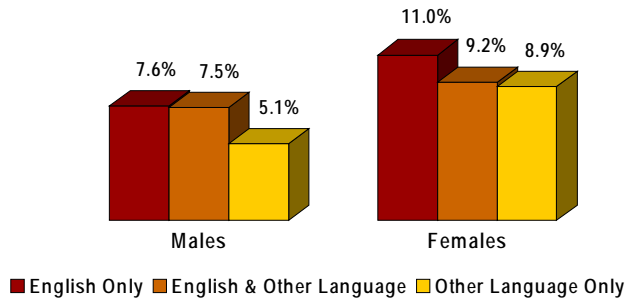


Mental Health

Mental health problems comprise four of the ten most common causes of disability among persons in developed countries as measured in days of disability.¹¹ Mental health problems can have a profound effect on the wellbeing of a household with effects including emotional effects as well as productivity and economic effects. To obtain a measure of mental health problems, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asked households if “Over the past year, did *any member of the household* experience depression, anxiety, mental, emotional, or behavioral problems to the degree *the respondent* felt help was needed?” Area-wide, 8.9 percent of the population indicated that they experience mental, emotional, and/or anxiety problems to the point of needing help. Women and girls (10.3 percent) were more likely than men and boys (7.4 percent) to indicate mental health problems. Persons who speak a language other than English at home, generally, were less likely to think a family member was experiencing mental health problems. Whether or not a language other than English was spoken at home, females were more likely to be identified as having

¹¹ World Health Organization, World Bank, and Harvard University, Global Burden of Disease Study, 1996.

Experiencing Mental/Emotional Problems By Language Spoken at Home and Sex



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

mental health problems than males. In response to the mental health question on the Fairfax-Falls Church

Community Assessment, 11.0 percent of females who only speak English at home, 9.2 percent of females who speak a combination of English and another language at home, and 8.9 percent of females who speak only a language other than English indicated mental health concerns.

Long-lasting Conditions

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asked if household members had any of the following long-lasting conditions – severe vision or hearing impairment, a condition that substantially limits physical activities, and/or severe learning or memory problems.

Persons with these types of disabling conditions often find themselves less able to compete in the job market, may have lower incomes, and may need

additional resources to support their special needs. Area-wide 5.7 percent of the population indicated they had a long-lasting condition. Persons age 65 years and older are much more likely to indicate a long-lasting condition. Approximately a quarter of all persons 65 years or older indicated having one or more long-lasting conditions.

By Language Spoken at Home

Long-Lasting Condition	English Only	English & Other Language	Other Language Only
No long-lasting condition	94.4%	95.1%	91.6%
Substantial physical limitations	3.1%	2.4%	3.1%
Severe vision/hearing impairment	2.2%	2.1%	3.5%
Severe learning/memory problems	1.0%	0.9%	3.3%

Note: Percents may sum to more than 100 percent because persons could select multiple answers.

Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Although persons who only speak a language other than English at home tend to be younger than the general population, this group has a higher rate of long-

lasting conditions at 8.4 percent. The rate of long-lasting conditions for persons who only speak English at home is 5.6 percent; for those who speak a combination of English and another language at home, it is 4.9 percent. The difference in rates between the latter two groups may be due primarily to a greater proportion of older persons among the English-only speaking population.

Children 18 Years and Younger

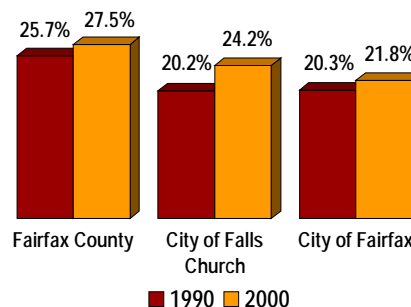
The 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment classifies individuals age 18 years and younger as children. The age ceiling of 18 years was chosen because it captures the majority of children through their senior year of high school. However, the U.S. Census Bureau uses age 17 as the top age bracket for classifying individuals as children. This slight difference in the age definition of children does not prevent some comparisons with national data published by Census. Estimates from the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment also vary from those of the 2000 Decennial Census because of two additional factors. First, the Census was conducted in April 2000 and the Community Assessment was conducted at the end of calendar year 2000. Secondly, the Community Assessment does not include group quarters population – persons living in group quarters such as dormitories, military bases, correctional facilities, nursing homes, etc. – but the Census does.

In addition to asking factual information about each household and its members, the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asked each household their perceptions about 20 issues and whether these issues are problems in their local community. In this chapter on children and households with children, the community perceptions questions will only be discussed when the perceptions of households with children differ from those for households that do not have children.

General Demographics

Over the past decade, children have increased as a percent of total population in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. That is, children 18 years and younger as a group have grown slightly more rapidly than total population from 1990 to 2000. The 1990 Decennial Census estimated 216,493 children 18 years and younger in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, comprising 25.5 percent of total population. The 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment estimates 270,900 children comprising 27.3 percent of the household

Children 18 Years and Younger
Percent of Population, 1990 and 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Decennial Census, Summary File 1 and 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

population. By jurisdiction, there are an estimated 263,800 children in Fairfax County, 4,600 children in the City of Fairfax, and 2,500 children in the City of Falls Church. The most rapid growth in children occurred in the City of Falls Church where children increased from 20.2 percent to 24.2 percent of total population.

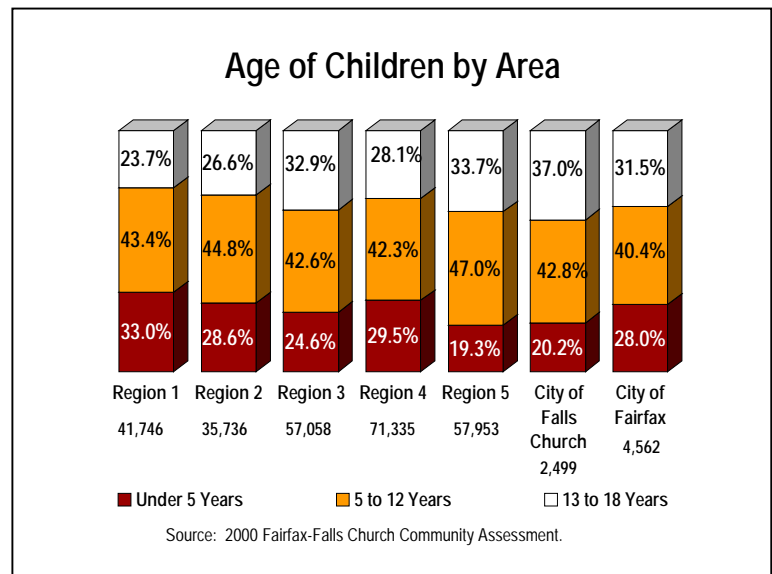
Age

For analytical purposes, this report groups children by the following age categories: under age 5 years, 5 to 12 years, and 13 to 18 years. These categories are based on age levels where service and developmental needs tend to change. Children under age 5 are infants and preschoolers who have not entered kindergarten and have not begun their formal education years. At this young age, there is little peer influence and the children are mostly influenced by their primary caregivers. Children 5 to 12 years generally attend kindergarten through sixth grade. These children develop closer peer relationships, but peer influence still tends to be less of an influence than when the child becomes a teen. Children 5 to 12 years still qualify for federal tax incentives for day care services. At age 13, children enter their teenage years; and although adult influence is still very important, these children are strongly influenced by peers. After age 12, children no longer qualify for most formal day care programs and different types of services become important to this group.

In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, a quarter of all children are under age 5 years (an estimated 72,100 children), 43.8 percent are 5 to 12 years (an estimated 118,600 children), and 29.6 percent are 13 to 18 years (an estimated 80,200 children).

Human Services Region 1 has the highest proportion of children under age 5 years – a third of all children in that region.

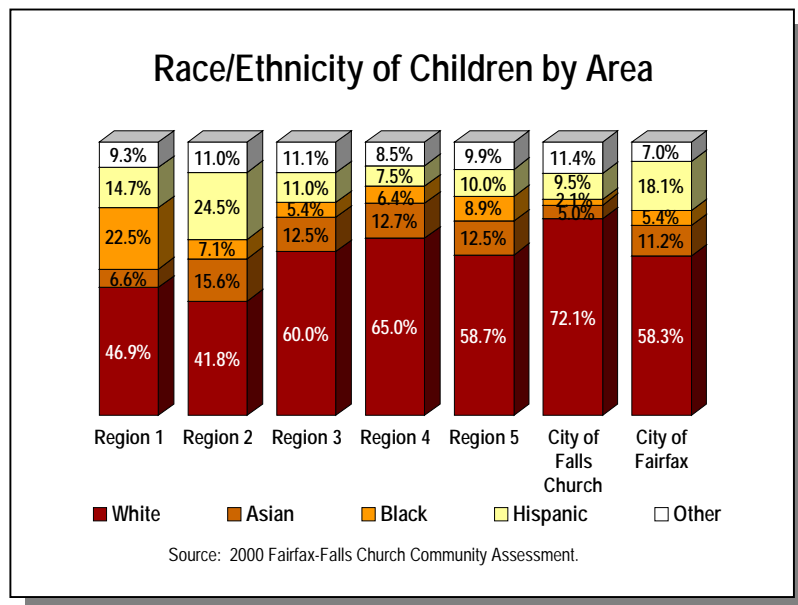
Region 5 and the City of Falls Church have the smallest proportion of children under age 5 years – about a fifth of all children. Region 5 has the largest proportion of children 5 to 12 years (47.0 percent). The City of Falls Church has the highest proportion of teenagers with 37.0 percent; and Region 1, with 23.7 percent, has the smallest proportion of teenagers.



Race/Ethnicity

Children in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area are more racially and/or ethnically diverse than the population as a whole. A smaller proportion of children indicates they are White (56.7 percent) or Asian (11.9 percent) than the general population where 62.4 percent are White and 12.7 percent are Asian. A larger proportion of children indicates they are Black (9.2 percent), Hispanic (12.3 percent), or Other including multi-racial (9.8 percent) than the general population which is 8.0 percent Black, 10.6 percent Hispanic, and 6.3 percent Other.

Region 2 contains the largest proportions of children who are Asian (15.6 percent) or Hispanic (24.5 percent). The City of Falls Church contains the smallest proportion of children who are Asian (5.0 percent), and Region 4 contains the smallest proportion of children who are Hispanic (7.5 percent). The largest proportion of Black children is contained in Human Services Region 1 where more than a fifth of the children are Black. The City of Falls Church with 2.1 percent has the smallest proportion of Black children. The City of Falls Church also has the highest proportion of White children (72.1 percent) and one of the highest proportions of children who are Other, including multi-racial (11.4 percent).

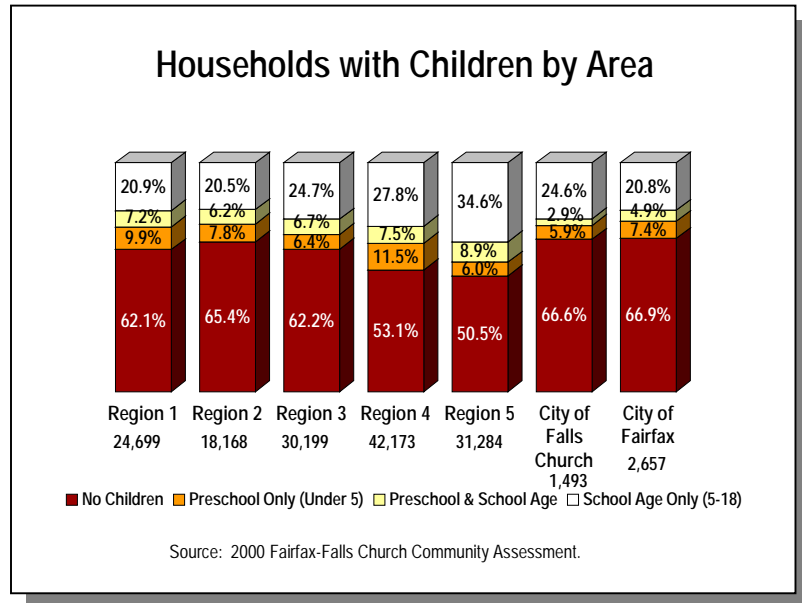


Households

Between the 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses, the proportion of households containing children 17 years and younger in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area remained nearly constant except in the City of Falls Church. In the City of Falls Church, households containing children increased more rapidly than households without children – from a quarter to about a third of all households.

From the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment, an estimated 1,500 households (33.4 percent) in the City of Falls Church, 2,700 households (33.1 percent) in the City of Fairfax, and 146,500 households (41.8 percent) in Fairfax

County contain children 18 years and younger. Among the Fairfax County human services regions, Regions 4 and 5 have the largest proportions of households containing children, 46.9 percent and 49.5 percent respectively. In addition, Regions 4 and 5 contain the highest proportions of households with school-age children (age 5 through 18 years): 43.5 percent of the households in Region 5 and 35.3 percent of the households in Region 4. Region 4 also contains the largest proportion of households (19.0 percent) with preschool age children (under age 5). Region 1 with 17.1 percent of households containing preschool age children has the next highest proportion. The City of Falls Church contains the smallest proportion (8.8 percent) of households with preschool age children.



Family Characteristics

Living Arrangements

Family structure is an important indicator of the wellbeing of children. Two-parent families often have more economic and human resources to provide their children. Children who live in two parent families are more likely to do well in school and are less likely to suffer from stress, anxiety or emotional problems.¹ In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, 81.5 percent of households containing children 18 years or younger are two-parent households, 12.3 are single-mother households, 3.0 percent are single-father households, and 3.2 percent are other types of households. These other types of households include children living with foster parents, grandparents, and other relatives.

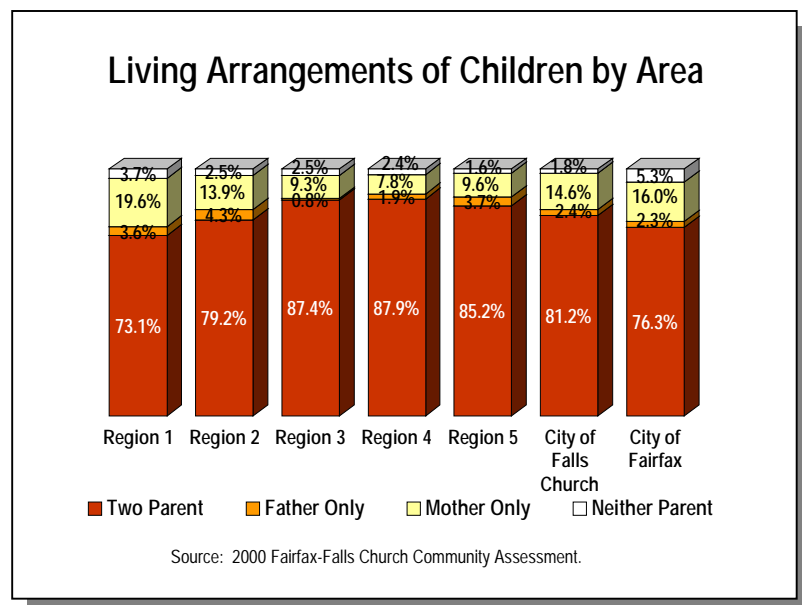
¹ Jason M. Fields and Kristin E. Smith, *Poverty, Family Structure, and Child Well-Being: Indicators from the SIPP*, Population Division Working Paper No. 23, U.S. Census Bureau, April 1998.

Another way to view these data are to look at children's living arrangements rather than household structure – that is, what percent of children live with two parents rather than what percent of households containing children are two-parent households. Nationwide, 69 percent of all children lived with two parents in 2000, 22 percent of children lived only with their mothers, 4 percent lived only with their fathers, and 4 percent lived with neither parent.² In addition, national data collected in 1996 found that half of the children living with neither parent lived with a grandparent, a quarter lived with other relatives, and slightly more than a fifth lived with persons to whom they were not related.³ In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, a larger percent of children (83.6 percent) than nationwide lived with two parents. In addition, the proportion of children living with only their mothers (11.3 percent), living only with their fathers (2.6 percent), or living with neither parent (2.5 percent) were about half the national rate.

Human Services Regions 3 and 4 had the largest proportions of children living with two parents, more than 87 percent.

Region 1 and the City of Fairfax had the largest proportions of children living with only their mother (19.6 percent and 16.0 percent respectively), and Region 2 had the largest proportion (4.3 percent) of children living only with their father. The City of Fairfax had the largest proportion of children living with neither parent, 5.3 percent.

However, the higher percent of children living with neither parent in the City of Fairfax may be due to the location of George Mason University and the incidence of 17- and 18-year old students living independently in off-campus housing.



Type of Housing

Fairfax-Falls Church Area families with children are more likely to live in single-family homes (60.8 percent) and less likely to live in multifamily units (15.6 percent) than households without children. Among all households, 51.6 percent live in single-family dwellings and 25.4 percent live in multifamily homes. About

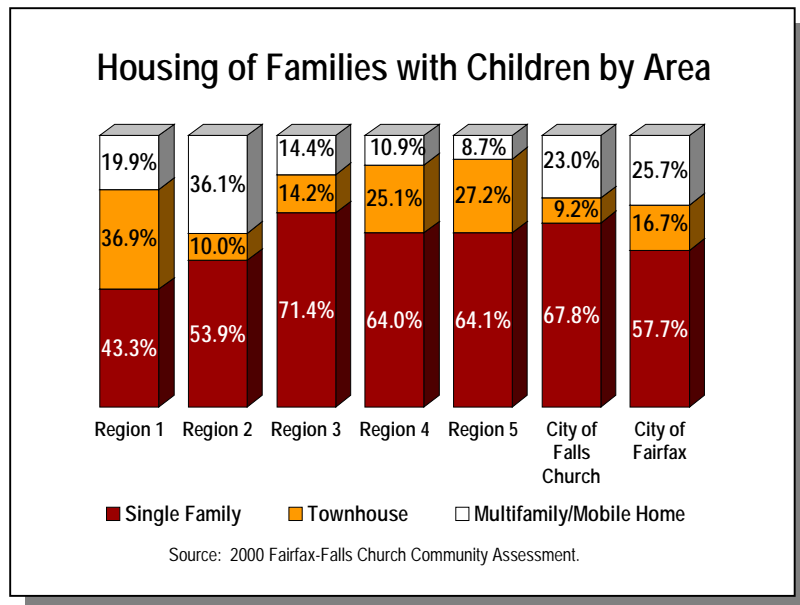
² U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

³ U.S. Census Bureau, 1996 Survey of Income and Program Participation, Wave 2.

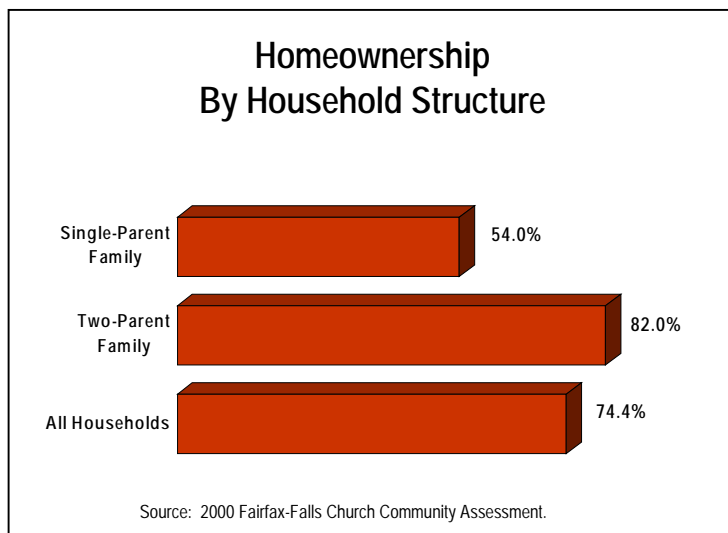
the same proportions of families with children (23.1 percent) and all households (22.6 percent) live in townhouses.

The City of Falls Church has the highest concentration of multifamily housing in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, but families with children in Region 2 are the most likely to reside in multifamily housing (36.1 percent). Human Services Region 3, with one of the highest concentrations of single-family dwellings, has the highest concentration

of families with children living in single-family housing, 71.4 percent. The highest concentration of townhouses is found in Region 1 as well as the highest concentration of families with children living in townhouses, 36.9 percent.



Homeownership is an indicator of community attachment, stability, and financial wellbeing. Homeownership rates in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area are slightly



higher than those nationwide, 74.4 percent and 67.4 percent⁴ respectively. Among households with children in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, the homeownership rate is higher, 77.3 percent, than that for all households. Two-parent families are more likely than single-parent families to own their home. Slightly more than half (54.0 percent) of all single parents are

homeowners in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area compared to 82.0 percent of two-parent families.

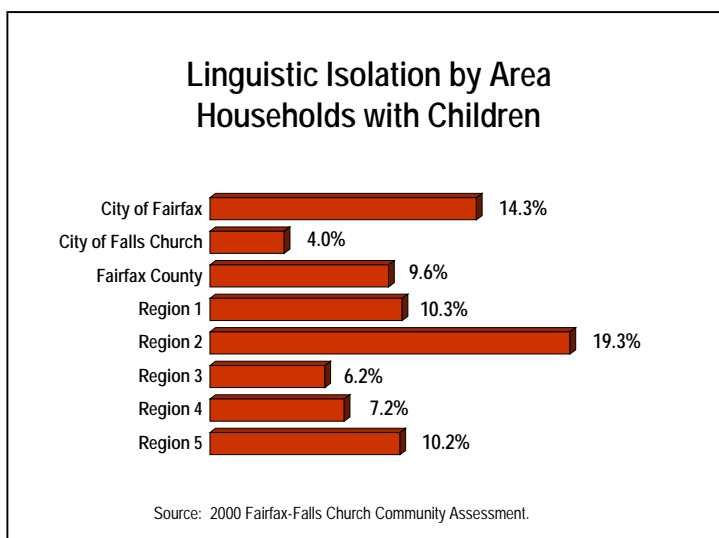
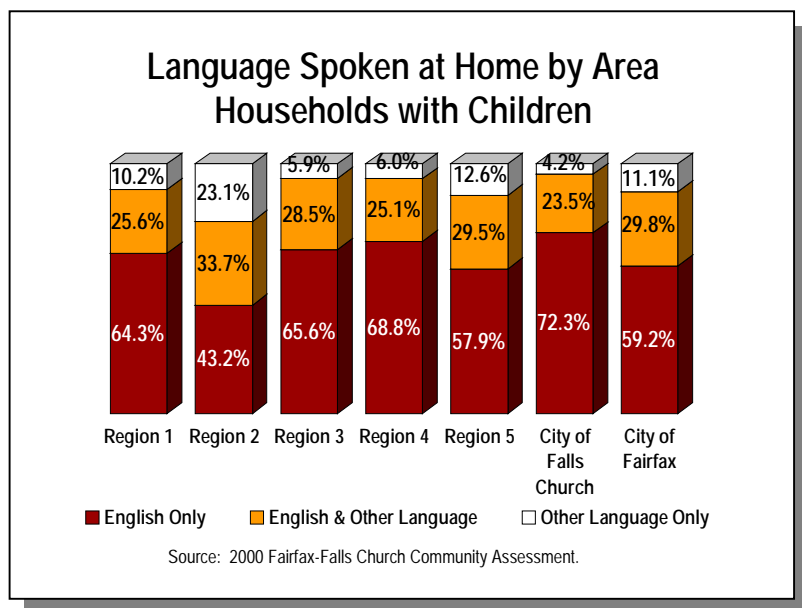
⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey/Housing Vacancy Survey, 2000 Annual Statistics.

Language Spoken at Home and Linguistic Isolation

Households containing children in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area are more likely to speak a language other than English at home than households without children. Area-wide, 28.7 percent of all households speak a language other than English at home and 38.0 percent or an estimated 57,300 households containing children speak a language other than English at home. Of those households with children that speak a language other than English at home, almost three-quarters speak some English at home.

Households with children in Human Services Region 2 are more likely to speak a language other than English at home than elsewhere in the Area. More than half of the households with children in Region 2 speak a language other than English at home and more than a fifth only speak a language other than English at home. Households with children in the City of Falls Church are the least likely to

speak a language other than English at home, 27.7 percent. In Region 1, Region 5, and the City of Fairfax, more than one out of every ten households with children only speak a language other than English at home.

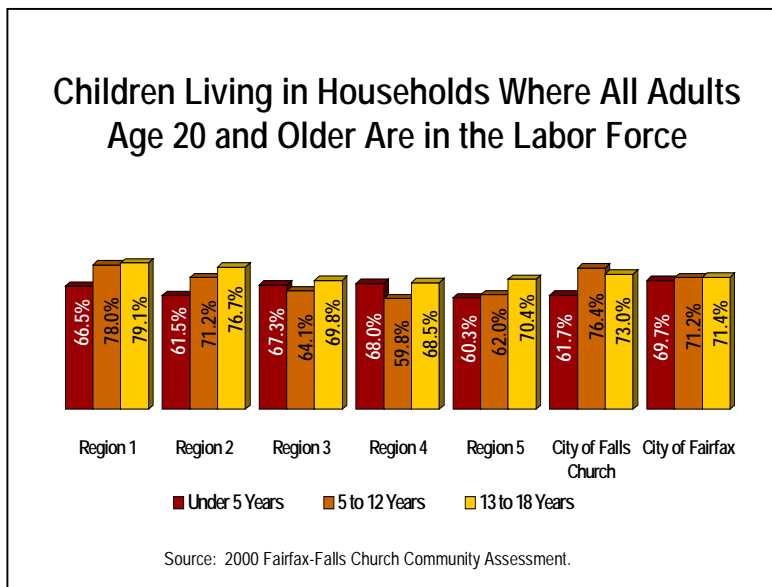


Because a household speaks a language other than English at home does not mean that the household is linguistically isolated. A household is linguistically isolated only if none of the members age 14 years or older can speak English “very well.” Children who live in linguistically isolated households are more at risk for school failure, and their parents or guardians have

fewer employment opportunities open to them. Young children in linguistically isolated households sometimes take on the role of interpreter for their families, and this can cause family stress. In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, 7.1 percent of all households are linguistically isolated and nearly a tenth of households with children are linguistically isolated. A fifth of households with children in Region 2 are linguistically isolated and a seventh of those in the City of Fairfax. In contrast, only 4.0 percent of households with children are linguistically isolated in the City of Falls Church.

