

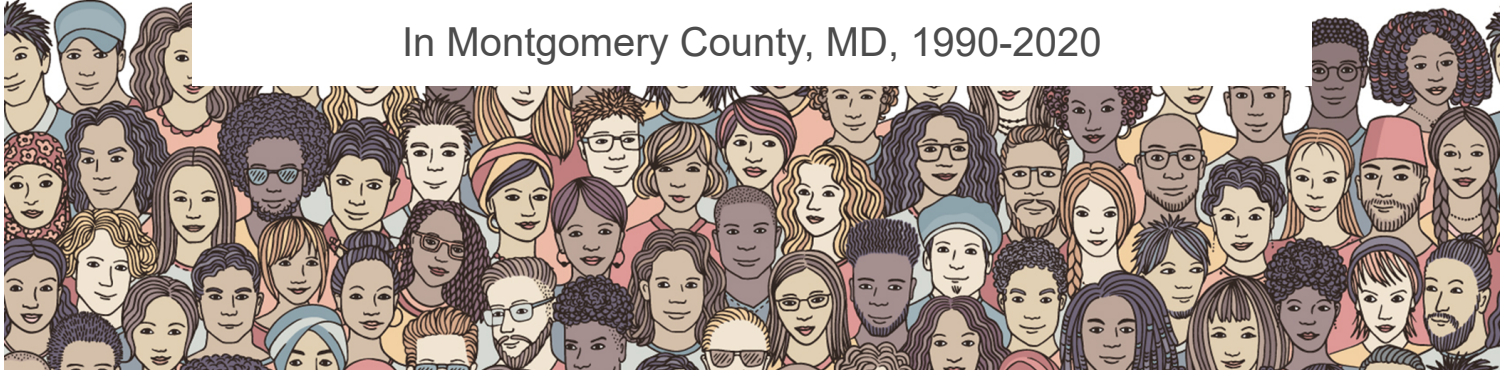
This story was made with [Esri's Story Map Cascade](#).

Read it on the web at <https://arcg.is/nj0br>.



Trends in Racial and Ethnic Diversity

In Montgomery County, MD, 1990-2020

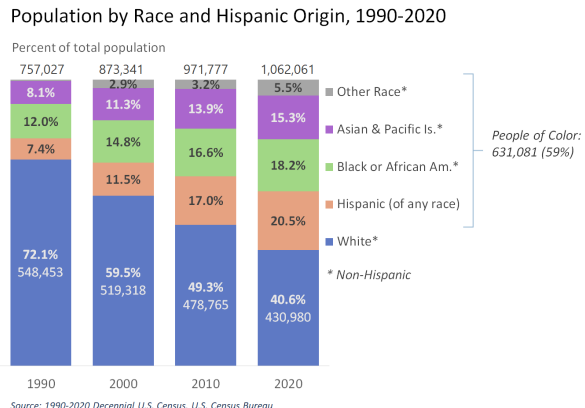


MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Montgomery County, MD

The following storymap analyzes the evolution of Montgomery County's racial and ethnic diversity since 1990 using the [race](#) and [Hispanic origin](#) classifications defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. The first series of maps look at changes for individual races and Hispanic ethnicity. The second series of maps provide more details on changes in racial predominance in individual Census tracts. The third series of maps reveal the most common racial or ethnic group in those tracts where no one race or ethnicity is a majority.

Increasing Diversity Since 1990



Montgomery County's Hispanic, Black, and Asian populations have grown steadily reflecting new residents and increasing births since 1990. In 2020, people of color — Hispanic or Latino, Black, Asian, and multi-racial residents — comprised 59% of the total population making Montgomery County more diverse than the nation (42%) and Maryland (53%) and slightly higher than the Washington, D.C. region (58%).

Increasing racial and ethnic diversity has outpaced overall population growth in Montgomery County since the 1990s. The number of people of color increased by 203%, adding 422,507 residents, compared to the 40% growth in total population between 1990 and 2020. The share of Hispanic, Black, Asian, and multi-racial residents has steadily increased over the decades. By 2010, the county's previously largest racial group, non-Hispanic White population, dropped to 49.3%, creating a plurality among racial and ethnic groups where no single group was a majority.

Montgomery's Hispanic population is the fastest growing group, almost quadrupling in size since 1990, reaching 217,409 people or 20% of the county's population in 2020. Hispanics became the largest group among people of color in 2010, surpassing the number of non-Hispanic Black people in the county. Between 1990 and 2020, the Black population increased from 12% to 18%, to 192,714 residents. In the last 30 years, the percentage of non-Hispanic Asian people almost doubled from 8% to 15%, totaling 162,912 residents in 2020. The non-Hispanic White population dropped from 548,453 in 1990 to 430,980 in 2020.

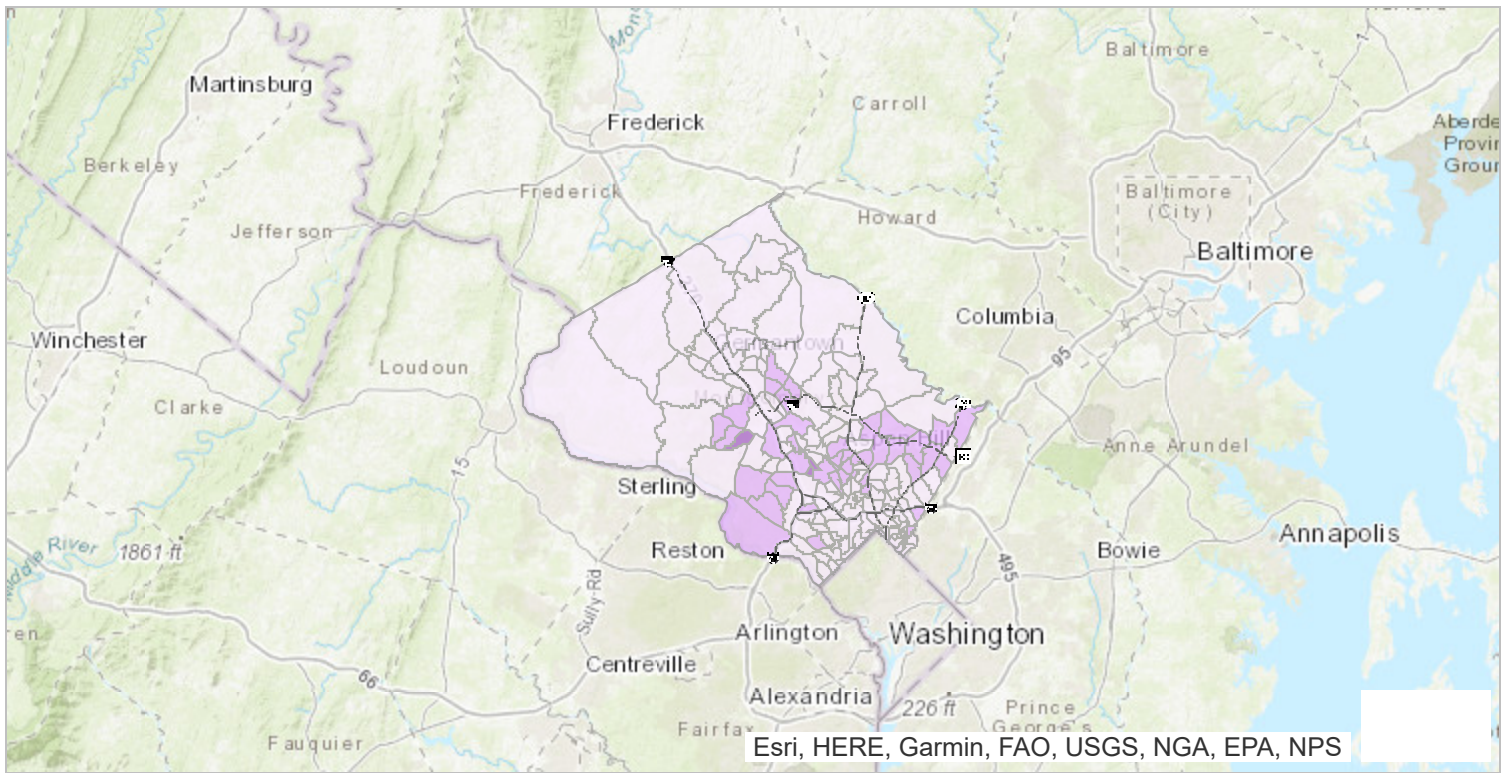
Continued growth in the number of people of color living in the county is expected. In the next 10 years, the Maryland State Data Center forecasts the number of Hispanic, Black, Asian, and multi-racial residents will grow by 21%, rising to 67% of the County's total population in 2030. People of color became the majority (>50%) in Montgomery County in 2010, and almost three out of county residents are projected to be people of color by 2045. In contrast, according to projections by the United States Census Bureau, people of color will not comprise the majority of the U.S. population until 2045 – 35 years after Montgomery County crossed this benchmark in 2010.