Work Status of Parents and Guardians

Labor force participation is the percentage of persons age 16 and older who are currently employed or are unemployed but actively seeking employment. The Fairfax-Falls Church Area has higher labor force participation rates for women (72.0 percent) and men (85.7 percent) than the national rates of 60.2 percent and 74.7 percent⁵ respectively. The high labor force participation rates among women are seen by some as a measure of women's economic independence while others see it as a measure of financial stress.



Two-thirds of the children in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area live in households where all of the adults, age 20 years or older, are in the labor force; this is an estimated 182,700 children. The percentage of children who live in households where all adults are in the labor force does not vary much by the age of the children. In Human Services Regions 1, 2, and 5, the percentage of

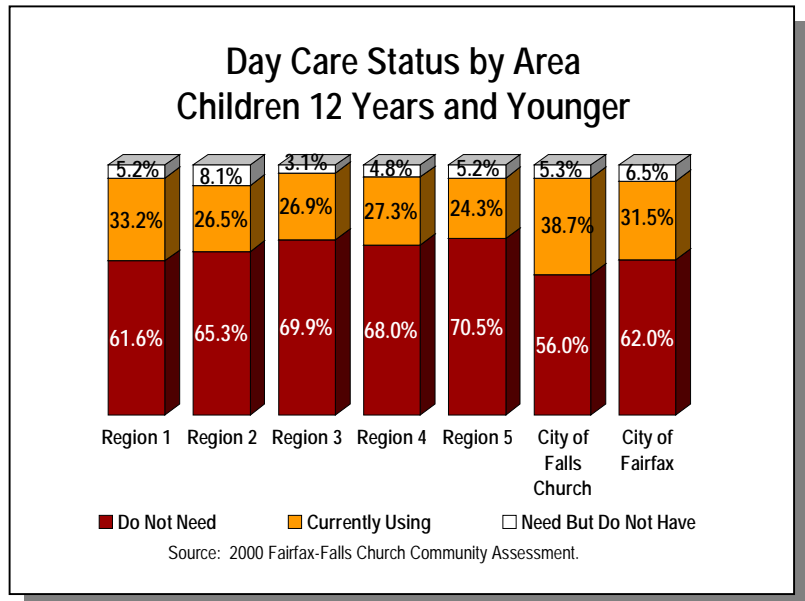
children who live in households where all adults are in the labor force increases as the age of the child increases. In the other sub-areas, there are not increasing trends based on the age of the child.

⁵ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

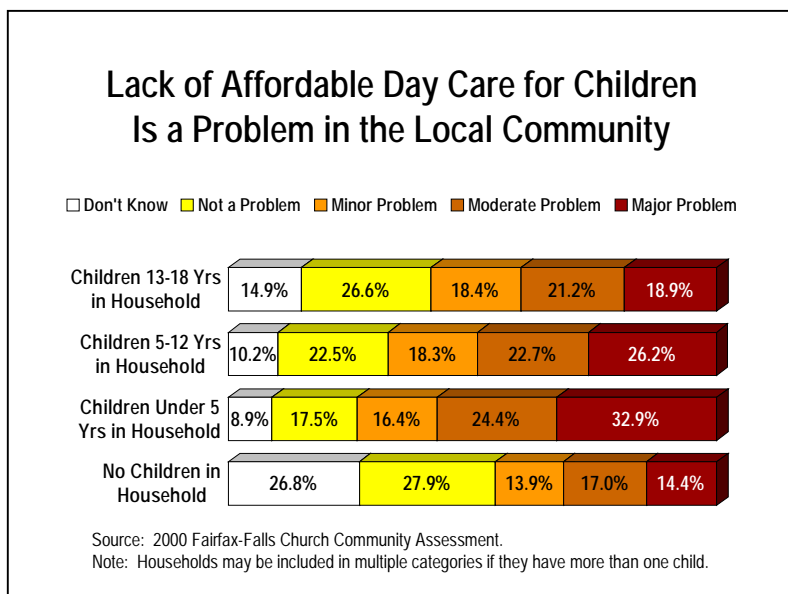
Day Care

Studies evaluating day care and its impact on children's wellbeing are not conclusive, but a substantial proportion of children age 12 and younger spend at least some time in day care arrangements. Although two-thirds of the children in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area live in households where all the adults are in the labor force, only one-third of the children age 12 and younger are currently in or need day care. An

estimated 52,600 children currently use day care services in the area. Five percent or an estimated 9,700 children under age 13 currently are not in day care but need these services in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. The City of Falls Church has the highest percent of children in or needing day care, 44.0 percent. Human Services Region 2 and the City of Fairfax have the highest percents of children currently not enrolled in day care but needing services (8.1 percent and 6.5 percent respectively).



For families with young children, child day care expenses can be a major budget expense. One community perception question asked if lack of affordable day care



for children was a problem in the local community. The results of this question show an association between the ages of children in the household and whether lack of affordable childcare is perceived as a community problem. Households containing young children are much more likely to

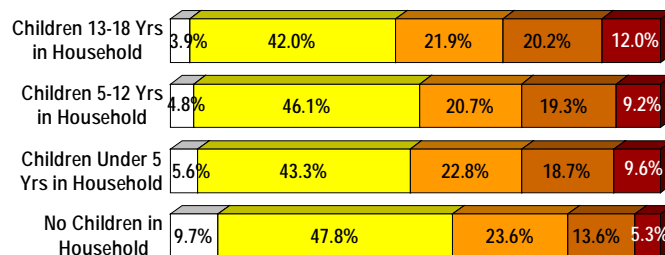
perceive lack of affordable childcare as a moderate or major community problem. The majority of households (57.3 percent) with children under age 5 years think lack of affordable day care is a moderate or major local community problem, and a third of these households think it is a major problem. Nearly half of the households (48.9 percent) with children age 5 to 12 years think lack of affordable day care is a moderate or major problem, and more than a quarter perceive it is a major problem. Even households with teenage children are more likely than households without children to perceive lack of affordable child day care as a problem.

Access to Recreational Facilities

Generally, households appear to be satisfied with the amount of recreational opportunities in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. Nearly half think lack of facilities and programs are not a problem. However, households with children are more likely to perceive lack of recreational facilities or programs as moderate or major local community problems than are households without children. Households with teenagers are the most likely to perceive lack of recreational facilities and programs as a moderate or major community problem, 32.2 percent. More than 28 percent of households with children age 12 and younger think lack of recreational facilities or programs is a moderate or major problem but only 18.9 percent of households without children feel this way.

Lack of Recreational Facilities or Programs Is a Problem in the Local Community

□ Don't Know ■ Not a Problem ■ Minor Problem ■ Moderate Problem ■ Major Problem



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

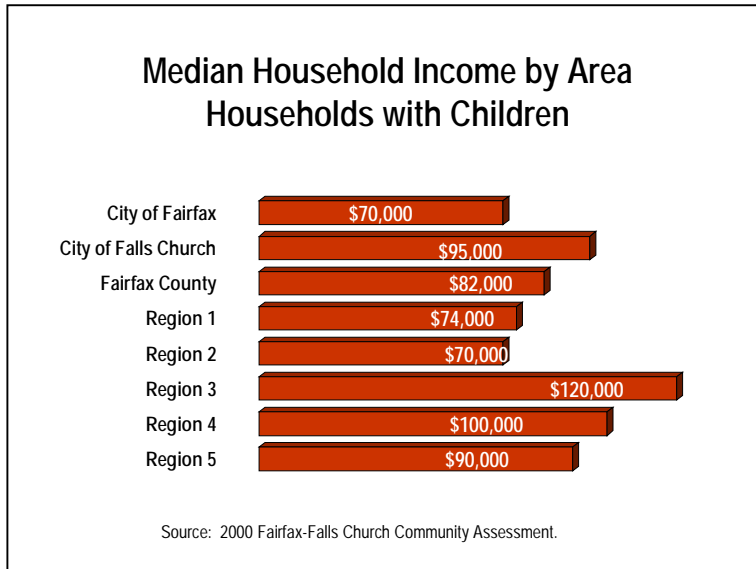
Note: Households may be included in multiple categories if they have more than one child.

Economic Characteristics

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment captured four primary measures of economic wellbeing: household income, housing costs, poverty rates, and the ability of households to pay for basic needs such as housing, utilities, food, and medicine. These economic characteristics help measure the ability of households to be financially self-sufficient.

Household Income

Household income is the single most important indicator of financial wellbeing because it shows the level of pooled financial resources available to the household. The median income of all households in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area is \$81,000. The median income for households containing children is



higher – \$93,000. Primary reasons that median household income is higher for households with children is that these households have a larger percent of two-income earners and few of the heads of these households have reached retirement age. Region 3 households with children have the highest median household income – \$120,000. Households with children in Region 2 and the City of Fairfax

have the lowest median household income – \$70,000 (42 percent lower than that of Region 3).

Although the median household incomes of households with children are well above the national median household income of \$42,148,⁶ the cost of living in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area also is well above that of many areas of the United States. A 1998 self-sufficiency study estimated that a Fairfax County family composed of four persons and at least one child 12 years or younger would need an income of more than \$40,000 to meet basic living expenses.⁷ In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, 18.5 percent or an estimated 27,900 families with children had a 2000 household income less than \$50,000. In the City of Fairfax and Human Services Regions 1 and 2, nearly a third of households with children have incomes under \$50,000. In contrast, more than a third of all households with children in Region 3 have annual household incomes of \$150,000 or more.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division.

⁷ Wider Opportunities for Women, "The Self-Sufficiency Standard for the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area," Fall 1999.

Household Income Distribution of Households with Children

	Fairfax County Human Services Region					City of Falls Church	City of Fairfax	Area Total
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5			
Less than \$25,000	8.8%	10.4%	3.7%	4.1%	4.9%	5.4%	7.2%	5.8%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	21.4%	19.5%	8.1%	7.8%	12.1%	12.4%	22.1%	12.7%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	20.2%	22.6%	13.9%	18.5%	16.4%	13.7%	22.5%	17.9%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	17.7%	18.0%	11.1%	15.6%	22.3%	22.0%	20.3%	16.9%
\$100,000 to \$124,999	14.1%	10.1%	18.5%	22.8%	20.5%	21.2%	12.0%	18.3%
\$125,000 to \$149,999	6.6%	6.4%	9.7%	11.7%	9.8%	7.0%	6.9%	9.3%
\$150,000 or more	11.2%	13.0%	35.0%	19.5%	13.8%	18.3%	9.1%	19.1%

Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Poverty Status

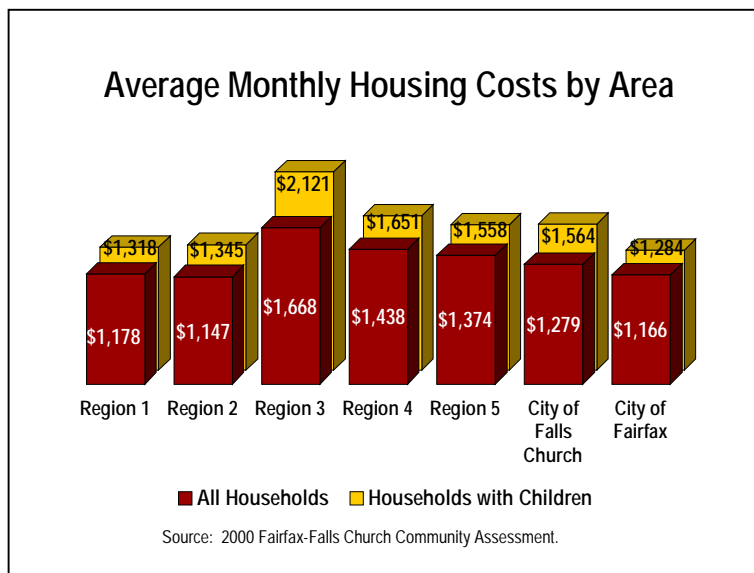
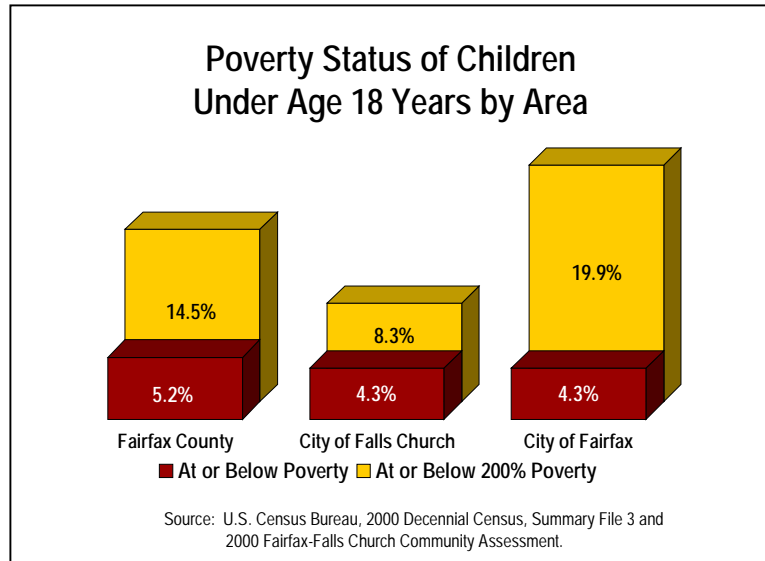
Poverty thresholds were first developed in the 1960's by an analyst with the Social Security Administration to provide a measure of income inadequacy. The poverty thresholds were based on the assumption that a typical household spends one-third of its after-tax income on food. The cost of the Department of Agriculture's least expensive food plan was multiplied by three to calculate varying poverty thresholds for different size households. Over time, poverty thresholds are adjusted by the consumer price index to reflect changes in inflation. Although the poverty thresholds originally were meant to be applied to after-tax income, the Census Bureau determines poverty status using before-tax income. Poverty status calculated for this report uses before-tax income.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for publishing annual poverty guidelines in the Federal Register. Poverty guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds and are used to determine eligibility for many social services programs. The poverty guidelines are not adjusted for differing costs of living in the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia. Using 2000 income, the poverty ceiling for a family of four was \$17,650. For each additional person in the family, \$3,020 is added. If there are fewer than four persons, \$3,020 is subtracted for each person less than four. The 200 percent of poverty level is twice the poverty ceiling for each family size. For a family of four, 200 percent of poverty is \$35,300.

The 2000 Decennial Census counted 12,616 children in Fairfax County, 184 children in the City of Fairfax, and 103 children in the City of Falls Church that were 17 years and younger living in poverty. Children in Fairfax County are more likely to live in poverty or live at or below 200 percent of poverty than are adults. Among persons of all ages in Fairfax County, 4.5 percent live at or below poverty and 10.2 percent live at or below 200 percent of poverty. Among children under age 18 years in Fairfax County, 5.2 percent live at or below poverty and 14.5 percent live at or below 200 percent of poverty.

Poverty rates for children under age 18 years in the two cities are the same, 4.3 percent. In the City of Falls Church the poverty rate for children is almost the same as the overall poverty rate for persons of all ages, 4.2 percent.

The poverty rate for children in the City of Fairfax, however, is lower than the overall rate for persons of all ages, 5.7 percent. The 200 percent of poverty rate for children under age 18 years in the City of Falls Church (8.3 percent) is less than half the City of Fairfax rate (19.9 percent). In the City of Falls Church the 200 percent of poverty rate for children is lower than that for persons of all ages (9.1 percent) but in the City of Fairfax the 200 percent of poverty rate for children is well above that for persons of all ages (12.1 percent).



Housing Costs

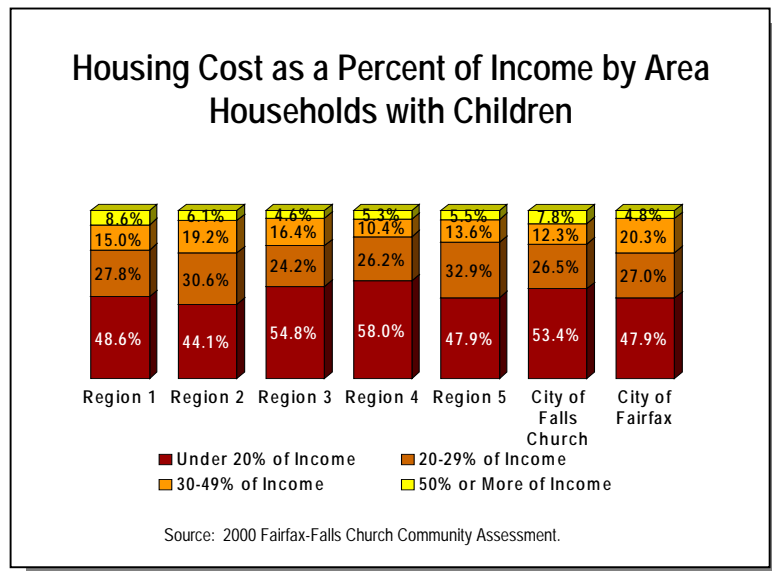
Housing costs are one of the largest recurring expenditures in most household budgets. For households with children, monthly housing costs are higher on average because a larger percent of these households live in single-family units and few of these households have reached the stage in life where they have

paid off their mortgages. Average monthly housing costs for Fairfax-Falls Church Area households with children are \$1,628, nearly \$250 above the average for all households. The highest average monthly housing cost is found in Human Services Region 3 where households with children pay an average of \$2,121 per month. In addition, the gap between what households with children and all households pay for housing is largest in Region 3, more than \$450. The City of Fairfax has the most affordable average monthly housing cost. Households with children in the City of Fairfax pay an average of \$1,284 per month, more than \$800 less than in Region 3. In Human Services Regions 1 and 2, the average monthly housing costs for households with children are only slightly higher than the costs in the City of Fairfax at \$1,318 and \$1,345 respectively.

Thirty percent of income often is considered an upper guideline for housing costs when qualifying potential buyers or renters for housing. A household that spends 30 to 49 percent of its income on housing costs carries a moderate amount of financial risk in its ability to pay for its housing if an unexpected decrease in income or increase in

expenditures should occur. Households spending more than half of their income for housing are at the greatest risk of becoming homeless. Nationwide, 28 percent of households with children under age 18 pay more than 30 percent of income for housing costs.⁸ In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, the vast majority of households with children pay less than 30 percent

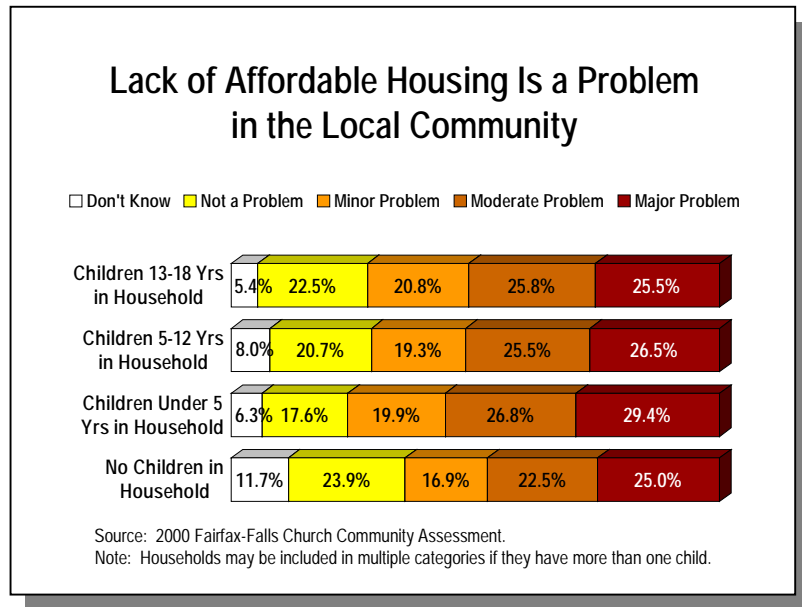
of income for housing but a fifth pay 30 percent or more with 5.9 percent pay 50 percent or more of their income for housing. Region 1, Region 2, and the City of Fairfax have the greatest proportions of households with children paying 30 percent or more of income for housing (23.6 percent, 25.3 percent, and 25.1 percent respectively). Region 1 and the City of Falls Church have the largest proportions of households with children paying 50 percent or more of income for housing (8.6 percent and 7.8 percent respectively).



One of the community perception questions on the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asked households if they thought lack of affordable housing was a local community problem. Half of all households perceive the lack of affordable housing as a moderate or major problem in the local community.

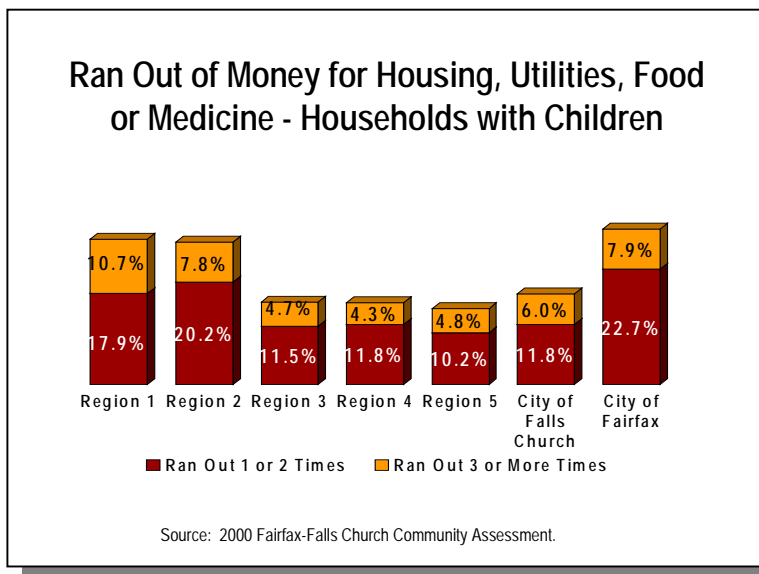
⁸ Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2001*, Washington, DC, U.S. Government Printing Office, July 2001.

Households with children are more likely than are households without children to perceive lack of affordable housing as a moderate or major local community problem. Households with very young children, 5 years or younger, are more concerned about the lack of affordable housing in the local community than other households. Nearly a third of households with very young children perceive the lack of affordable housing in the local community as a major problem and an additional quarter perceive it as a moderate problem.



Meeting Basic Needs

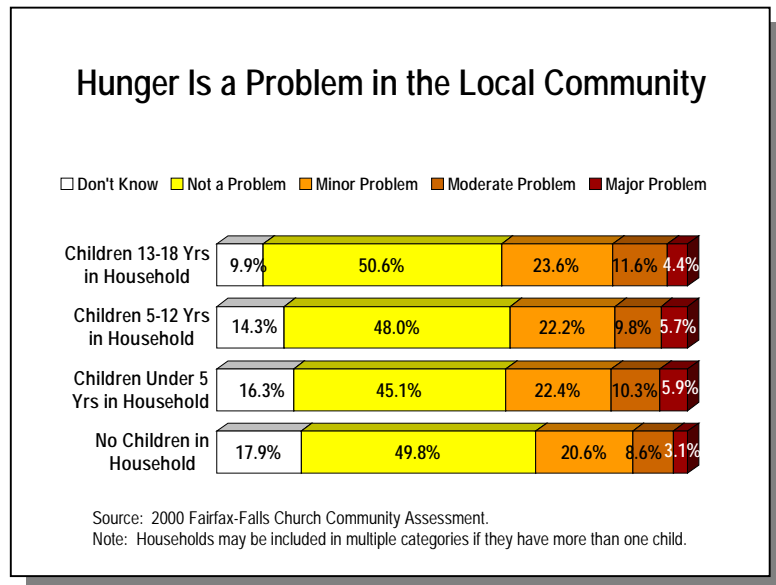
To help evaluate the ability of households to pay for basic needs such as housing, utilities, food, and medicine, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asked if the household had run out of money to pay for these items. Households that run out of money to pay for basic needs are showing signs of financial stress,



especially if cash flow problems occur three or more times per year. In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, households with children (19.6 percent) are more likely to run out of money for rent or mortgage, utilities, food, or medicine than are all households (14.3 percent). More than 28 percent of the households with children in Region 1, Region 2, and the City of Fairfax indicate that they had run out of money for

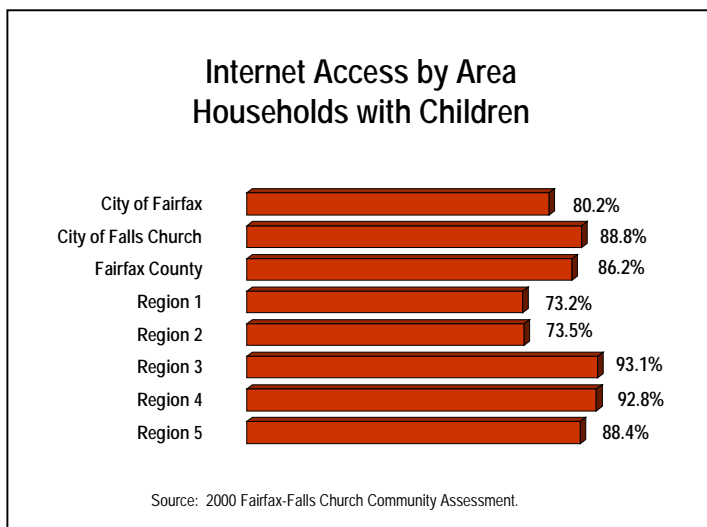
basic needs at least once last year. In Region 1, one out of every ten households with children indicate they had run out of money for basic needs three or more times during the past year.

In addition to asking households if they were having difficulty paying for basic needs, the Community Assessment asked households if they perceived hunger to be a local community problem. The majority of households does not know or does not perceive hunger as a local community problem. Regardless of the age of children in the household, households with children are slightly more likely to perceive hunger as a moderate or major problem in the local community. Only 11.7 percent of households without children perceive hunger as a moderate or major local community problem, whereas more than 15 percent of households with children feel this way.



Internet Access

Children who have computers and Internet services available to them have access to an immense amount of educational resources. Area-wide, 78.7 percent of all households have a computer at home that is connected to the Internet. Among



households with children age 18 and younger, a larger proportion have computers with Internet access, 86.1 percent. Internet access of households is correlated to the wealth of the household – as wealth increases Internet access is more likely. Human Services Regions 3 and 4 have the largest proportions of households with children that have Internet access, 93.1 percent and 92.8 percent respectively.

Regions 1 and 2 have the lowest levels of Internet access among households with children, 73.2 percent and 73.5 percent respectively.

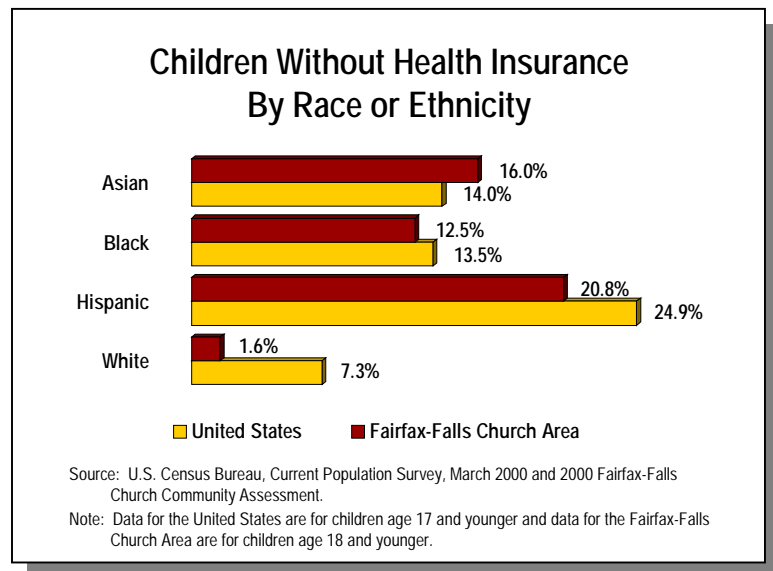
Health Issues

Both factual and community perception questions were asked about health issues on the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment. The factual questions about health asked if household members were covered by health insurance, experienced mental health problems, or had a long-lasting condition. Two of the community perception questions asked about lack of affordable medical care and mental illness or emotional problems.

Health Insurance Coverage

Without health insurance, access to medical care is limited. Children without health insurance often go without preventive health care such as routine physicals, are less likely to have a primary healthcare provider who is familiar with the child's health history, and are more likely not to receive immunizations. Nationwide, 11.6 percent of children age 17 or younger lack health insurance.⁹ At 7.0 percent, the percentage of children age 18 or younger lacking health insurance in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area is below the national rate. This represents an estimated 19,100 children in the area. Similar to national trends, children in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area are more likely to lack health insurance as they become older – 5.9 percent of children age 5 and younger, 7.0 percent of children 5 to 12 years, and 8.1 percent of children 13 to 18 years lack health insurance.

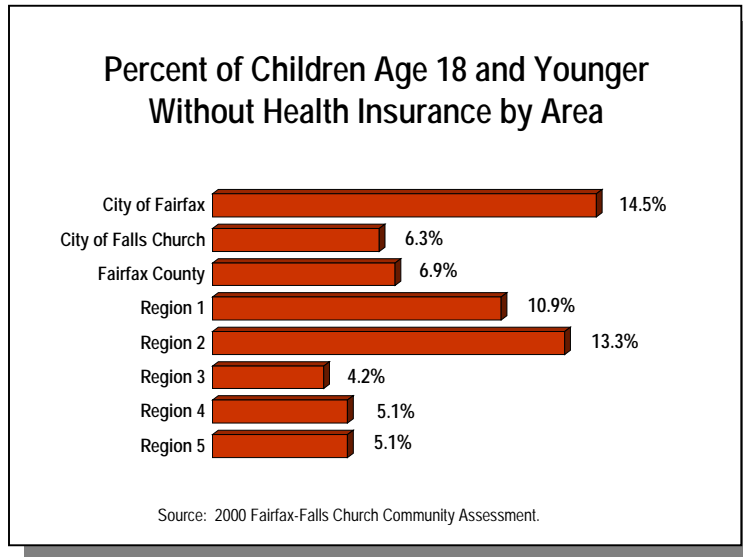
Lack of health insurance varies dramatically by race and ethnicity among children. With the exclusion of Non-Hispanic White children, the percentage of children lacking health insurance by race and ethnicity are similar nationally and locally. Nationally, 7.3 percent of Non-Hispanic White children age 17 and younger lack health insurance. In the Fairfax-Falls Church



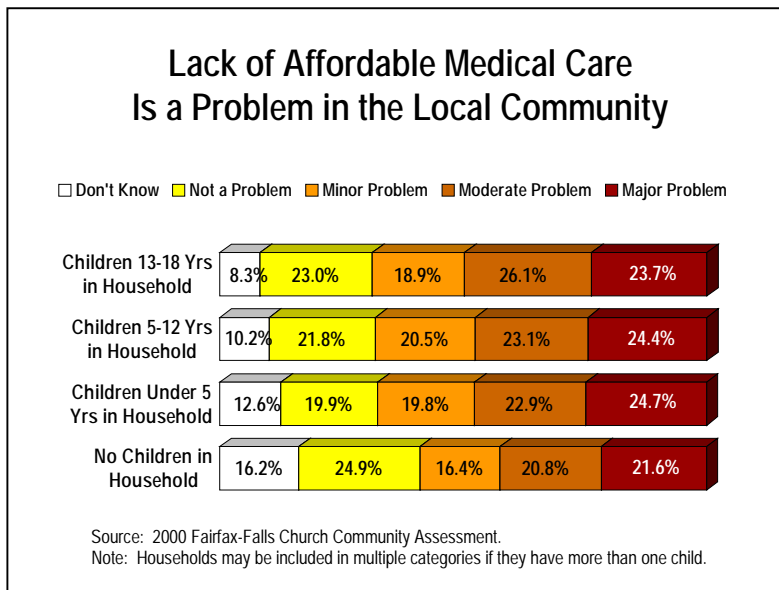
⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

Area, only 1.6 percent of Non-Hispanic White children age 18 and younger lack health insurance. Among Black children, 13.5 percent nationally and 12.5 percent locally lack health insurance. The lack of health insurance among Asian children is higher in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area (16.0 percent) than that nationally (14.0 percent). Hispanic children are the most likely group to be uninsured – 20.8 percent locally and 24.9 percent nationwide.

The City of Fairfax, Region 1, and Region 2 have the largest proportions of children that have no health insurance (14.5 percent, 10.9 percent, and 13.3 percent respectively). The other areas of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area have much lower percents of uninsured children. Children without health insurance comprise 4.2 percent of all children in Region 3, 5.1 percent in Regions 4 and 5, and 6.3 percent in the City of Falls Church. Although Human Services Regions 1 and 2 contain 28.6 percent of all children in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, half of all uninsured children live in these two human services regions.



When responding to the community perception question on whether lack of affordable medical care is a local community problem, households with children



are more likely than are households without children to perceive lack of affordable medical care as a moderate or major problem in their local community. The responses of households with children to this community perception question did not differ based on the ages of children in the household. Nearly half of all households with children think lack of

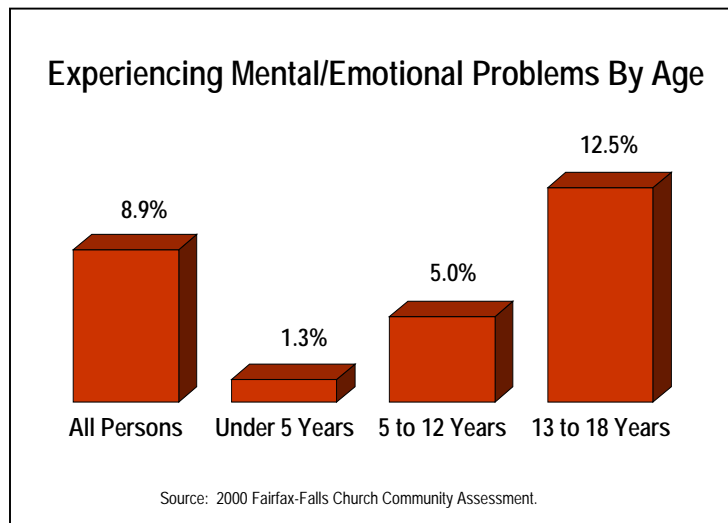
affordable medical care is a moderate or major local community problem and nearly a quarter think it is a major problem. A fifth of households without children perceive lack of affordable medical care as a major local community problem and an additional fifth perceive it as a moderate problem. Households without children also are more likely to respond that they did not know if lack of affordable medical care is a local community problem.

Mental Health

When a member of a household has a mental health problem it can have a profound effect on other members of the household – increasing the emotional stress level of the household considerably. In addition, mental health problems tend to stretch over long periods of time and may be life-long illnesses. To help measure the extent of mental health problems in the Area, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asked households if “Over the past year, did *any member of the household* experience depression, anxiety, mental, emotional, or behavioral problems to the degree *the respondent* felt help was needed?”

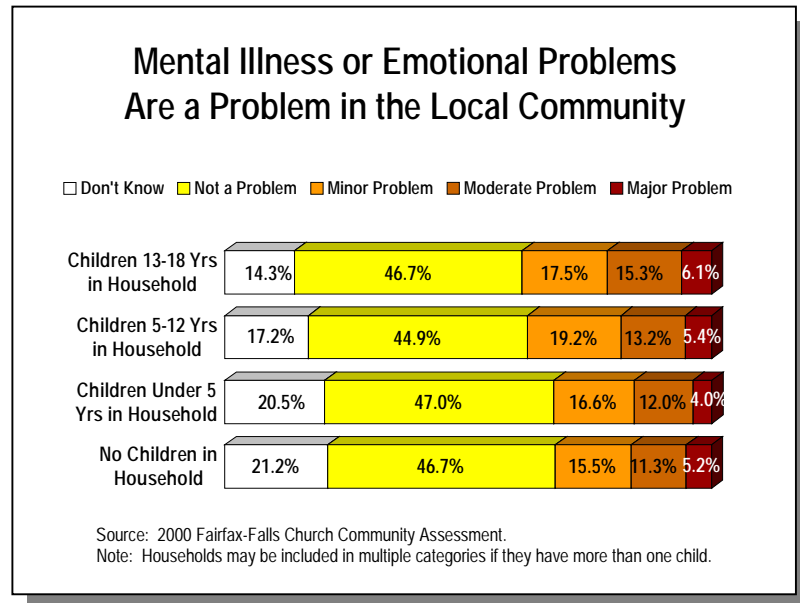
The incidence of mental health problems among children did not vary much by sub-area of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. Most of the variation by sub-area can be attributed to differing social-economic factors – age, sex and race/ethnicity. Among children, however, there is a strong association between the age of the child and the reporting of mental health problems. Parents and guardians rarely

associate mental health problems with preschool age children (1.3 percent), but as children enter school the incidence of guardians reporting mental health concerns rises sharply. One out of every 20 elementary school-age child is reported to have depression, anxiety, mental, emotional, or behavioral problems to the degree that the parent or guardian felt help was needed. Once a child becomes a teenager, parents and guardians report mental health problems at a rate higher than for the population as a whole. While 8.9 percent of all persons in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area are reported to have mental health problems, 12.5 percent of teenagers are reported to have mental health problems.



The mental health problems of parents and guardians can have a profound effect on their children. In addition to emotional stresses, mental health problems of adults can result in financial stress because of lost work productivity and increased health care costs. Among persons in developed countries, mental health problems comprise four of the ten most common causes of disability as measured in days of disability.¹⁰ In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, 13.8 percent of children age 18 and younger live with a parent or guardian who experiences depression, anxiety, mental, emotional or behavioral problems to the degree that help is needed.

Nearly half of all Fairfax-Falls Church households do not perceive mental illness or emotional problems as local community problems, and an additional fifth do not know if these are community problems. Households with school-age children, age 5 to 18 years, are somewhat more likely to perceive mental illness or emotional problems as local community concerns than households without children and households with children under age 5.

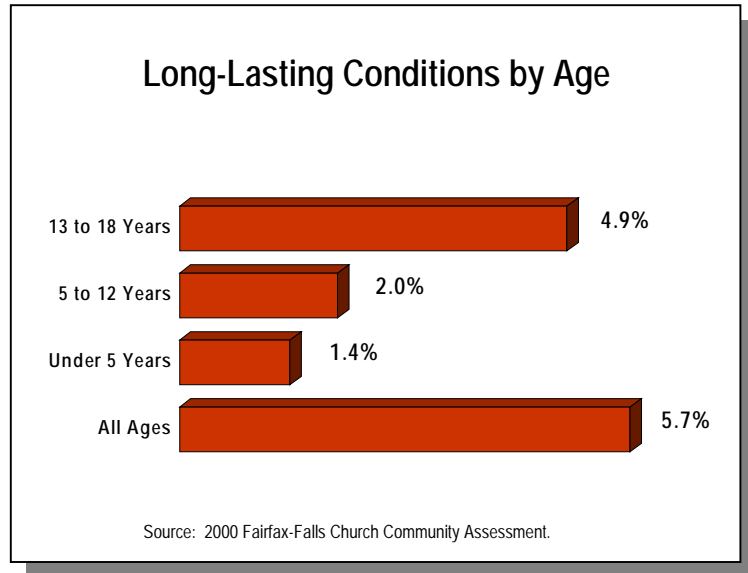


Long-Lasting Conditions

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asked if any household members had a long-lasting condition: a severe vision or hearing impairment; a condition that substantially limits physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, bathing or dressing; and/or a severe learning or memory problem. Households that have children with severe disabling conditions may experience higher health care costs. Children with disabling conditions may need special education services and may miss more school due to these chronic conditions. Parents and guardians also may need to provide more physical and emotional support to children with long-lasting conditions.

¹⁰ World Health Organization, World Bank, and Harvard University, *Global Burden of Disease Study*, 1996.

Few children age 18 and younger are identified as having any long-lasting conditions and there is little variation across geographic sub-area. Older children are more likely to be identified as having a long-lasting condition than are younger children. Among persons of all ages, 5.7 percent of the population is identified as having one or more long-lasting conditions. Only 1.4 percent of children under age 5 years, 2.0 percent of children age 5 to 12 years, and 4.9 percent of children age 13 to 18 years are identified as having one or more long-lasting conditions.



Persons 65 Years and Older

Population Characteristics

The results of the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment closely mirror those of the 2000 Decennial Census where information is available from both sources. The Community Assessment results, however, do not include group quarters population such as persons living in institutions, dormitories and on military bases. Thus, Census data are used in this report to summarize total population figures and age information. Census data, however, are not available to provide a social and economic profile of persons age 65 years and older, thus Community Assessment data are used for these purposes.

In 2000, persons 65 years and older account for nearly 12.4 percent of the nation's total population.¹ The Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Studies predicts that when the "baby boom" generation begins to turn 65 in 2011, the population of older Americans will begin to expand more rapidly in the United States. By 2030, one in five people will be age 65 or older, doubling the size of this age group over the next 30 years. The growth of the 65 and older population will continue to affect every aspect of our society, presenting challenges as well as opportunities to policymakers, families, businesses, and health care providers.²

The growth of the population of persons age 65 years and older in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area has been faster than that nationally. The local increase in the number of persons age 65 years and older from 1980 to 1990 was 94.4 percent

Persons 65 Years and Older - 1980, 1990 and 2000						
Population Age 65 and Older	1980		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Fairfax County	26,989	4.5%	53,544	6.5%	76,818	7.9%
City of Falls Church	1,316	13.8%	1,439	15.0%	1,262	12.2%
City of Fairfax	1,080	5.6%	2,135	10.9%	2,753	12.8%
TOTAL	29,385	4.7%	57,118	6.7%	80,833	8.1%

Source: 1980, 1990 and 2000 U.S. Decennial Censuses, Summary File 1.

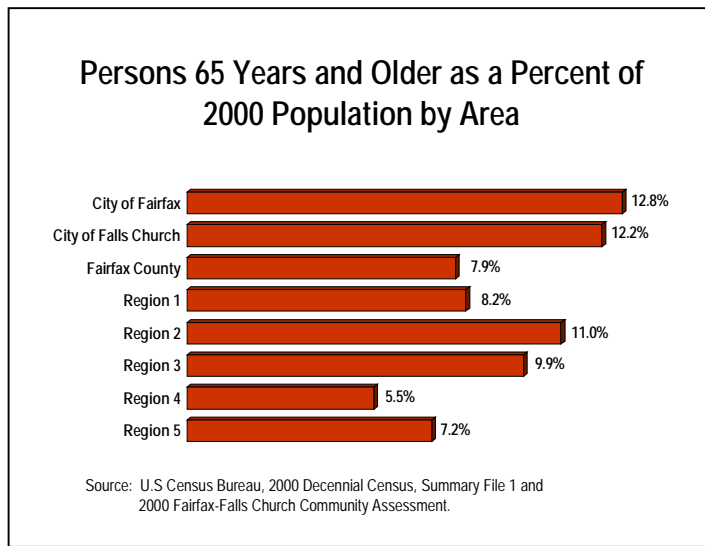
and from 1990 to 2000 was more than 40 percent, compared to 22 percent and 12 percent³ nationally. During this two-decade period the number of persons 65 years and older in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area has grown from 29,385 persons to 80,833 persons.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census, Summary File 1.

² Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Studies, *Older Americans 2000: Key Indicators of Well-Being*, Government Printing Office, August 2000.

³ U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses, Summary File 1.

Despite the growth in the number of persons 65 years and older area-wide, the City of Falls Church, unlike the other two jurisdictions, experienced a decline in its population of persons age 65 years and older between 1990 and 2000. In 2000 the City of Falls Church's population of persons age 65 and older (1,262 persons) is smaller than that age group's population two decades ago in 1980 (1,316 persons). Even with this decline, persons 65 years and older account for a relatively large proportion (12.2 percent) of the City of Falls Church's total population in 2000.



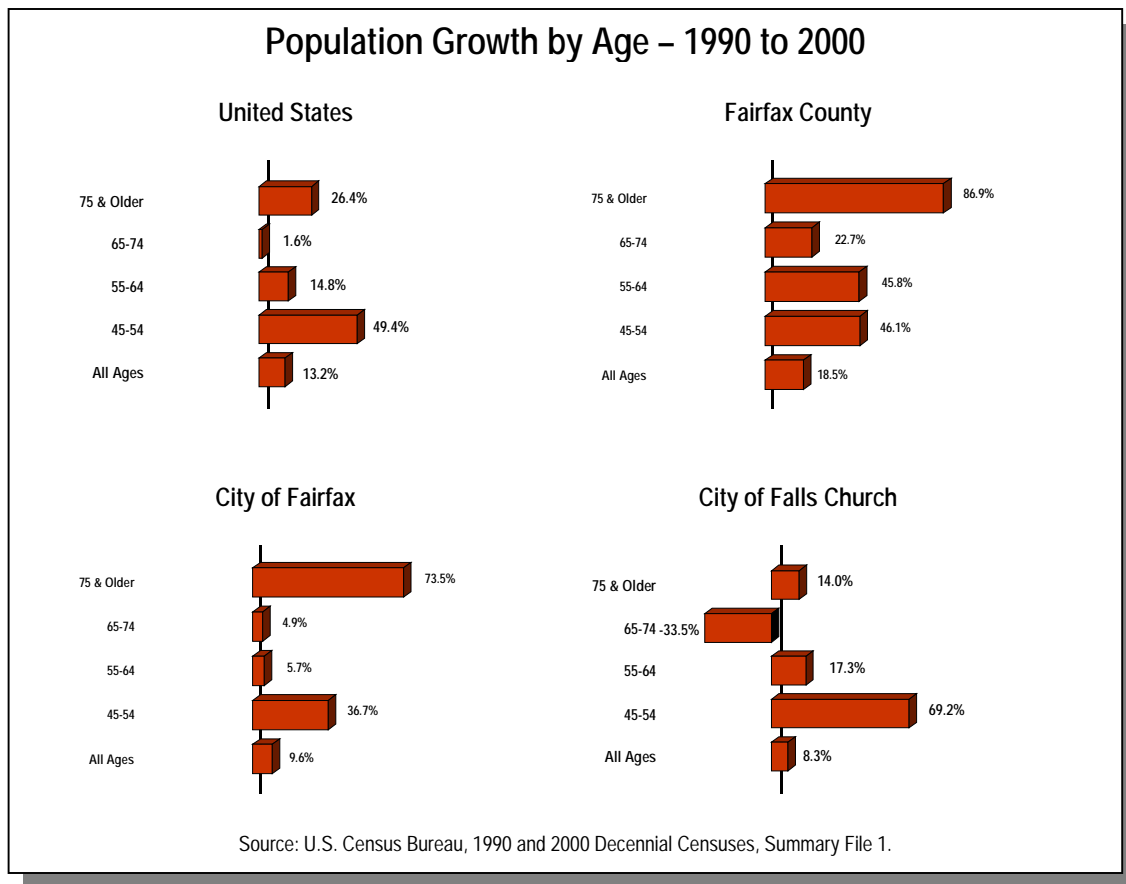
The western part of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area contains the smallest proportion of seniors in relation to total population, while the two cities contain the greatest proportions. The percentage of population that persons 65 years and older comprise in Human Services Region 4 is 5.5 percent. In contrast, persons age 65 years and older make up 12.8 percent of the population in the City of Fairfax and 12.2

percent in the City of Falls Church. Human Services Region 2 with 11.0 percent contains the highest concentration of persons 65 years and older in Fairfax County.

Population Growth by Age

A comparison of local and national 1990 to 2000 population growth rates by age for persons 45 years and older reveals major differences among jurisdictions and from the national rates. The overall population growth rate of Fairfax County (18.5 percent) was greater than the national rate (13.2 percent) while the two cities grew more slowly – 9.6 percent for the City of Fairfax and 8.3 percent for the City of Falls Church. Nationally, the number of persons age 65 to 74 years grew more slowly than total population while the number of persons age 45 to 64 years and 75 years or older grew more rapidly than total population.

In Fairfax County all of the age groups 45 years and older grew more rapidly than the County's total population. Fairfax County's 45 to 54 year age group grew at about the same rate as that age group nationally, but the growth rates for all of the age groups 55 years and older grew much more rapidly in Fairfax County than in the nation, exceeding national growth rates by more than three times.

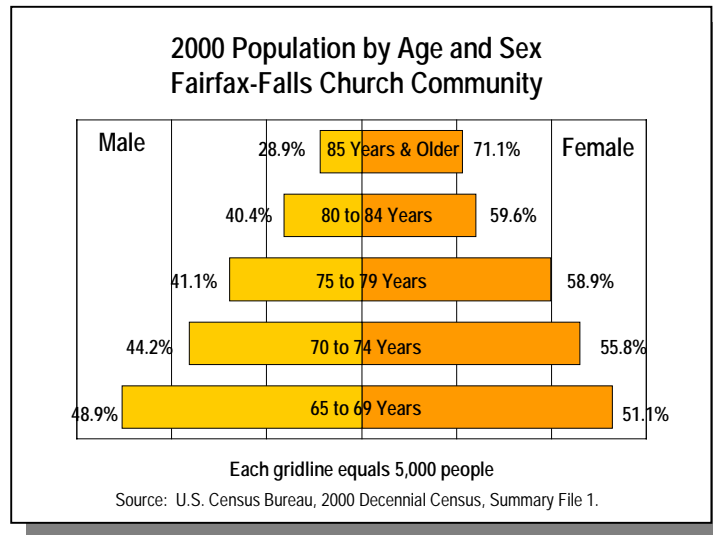


In the City of Fairfax, the number of persons age 45 to 54 years and 75 years or older grew faster than the City's total population. When comparing the City of Fairfax to national data, the number of persons age 45 to 64 grew more slowly in the City while the number of persons age 65 years or older grew approximately three times more rapidly.

The City of Falls Church has a very different population growth profile from the nation and the other two jurisdictions. The City of Falls Church was the only area to experience a significant decline in an age group – the number of persons age 65 to 74 years declined by more than a third. The number of persons 75 years or older grew much more slowly in Falls Church (14.0 percent) than nationally (26.4 percent) or locally in Fairfax County (86.9 percent) and the City of Fairfax (73.5 percent). On the other hand, the City of Falls Church had much stronger population growth in the number of persons age 45 to 54 years (69.2 percent) than nationally or locally.