Racial and Ethnic Change, 1990-2020



The historical map series below illustrates the neighborhood level transformation of Montgomery County's racial and ethnic composition. U.S. Census tract-level maps of Hispanic or Latino population and the non-Hispanic populations of Black or African American, Asian and Pacific Islander, and White residents depict local changes from 1990 to 2020.

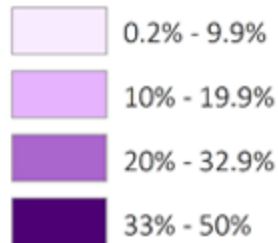
Click on a census tract in the interactive maps to see population data describing the area.



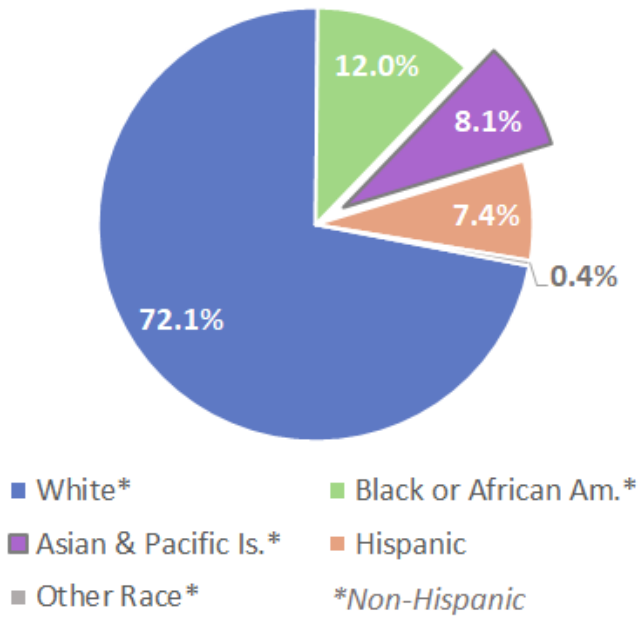
Asian & Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic: 1990

Looking back at the past 50 years, the greatest percentage gains in Montgomery's Asian and Pacific Islander residents occurred in the 1970s, increasing five-fold to 24,175 people (4.2%) in 1980. The fast-paced growth continued in the 1980s more than doubling the number of Asians to 60,972 (8.1%) in 1990, making Asians the third largest racial and ethnic group following the non-Hispanic White and Black population in the county.

% Asian & PI, Non-Hispanic

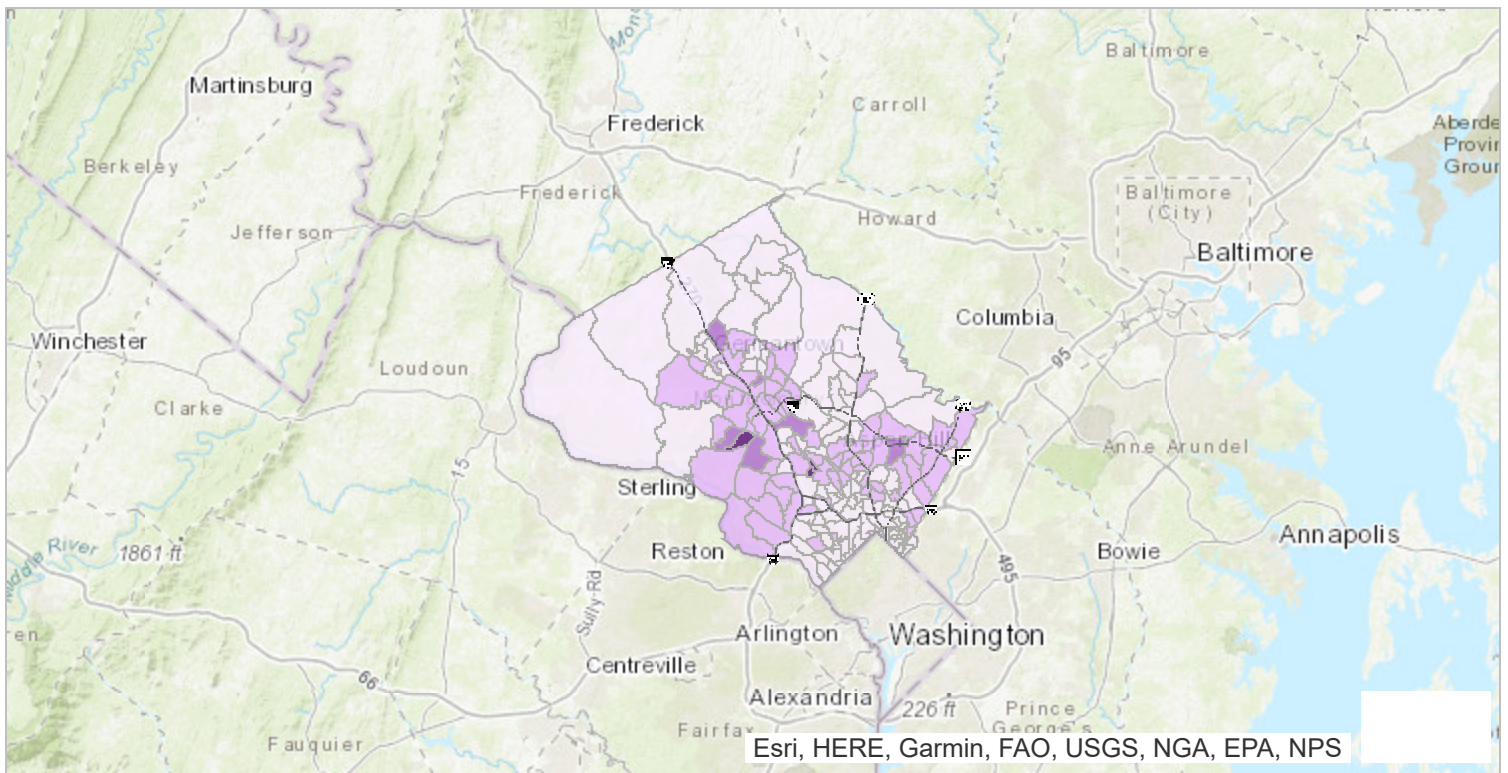


1990 Race & Hispanic Origin



Source: 1990 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

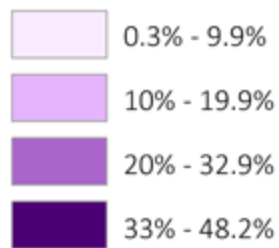
Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.



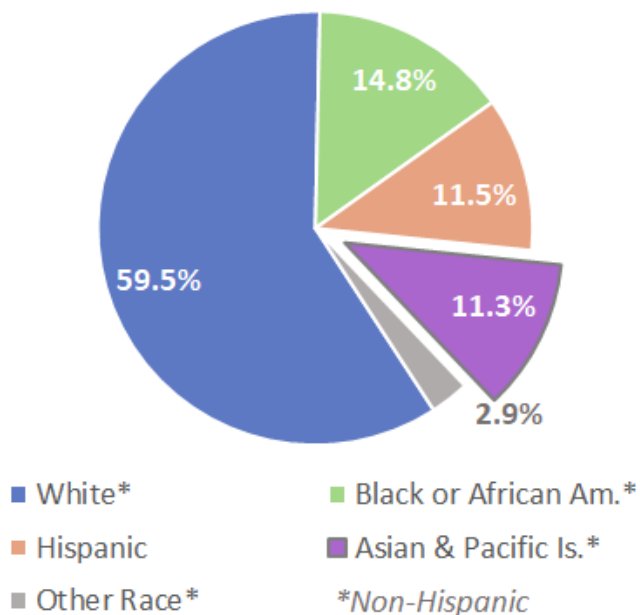
Asian & Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic: 2000

198,632 Asians made up 11.3% of the county's population in 2000. A 62% gain from 1990, totaling 37,660 residents.

% Asian & PI, Non-Hispanic

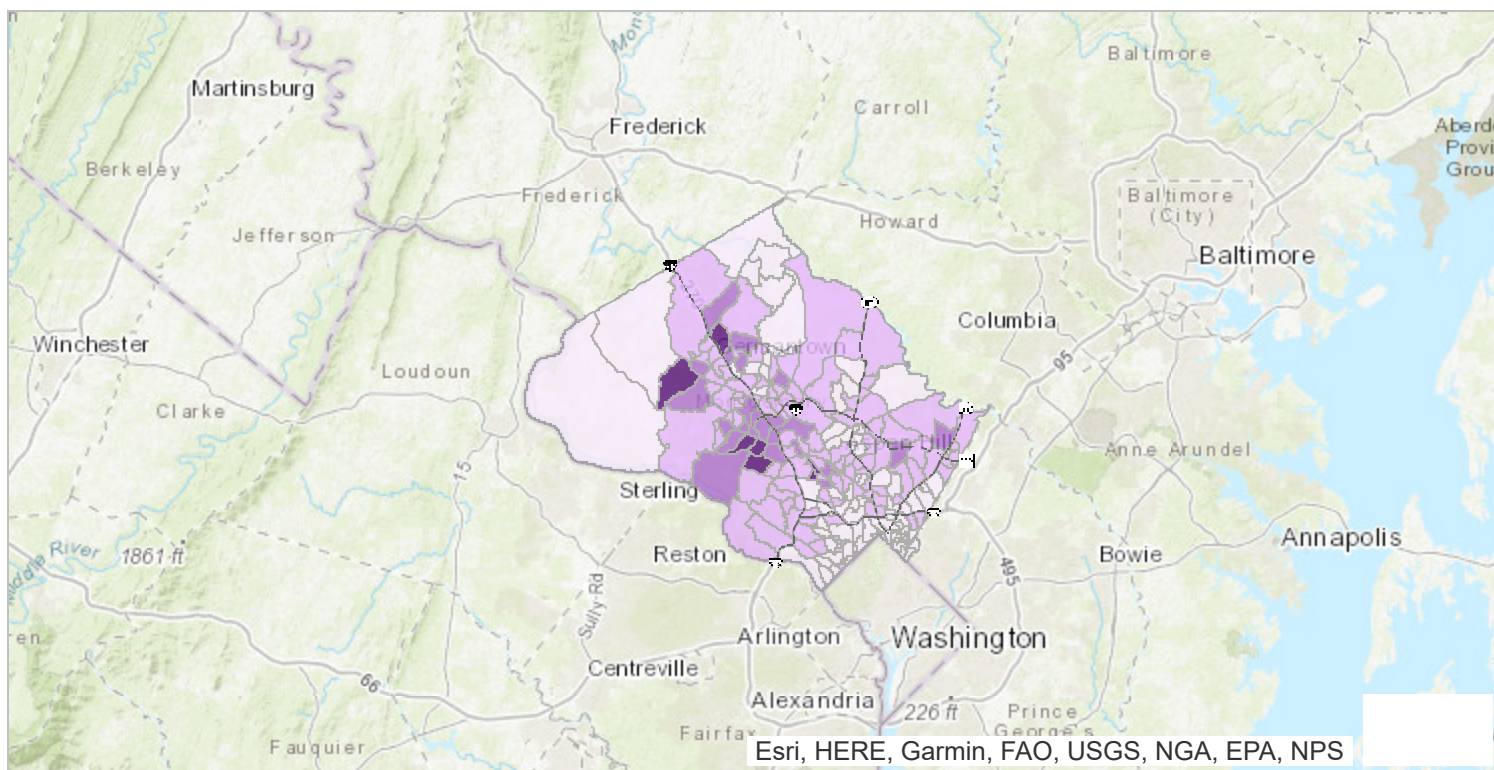


2000 Race & Hispanic Origin



Source: 2000 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

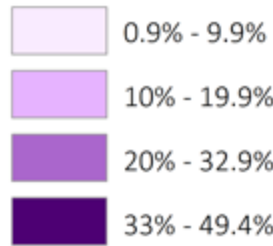
Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.



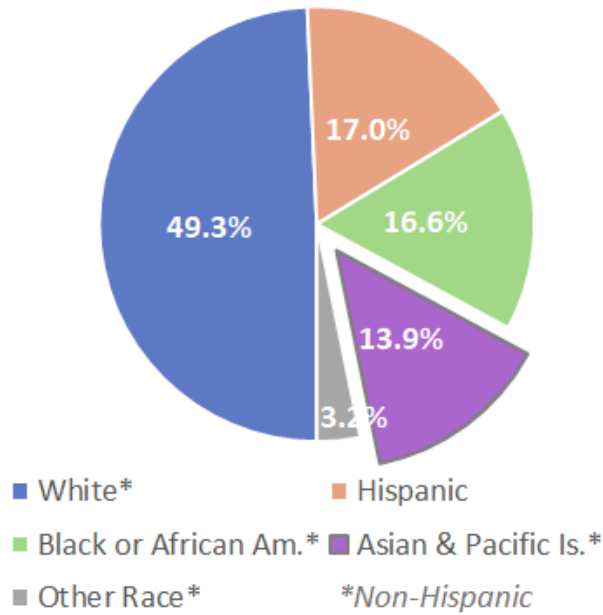
Asian & Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic: 2010

Another decade of consistent gains increased the Asian population by 37% (36,472 people) totaling 135,104 residents in 2010. The Asian share of the population continued its upward trend from 8.1% in 1990 to 13.9% in 2010.

% Asian & PI, Non-Hispanic

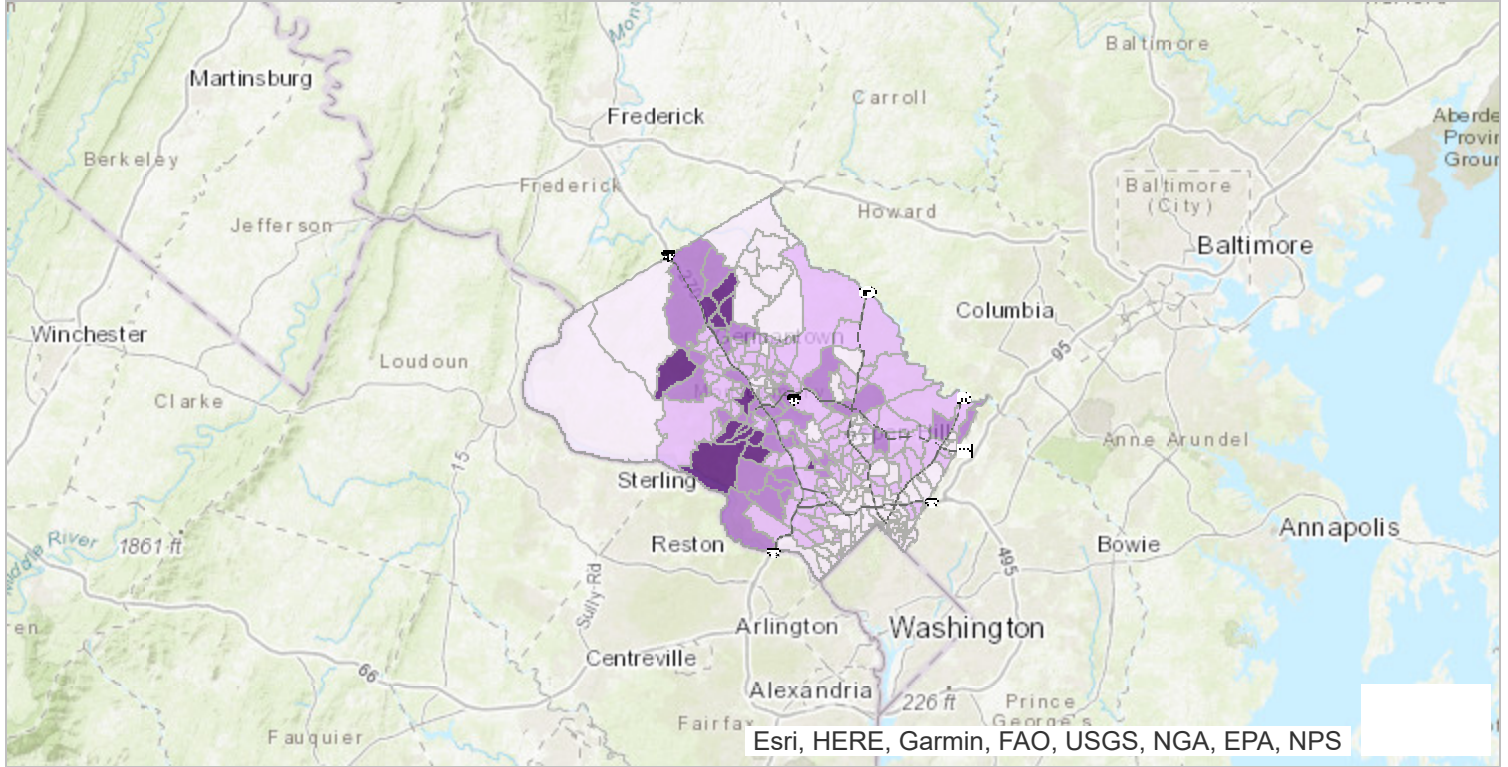


2010 Race & Hispanic Origin



Source: 2010 Decennial U.S. Census, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.