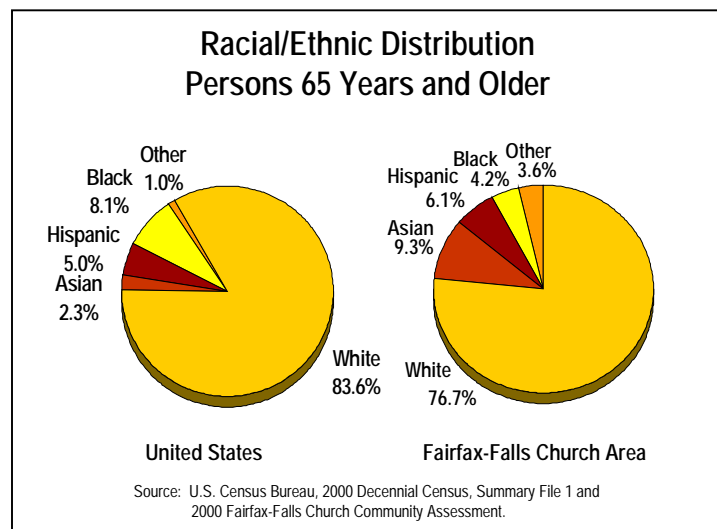
Distribution by Sex

Both nationally and in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, women outnumber men and the ratio of males to females decreases with age. In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, men represent 49.6 percent and women represent 50.4 percent of the total population. In the 65 to 69 year age group, men account for 48.9 percent and women 51.1 percent – nearly the same proportion as in the total population. After age 70, the proportion of the population that is female increases dramatically with age. Among residents 85 years or older, there are nearly three women for every man.



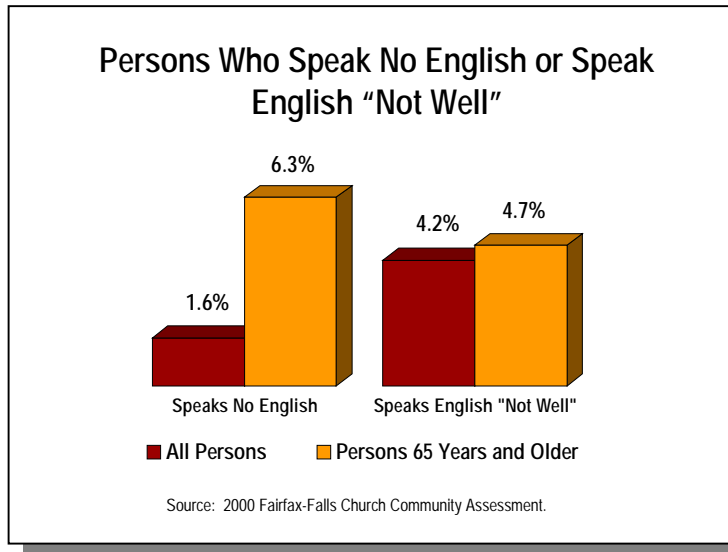
Race or Ethnicity

As the older population grows larger, it will also grow more diverse, reflecting the demographic changes in the U.S. population as a whole.⁴ In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, the racial/ethnic diversity of the population 65 years and older is different than in the nation. The Black and White populations are smaller proportions in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area than in the nation. Hispanics account for a slightly greater proportion of local population 65 years and older than nationally, but Asians account for a much larger proportion of that age group's population in the local area.



⁴ Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, *Older Americans 2000: Key Indicators of Well-Being*, Government Printing Office, August 2000.

Language Spoken at Home

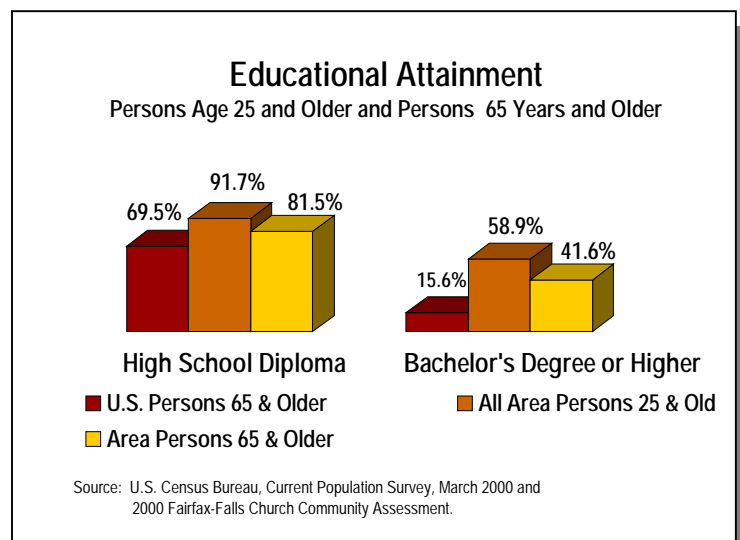


According to the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, the degree to which persons 65 years and older speak English influences the ease of the delivery of services to assist in promoting independence. The English proficiency of persons 65 years and older varies from that of

the general population. More than 6 percent or 5,200 persons 65 years and older speak no English compared to only 1.6 percent of all persons in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. An additional 4.7 percent or 3,800 persons 65 years and older speak English "not well." The number of persons 65 years and older who speak English "not well" or "not at all" may reflect a growing number of multigenerational households.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is defined as the highest level of school completed or highest degree earned by a person. It is considered an important indicator of economic wellbeing. "Educational attainment influences socioeconomic status, and thus can play a role in wellbeing at older ages. Higher levels of education are usually associated with higher incomes, higher standards of living, and above-average health status among older Americans."⁵ Both locally and nationally, younger generations as a group have pursued more education than older generations. In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area over 90 percent of all adults age 25 years or older



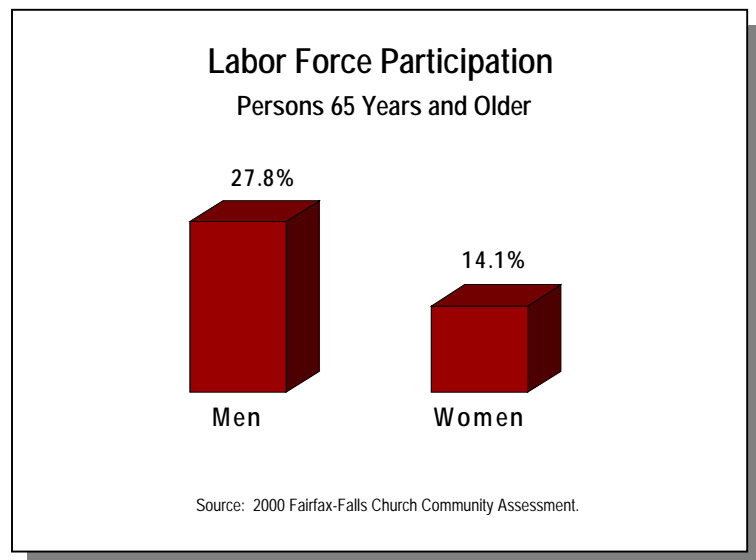
⁵ Ibid.

have graduated from high school whereas slightly more than 80 percent of persons age 65 or older have high school diplomas. Similarly 58.9 percent of local residents age 25 and older have earned a four year college degree while 41.6 percent of local residents age 65 years and older have that much education. Local educational attainment rates for persons age 65 years and older are higher than those nationwide. Nationally, 69.5 percent of persons 65 years and older have a high school diploma and only 15.6 percent have a four-year college degree.

Employment Characteristics

Labor force participation is measured as the percentage of population that is employed or actively seeking employment. According to the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Studies, labor force participation rates have been declining among men ages 55 years and older for nearly four decades. Most of the decline occurred prior to 1980. Some reasons for the decline in male labor force participation among men 55 years and older include the drop in age eligibility from 65 to 62 for Social Security benefits in the early 60's and greater wealth allowing Americans to retire earlier. In contrast to the rates for men, labor force participation rates have risen among women age 55 or older during recent decades⁶.

In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, men who are age 65 and older are nearly twice as likely to be in the labor market as women age 65 and older – over a quarter of the men compared to 14.1 percent of the women. Of those persons 65 years and older who are in the labor force, half are employed full time and slightly less than half part time. Only 1.0 percent are unemployed and seeking employment.



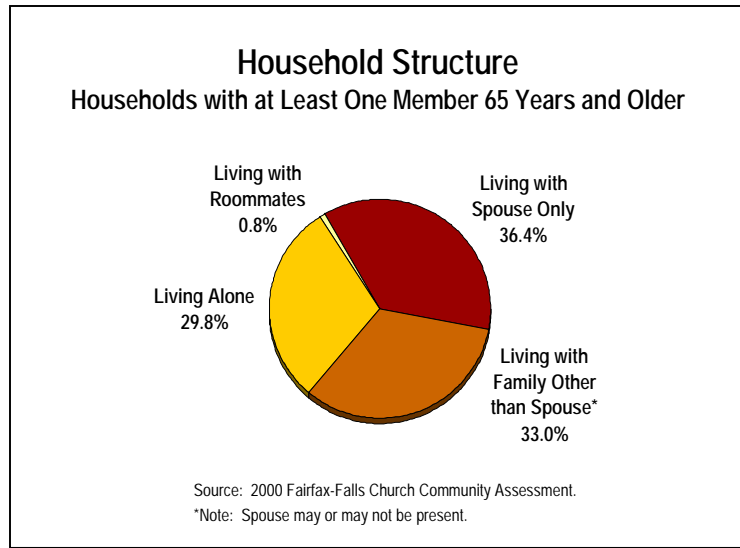
⁶ Ibid.

Household Characteristics

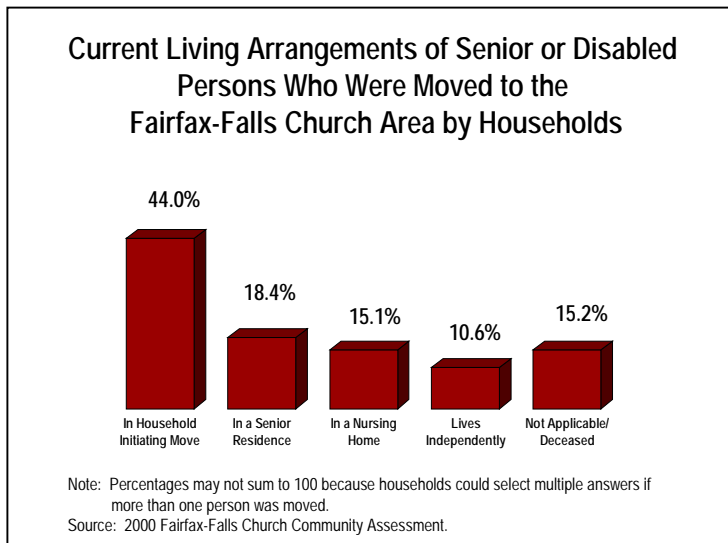
Household Structure

According to the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging, marital status can strongly affect a person's emotional and economic wellbeing by influencing living arrangements and availability of caregivers among older Americans. Like marital status, the living arrangements of America's older population are important because they are closely linked to income,

health status, and the availability of caregivers.⁷ In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, one-person households account for 21.4 percent of all households but almost one-third of the households containing persons 65 years and older. Three-quarters of persons 65 years and older who live alone are women in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. The higher percentage of women living alone reflects sex differences in life expectancy, the tendency for women to marry men who are slightly older, and higher remarriage rates for older widowed men than widowed women.⁸ Slightly more than 36 percent of households containing persons 65 years and older are seniors living only with their spouse, and third of households containing seniors include family members other than a spouse (spouse may or



may not be present). Less than 1 percent of households containing a member 65 years and older are non-family households containing two or more unrelated persons.



One question on the 2000 Community Assessment asked, "In the past five years, have you moved an elderly or disabled person to Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, or the City of Falls Church from outside

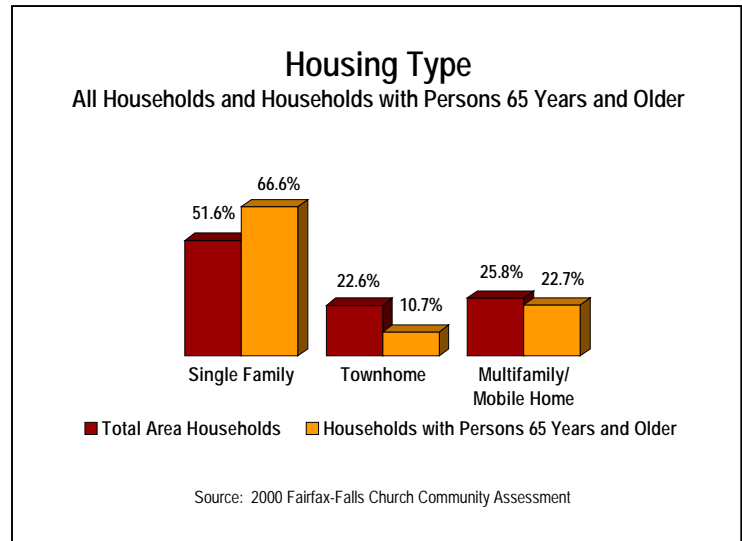
⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

of these areas?” Almost 5 percent of all area households responded that they had moved an elderly or disabled person from outside the area. The largest proportion of seniors or disabled persons moved to this area currently live with the household that initiated the move, 44.0 percent. Only a tenth of the seniors or disabled persons moved here during the past five years live independently, 18.4 percent live in a senior residence, and 15.1 percent live in a nursing home.

Housing Type and Homeownership

The type of housing lived in is an important factor as people age in place. Persons 65 years and older who live in single-family homes may be more isolated from needed resources. In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, 51.6 percent of all households live in single family homes. Among households where at least one member is 65 years or older, 66.6 percent live in single family homes. A smaller proportion of households containing a member 65 years or older live in multifamily housing compared to all households. Among persons 65 years and older who live alone, nearly half live in a single family home, and two-fifths live in multifamily housing.



Households containing members 65 years and older are more likely to be homeowners than all households in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. More than 84 percent of households with a member 65 years and older are homeowners compared to 74.4 percent of all households in the area.

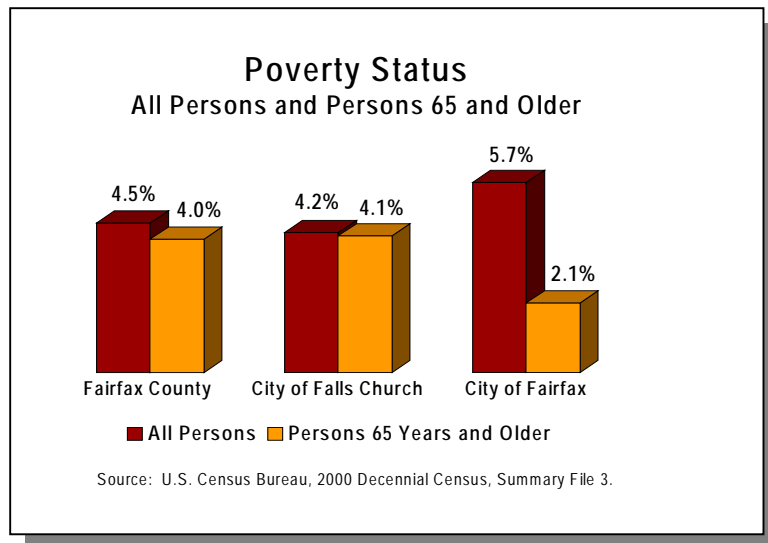
Economic Indicators

Poverty Status

The official measure of poverty is formulated by the federal government on a yearly basis and is based on family size and annual income. In 2000, a person living alone would be considered at or below poverty if their income did not exceed \$8,590. For each additional family member living in the household, this poverty guideline would increase by \$3,020. The poverty guideline is a measure

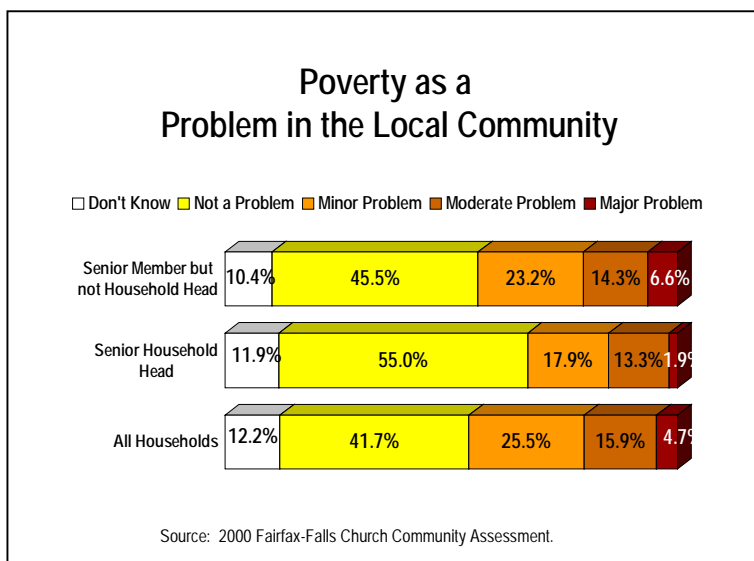
of income and does not take into consideration assets or wealth that older persons may have accumulated.

Information from the 2000 Decennial Census indicates that a slightly lower percent of persons 65 and older are living below poverty in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area than in the general population. The poverty rates for all persons and persons age 65 and older are similar in Fairfax County and the City of Falls Church. The City



of Fairfax, however, has a very different profile. In the City of Fairfax, persons age 65 and older have less than half the poverty rate of the city's overall population. In addition, the poverty rate among persons 65 years and older in the City of Fairfax is half the poverty rates for those same age groups in the two other jurisdictions.

Although most Fairfax-Falls Church Area households do not perceive poverty as a community problem, it is interesting to note that households headed by persons

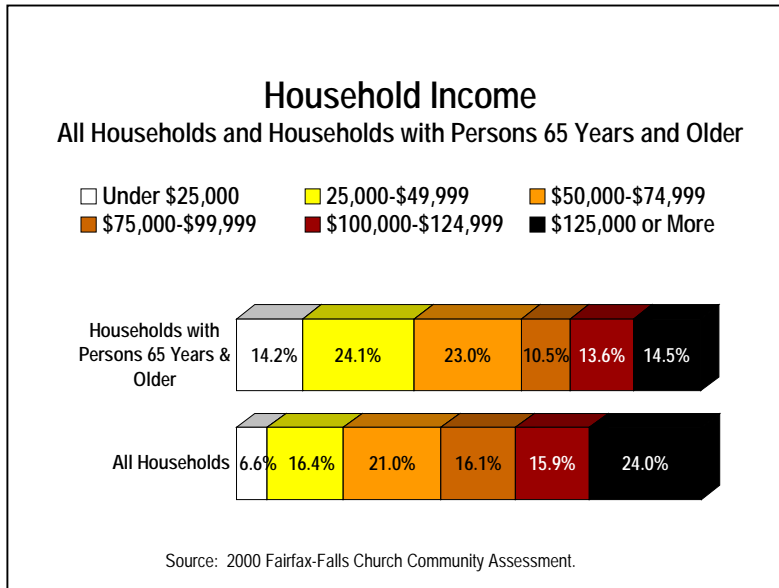


65 and older are even less likely to view poverty as a local community problem. The majority of households (55.0 percent) headed by persons age 65 and older perceive that poverty is not a local community problem. Households where a senior is a member but not the head of the household perceive poverty as a community problem in a manner more similar to all households – less than

46 percent say poverty is not a local community problem.

Household Income

Typically income declines when primary wage earners reach retirement age. In over 80 percent of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area households with a member age 65 or older, the person who is 65 years or older is a head of the household. Thus,

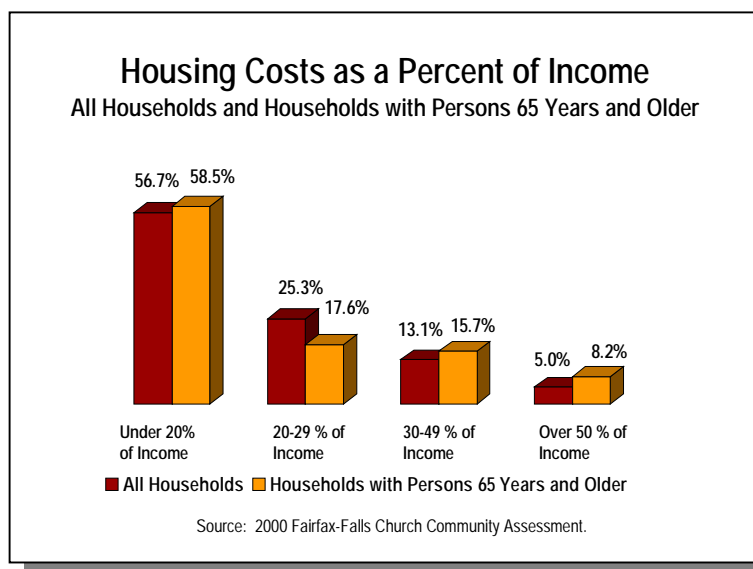


it is not a surprise that the median household income of households containing persons 65 years and over is lower than that for all households - \$60,000 compared to \$81,000 for all households. More than 38 percent of households with persons 65 years and older have incomes of under \$50,000 while only 23.0 percent of all area households have incomes under

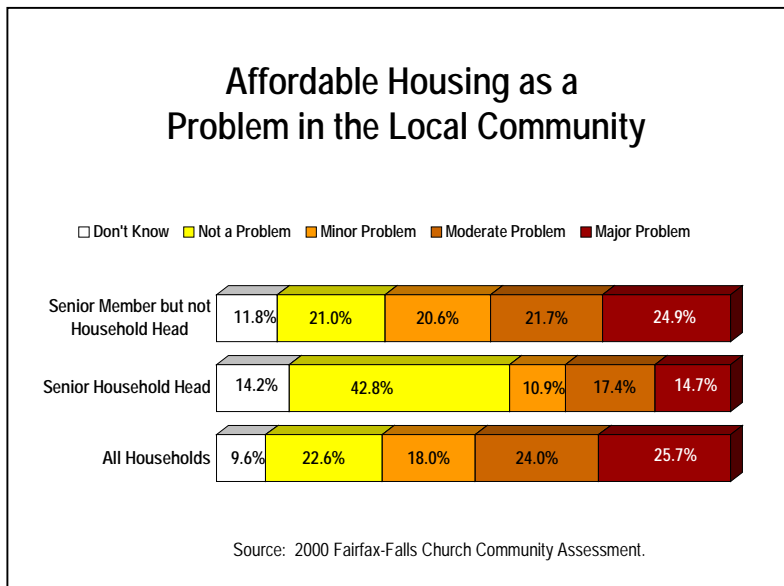
\$50,000. The proportion of households with a member age 65 or older that have incomes of \$50,000 to \$74,999 is similar to that of all Fairfax-Falls Church households. However, the proportion of households with incomes of \$75,000 or more is smaller for households containing members who are 65 years or older.

Housing Costs as a Percent of Income

Housing costs are a major recurring expense faced by most households. When housing costs exceed 30 percent of income, they put financial stress on the household. When housing costs exceed 50 percent of income, the financial stress is severe. Households that pay more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs are more likely to run out of money and are at risk of losing their



housing. Households with members who are 65 and over are somewhat more likely to spend over 30 percent of their income on housing costs than are all area households. While 23.9 percent of households with members age 65 or older spend more than 30 percent of income on housing, 18.1 percent of all households spend this much on housing.

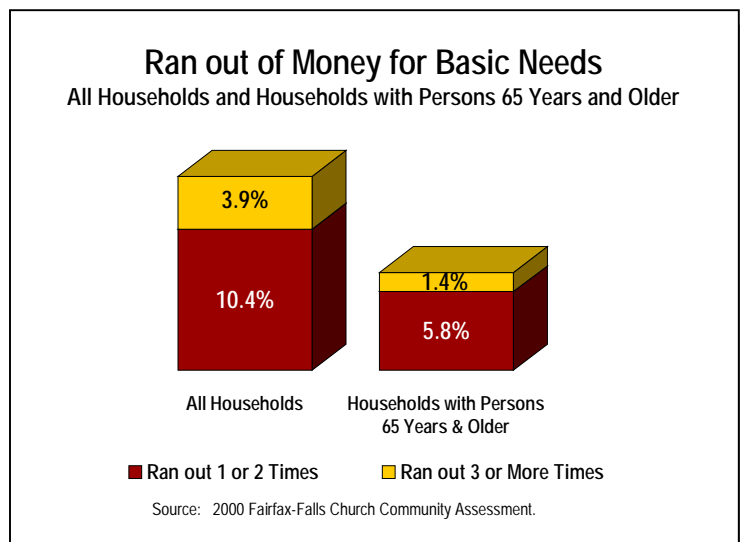


When asked if affordable housing was a local community problem, the answers given by households where the member age 65 or older was not the head of the household were similar to the answers given by all households. However, households with a senior as the head of household feel that affordable housing is less of a local community problem.

Only 14.7 percent of households with a head age 65 or older think affordable housing is a major local community problem and 42.8 percent think it is not a problem. In contrast, a quarter of all households thinks affordable housing is a major problem and only 22.6 percent think it is not a problem.