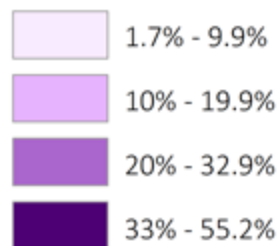


Asian & Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic: 2020

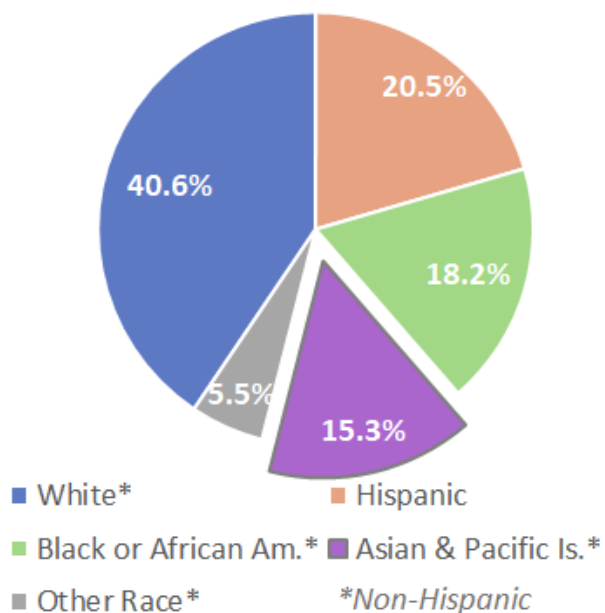
After three decades of consistently gaining about 37,000 Asians each decennial census, the increase drops to 27,808 people in 2020 as the Asian growth rate continues its decline from 37% to 21% in the past decade.

In 2020, 15.3% of residents were Asian and Pacific Islanders (162,912 people). Montgomery's Asian and Pacific Islander residents make up almost one-quarter of the approximate 700,000 Asians living in the Washington, D.C. region in 2020.

% Asian & PI, Non-Hispanic

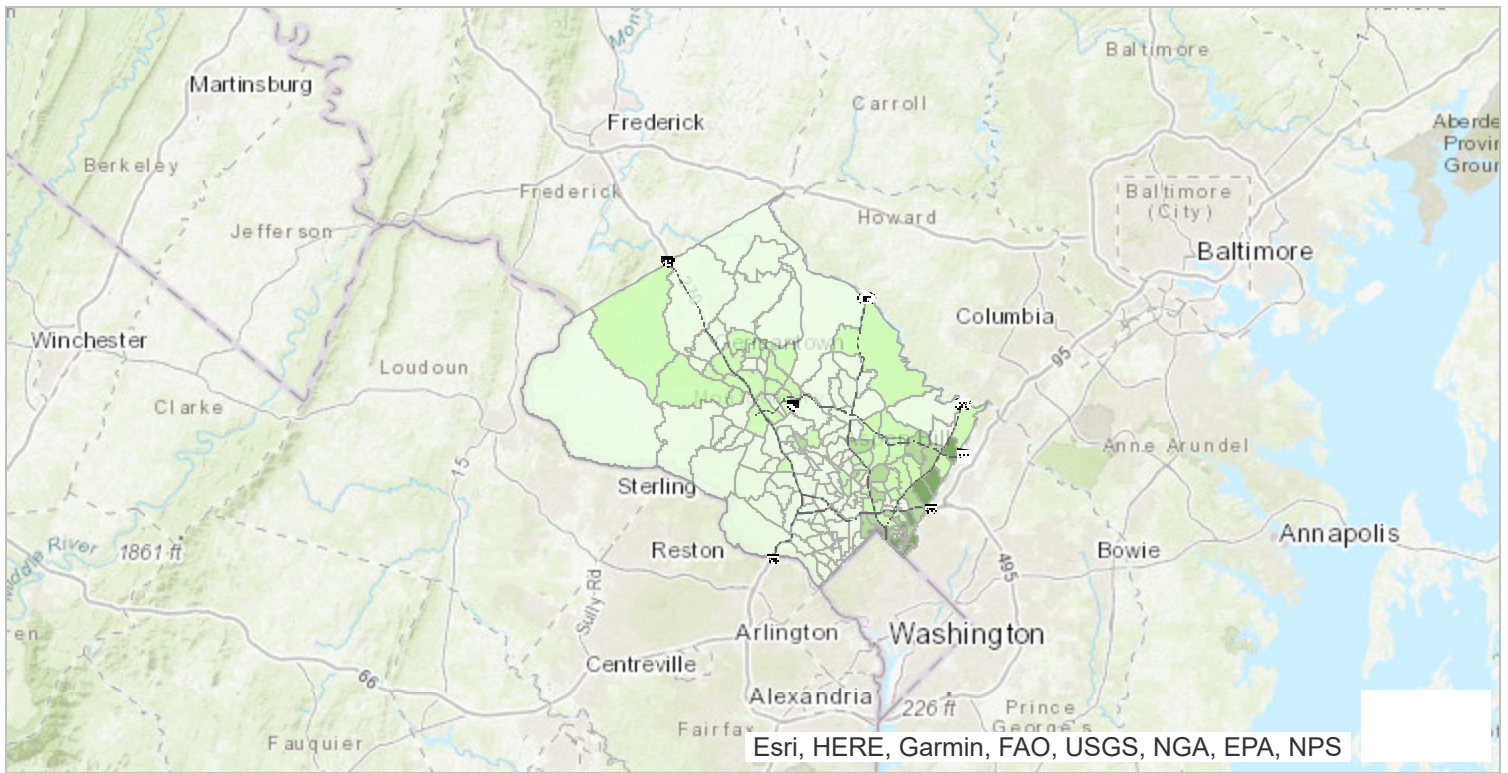


2020 Race & Hispanic Origin



Source: 2020 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

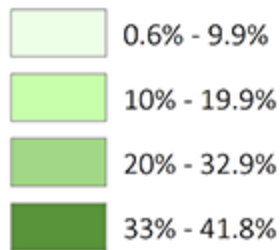
Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.



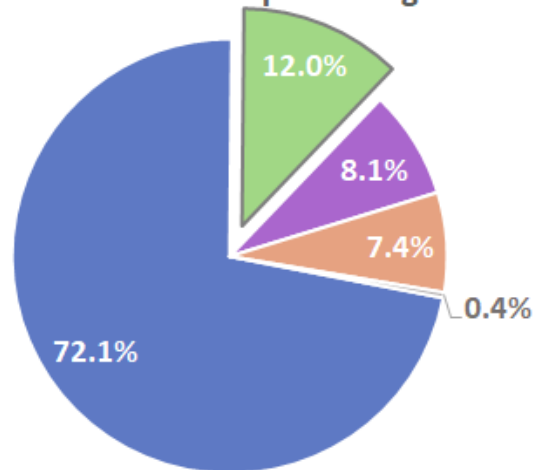
Black, Non-Hispanic: 1990

In 1990, the Black population at 89,184 (11.8%) was the second largest racial and ethnic group following the non-Hispanic White population in the county.

% Black, Non-Hispanic

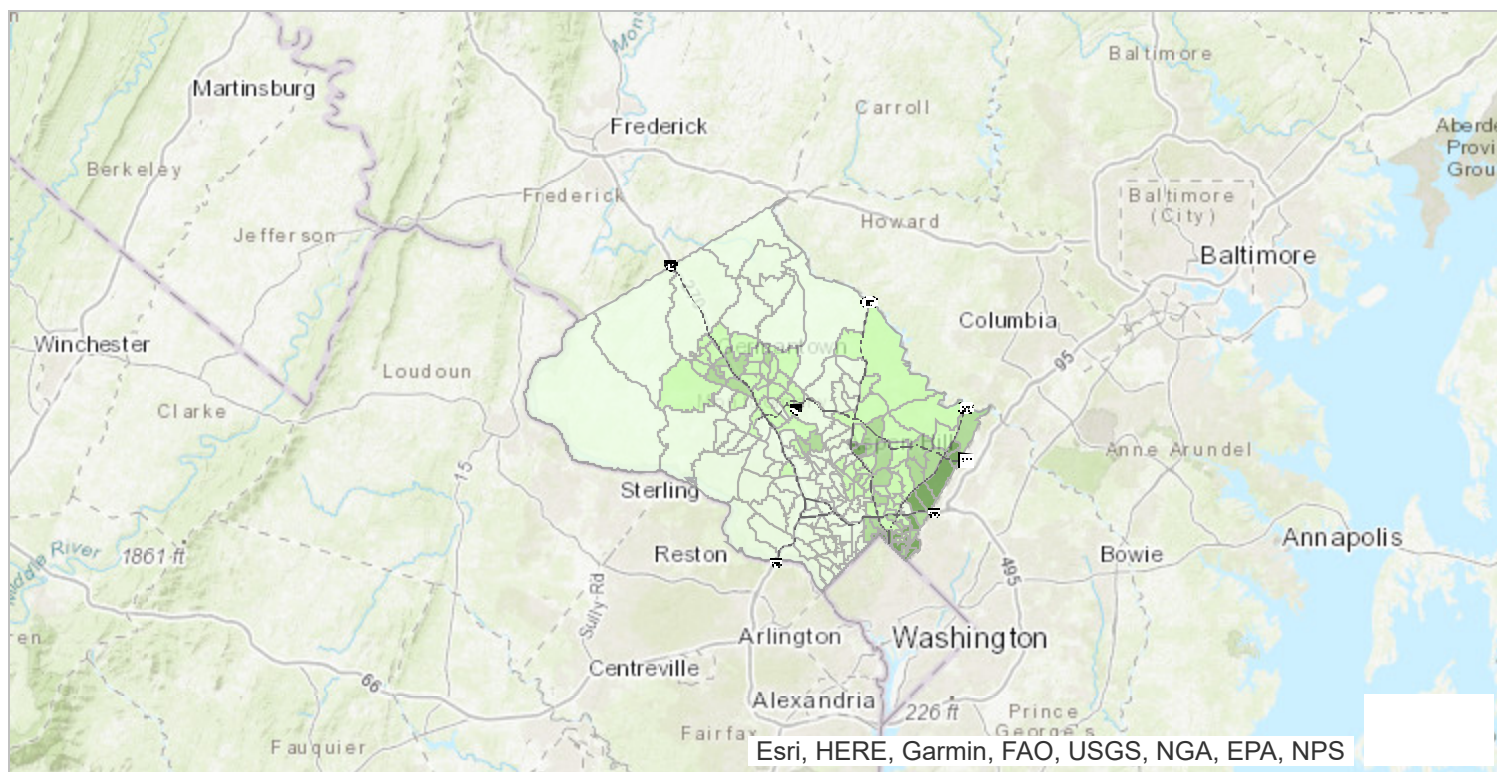


1990 Race & Hispanic Origin



- White*
 - Black or African Am.*
 - Asian & Pacific Is.*
 - Hispanic
 - Other Race*
- *Non-Hispanic

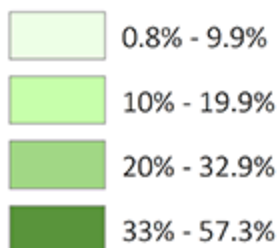
Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.



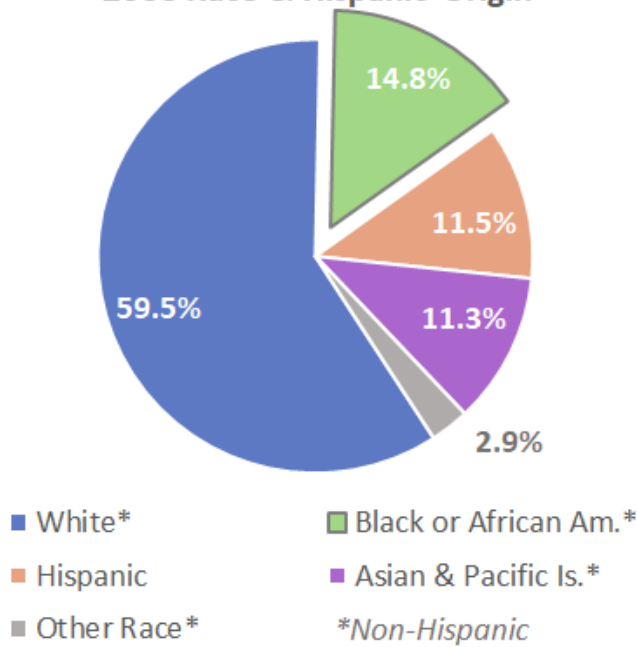
Black, Non-Hispanic: 2000

The greatest increase in the Black population, 40,187 people, occurred between 1990 and 2000. The 45% increase resulted in 129,371 Black residents (14.8%) in 2000.

% Black, Non-Hispanic

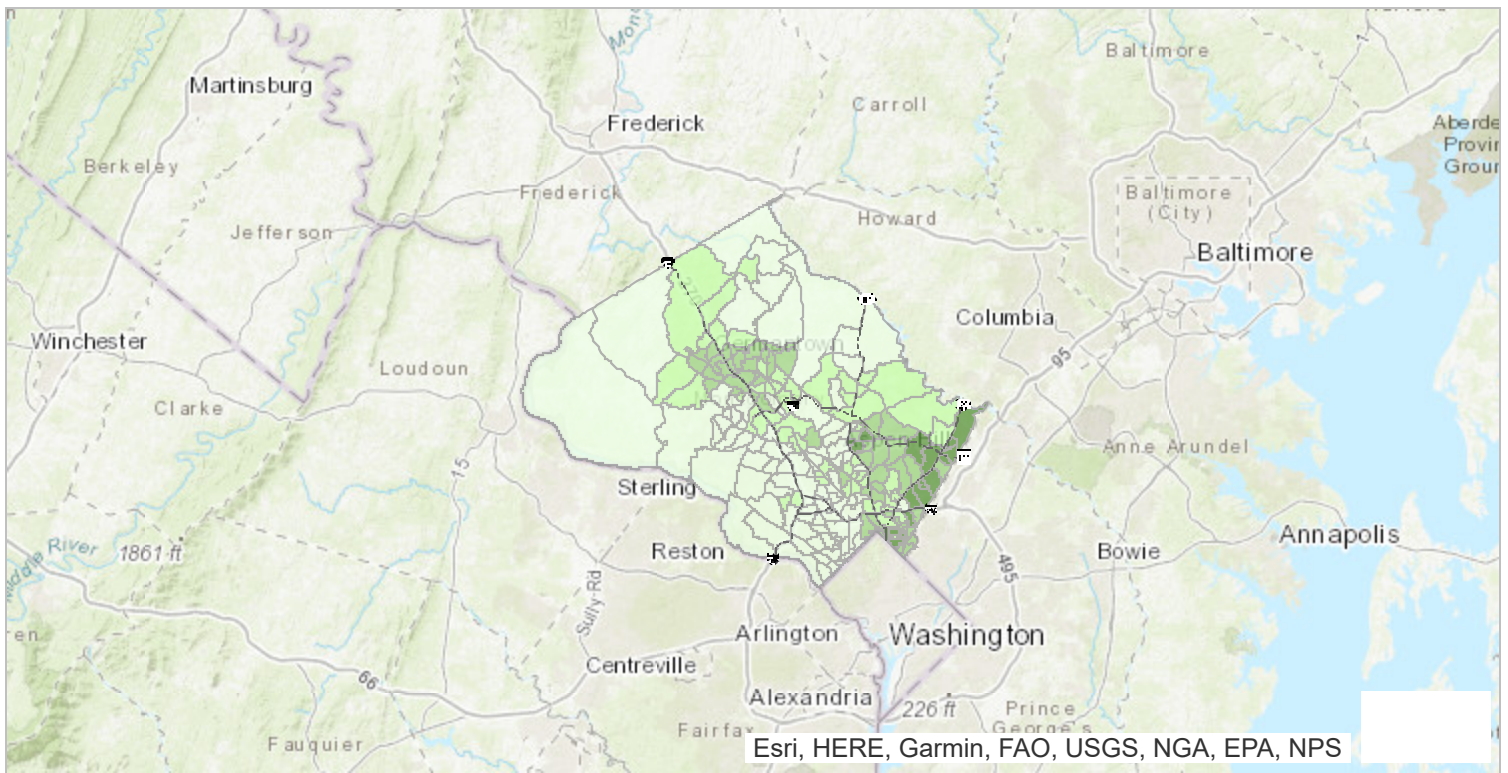


2000 Race & Hispanic Origin



Source: 2000 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

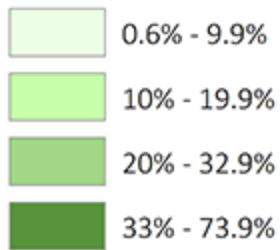
Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.