Running Out of Money for Basic Needs

The 2000 Community Assessment asked the question, “During the past year, did your household run out of money to pay for basic needs such as rent or mortgage, utilities, food or medicine?” The answer choices were no, yes once or twice, or yes three or more times. Households containing members age 65 and older are slightly less likely to run out of money for basic needs than all households in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. Almost 6 percent of households containing persons 65 years



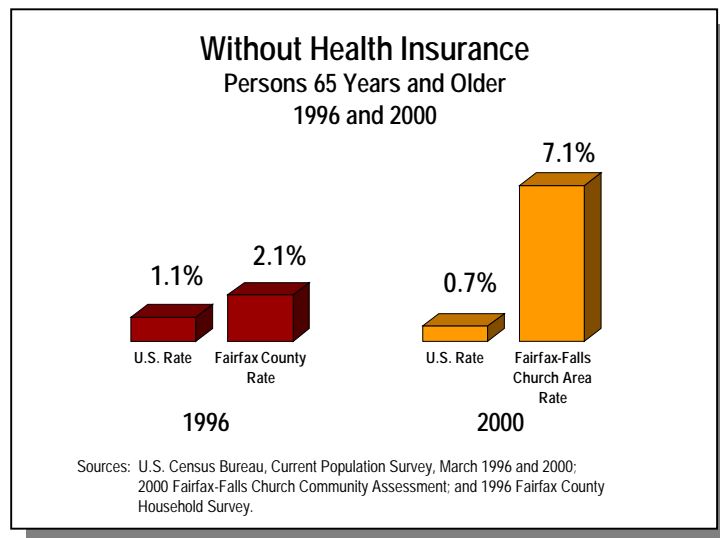
and older ran out of money one or two times for basic needs in the year preceding the Community Assessment, compared to 10.4 percent of all households in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. Another 1.4 percent of households with a member age 65 or older ran out of money for basic needs three or more times, compared to 3.9 percent of all households in the area. As with all households, households containing persons 65 years and older prefer to turn to family and friends for assistance and, as a second choice, increase their credit card or other debt.

Health Issues

Health Insurance Coverage

Health insurance coverage is an indicator of access to medical services. Persons with health insurance are more likely to access preventive health care and not postpone needed medical care. In the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Assessment, 92.9 percent of persons 65 years and older have health insurance. This rate was similar to the health insurance coverage rate for all persons in the area at 91.7 percent.

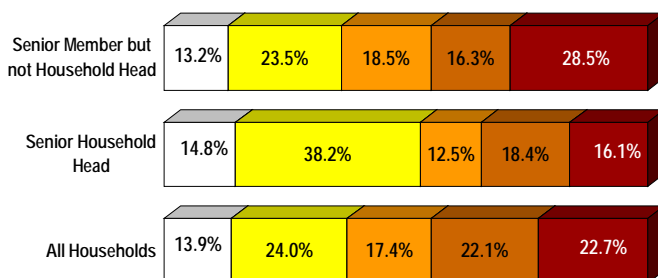
The percentage of Fairfax-Falls Church residents age 65 and older without health insurance coverage (7.1 percent) is higher than the national rate for this same age group of 0.7 percent⁹ and exceeds the previous rate for this age group from the 1996 Fairfax County Household Survey of 2.1 percent. A closer look at Fairfax-Falls Church residents 65 years and older without health insurance reveals that the majority of those without insurance speak English “not well” or “not at all.” These findings suggest that many of the persons 65 years and older lacking health insurance in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area may be immigrants who are not eligible for Medicare.



⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

Affordable Medical Care as a Problem in the Local Community

□ Don't Know ■ Not a Problem ■ Minor Problem ■ Moderate Problem ■ Major Problem



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

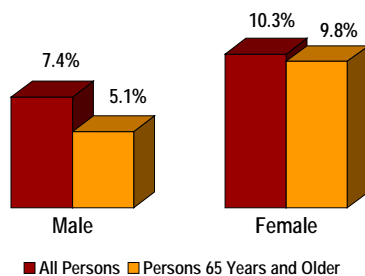
As with many community perception questions, the responses given to the question on affordable medical care as a community problem are different between households with seniors as the head of household and households containing seniors who are not the head of household. Households where the person age 65 or older is the head of the

household had a different perspective on whether affordable medical care is a local community problem. Households headed by older persons were less likely to perceive affordable medical care as a local community problem. Of households where the head is 65 years and older, only 16.1 percent think affordable medical care is a major community problem and 38.2 percent think it is not a problem. In contrast among all area households, 22.7 percent think affordable medical care is a major local community problem and 24.0 percent think it is not a problem. Households containing persons 65 years and older who are not household heads were the most likely to perceive affordable medical care as a major community problem – 28.5 percent.

Mental Health

The 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment asked if any member of the household experienced depression, anxiety, mental, emotional or behavioral

Persons With Mental Health Problems by Sex All Persons and Persons 65 Years and Older



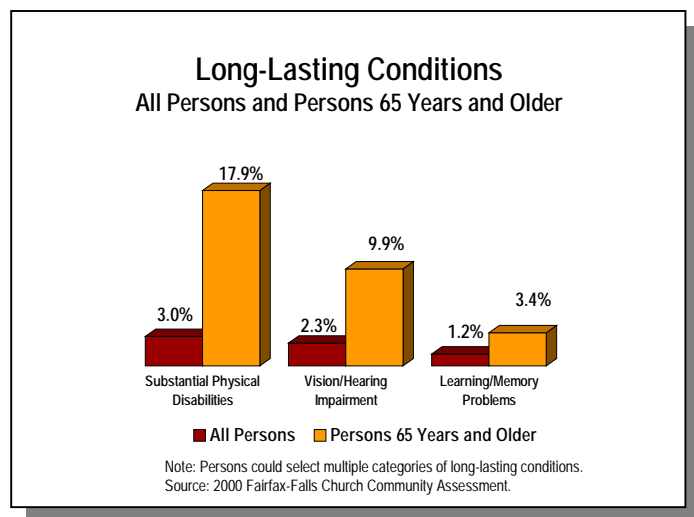
Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

problems in the past year to the degree it was felt that help was needed. When a household member suffers from mental health problems, it not only causes emotional stress but can result in lower productivity and higher financial costs. In regards to mental health issues, persons age 65 and older experience problems at about the same rate as the general population – 7.7 percent of persons 65 years

and older compared to 8.9 percent of all persons in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. Women age 65 and older are nearly twice as likely to experience mental health problems than their male counterparts, 9.8 percent and 5.1 percent respectively.

Long-Lasting Conditions

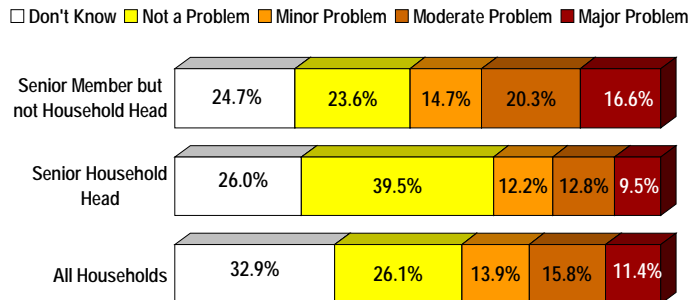
Disability rates increase with age. Persons with disabilities often suffer from a diminished capacity to function, have an increased need for health care and assistance, are less able to remain in the labor force, and may be less able to live independently. These factors can result in additional economic impacts on this population. Based on responses to the 2000 Community Assessment, approximately 20,900 individuals 65 years and older report a long-lasting condition. The most common long-lasting condition reported is a condition that substantially limits physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, bathing or dressing. Nearly 18 percent of persons age 65 and older reported a physical condition limiting activities compared to only 3.0 percent of the general population. In addition, a tenth of all persons age 65 and older report a severe vision or hearing impairment compared to 2.3 percent of the general population. Only a small proportion, 3.4 percent, of persons age 65 and older report a severe learning or memory problem.



Adult Day Care Needs

A small percentage, 1.3 percent, of persons 65 and older is currently using adult day care services. However, another 2.3 percent are not using adult day care services but indicate they need these services. Together these percentages represent an estimated 2,900 persons 65 years and older that are currently using or need adult day care assistance.

Available Adult Day Care as a Problem in the Local Community



Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Households with senior members who are not head of household consider the availability of community adult day care to be more of a problem than households with seniors as heads or than all other area households. Nearly 40 percent of households with a member age 65 or older who is not a household head perceive affordable

care for adults during the day a moderate or major community problem. However, only 27.2 percent of all households and 22.3 percent of households with a senior head of household feel this is a moderate or major community problem. Furthermore, households with a head age 65 or older were the most likely to respond that affordable adult care during the day was not a community problem, 32.9 percent. Among all types of households a large percent responded "don't know." This may indicate a lack of knowledge about adult day care services.

Internet Access

There is some thought that in the future seniors could be notified of appointments, of the time to take medication, and/or of social events and activities via the Internet. In this way, Internet access may be able to provide assistance to individuals who are homebound and/or disabled. More than 78 percent of all households in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area have Internet access. Although households containing persons 65 years and older are less likely to have Internet access, the majority (58.1 percent) of these households currently have access.

Persons with Disabling Conditions

Introduction

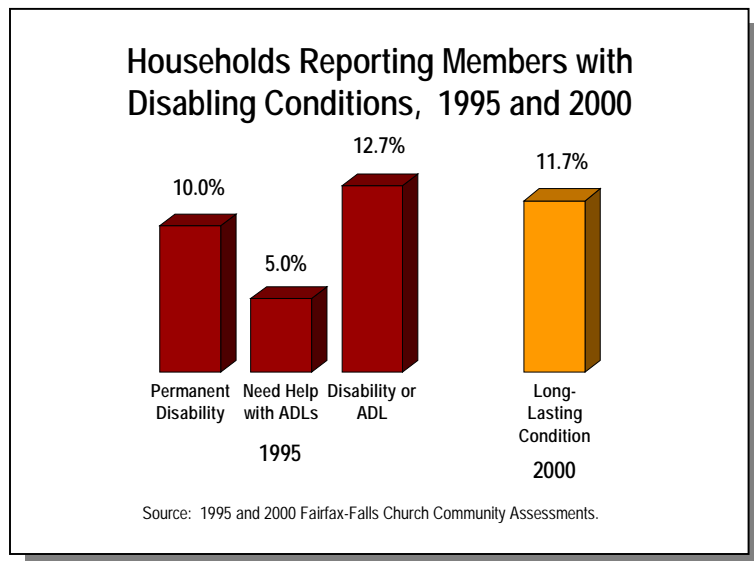
A major drawback in reporting disability information is the lack of consistency in how this information is collected. The U.S. Census Bureau has modified its disability questions frequently making it difficult to use this source for comparison information. In addition, the questions on the 1995 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Needs Assessment about disabling conditions were different from the question on the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Two primary questions were asked on the 1995 Community Assessment about disabling conditions. One question asked households if any of the children or adults in the household had a permanent disability that limited their activity. The answer responses were “no disability,” “yes, physical disability,” “yes, visual disability,” “yes, hearing disability,” “yes, mental disability,” “yes, learning disability,” and “yes, other disability.” The second question on the 1995 Community Assessment asked households if any adults in the household needed help with activities of daily living (ADLs), such as bathing/toileting, dressing, eating, walking, climbing stairs, and or memory or reasoning. The answer categories were “no help needed,” “yes, help bathing/toileting,” “yes, help dressing,” “yes, help eating,” “yes, help walking,” “yes, help climbing stairs,” and “yes, help with memory or reasoning.”

One question replaced the two questions asked in 1995 on the 2000 Community Assessment. In addition, the 2000 Community Assessment question asked about each member of the household specifically. For each person in the household, the 2000 Community Assessment asked, “Does this person have any of the following long-lasting conditions?” The possible answers were “severe vision or hearing impairment,” “a condition that substantially limits physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, bathing or dressing,” “severe learning or memory problems,” and “none of the above.”

General Trends

Because questions were asked differently in 1995 and 2000, longitudinal trends cannot be analyzed directly. It is impossible to determine what effects on the results are due to changes in the questions

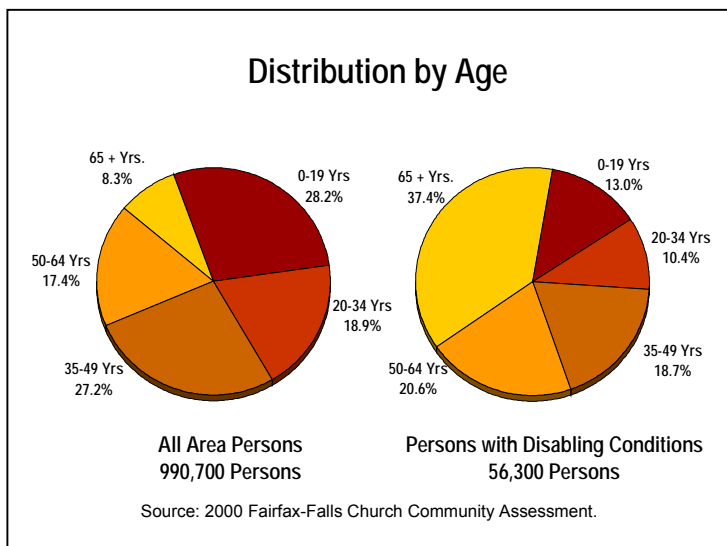
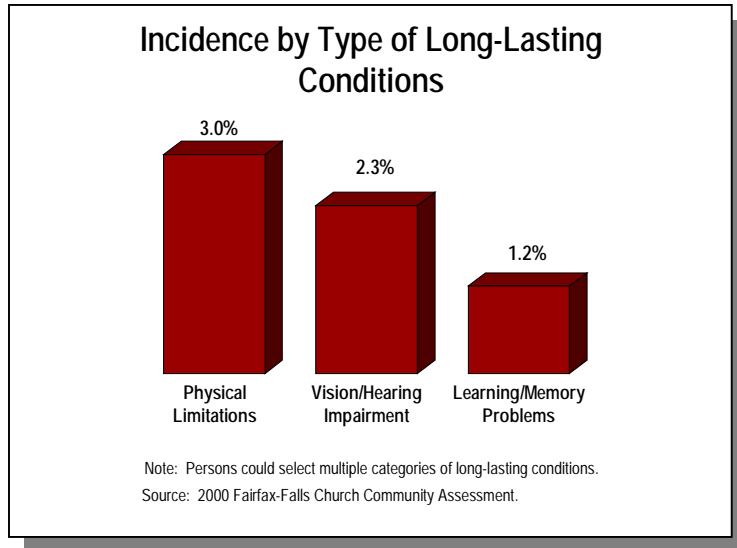


and what are due to changes in the community. In 1995, 12.7 percent of Fairfax-Falls Church Area households (41,700 households) reported one or more members with either a permanent disability or needing help with activities of daily living (ADLs). In 2000, 11.7 percent of area households (42,600 households) report one or more members with a long-lasting condition.

Population Characteristics

Unlike the 1995 Community Assessment, the 2000 Community Assessment asked about the disability status of each member of the household. From the 2000 Community Assessment, it is estimated that 5.7 percent of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area's household population (56,300 persons) had a disabling condition.

Looking more closely at type of disabling condition, 3.0 percent of the area's household population reported having substantial physical limitations, 2.3 percent reported severe vision/hearing impairment, and 1.2 percent reported severe learning or memory problems.



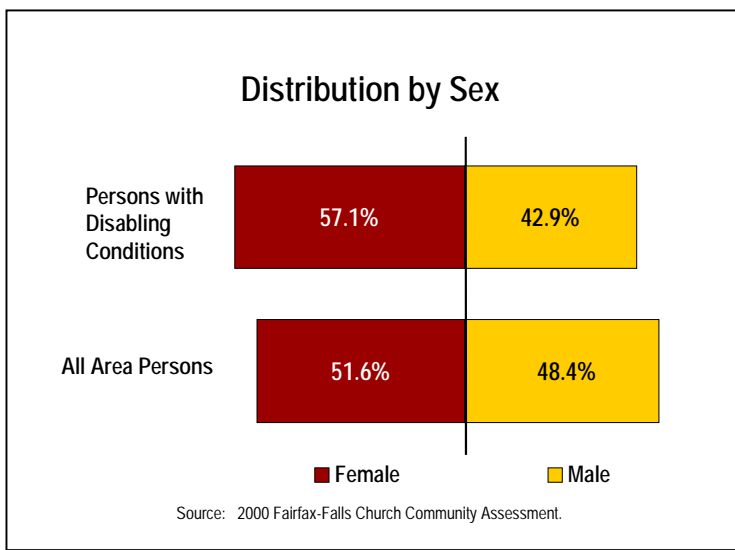
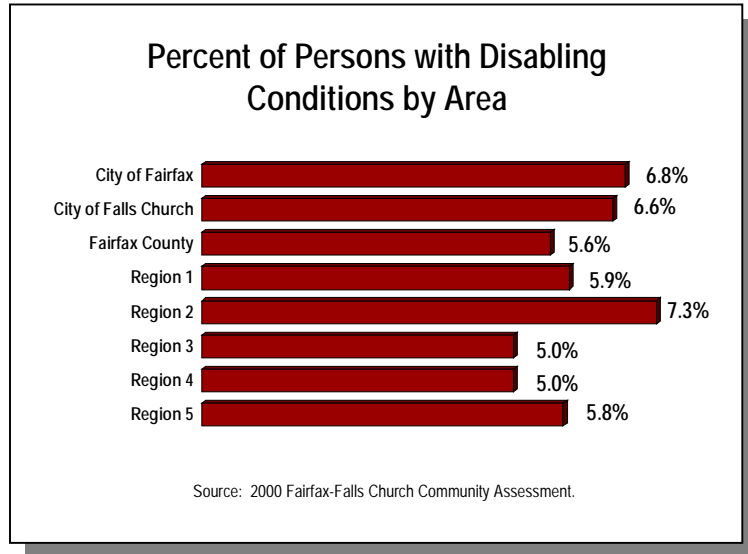
Disabling Conditions by Age

The likelihood of a disabling condition increases with age. While a quarter of all persons 65 years and older reported a long-lasting condition, less than 3 percent of those under age 20 reported a long-lasting condition. Only 8.3 percent of the area's household population is 65 years or older. Of the people with a

disabling condition nearly two of every five persons (37.4 percent) are 65 years or older. Nearly half of the area's household population is younger than 35 years

but less than a quarter of persons with disabling conditions are younger than 35 years. Therefore as the baby boom generation ages, the percentage of persons with disabling conditions is likely to rise as this generation increases the percentage of population 65 years and older.

Because of the strong association with age, sub-areas of the Fairfax-Falls Church Area that contain a larger proportion of persons age 65 years and older tend to contain larger proportions of persons with disabling conditions. Human Services Region 2 and the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church have the highest percentages of persons with disabling conditions as well as the highest percentages of persons age 65 years or older.



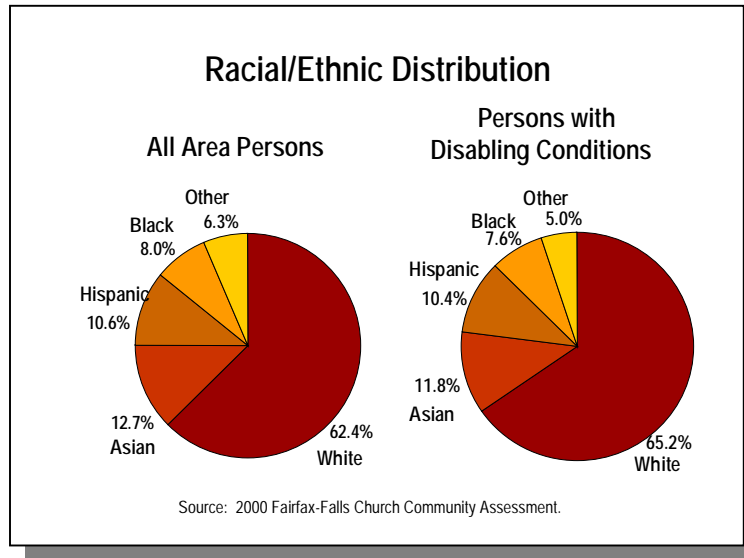
Disabling Conditions by Sex

A greater number of women have disabling conditions than men. This is due partially to the fact that there are more women than men in the 65 years and older population, both nationally and in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. Among persons of all ages with disabling conditions, 57.1 percent are female and 42.9 percent are male as

compared to the Fairfax-Falls Church Area's total household population where 51.6 percent are female and 48.4 percent are male.

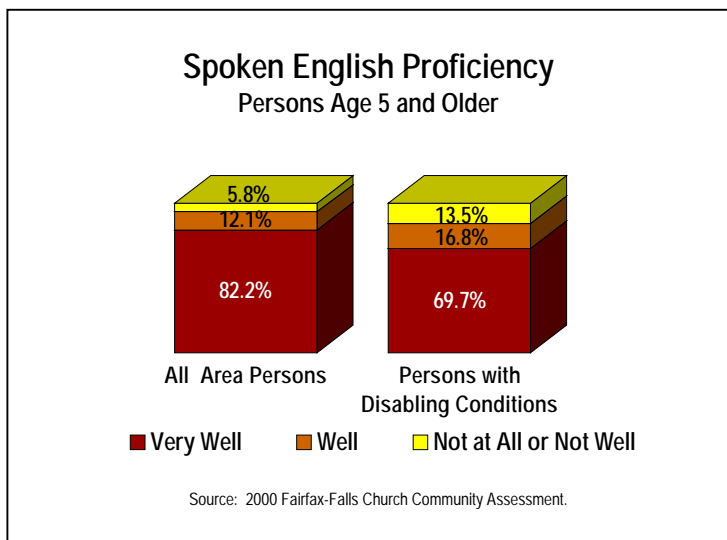
Race and Ethnicity

The racial/ethnic distribution of persons with disabling conditions is similar to that of the area's total household population. Among people with disabling conditions, an estimated 36,700 persons are White, 6,600 persons are Asian, 5,900 persons are Hispanic, 4,300 persons are Black, and 2,800 persons are other races or multiracial.



Language Proficiency and Language Spoken at Home

The Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics states that English language proficiency influences the ease of the delivery of services to assist in

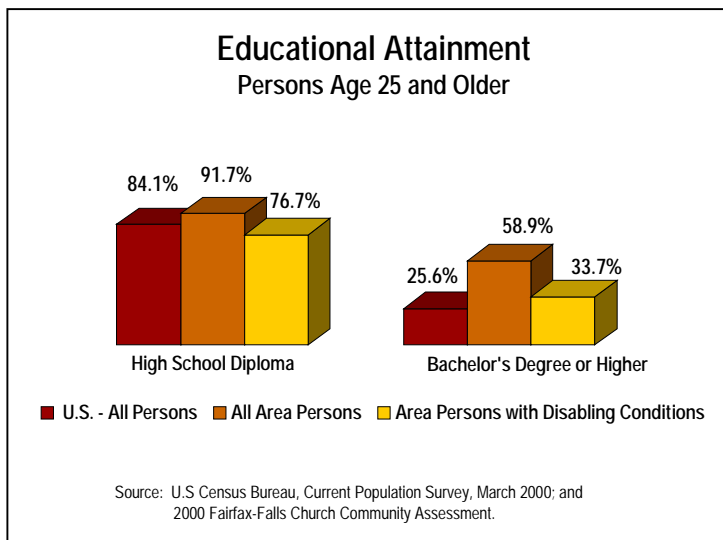


promoting independence. The U.S. Census Bureau considers persons who do not speak English “very well” linguistically isolated if they do not live with someone 14 years or older who speaks English “very well.” In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, slightly more than 30 percent of persons with disabling conditions do not speak English “very well” compared to almost 18 percent of all persons living in the area.

Households containing members with disabling conditions are slightly more likely to speak a language other than English at home. Approximately 22 percent of both households containing persons with disabilities and all area households speak a combination of English and another language at home. However, 7.2 percent of all area households speak only another language at home while 10.3 percent of households containing persons with disabling conditions speak only another language at home.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment refers to the highest grade of school completed or highest degree received by a person. Educational attainment among adults is strongly correlated to income and is an important indicator of economic wellbeing. Adults with higher levels of educational attainment tend to have more career opportunities and earn more income.

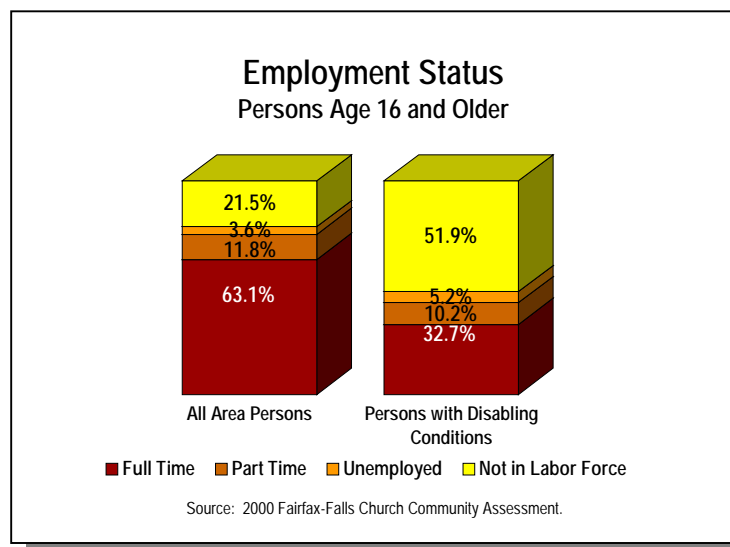


Adults, age 25 and older, with disabling conditions in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area are less likely to have a high school diploma than all persons age 25 and older locally or nationwide. While over 23 percent of adults with disabilities have less than a high school diploma, only 8.3 percent of all persons age 25 and older in the local area have less than a high school diploma. Fairfax-Falls Church Area adults with

disabling conditions are somewhat more likely to have a bachelors degree or more education than all persons 25 years or older nationwide but are considerably less likely to have pursued a four year college degree than all adults locally.

Employment Characteristics

Labor force participation rates are measured as the percentage of population age 16 years and older that is employed or actively seeking employment (unemployed). Persons age 16 and older with disabling conditions are much less likely to be in the labor force and to be employed full time than persons without disabling conditions. When compared to all persons in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, persons with disabling conditions are half as likely to work full time and are twice as likely



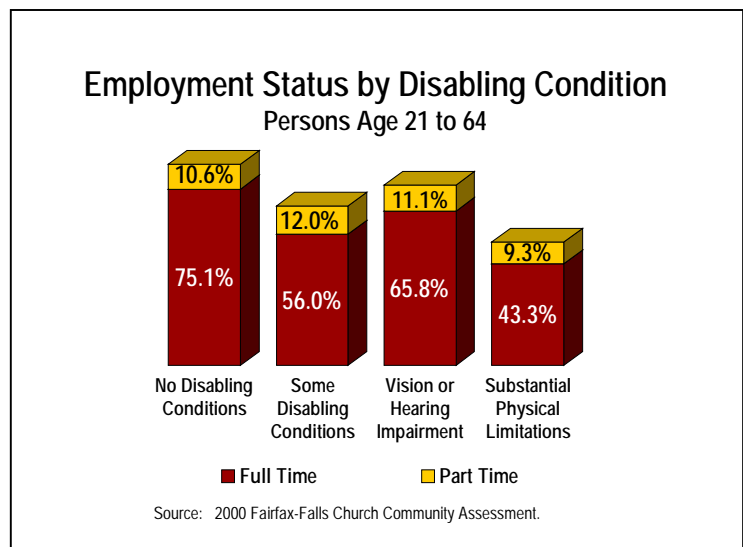
to not be in the labor force. Less than half of persons age 16 and older with disabling conditions are in the labor force, whereas 78.5 percent of all persons age 16 and older are in the labor force. Only 32.7 percent of persons age 16 and older with disabling conditions have full-time jobs compared to 63.1 percent of all persons age 16 and older. Much, but not all, of the differences in employment status are due to differences in the proportions of these two populations that are 65 years or older.

A major purpose of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was to increase the employment rate of persons with disabilities by making it illegal to practice discrimination against individuals who have a disability. Data confirm that employment, while gradually increasing, continues to be a problem for persons with disabilities. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the likelihood of being employed varies by type of disability among persons 21 to 64 years old. Persons with hearing difficulties and visual difficulties were more likely to be employed than were those with physical disabilities that impair movement, such as difficulty walking.¹

Data from the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment found similar relationships between disability and employment status as those described by the U.S. Census Bureau. Among Fairfax-Falls Church Area residents age 21 to 64 years, persons with disabling conditions were less likely to be employed and there were differences in employment status by disabling condition. Three quarters of persons age 21 to 64 years who have no disabling conditions work full time and an additional 10.6 percent work part time. Among persons in this same age group with one or more disabling conditions, 56.0 percent work full time while 12.0 percent work part time. Among persons with vision or hearing impairment, 65.8 percent work full time and 11.1 percent work part time. Among persons with substantial physical limitations, 43.3 percent work full time and 9.3 percent work part time.

When employment status is analyzed by type of disabling condition, dramatic differences can

be seen between those who have sensory conditions (severe visual and/or hearing impairment) and those who have a condition that substantially limits physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, bathing or dressing. Persons with sensory impairments are more likely to be employed than those with substantial physical limitations. Nearly two-thirds of persons age 21 to 64 years with sensory impairments are employed full time and an additional 11.1 percent work part



¹ U.S. Census Bureau, *Census Brief: Disabilities Affect One-Fifth of All Americans*, December 1997.

time. In comparison, only 43.3 percent of Fairfax-Falls Church residents age 21 to 64 years with substantial physical limitations are employed full time and 9.3 percent work part time.

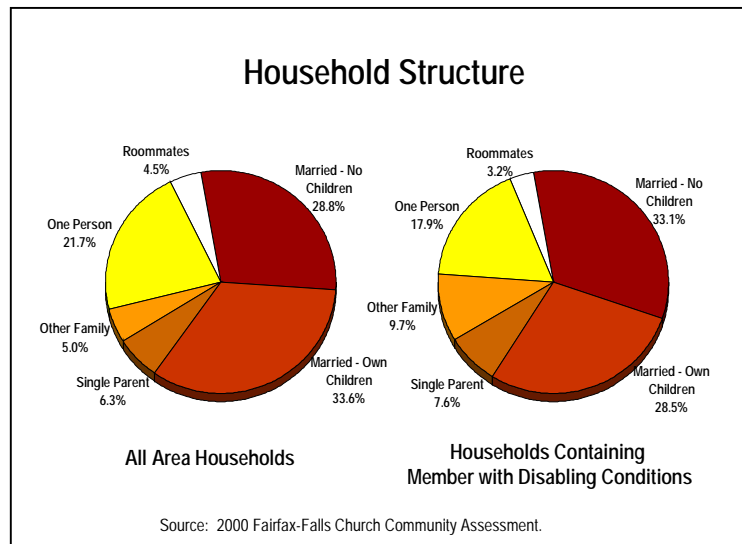
Household Characteristics

Household Structure

According to the Census Bureau about 80 percent of the people who take the role of primary helpers for persons with disabilities are relatives, and nearly half of these primary helpers live with the person who has a disability.² It is interesting to note that household structure for households containing persons with disabling conditions is similar to all households in

the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, though a slightly larger percent of households containing persons with disabling conditions are family households (78.9 percent) than for all area households (73.7 percent). In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, nearly the same percentage of households containing members with disabling conditions are headed by married couples (61.6 percent) and contain children under 18 years (36.1 percent) as for all households where 62.4 percent are headed by married couples and 39.9 percent contain children. However, area households containing persons with disabling conditions are slightly more likely to be other types of family households, 9.7 percent compared to 5.0 percent for all area households.

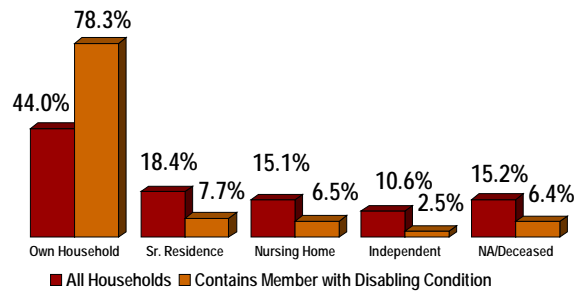
Another dimension of how support is being provided to persons with disabling conditions was investigated by a question on the 2000 Community Assessment. This question asked, “In the past five years, have you moved an elderly or disabled person to Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax or the City of Falls Church from outside of these areas?” Almost 5 percent of all area households and 13.8 percent of households containing a member with a disabling condition responded that they had moved an elderly or disabled person into the Fairfax-Falls Church Area during the past five years. Of those households containing a member with a disabling condition that have moved a senior or disabled person to the area, over three quarters of these households indicated that the person(s) who was moved



² Ibid.

to the area is currently residing in their home. In contrast among all area households that moved a senior or disabled person to the area, only 44.0 percent indicated that the person was currently living in their home. What these data suggest are that seniors without disabilities who are moved to the Fairfax-Falls Church Area are more likely to live independently or in a senior residence, whereas those persons with disabling conditions are more likely to live with other family members.

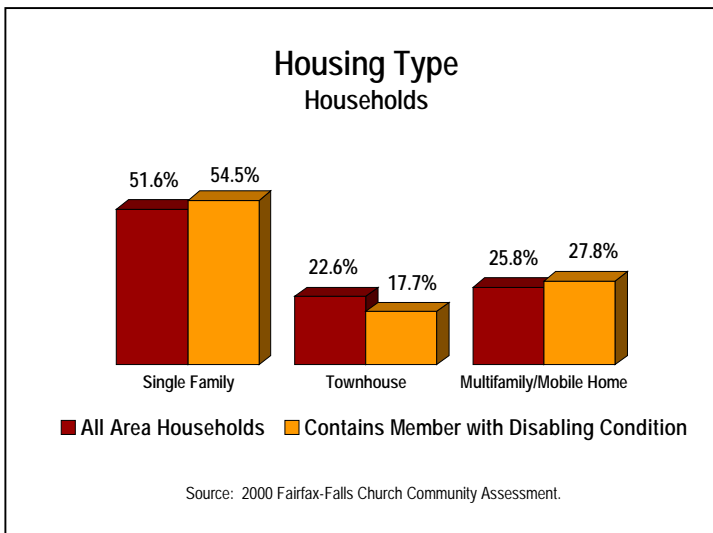
Current Living Arrangements of Senior or Disabled Persons Who Were Moved to the Fairfax-Falls Church Area by Households



Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 because households could select multiple answers if more than one person was moved.
Source: 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.

Housing Type and Tenure

The distribution by type of housing units among households containing persons with disabling conditions is similar to that for all area households. As with all



households in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, just over half of the households containing persons with disabling conditions live in single family homes. A slightly lower percent of households containing a member with a disabling condition live in townhouses than do all area households.

Homeownership is considered an indicator of financial wellbeing and a

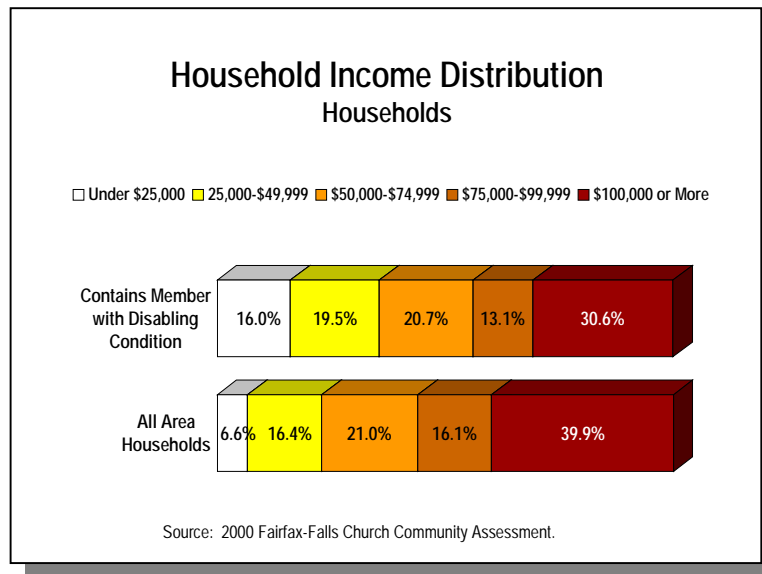
measure of neighborhood commitment. The same percentage of households containing persons with disabling conditions are homeowners as are all households in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, approximately 74 percent. The national homeownership rate at 67.4 percent is lower than the Fairfax-Falls Church Area rate.³

³ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey/Housing Vacancy Survey, 2000 Annual Statistics.

Economic Indicators

Household Income

The presence of a disability is associated with lower levels of income and an increased likelihood of being in poverty.⁴ The median household income for households containing persons with disabling conditions is \$63,000, compared to \$81,000 for all households in the area. Households containing members with disabling conditions are 2.4 times more likely to have household incomes below \$25,000 than are all area households. In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, 23.0 percent of all households have annual incomes below \$50,000 but 35.5 percent of households containing members with disabling conditions have annual incomes below \$50,000.



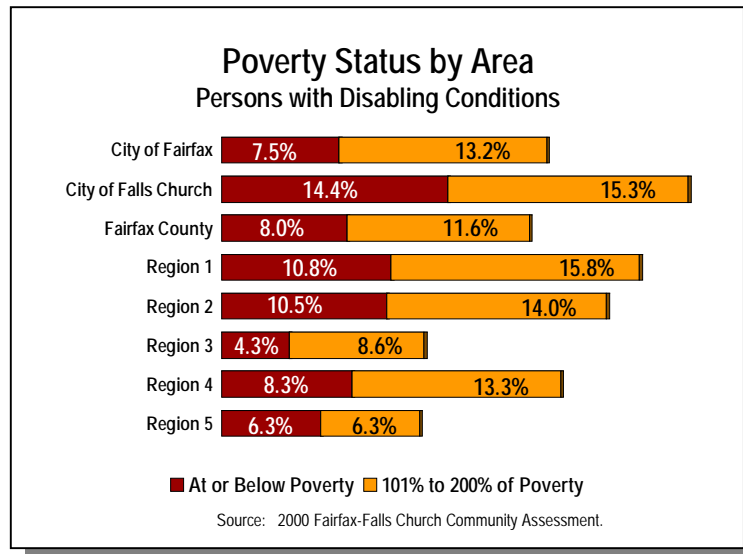
Poverty Status

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services publishes annual poverty guidelines. These guidelines vary by family size. For 2000 income, a family with four members is considered at or below poverty if their income is \$17,650 or less. For each additional or fewer family members, the poverty guideline is adjusted upward or downward by \$3,020 per person. The income level at which a family of four is considered at or below 200 percent of poverty is \$35,300 and the guideline is adjusted accordingly by \$6,040 for each additional or fewer family members.

In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, persons with disabling conditions are twice as likely to live at or below poverty, 8.1 percent. For persons with disabling conditions, the highest poverty rates were experienced in the City of Falls Church where 14.4 percent were at or below poverty. Persons with disabling conditions also are twice as likely to live at or below 200 percent of poverty, 19.8 percent, compared to 10.2 percent of all persons in the area.

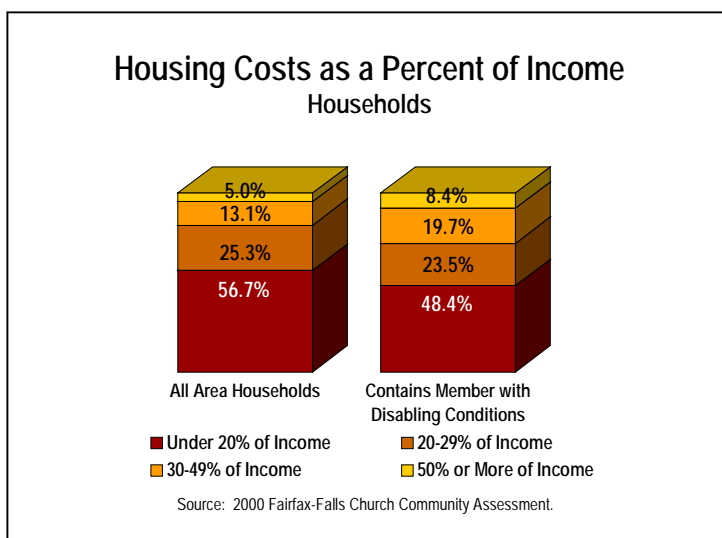
⁴ John McNeil, *Current Population Reports, Americans With Disabilities: 1991-92*, Series P70-33, U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division.

Geographically, the highest rates of persons with disabling conditions at or below 200 percent of poverty occur in the City of Falls Church (29.7 percent), Human Services Region 1 (26.6 percent) and Human Services Region 2 (24.5 percent). The lowest rates are found in Regions 3 and 5 where 12.9 percent and 12.6 percent, respectively, of persons with disabling conditions are at or below 200 percent of poverty.



Housing Costs as a Percent of Income

Housing costs are one of the largest reoccurring costs for most households. There is a strong association between the amount of income spent on housing and the likelihood of running out of money for basic needs. Households that spend 30 percent or more of their income on housing costs are at risk financially if they incur unexpected expenditures or an interruption of income. Households spending 50 percent or more of their income on housing are at severe financial risk and have a high likelihood of becoming homeless.



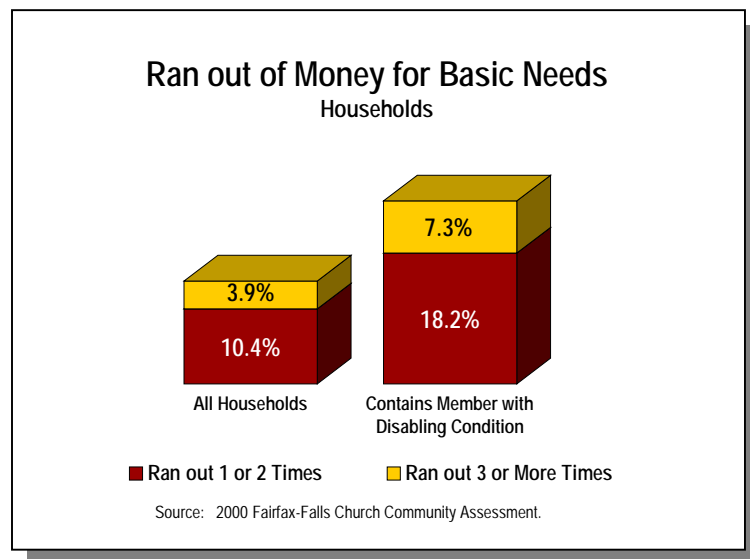
Fairfax-Falls Church Area households containing persons with disabling conditions are more likely to spend a greater percentage of their income on housing than all households. Over 80 percent of all area households spend less than 30 percent of household income on housing, but less than 72 percent of households containing members with disabling conditions pay less than 30

percent of income for housing. Almost 20 percent of households containing persons with disabling conditions spend 30 to 49 percent of their income on housing compared to 13.1 percent of all households in the area. An additional 8.4

percent of households containing persons with disabling conditions spend 50 percent or more of their income on housing compared to 5.0 percent of all households.

Running Out of Money for Basic Needs

The 2000 Community Assessment asked the question, “During the past year, did your household run out of money to pay for basic needs such as rent or mortgage, utilities, food or medicine?” The answer choices were “no,” “yes, once or twice,” and “yes, three or more times.” Households that are unable to meet basic monthly expenses are having difficulty maintaining financial self-sufficiency. Households containing persons with disabling conditions were nearly twice as likely as other households to run out of money for basic needs in the Fairfax-Falls Church Area. Over a quarter of households containing persons with disabling conditions ran out of money one or more times in the preceding year, compared to 14.3 percent of all area households.



Households containing persons with disabling conditions that did run out of money for basic needs used strategies similar to those used by all area households to cope. The majority (56.4 percent) of households containing persons with disabling conditions that ran out of money turned to family and/or friends for help and 44.3 percent increased credit card and other forms of debt. Much smaller percentages of these households sought assistance from government (9.6 percent), sought assistance from religious and community organizations (13.0 percent), and/or used other strategies (12.1 percent)⁵.

Internet Access

The likelihood of having a computer with Internet access is associated with household income level. Households with Internet access are more likely to be upper income households, and conversely households without Internet access tend to be lower income households. The 2000 Community Assessment results

⁵ Some households used more than one strategy when they ran out of money. Therefore, the percentage of households by type of help sought will sum to more than 100 percent.

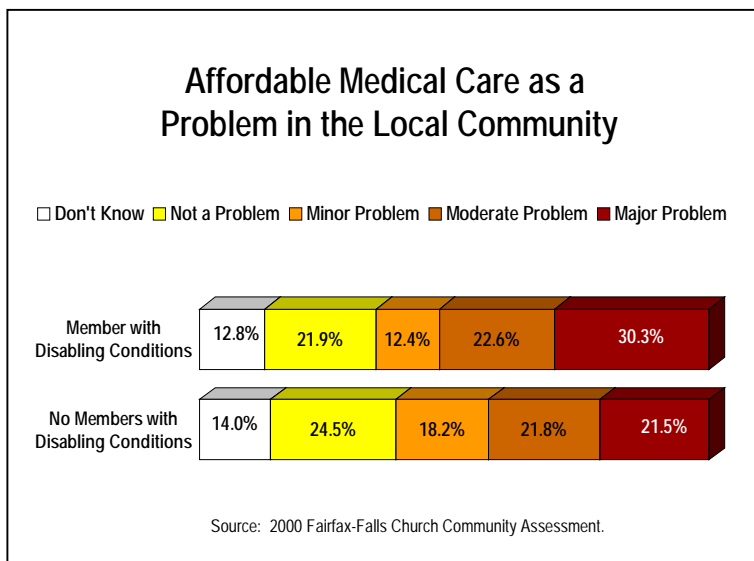
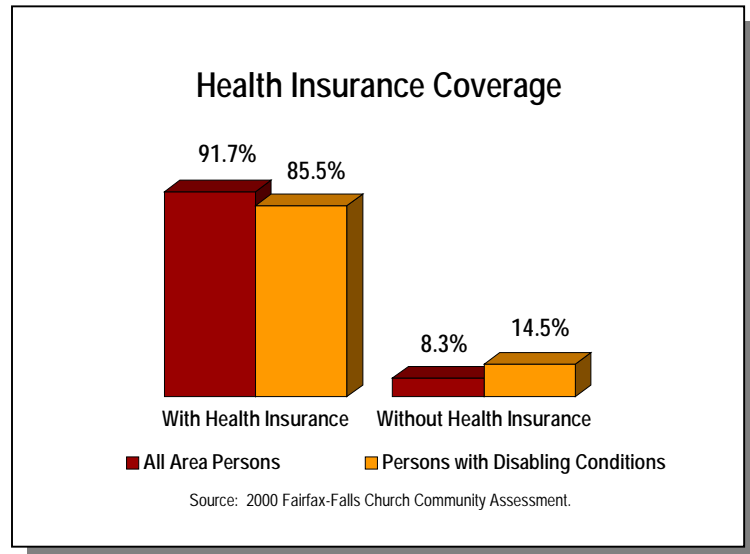
show that two-thirds (67.0 percent) of the households containing persons with disabling conditions have Internet access. Area-wide, 78.7 percent of all households have Internet access.

Health Issues

Health Insurance Coverage

In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, fewer persons with disabling conditions have health insurance (85.5 percent) than in the general household population (91.7 percent). Health insurance coverage is an indicator of access to medical services. Those who are not insured

are less likely to have access to preventive health care such as routine physicals and are less likely to have a regular health care provider. Nationwide, the presence of a disability is associated with an increased likelihood of health insurance coverage from the Federal Government and a reduced likelihood of private insurance coverage. An association also was found between the severity of the disability and the likelihood of private coverage – the more severe the disability the less likely was private coverage.⁶



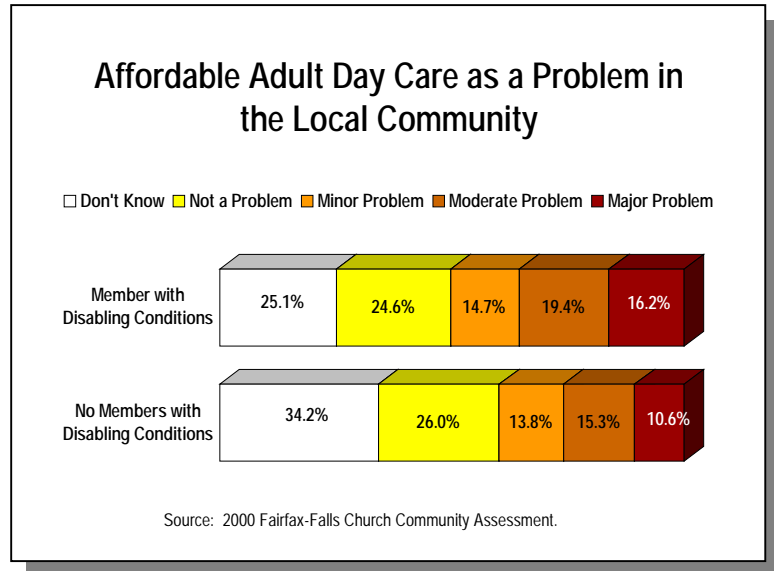
In the Fairfax-Falls Church Area, households containing persons with disabling conditions (30.3 percent) are more likely to perceive lack of affordable medical care as a major community problem than households without disabled members (21.5 percent). This perception may be related to the fact that persons with disabling conditions are less likely

⁶ John McNeil, *Current Population Reports, Americans With Disabilities: 1991-92*, Series P70-33, U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division.

to have health insurance coverage and thus have diminished access to health care.

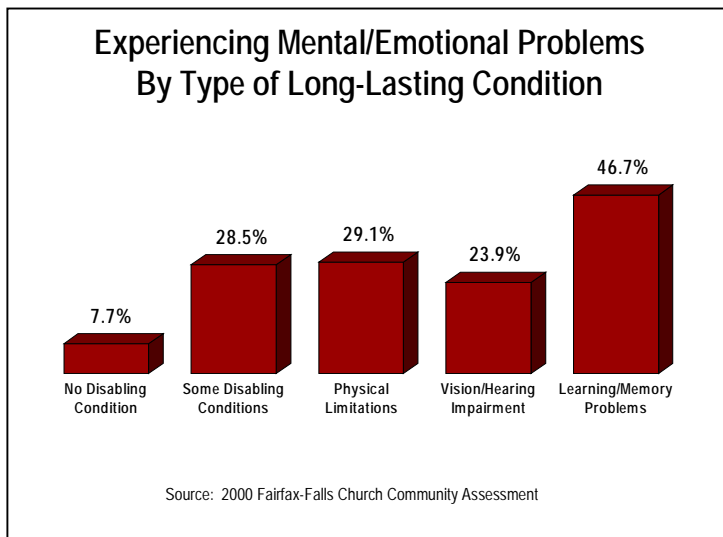
Adult Day Care

Overall, households containing persons with disabling conditions were more concerned about the availability of affordable adult care during the day in their local community than households without members with disabling conditions. In comparison to households that contained no members with disabling conditions, a smaller percent of households containing persons with disabling conditions claimed not to know if affordable adult day care was a problem in the community and a larger percent indicated that it was a major or moderate problem.