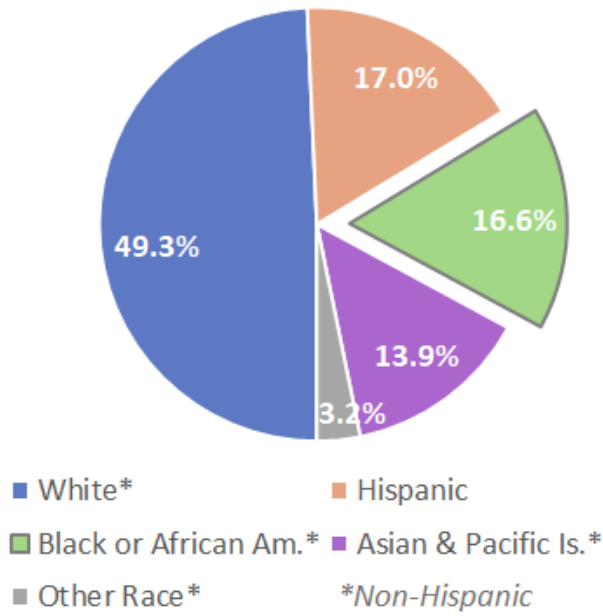
Black, Non-Hispanic: 2010

Black residents numbered 161,689 people in 2010. The Black population gained 32,318 people from 2000, registering the smallest growth compared to increases in Asian and Hispanic populations. The percentage of Blacks in the county, 16.6%, fell below the 17% share of Hispanics in 2010. Blacks came down to the third largest group behind non-Hispanic Whites and Hispanics.

% Black, Non-Hispanic

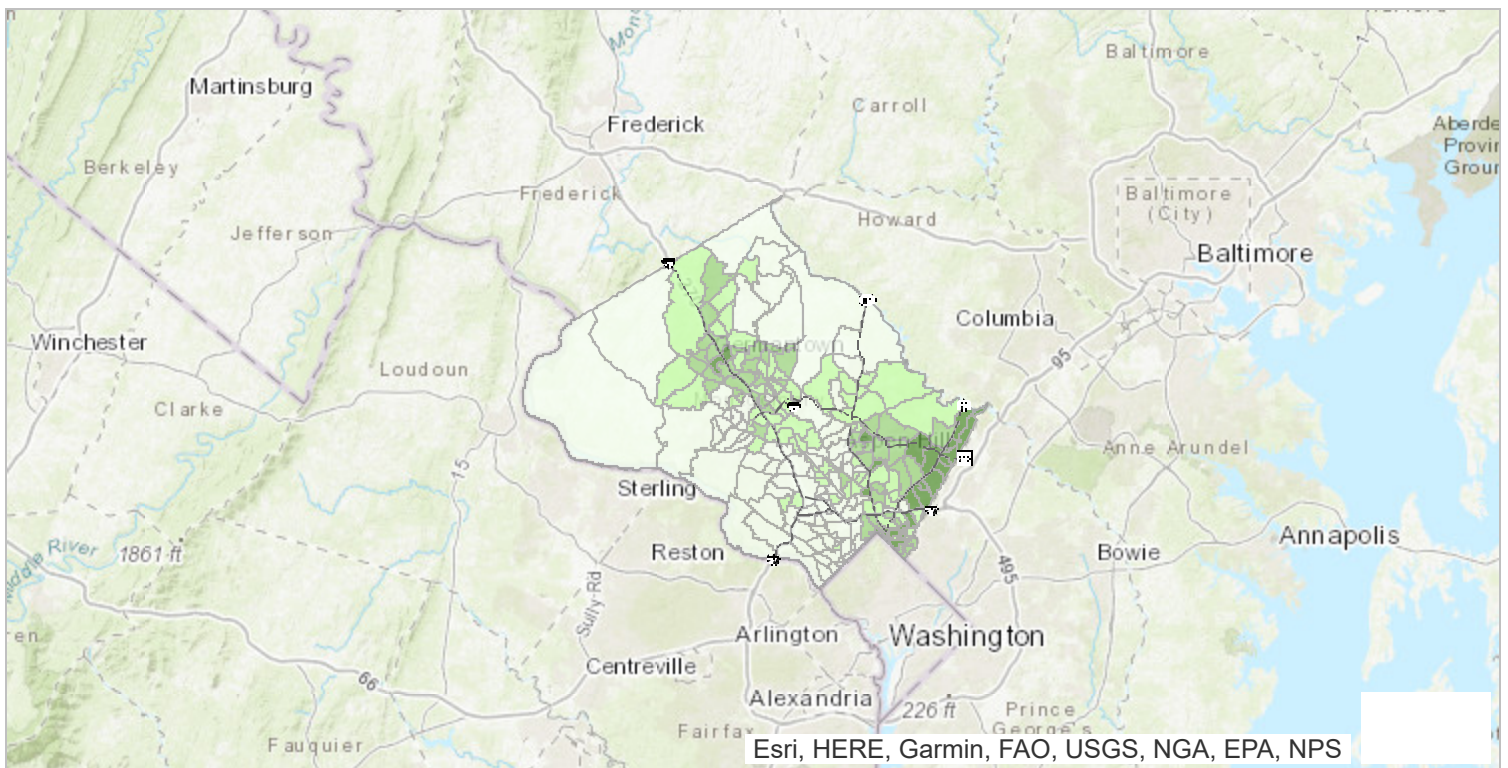


2010 Race & Hispanic Origin



Source: 2010 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

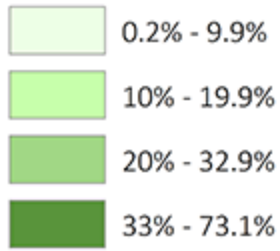
Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.



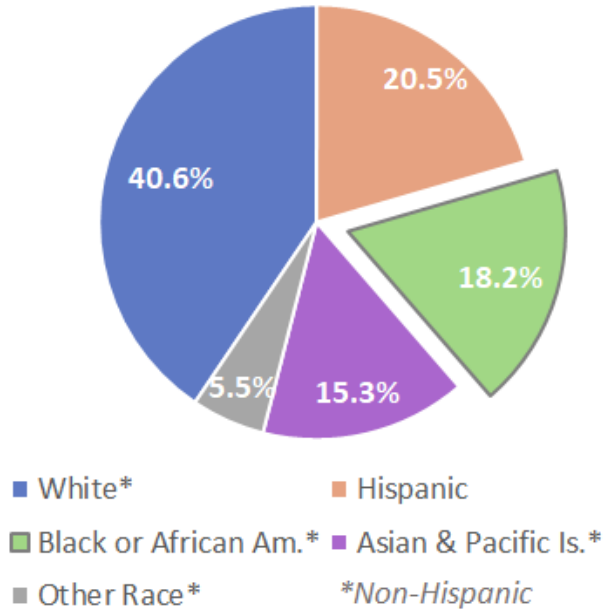
Black, Non-Hispanic: 2020

In 2020, 18.2% of the county's population was Black or African American (192,714 people). Since 2010, the Black population gained 31,025 people, a 19% increase.