Mental Health

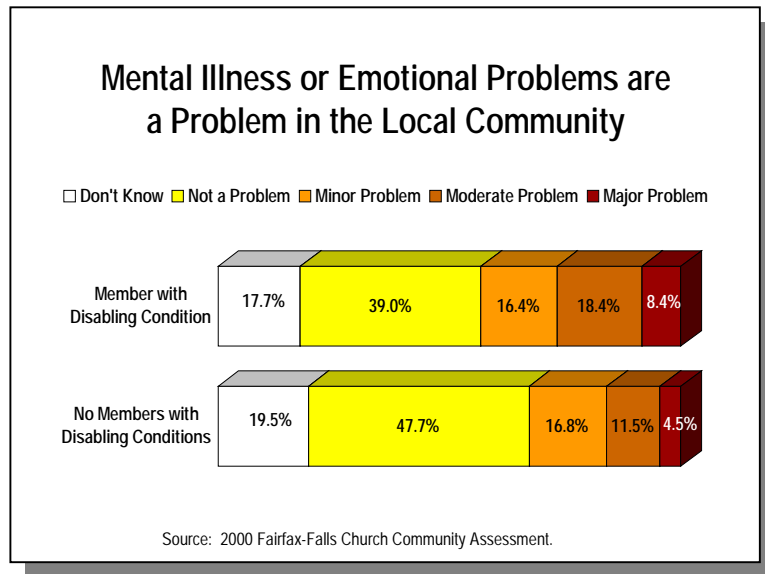
For each household member, the 2000 Community Assessment asked, “Over the past year, did this person experience depression, anxiety, mental, emotional or behavioral problems to the degree you felt help was needed?” A person with a mental health problem often is less able to be productive at school, work and/or



home; may encounter higher health care costs associated with mental health treatments; and may be less able to offer other persons who reside with them emotional support. The results of the 2000 Community Assessment show that persons with disabling conditions are nearly four times more likely to have mental health problems than persons with no disabling conditions. In addition, the incidence of

mental health problems varies by type of long-lasting condition. Over the past year, nearly half of those persons with severe learning or memory problems experienced depression, anxiety, mental, emotional or behavioral problems to the extent it was felt help was needed. Among persons with severe vision or hearing impairments, 23.9 percent experienced mental health problems, and among persons with conditions that substantially limit physical activities, 29.1 percent experienced mental health problems.

With a higher rate of mental health problems among persons with a disabling condition, it is not surprising that households containing these persons were more likely to feel that mental illness or emotional problems are a major or moderate problem in their local communities. While only 16.0 percent of households without any members with disabling conditions feel mental illness or emotional problems are moderate or major community problems, 26.8 percent of households containing members with disabling conditions feel this way.



Appendix A

2000 Fairfax – Falls Church Community Assessment Survey



Dear Resident:

Your needs are important. . .tell us about them.

When help such as child care, employment services, financial assistance, health care, counseling, and so forth are needed, community organizations and local government agencies strive to offer programs and services responding to these needs.

The Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, the County of Fairfax, and the Fairfax-Falls Church United Way are working together to regionally address the needs of our citizens. The 15 minutes that you take to respond to the enclosed questions will make a difference. Your answers combined with those given by other residents will help give an accurate picture of what is important to Fairfax-Falls Church residents and what types of services are needed. The combination of all information provided by residents will enable your local government and community organizations to better plan and target scarce resources.

Your household is one of a small number of households randomly selected to participate in a community-wide effort to better understand the human care needs of Fairfax-Falls Church residents. Your cooperation in completing this survey is needed in order to provide accurate results.

Your answers are confidential. Specifically, the answers you give us will be handled in a manner that prevents the identification of any individual or household.

If you need help or have a question about the survey, please call 703-324-7167 or 1-800-828-1120 (TDD) any weekday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Once you have completed the questionnaire, please mail it back in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope to Community Needs Assessment, P.O. Box 1124, Fairfax, VA 22030.

On behalf of our community, we thank you.

County Executive
County of Fairfax

City Manager
City of Falls Church

City Manager
City of Fairfax

Regional Director
Fairfax-Falls Church United Way

*This is a joint partnership between the County of Fairfax, City of Fairfax,
City of Falls Church, and the Fairfax-Falls Church United Way.*

Need Help or Have Questions?

Call 703-324-7167 or 1-800-828-1120 (TDD)
SI NECESITA AYUDA LLAME AL 703-324-7134
CAN GUIP ĐO BANG TIENG VIET XIN GOI 703-533-5772
한국어 도움이 필요하십니까 703-533-5785

Frequently Asked Questions

Q How will you protect my confidentiality?

A To protect your confidentiality, all information that could identify you or your household, including your address, will be erased from the survey records when your response is received. In addition, the answers you give us will be handled in a manner that prevents the identification of any individual or household.

Q Who is considered part of my household?

A Every child or adult who shares your house, apartment or mobile home. These children or adults may or may not be part of your family. Please include persons who work for you that live in your home and persons who are temporarily away on trips. Do NOT include persons who live elsewhere such as college students, military personnel or persons who have recently moved out of your home.

Q How was I picked to receive this survey?

A Your street address, not you directly, was selected to be part of this survey. Your street address was randomly picked from all of the addresses in the Fairfax-Falls Church area.

Q How will this information be used?

A The Fairfax-Falls Church area has been growing rapidly. As the area grows, its community needs grow and change. The information you give us will be combined with information we receive from other households. In turn, the results of this survey will be combined with other information collected by organizations providing services to the community. We also will compare the information from this survey with prior surveys. This will provide us with a picture of the needs of the Fairfax-Falls Church community, and how those needs are changing over time.

Q Why are the forms numbered?

A The survey form you have received is numbered for mailing purposes. The number on your survey form will enable us to erase your address from our files once your survey is received. Households that do not respond will be contacted again. It is very important that you respond because your household represents many others in your community.

Q Why do you need to know my income?

A By collecting information on income, family size and housing costs, we can measure how many families in our community are under financial stress and how many families are at risk of becoming financially stressed. In addition, this information will help us to determine and update eligibility criteria for programs and services.

◆ 2000 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT ◆

We ask that this questionnaire be completed by an **ADULT** household member in whose name the house is owned or rented. If none exists, the survey can be completed by any adult living in the house.

Tell us about your *COMMUNITY*. For each of the issues listed below, please tell us if you think it is *not* a problem, is a *minor* problem, is a *moderate* problem, or is a *major* problem for people in your local community.

<i>Circle ONE letter per item.</i>	Not a Problem	Minor Problem	Moderate Problem	Major Problem	Don't Know
1. Lack of Public Transportation	A	B	C	D	E
2. Working Multiple Jobs to Make Ends Meet	A	B	C	D	E
3. Mental Illness or Emotional Problems	A	B	C	D	E
4. Alcoholism and/or Drug Abuse	A	B	C	D	E
5. Homelessness	A	B	C	D	E
6. Crime	A	B	C	D	E
7. Youth Violence	A	B	C	D	E
8. Family Violence (Abuse of Children or Adults)	A	B	C	D	E
9. Poor English Skills (Reading, Writing, Speaking)	A	B	C	D	E
10. Poverty	A	B	C	D	E
11. Hunger	A	B	C	D	E
12. Lack of Affordable Day Care for Children	A	B	C	D	E
13. Lack of Affordable Care for Adults During the Day	A	B	C	D	E
14. Lack of Recreational Facilities or Programs	A	B	C	D	E
15. Lack of Affordable Housing	A	B	C	D	E
16. Lack of Affordable Medical Care	A	B	C	D	E
17. AIDS or Other Sexually Transmitted Diseases	A	B	C	D	E
18. Racial or Ethnic Discrimination	A	B	C	D	E
19. Safety of Restaurant Food	A	B	C	D	E
20. Health Hazards Due to Air Pollution	A	B	C	D	E

Continue to the next page. ➡

COMPLETE A SEPARATE COLUMN FOR EACH ADULT OR CHILD IN THE HOUSEHOLD.

	SELF (PERSON 1)	PERSON 2	PERSON 3	PERSON 4	PERSON 5	PERSON 6	PERSON 7
21. How is this person related to you (Person 1) in the first column? Circle ONE letter for each person.	Start in this column with yourself (Person 1). Then complete a separate column for each additional member of your household.	A Husband or wife B Son or daughter C Parent D Brother or sister E Grandchild F Roommate/boarder G Other _____	A Husband or wife B Son or daughter C Parent D Brother or sister E Grandchild F Roommate/boarder G Other _____	A Husband or wife B Son or daughter C Parent D Brother or sister E Grandchild F Roommate/boarder G Other _____	A Husband or wife B Son or daughter C Parent D Brother or sister E Grandchild F Roommate/boarder G Other _____	A Husband or wife B Son or daughter C Parent D Brother or sister E Grandchild F Roommate/boarder G Other _____	A Husband or wife B Son or daughter C Parent D Brother or sister E Grandchild F Roommate/boarder G Other _____
22. Sex Circle ONE letter for each person.	A Male B Female	A Male B Female	A Male B Female	A Male B Female	A Male B Female	A Male B Female	A Male B Female
23. Race/Ethnic Background Circle ALL letters for each person that apply.	A White B Black C Asian D Hispanic E Other _____	A White B Black C Asian D Hispanic E Other _____	A White B Black C Asian D Hispanic E Other _____	A White B Black C Asian D Hispanic E Other _____	A White B Black C Asian D Hispanic E Other _____	A White B Black C Asian D Hispanic E Other _____	A White B Black C Asian D Hispanic E Other _____
24. Age in years for each person	_____ Age in years	_____ Age in years	_____ Age in years	_____ Age in years	_____ Age in years	_____ Age in years	_____ Age in years
25. What is this person's employment status? Circle ONE letter for each person.	A Employed full-time B Employed part-time (less than 35 hrs/wk) C Unemployed and seeking work D Not employed and not seeking work/retired	A Employed full-time B Employed part-time (less than 35 hrs/wk) C Unemployed and seeking work D Not employed and not seeking work/retired	A Employed full-time B Employed part-time (less than 35 hrs/wk) C Unemployed and seeking work D Not employed and not seeking work/retired	A Employed full-time B Employed part-time (less than 35 hrs/wk) C Unemployed and seeking work D Not employed and not seeking work/retired	A Employed full-time B Employed part-time (less than 35 hrs/wk) C Unemployed and seeking work D Not employed and not seeking work/retired	A Employed full-time B Employed part-time (less than 35 hrs/wk) C Unemployed and seeking work D Not employed and not seeking work/retired	A Employed full-time B Employed part-time (less than 35 hrs/wk) C Unemployed and seeking work D Not employed and not seeking work/retired
26. How many employers does this person work for in a typical week? Count self-employed as one employer. Circle ONE letter for each person.	A None B One C Two D Three or more	A None B One C Two D Three or more	A None B One C Two D Three or more	A None B One C Two D Three or more	A None B One C Two D Three or more	A None B One C Two D Three or more	A None B One C Two D Three or more
27. What is the highest degree or level of school this person has COMPLETED? Circle ONE letter or grade for the highest grade completed or degree received.	A None completed B Preschool-nursery <u>Grade</u> K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 C 12 th Gr./no diploma D HS diploma/GED E Some college F Associate degree G Bachelor's degree H Post graduate I Other _____	A None completed B Preschool-nursery <u>Grade</u> K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 C 12 th Gr./no diploma D HS diploma/GED E Some college F Associate degree G Bachelor's degree H Post graduate I Other _____	A None completed B Preschool-nursery <u>Grade</u> K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 C 12 th Gr./no diploma D HS diploma/GED E Some college F Associate degree G Bachelor's degree H Post graduate I Other _____	A None completed B Preschool-nursery <u>Grade</u> K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 C 12 th Gr./no diploma D HS diploma/GED E Some college F Associate degree G Bachelor's degree H Post graduate I Other _____	A None completed B Preschool-nursery <u>Grade</u> K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 C 12 th Gr./no diploma D HS diploma/GED E Some college F Associate degree G Bachelor's degree H Post graduate I Other _____	A None completed B Preschool-nursery <u>Grade</u> K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 C 12 th Gr./no diploma D HS diploma/GED E Some college F Associate degree G Bachelor's degree H Post graduate I Other _____	A None completed B Preschool-nursery <u>Grade</u> K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 C 12 th Gr./no diploma D HS diploma/GED E Some college F Associate degree G Bachelor's degree H Post graduate I Other _____

28. How well does this person speak English? Circle ONE letter for each person	A Not at all B Not Well C Well D Very Well	A Not at all B Not Well C Well D Very Well	A Not at all B Not Well C Well D Very Well	A Not at all B Not Well C Well D Very Well	A Not at all B Not Well C Well D Very Well	A Not at all B Not Well C Well D Very Well	A Not at all B Not Well C Well D Very Well
29. Is this person in child or adult day care? Circle ONE letter for each person	A Yes B No, but needs day care C No	A Yes B No, but needs day care C No	A Yes B No, but needs day care C No	A Yes B No, but needs day care C No	A Yes B No, but needs day care C No	A Yes B No, but needs day care C No	A Yes B No, but needs day care C No
30. Is this person covered by health insurance? Circle ONE letter for each person.	A Yes B No	A Yes B No	A Yes B No	A Yes B No	A Yes B No	A Yes B No	A Yes B No
31. Over the past year, which types of medical care did this person need but not get because of cost? Circle ALL letters for each person that apply.	A Routine medical care B Medicine/ prescriptions C Dental care D Eye care/glasses E Other _____ F Received all needed medical care	A Routine medical care B Medicine/ prescriptions C Dental care D Eye care/glasses E Other _____ F Received all needed medical care	A Routine medical care B Medicine/ prescriptions C Dental care D Eye care/glasses E Other _____ F Received all needed medical care	A Routine medical care B Medicine/ prescriptions C Dental care D Eye care/glasses E Other _____ F Received all needed medical care	A Routine medical care B Medicine/ prescriptions C Dental care D Eye care/glasses E Other _____ F Received all needed medical care	A Routine medical care B Medicine/ prescriptions C Dental care D Eye care/glasses E Other _____ F Received all needed medical care	A Routine medical care B Medicine/ prescriptions C Dental care D Eye care/glasses E Other _____ F Received all needed medical care
32. Does this person have any of the following long-lasting conditions? Circle ALL letters for each person that apply.	A Severe vision or hearing impairment B A condition that substantially limits physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, bathing or dressing C Severe learning or memory problems D None of the above	A Severe vision or hearing impairment B A condition that substantially limits physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, bathing or dressing C Severe learning or memory problems D None of the above	A Severe vision or hearing impairment B A condition that substantially limits physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, bathing or dressing C Severe learning or memory problems D None of the above	A Severe vision or hearing impairment B A condition that substantially limits physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, bathing or dressing C Severe learning or memory problems D None of the above	A Severe vision or hearing impairment B A condition that substantially limits physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, bathing or dressing C Severe learning or memory problems D None of the above	A Severe vision or hearing impairment B A condition that substantially limits physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, bathing or dressing C Severe learning or memory problems D None of the above	A Severe vision or hearing impairment B A condition that substantially limits physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, bathing or dressing C Severe learning or memory problems D None of the above
33. Over the past year, did this person experience depression, anxiety, mental, emotional or behavioral problems to the degree you felt help was needed? Circle ONE letter for each person.	A Yes B No	A Yes B No	A Yes B No	A Yes B No	A Yes B No	A Yes B No	A Yes B No
34. What was this person's total income during the past 12 months? Include: wages, business, SSI, retirement, interest, alimony, child support, etc.	\$ _____ Total yearly income of Person 1	\$ _____ Total yearly income of Person 2	\$ _____ Total yearly income of Person 3	\$ _____ Total yearly income of Person 4	\$ _____ Total yearly income of Person 5	\$ _____ Total yearly income of Person 6	\$ _____ Total yearly income of Person 7

Questions on this page ask for general information about your household.

35. What is the total number of family members/relatives and other persons residing at this address? Please include persons who normally live here, but are temporarily away such as persons on trips. DO NOT include family members living elsewhere, such as college students or military personnel.

_____ Total Persons

36. How many persons in your household are in each of the following age groups? Enter number of persons in spaces provided.

Age Group	Number of Persons
0 to 4	_____
5 to 18	_____
19 to 34	_____
35 to 49	_____
50 to 64	_____
65 years and older	_____

37. What is the monthly amount your household pays for living quarters?

Living Quarters Dollars Per Month

Renters
(Include rent payment only) \$ _____

Owners
(Include principal, interest, taxes and insurance) \$ _____

38. What languages are spoken in your home?
Circle ALL that apply.

A English	F Vietnamese
B Arabic	G Tagalog
C Chinese	H Urdu
D Korean	I Farsi
E Spanish	J Other _____

39. Is there a computer with Internet access in your home?

A Yes
B No

40. In the past five years, have you moved an elderly or disabled person to Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax or the City of Falls Church from outside of these areas?

A Yes
B No

41. If you moved a senior or disabled person to this area, where are they living? Circle ALL that apply.

A In your home
B In a senior residence
C In a nursing home
D Living independently, not in a senior residence
E Not applicable

42. During the past year, did your household run out of money to pay for basic needs such as rent or mortgage, utilities, food or medicine?

A No
B Yes, once or twice
C Yes, three or more times

43. If yes, where did you turn for help when your household ran out of money?
Circle ALL that apply.

A Family or friends
B Government
C Religious or community organization
D Increased credit card or other debt
E Other _____
F Not applicable

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Appendix B

General Overview Fact Sheet

Profile of Persons

	Fairfax County Human Service Region					Falls Church City	Fairfax City	Area Total
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5			
Total Household Population	159,863	151,666	218,060	244,841	185,023	10,306	20,970	990,729
Under 5 years old	8.6%	6.8%	6.4%	8.6%	6.1%	4.9%	6.1%	7.3%
5 to 9 years old	6.9%	6.8%	7.1%	8.0%	9.1%	6.5%	6.1%	7.6%
10 to 14 years	6.9%	6.1%	7.3%	7.4%	9.6%	6.9%	5.3%	7.5%
15 to 19 years	4.1%	5.1%	6.2%	6.0%	7.5%	6.5%	5.4%	5.8%
20 to 24 years	5.2%	5.1%	3.5%	4.4%	3.4%	4.2%	6.1%	4.3%
25 to 34 years	16.9%	17.4%	12.2%	17.0%	10.1%	14.0%	15.7%	14.6%
35 to 44 years	20.2%	16.9%	17.1%	20.6%	19.0%	17.3%	17.6%	18.8%
45 to 54 years	15.0%	14.4%	19.2%	14.4%	18.2%	19.1%	14.4%	16.3%
55 to 64 years	8.0%	10.5%	11.2%	8.2%	9.8%	9.2%	10.8%	9.5%
65 years and older	8.2%	11.0%	9.9%	5.5%	7.2%	11.5%	12.6%	8.3%
Sex:								
Male	47.2%	48.0%	49.0%	49.1%	48.2%	46.7%	48.6%	48.4%
Female	52.8%	52.0%	51.0%	50.9%	51.8%	53.3%	51.4%	51.6%
Race:								
Asian	7.2%	16.4%	11.8%	14.2%	14.1%	6.2%	12.0%	12.7%
Black	19.0%	5.6%	4.7%	5.4%	8.2%	2.8%	4.7%	8.0%
Hispanic	11.7%	19.7%	8.0%	6.8%	10.1%	8.0%	13.5%	10.6%
White	55.7%	51.7%	68.7%	67.9%	61.2%	76.9%	64.8%	62.4%
Other	4.4%	3.7%	4.8%	4.0%	3.7%	4.0%	3.8%	4.1%
Multiracial	1.9%	2.9%	2.1%	1.7%	2.6%	2.1%	1.2%	2.2%
English Proficiency-Persons 5 Years and Older:								
Speaks No English	1.3%	3.3%	1.2%	1.0%	1.6%	0.6%	1.2%	1.6%
Does Not Speak English Well	3.2%	8.8%	2.6%	3.2%	4.2%	2.6%	4.2%	4.2%
Speaks English Well	12.6%	17.0%	9.0%	10.7%	13.4%	9.0%	13.1%	12.1%
Speaks English Very Well	82.8%	70.9%	87.2%	85.1%	80.8%	87.8%	81.4%	82.2%
Educational Attainment-Persons 25 Years and Older:								
Less than High School Diploma	11.3%	14.7%	3.8%	6.1%	8.4%	6.4%	9.7%	8.3%
High School Diploma or GED	13.5%	13.7%	7.4%	9.0%	11.3%	8.4%	14.3%	10.6%
Some College, No Degree	18.8%	15.6%	14.1%	14.5%	19.2%	13.8%	18.7%	16.2%
Associate's Degree	6.1%	3.7%	3.8%	6.2%	6.0%	4.1%	6.6%	5.2%
Bachelor's Degree	24.3%	26.1%	30.7%	32.5%	25.4%	27.7%	26.7%	28.3%
Post Graduate or more Education	25.3%	25.6%	39.3%	30.8%	29.0%	39.1%	23.4%	30.6%
Other	0.8%	0.5%	0.8%	1.0%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.8%
Labor Force Participation Rate-Persons 16 Years and Older:								
Male	81.8%	78.4%	75.7%	80.5%	76.9%	77.2%	76.3%	78.5%
Female	86.5%	84.2%	84.0%	89.2%	84.5%	84.8%	82.0%	85.7%
	78.1%	73.6%	67.6%	72.7%	69.8%	71.1%	70.8%	72.0%
Employment Status-Persons 16 Years and Older:								
Full-time work	67.9%	62.6%	61.0%	64.7%	60.5%	62.6%	59.5%	63.1%
Part-time work	9.9%	11.4%	12.1%	12.0%	13.0%	10.8%	13.4%	11.8%
Unemployed, seeking work	3.9%	4.5%	2.7%	3.7%	3.4%	3.8%	3.3%	3.6%
Unemployed, not seeking work	18.2%	21.6%	24.3%	19.5%	23.1%	22.8%	23.7%	21.5%
Number of Employers-Employed Persons 16 Years and Older:								
One	88.0%	87.9%	90.6%	91.4%	89.0%	90.5%	86.7%	89.6%
Two	9.3%	9.1%	6.6%	6.7%	8.4%	7.1%	9.8%	7.9%
Three or more	2.7%	3.0%	2.9%	1.9%	2.6%	2.4%	3.5%	2.6%
With Health Insurance Coverage:	89.8%	85.6%	94.5%	93.4%	93.2%	93.0%	88.5%	91.7%
Experiencing Mental/Emotional/Anxiety Problems to the Point of Needing Help:								
Male	8.4%	9.3%	8.8%	10.1%	7.3%	11.5%	9.3%	8.9%
Female	6.9%	8.6%	6.6%	8.3%	6.5%	9.2%	7.6%	7.4%
	9.7%	10.1%	10.8%	12.0%	8.1%	13.6%	10.9%	10.3%
Long-Lasting Conditions: (Percents may sum to more than 100 because persons could select more than one category.)								
No long-lasting conditions	94.1%	92.7%	95.0%	95.0%	94.2%	93.4%	93.2%	94.3%
Substantial physical limitations	3.2%	3.5%	2.7%	3.1%	2.3%	3.4%	4.0%	3.0%
Severe vision/hearing impairment	2.6%	3.3%	2.1%	1.4%	2.5%	3.3%	3.1%	2.3%
Severe learning/memory problems	1.2%	1.5%	0.7%	1.3%	1.7%	1.2%	0.9%	1.2%
At or Below Poverty	3.5%	5.6%	2.5%	2.4%	2.9%	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%
At or Below 200% Poverty	14.7%	15.6%	6.2%	8.1%	9.3%	9.1%	12.1%	10.2%