% Black, Non-Hispanic

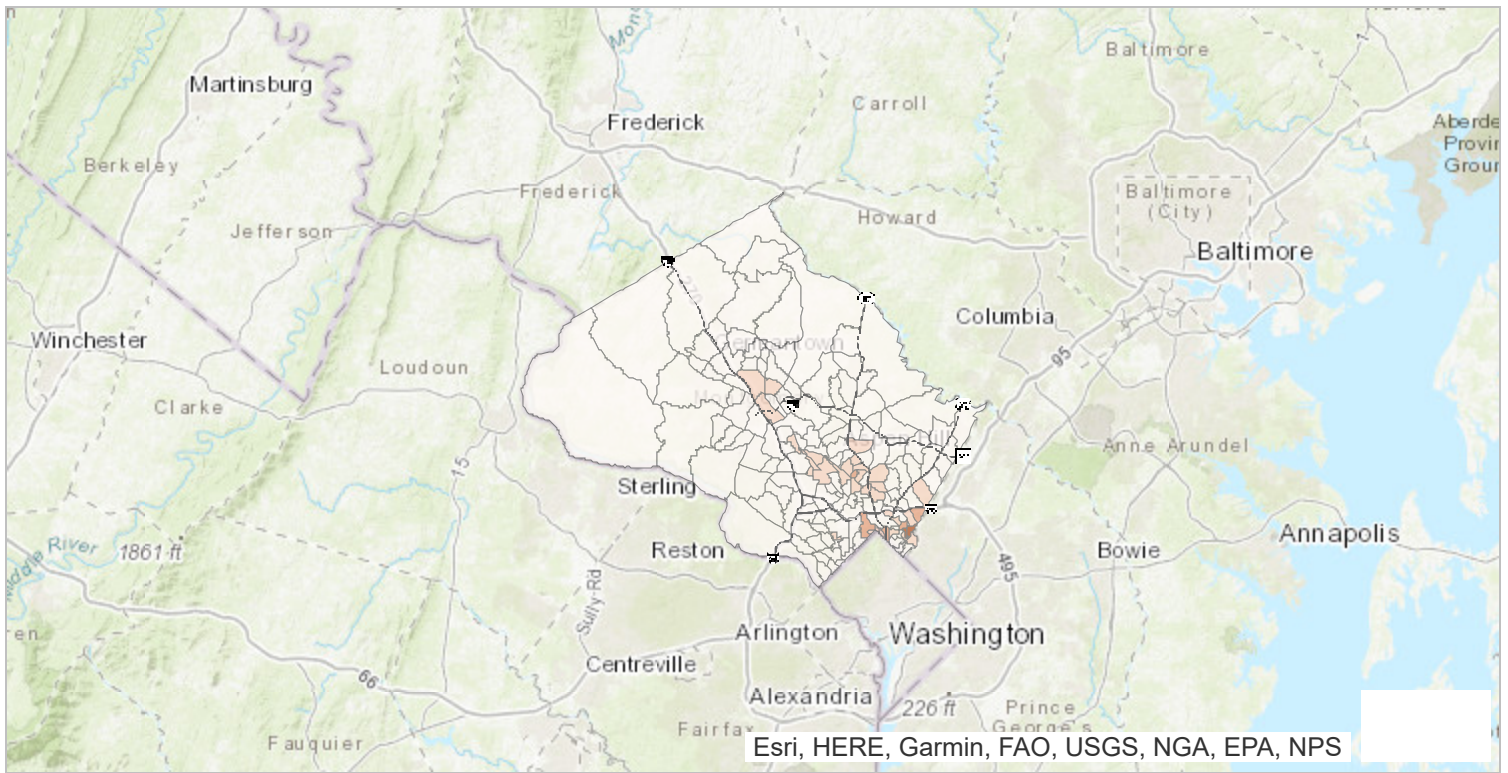


2020 Race & Hispanic Origin



Source: 2020 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.



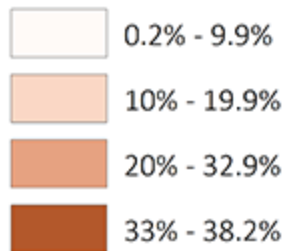
Hispanic: 1990

Hispanic residents comprised less than 4% of Montgomery's population in 1970 and 1980. The period of high growth for this ethnic group began in the 1980s as the number of Hispanics more than doubled to 55,684 by 1990.

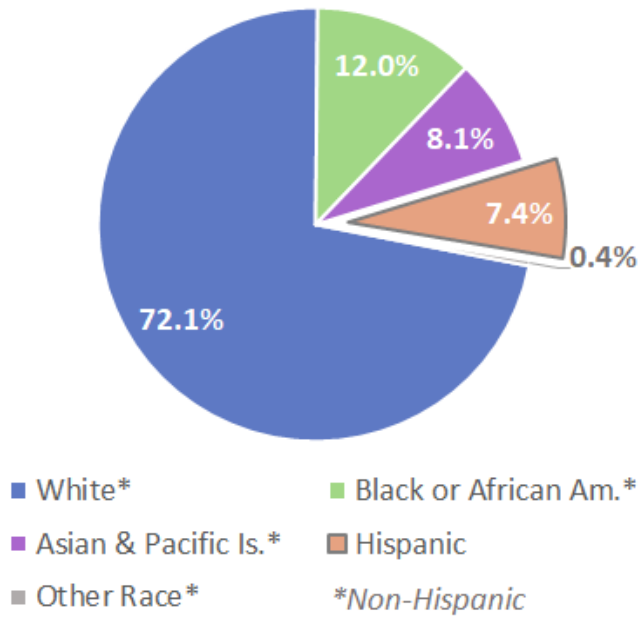
Hispanic residents at 7.4% of the population in 1990, had the smallest percentage share compared to the non-Hispanic populations of Asian (8.1%), Blacks (11.8%) and Whites (72.4%).

People who identify as Hispanic or Latino may be any race.

% Hispanic

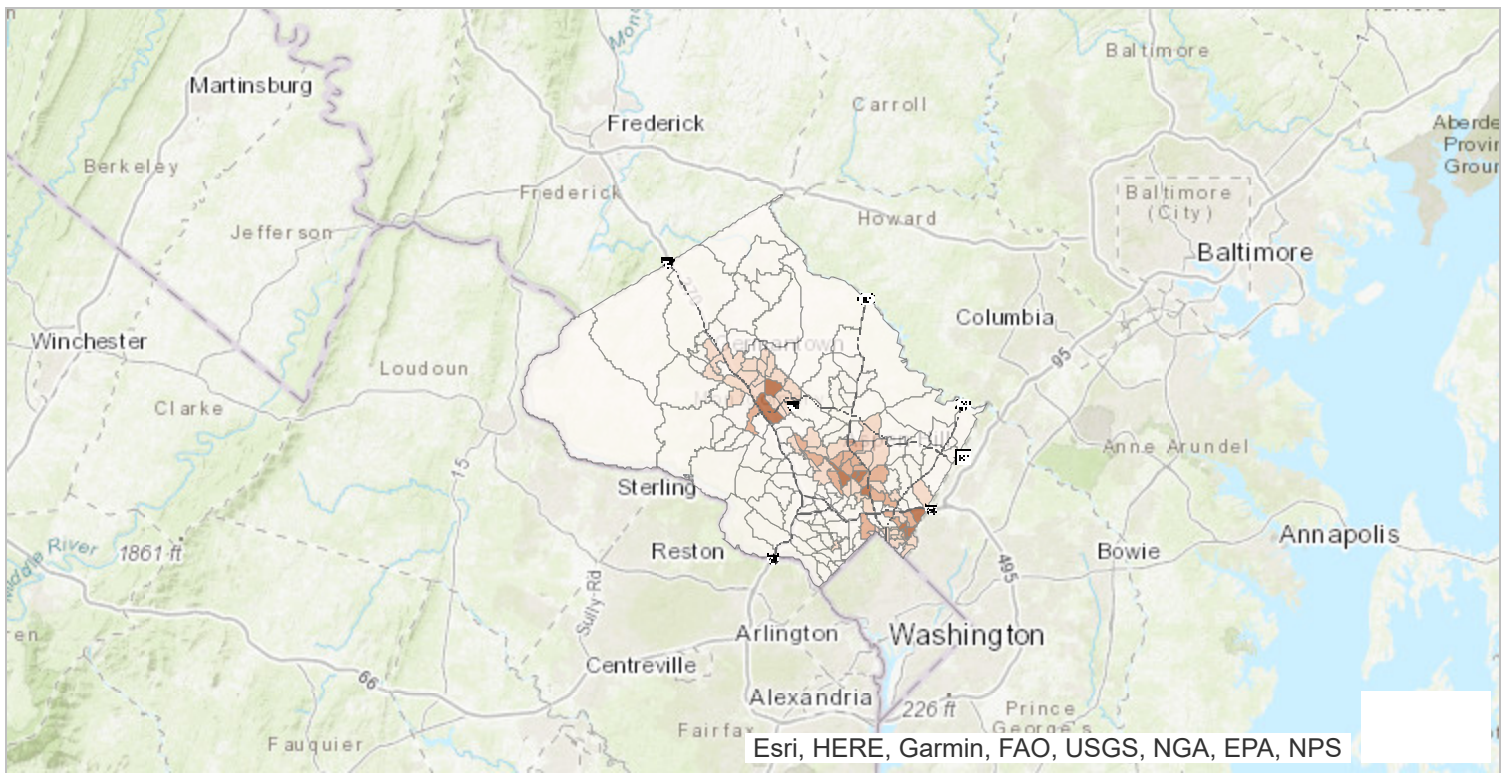


1990 Race & Hispanic Origin



Source: 1990 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.