Profile of Households

	Fairfax County Human Service Region					Falls Church City	Fairfax City	Area Total
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	4,471	8,035	363,219
Total Households	65,133	52,567	79,840	89,972	63,201			
Household Size:								
One-Person Household	27.4%	26.3%	22.1%	16.7%	15.6%	34.7%	24.1%	21.4%
Two-Person Household	30.8%	32.2%	36.0%	31.3%	30.1%	31.2%	37.1%	32.3%
Three-Person Household	18.4%	16.3%	15.5%	20.2%	19.1%	14.3%	17.2%	17.9%
Four-Person Household	15.6%	15.4%	17.6%	21.2%	19.7%	15.1%	13.2%	18.0%
Five or more Person Household	7.9%	9.8%	8.8%	10.7%	15.5%	4.7%	8.4%	10.4%
Household Structure:								
Family households								
Married couple, no children under 18 yrs	24.9%	30.1%	33.3%	26.8%	29.1%	22.5%	33.1%	28.8%
Married couple, own children under 18 yrs	27.3%	25.8%	32.2%	40.5%	40.3%	26.4%	23.9%	33.6%
Single mother, own children under 18 yrs	7.2%	5.5%	3.9%	4.0%	4.9%	5.7%	5.9%	5.0%
Single father, own children under 18 yrs	1.4%	1.5%	0.5%	1.1%	2.2%	1.1%	0.8%	1.3%
Other family household	6.2%	5.8%	3.8%	5.4%	4.4%	2.2%	5.3%	5.0%
Nonfamily households								
One-person household	27.8%	26.6%	22.5%	17.0%	15.8%	35.3%	25.1%	21.7%
Roommate/boarder household	5.2%	4.7%	3.9%	5.2%	3.3%	6.7%	5.9%	4.5%
Language Spoken at Home:								
English only	74.4%	61.1%	74.7%	73.8%	67.9%	79.0%	71.8%	71.3%
English and other language(s)	20.3%	25.2%	20.3%	20.7%	22.7%	17.0%	20.9%	21.5%
Other language(s) only	5.4%	13.7%	4.9%	5.5%	9.4%	4.0%	7.3%	7.2%
Households with Internet Access	69.9%	69.5%	83.3%	86.3%	80.4%	68.9%	73.3%	78.7%
By race of household head:								
Asian	Insufficient observations to break out by survey area for each racial category.							83.0%
Black								68.5%
Hispanic								62.0%
White								81.7%
Other & Multiracial								74.6%
By annual household income:								
Less than \$25,000	Insufficient observations to break out by survey area.							35.4%
\$25,000-\$49,999	55.0%	54.2%	59.6%	68.7%	58.4%	49.3%	62.5%	58.7%
\$50,000-\$74,999	69.1%	74.2%	80.4%	79.5%	79.1%	69.1%	75.5%	76.4%
\$75,000-\$99,999	78.4%	87.2%	86.1%	91.9%	86.1%	84.4%	84.6%	86.0%
\$100,000-\$124,999	88.1%	83.7%	89.4%	94.9%	87.3%	88.6%	89.2%	89.9%
\$125,000 or more	91.9%	93.6%	97.7%	96.2%	96.0%	90.2%	95.5%	95.8%
Household Income:								
Less than \$25,000	8.0%	10.0%	5.6%	4.9%	5.2%	10.8%	7.9%	6.6%
\$25,000-\$49,999	22.8%	22.4%	12.3%	11.7%	15.6%	20.2%	23.3%	16.4%
\$50,000-\$74,999	24.6%	22.4%	19.3%	20.9%	17.8%	20.9%	24.7%	21.0%
\$75,000-\$99,999	17.9%	15.7%	13.6%	14.9%	19.6%	15.8%	17.2%	16.1%
\$100,000-\$124,999	12.0%	13.0%	16.4%	19.8%	16.8%	13.8%	12.5%	15.9%
\$125,000 to \$149,999	6.5%	6.4%	7.4%	10.6%	9.6%	5.7%	5.2%	8.2%
\$150,000 or more	8.2%	10.0%	25.4%	17.1%	15.4%	12.7%	9.2%	15.8%
Median Household Income	\$68,000	\$70,000	\$96,000	\$95,000	\$87,000	\$70,000	\$69,000	\$81,000
By race of household head:								
Asian	Insufficient observations to break out by survey area for each racial category.							\$67,000
Black								\$58,000
Hispanic								\$60,000
White								\$90,000
Other & Multiracial								\$88,000
By age of household head:								
34 years old and younger	\$60,000	\$73,000	\$71,000	\$80,000	\$72,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$70,000
35 to 44 years old	\$70,000	\$66,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$88,000	\$84,000	\$72,000	\$85,000
45 to 64 years old	\$79,000	\$77,000	\$110,000	\$108,000	\$102,000	\$81,000	\$82,000	\$100,000
65 years old and older	\$50,000	\$46,000	\$60,000	\$51,000	\$55,000	\$42,000	\$50,000	\$51,000
Housing Type:								
Single Family	38.6%	50.8%	57.8%	50.9%	58.8%	47.2%	54.6%	51.6%
Townhome	30.4%	11.1%	18.0%	26.8%	25.6%	10.0%	15.3%	22.6%
Multifamily	29.7%	38.1%	24.2%	21.7%	15.6%	42.7%	30.1%	25.4%
Mobile Home	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Housing Tenure:								
Renters	31.1%	32.6%	23.8%	23.7%	17.8%	38.8%	30.3%	25.6%
Owners	68.9%	67.4%	76.2%	76.3%	82.2%	61.2%	69.8%	74.4%

Profile of Households

	Fairfax County Human Service Region					Falls Church City	Fairfax City	Area Total
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5			
Total Households	65,133	52,567	79,840	89,972	63,201	4,471	8,035	363,219
Monthly Housing Costs:								
Renters								
Less than \$700	18.5%	17.4%	11.1%	8.9%	9.1%	15.5%	16.2%	13.3%
\$700 to \$999	51.1%	45.6%	31.4%	30.7%	40.7%	43.0%	43.8%	39.8%
\$1,000 to \$1,249	12.2%	24.7%	31.1%	31.1%	23.9%	18.9%	19.7%	24.4%
\$1,250 or more	18.2%	12.2%	26.5%	29.3%	26.2%	22.7%	20.3%	22.5%
Owners								
Less than \$700	15.6%	23.7%	15.3%	8.4%	12.1%	17.8%	18.2%	14.1%
\$700 to \$999	17.8%	13.5%	8.4%	11.0%	12.2%	11.2%	16.2%	12.2%
\$1,000 to \$1,249	20.4%	15.3%	11.2%	15.9%	21.7%	12.0%	18.4%	16.6%
\$1,250 to \$1,499	14.0%	12.7%	7.7%	18.0%	12.8%	15.2%	15.1%	13.2%
\$1,500 to \$1,999	19.3%	18.8%	18.6%	24.0%	22.8%	19.0%	17.6%	20.9%
\$2,000 or more	12.8%	15.9%	38.8%	22.8%	18.5%	24.8%	14.5%	22.9%

Housing Cost as a percent of Household Income:

Under 20 percent of income	54.2%	52.2%	59.5%	59.5%	56.1%	51.3%	55.2%	56.7%
20 to 29 percent of income	26.5%	26.9%	22.8%	24.4%	26.7%	24.7%	25.9%	25.3%
30 to 49 percent of income	13.4%	15.2%	13.5%	11.5%	12.4%	16.2%	14.4%	13.1%
50 percent or more of income	6.0%	5.7%	4.2%	4.6%	4.8%	7.7%	4.5%	5.0%

Ran out of Money for Rent or Mortgage, Utilities, Food or Medicine:

Did not run out of money last year	81.3%	82.4%	88.4%	87.0%	88.1%	87.5%	81.7%	85.7%
Ran out 1 or 2 times last year	12.5%	13.6%	9.1%	9.4%	8.5%	8.9%	13.7%	10.4%
Ran out 3 or more times last year	6.2%	4.0%	2.5%	3.6%	3.4%	3.6%	4.7%	3.9%

Where Households that Ran Out of Money Turned for Help:

Percentages based on the 14.3 percent of households running out of money at least once last year.	Family/Friends	54.6%	56.7%	47.9%	58.6%	52.5%	54.0%	60.4%	54.5%
	Government	4.9%	9.8%	5.0%	6.6%	5.0%	10.0%	1.4%	6.1%
	Religious/Community Group	10.7%	9.4%	11.3%	4.2%	1.1%	7.9%	8.5%	7.7%
	Increased Credit/Other Debt	49.5%	45.7%	50.7%	48.6%	48.8%	49.7%	51.1%	48.8%
	Other	10.0%	9.0%	11.2%	12.4%	10.7%	12.2%	13.3%	10.8%
	Not applicable	2.7%	3.7%	4.2%	1.5%	1.3%	0.7%	4.0%	2.7%

Moved Senior/Disabled Person Into

Area From Outside the Area:	3.7%	3.7%	4.1%	5.8%	6.7%	2.8%	5.2%	4.9%
Senior/disabled person living:								
<i>Percentages for where the senior/disabled person is living are based on the 4.9 percent of households moving a senior or disabled person to the area from outside the area, and add to more than 100 percent because of multiple responses. Percentages are provided only for the entire survey region because numbers for individual areas are too small for tabulation by area.</i>						In my home	44.0%	
						In a senior residence	18.4%	
						In a nursing home	15.1%	
						Independently	10.6%	
						Not applicable/deceased	15.2%	

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Unless otherwise noted, person-level data are based on household population and household data are based on total households for each survey area. Household population excludes persons living in group quarters such as correctional facilities, nursing homes, and college dormitories.

Appendix C

Survey Methodology

Methodology: 2000 Fairfax~Falls Church Community Assessment

The 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment is a follow up to the 1995 Community Needs Assessment. The 2000 Community Assessment was designed to collect socioeconomic and demographic information for households and their members and to determine residents' perceptions of community issues. This information will help provide human service organizations with reliable information that can be used for effective planning. The data also help providers of human services to forecast the human and fiscal impacts of many program and service changes.

A mail survey was used in 2000 as in 1995 to better accommodate the special difficulties involved in reaching poverty-level populations, which may not have telephones. The primary reasons for conducting the Community Assessment as a mail survey were:

- The sample for the Community Assessment could be drawn from local real estate assessment files. The completeness of these real estate assessment files allowed precise probabilities of inclusion to be determined prior to sampling and provided precision in determining geographic and housing type strata.
- The sample drawn from the real estate assessment files allowed certain types of information to be left off the questionnaire because it could be obtained from these records (i.e. housing type, home value, etc.).
- Mail surveys typically allow more detailed and complex answer choices than telephone surveys.
- Many of the special populations to be studied, such as persons with disabilities, comprise a small proportion of the total population of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community. Mail surveys better accommodate the large sample sizes needed to obtain enough responses to reliably measure these special populations.

To accommodate language minority households, the mailing envelopes were printed with information in Spanish, Korean and Vietnamese-the three most frequently spoken languages other than English in the community. Telephone hotlines were established to respond to persons needing help in those languages in addition to one for the English-speaking population. Persons staffing these hotlines were provided training on responding to the special needs of these callers.

Questionnaire

The processes and questionnaire used in 1995 were reviewed and changes made. The revision process for the 2000 Community Assessment involved gathering feedback from human service providers and representatives from the project partners (Fairfax County, City of Fairfax, City of Falls Church, and the Fairfax-Falls Church United Way) to determine what information was most desired. A core set of questions asking about number of persons, housing costs, relationships, sex, race, age, employment status, ability to speak English, and income was retained from 1995 for longitudinal purposes, while other questions were added or dropped depending on current priorities for information. Where new questions were formed, a search was conducted to obtain examples of surveys measuring similar subject matter.

Changes adopted for the 2000 Community Assessment included:

- Modifying the questionnaire format in order to collect person-level information rather than household information collected in 1995;
- Dropping questions and topics from the 1995 questionnaire with too few responses to provide valid cross-tabulations of data;
- Changing the terminology of "permanent disabilities" to "long-lasting conditions"-the latter term being one that asks respondents to assess only whether the condition has been persisting for a length of time as opposed to whether it is considered to be "permanent" in the future; and
- Adding questions on multiple employers, living arrangements of seniors and/or persons with disabilities brought into the community, Internet access, pollution, and restaurant food safety.

The parts of the questionnaire mailer package included the outside mailer envelope, the introductory letter, the survey questionnaire and a postage-paid return envelope. Various parts of the questionnaire mailer and postcards, used for follow-up procedures, were revised. Special care was used in making these modifications because they may affect who responds and how respondents answer. A mock-up of the introductory letter, instructions, and questions were pre-tested with community groups. Persons of all income levels, ages, and racial and ethnic backgrounds were represented among those pre-tested. The survey instrument and methodology underwent a peer review by prominent statisticians and human service experts not associated with the project. The results of the pretest and peer review process were used to further refine the questionnaire.

Population and Sample Size Estimation

In 2000, there were 372,340 total housing units in the Survey Area and 363,219 occupied housing units with an estimated household population of 990,729 persons. This household population does not include persons living in group quarters, on federally owned property, or the homeless which are estimated to be an additional 12,900 persons.

The sample was stratified into seven geographic areas representing service delivery areas – five County human services regions, the City of Fairfax and City of Falls Church. The geographic stratification allows information for each of these areas to be collected in a statistically reliable manner. Within each geographic stratum, a second stratification was made to enable the over-sampling of housing units most likely to contain low and moderate-income residents and to reduce sampling variance. Past results revealed that more low-income people reside in multi-family and mobile homes than in single-family homes or townhouses. Further, the response rate among low-income persons is lower than among the general population. To compensate for the low response rates among low-income households and the small proportion of low-income persons in the Area, multi-family and mobile homes were over-sampled.

The 1995 and 2000 Community Assessments take a conservative approach in estimating sample size to produce statistically reliable results for different geographic areas by treating each of the geographic areas as though they are separate random samples. The sample size for each geographic area is determined by deciding the level of precision desired for these areas in isolation. Table 1 shows the sample sizes determined for the strata and substrata of the Survey.

The total sample size for the 2000 Community Assessment was 11,200 housing

Table 1: SAMPLE SIZE OF STRATA					
Geographic Area	Total Sample Size	Multi-Family Strata	Single-Family Strata	Percent of All Multi-Family Housing	Percent of All Single-Family Housing
City of Fairfax	1,400	600	800	24.2%	13.4%
City of Falls Church	1,300	775	525	53.2%	15.7%
Fairfax County					
Region 1	1,700	825	875	4.0%	1.9%
Region 2	1,700	931	769	4.6%	2.3%
Region 3	1,700	800	900	4.1%	1.5%
Region 4	1,700	800	900	3.9%	1.3%
Region 5	1,700	800	900	8.0%	1.7%
TOTAL	11,200	5,531	5,669	5.8%	2.1%

Note: The total sample size for the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church are smaller than those in Fairfax County due to the finite population correction factor.

units. These units were randomly selected from each of the geographic substrata. The final address list was compiled from the County and Cities' real estate parcel files and supplemented by information supplied by apartment complexes on unit addresses. In addition to address information, geographic area and housing type information were obtained from the real estate parcel files. The information from the real estate parcel files was combined with the response information in the final data set.

Data Collection Procedures and Response Rates

The questionnaire package was mailed bulk-rate to the randomly selected addresses. The forms were imprinted with an identification number linking each questionnaire to a specific address for follow-up purposes. Approximately two weeks following the initial mailing of the questionnaire, a follow-up postcard was mailed via first class mail to every address selected. The postcard thanked those who had already returned the questionnaire and reminded those who had not returned it that their response was important. As questionnaires were returned, their mailing addresses were removed from the data files to protect the household's confidentiality.

A second mailing of the questionnaire occurred approximately three weeks after the postcard follow-up. It was mailed only to those households that had not yet responded. A third mailing to addresses that had not responded occurred about three weeks after the second mailing. A fourth and final mailing was sent to households that did not respond to the third mailing.

Of the 11,200 households selected in the sample, 6,859 households, containing 16,499 persons, returned usable questionnaires. After compensating for the 250 surveys returned from vacant units and 51 sent back for incorrect or incomplete mailing information, a 63 percent response rate was obtained from the pool of viable residential addresses. Among the geographic strata, the response rates ranged from a low of 59.0 percent in Fairfax County Human Services Region 2 to a high of 66.8 percent in the City of Fairfax.

Data Editing and Coding

For the 2000 Community Assessment, the data editing process included manual edits and computer edits. As the surveys were returned, each form was inspected for completeness and consistency. Manual edits were made on the forms to clarify how items should be keypunched and to complete, where possible, missing information. For example, if respondents provided their age for one question but left it blank on another, the age information was completed.

Once the data from the questionnaires were keypunched, extensive computer edits were performed. Computer edits checked skip patterns and question-to-question answer consistency, out-of-range answers, and outlying data. Survey forms were pulled and reviewed when the computer edits flagged them as problems. Key punch and response errors were corrected and, where possible, additional missing information was completed. Information for household members living elsewhere, such as live-away college students and military personnel stationed elsewhere, was deleted.

Upon completion of the computer edits, new analysis variables were created. Analysis variables that were created from other response information included a household income variable, a tenure variable, family and non-family structure variables, and poverty status variables. The final step of the edit process was to attach household level information to hierarchical person-level observations.

Data Weighting

The creation of weights for the 2000 Community Assessment was a multi-step process. The final weights are frequency weights, which enable estimates of the number of persons or households in the Area exhibiting a particular characteristic to be generated. The procedures used to analyze and create the weighted data set are similar to those used for the Fairfax County Household Surveys. This methodology has been extensively peer reviewed by statisticians and researchers in the field to confirm that it follows acceptable research standards. In determining the weights, the following principles were applied:

- Respondents were weighted to eliminate the effects of the disproportionate sampling caused by the way the sample was stratified by geography and housing unit type, and
- Respondents were weighted to reduce the effects of non-response bias.

There is a wealth of literature in the survey research field investigating non-response bias. The research indicates that racial minorities, young males, the very poor, the very wealthy, etc. are less likely to respond to surveys than other groups. Non-response bias on the 2000 Community Assessment was estimated by comparing its results with the 2000 U.S. Decennial Census. This comparison revealed that the groups not responding to the survey were similar to those identified generally in the research literature. Most of the non-response bias occurred because racial and ethnic minority residents were less likely to respond. Therefore, adjustments were made to the survey results to reduce this ethnic or racial non-response bias.

An assumption made when determining how to adjust for ethnic or racial non-response bias was that minority households that respond are similar to those who do not respond. Unfortunately, this assumption is not entirely true. Evidence suggests those non-responding households within each racial or ethnic category tend to be less wealthy. However, the differences within racial or ethnic groups are less pronounced than the differences between racial groups.

The racial or ethnic correction factors were derived for each of the five County human services regions, the City of Fairfax and City of Falls Church. The non-response adjustments developed from comparing the 2000 Community Assessment data with the 2000 Decennial Census data for each of these geographies were based on the following formula:

$$\frac{(N_{ir} / N_{iT})}{(n_{ir} / n_{iT})} = F_{ir}$$

Where: N_{ir} = Number of persons in r racial or ethnic group living in all housing units in geographic area i from the 2000 U.S. Decennial Census.

N_{iT} = Total number of persons living in housing units in geographic area i from the 2000 U.S. Decennial Census.

n_{ir} = Number of persons in r racial or ethnic group in geographic area i from the dwelling unit weighted 2000 Community Assessment.

n_{iT} = Total number of persons living in housing units in geographic area i from the dwelling unit weighted 2000 Community Assessment.

F_{ir} = 2000 correction factor for non-response bias for r racial or ethnic group for geographic area i .

The 2000 Community Assessment non-response adjustment factors (F_{ir}) derived for each racial or ethnic group within each geographic area were attached to the individual person-level observations based on the race of the household head. In effect, these racial bias adjustment factors allow respondents from under-represented groups to represent more than one survey response while respondents from over-represented groups will represent less than one survey response.

After the racial bias adjustment factors were applied, frequency weights were derived to expand the sample to all occupied housing units by strata. The resulting racial distributions for each of the seven geographic regions were carefully reviewed and compared to 2000 Census data. In addition, age distributions for each geographic strata were reviewed carefully to ensure that the application of racial bias weights did not adversely affect age distributions of residents. The combination of the racial adjustment factors and the occupied housing unit weights result in the final frequency weights for households.

When the resulting 2000 Community Assessment population estimates, using the housing unit weights, were compared to Census 2000 population estimates, there were slight differences. Primarily these differences were due to slight differences in household size. To adjust the 2000 Community Assessment population estimates to more closely reflect those of Census, population correction factors were determined. Thus, different weight variables are used when generating household statistics than when generating population statistics.

The final non-response bias adjusted frequency weights for household (HHLDWGT) and person level (POPWGT) analyses were generated by the following formulas:

$$\frac{H_{ij}}{\sum_j \sum_r^{m_j} (q_{ijr} A_r)} = HHLDWGT_{ijr} \quad \left(\frac{H_{ij}}{\sum_j \sum_r^{m_j} (q_{ijr} A_r)} \right) C_i = POPWGT_{ijr}$$

Where: H_{ij} = The number of occupied housing units (households) of j type housing units in geographic area i .

A_r = Racial adjustment or correction factor for nonresponse bias for r racial or ethnic group employing 2000 Census information.

C_i = The population correction factor for geographic area i .

q_{ijr} = Questionnaire returned from a household with a head of r racial or ethnic origin from a j type of housing unit in geographic area i .

m_j = The number of questionnaires returned from a racial or

ethnic stratum (tertiary strata) living in j type housing units within a geographic area.

$n_i =$ *The number of questionnaires returned from a housing unit stratum (secondary strata) within a geographic area.*

Data Tabulation

The 2000 Community Assessment data set consists of hierarchical person-level observations with two types of weights, a person-level weight and a household-level weight. When analyses are conducted on person-level data (population characteristics), the person level weights are applied. When analyses are conducted on household statistics, the data set first is transformed to household observations by including a programming statement so that only one observation per household are kept in the analysis file and then the household-level weights are applied.

Precision of Estimated Proportions

The standard errors and confidence intervals of the estimated proportions measure the precision of the estimates derived from the survey. That is, if every person or household in the area had been interviewed, the actual percent of persons or households exhibiting a particular characteristic would fall within the confidence interval derived from the standard error. The following formula was used to calculate the confidence interval for the proportions derived from the 2000 Community Assessment:

$$\text{Confidence Interval} = p \pm 1.96 \sqrt{\sum_{h=1}^L W_h^2 \frac{p_h q_h}{n_h - 1}}$$

Where: $p =$ *the proportion responding affirmatively*

$W_h =$ *each stratum weight* $\frac{N_h}{N}$

$p_h =$ *the proportion responding affirmatively from strata h*

$q_h =$ *the proportion responding negatively from strata h*

$n_h =$ *the number sampled from the strata*

A confidence coefficient of 0.95 was used. If a weight stratum contained only one observation, the maximum variance among strata for that variable was assumed for

that stratum's contribution to the overall precision. Table 2 shows the percent and confidence intervals for selected questions about individuals (population). Table 3 shows the percent and confidence intervals for selected questions estimating household characteristics.

Precision of Estimated Means

Confidence intervals for estimates of the numerical means were interpreted similarly to those of proportions. That is, if the sample were replicated, 95 times out of 100 times the mean would fall within the confidence interval. The formula for estimating the 95 percent confidence interval of means derived from questions asking numerical information was:

$$\text{Confidence Interval} = \bar{x}_w \pm 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{h=1}^L \frac{W_h^2 s_h^2}{n_h}}{N - 1}}$$

Where: \bar{x}_w = The weighted mean of the sample.

N = Total number of units in the sample.

n_h = Number of units in the sample of stratum h .

W_h = The stratum weight.

s_h = Sample variance of each stratum.

$$S_h^2 = \frac{1}{n_h - 1} \sum_{i=1}^{n_h} (y_{hi} - \bar{y}_h)^2$$

Where: n_h = Number of units in the sample of stratum h .

\bar{y}_h = The weighted mean of stratum h .

y_{hi} = Individual observation within each stratum h .

The means and confidence intervals of selected numeric estimates from the 2000 Community Assessment are shown in Table 4.

TABLE 2
2000 FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT
ESTIMATES AND CONFIDENCE INTERVALS OF PERSON-LEVEL PERCENTS

No.	Question Topic	% of Population	Confidence Interval		
			\pm %	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
22	Percent Male	48.39%	0.93%	47.46%	49.32%
23	Percent White	62.42%	0.46%	61.96%	62.88%
25	Labor Force Participation Rate <i>Persons 16 and older</i>	78.51%	0.82%	77.69%	79.33%
25	Labor Force Participation Rate <i>Females 16 and older</i>	72.02%	1.25%	70.77%	73.27%
25	Labor Force Participation Rate <i>Males 16 and older</i>	85.74%	1.00%	84.74%	86.74%
27	Has Bachelor's Degree or Higher <i>Persons 25 and older</i>	58.87%	1.03%	57.84%	59.90%
29	In or Need Day Care <i>Persons under age 13</i>	32.26%	2.12%	30.14%	34.38%
30	Has Health Insurance	91.71%	0.47%	91.24%	92.18%
32	Has Long Lasting Condition <i>Severe physical, vision and/or memory learning problem</i>	5.68%	0.40%	5.28%	6.08%
33	Has Mental Health Needs <i>Experiencing anxiety, depression, emotional or mental problems to the point of needing help</i>	8.87%	0.52%	8.35%	9.39%
NA	At or Below Poverty	3.20%	0.49%	2.71%	3.69%
NA	At or Below 200% of Poverty	10.23%	0.84%	9.39%	11.07%

TABLE 3
2000 FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT
ESTIMATES AND CONFIDENCE INTERVALS OF HOUSEHOLD-LEVEL PERCENTS

No.	Question Topic	% of Households	Confidence Interval		
			± %	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
38	Only English Spoken in Home	71.27%	1.01%	70.26%	72.28%
39	Household Has Internet Access	78.72%	1.05%	77.67%	79.77%
40	Household Moved Senior or Disabled Person Into Area in Last Five Years	4.85%	1.80%	3.05%	6.65%
42	Household Ran out of Money for Basic Needs <i>One or more times in last year</i>	14.29%	0.97%	13.32%	15.26%
NA	One-Person Households and Families at or Below Poverty	2.51%	0.49%	2.02%	3.00%
NA	One-Person Households and Families at or Below 200% of Poverty	8.38%	0.84%	7.54%	9.22%
NA	Owner Occupied Household	74.37%	0.94%	73.43%	75.31%

TABLE 4
2000 FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT
ESTIMATES AND CONFIDENCE INTERVALS OF PERSON- AND HOUSEHOLD-LEVEL MEANS

No.	Question Topic	Mean	Confidence Interval		
			±	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
24	Age	35.00	0.32	34.68	35.32
34	Household Income	\$99,633	\$4,499	\$95,134	\$104,132
34	Family Income	\$110,607	\$6,427	\$104,180	\$117,034
37	Monthly Rental Cost	\$1,029	\$18	\$1,011	\$1,047
37	Monthly Owner Cost	\$1,501	\$28	\$1,473	\$1,529