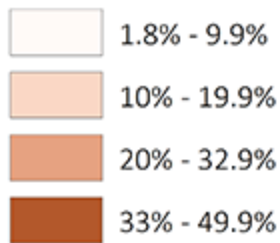


Hispanic: 2000

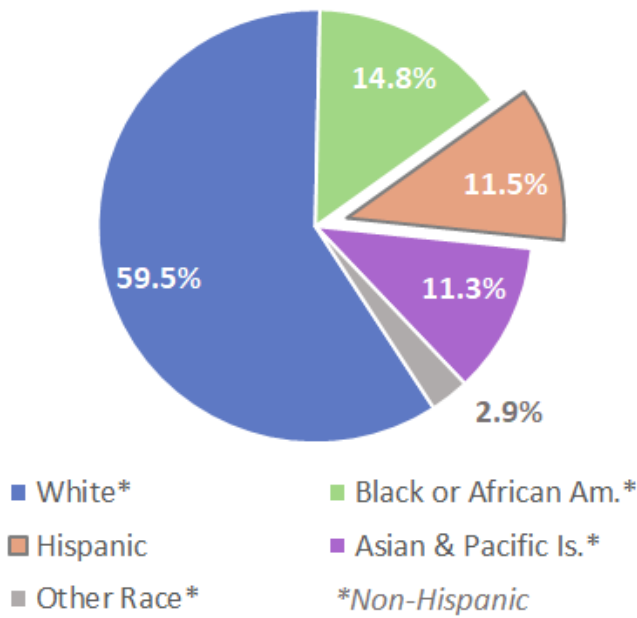
The Hispanic population almost doubled again during the 1990s, totaling over 100,000 people or 11.5% of all residents in 2000. Hispanics, following another decade of fast, high growth, became the second largest group among people of color behind the non-Hispanic Blacks and surpassed the Asians.

People who identify as Hispanic or Latino may be any race.

% Hispanic

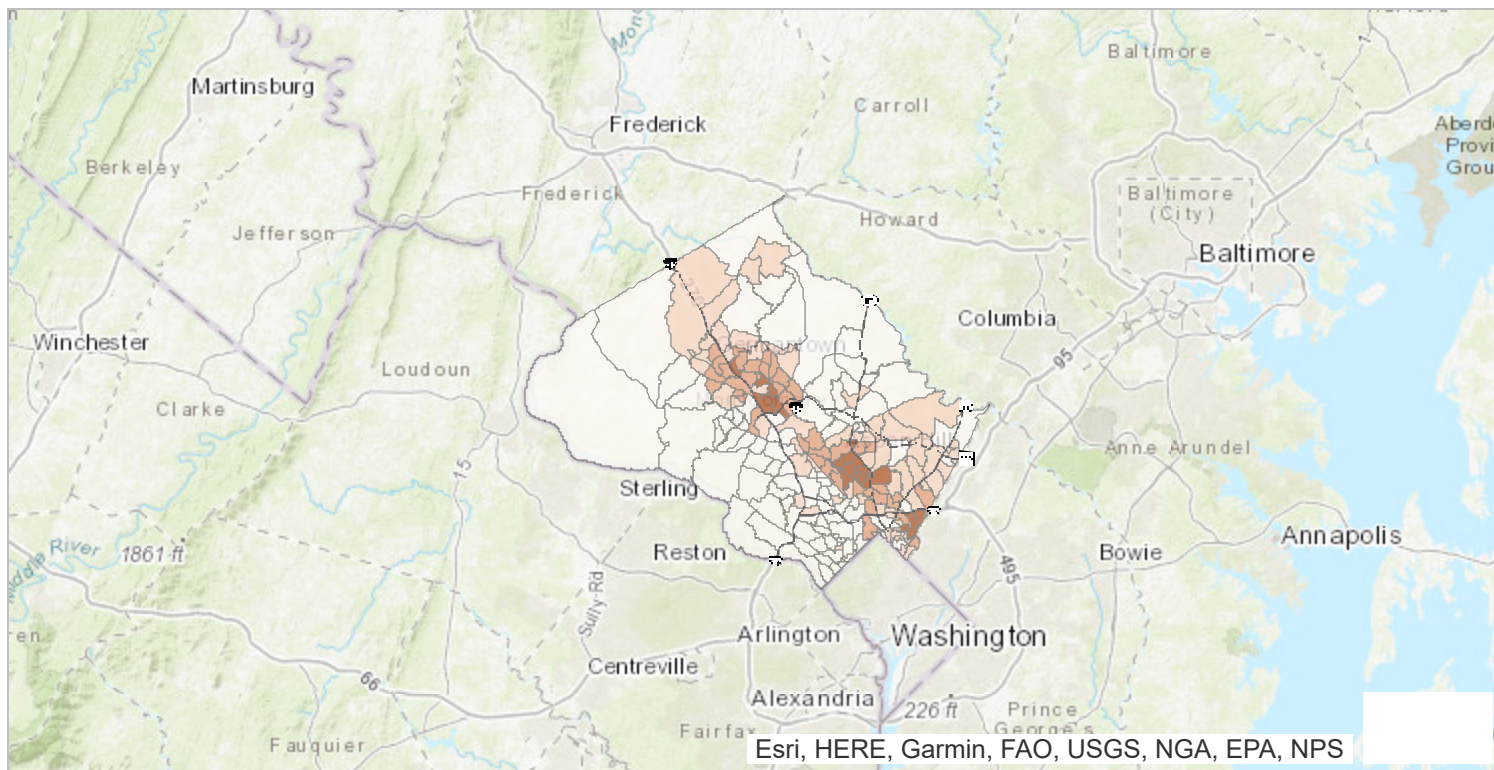


2000 Race & Hispanic Origin



Source: 2000 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

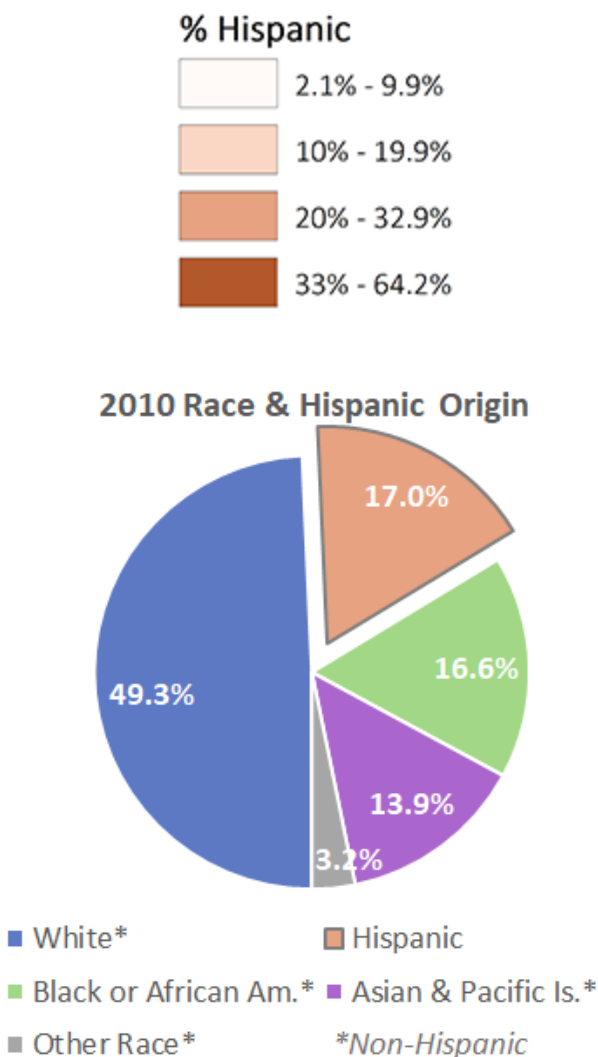
Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.



Hispanic: 2010

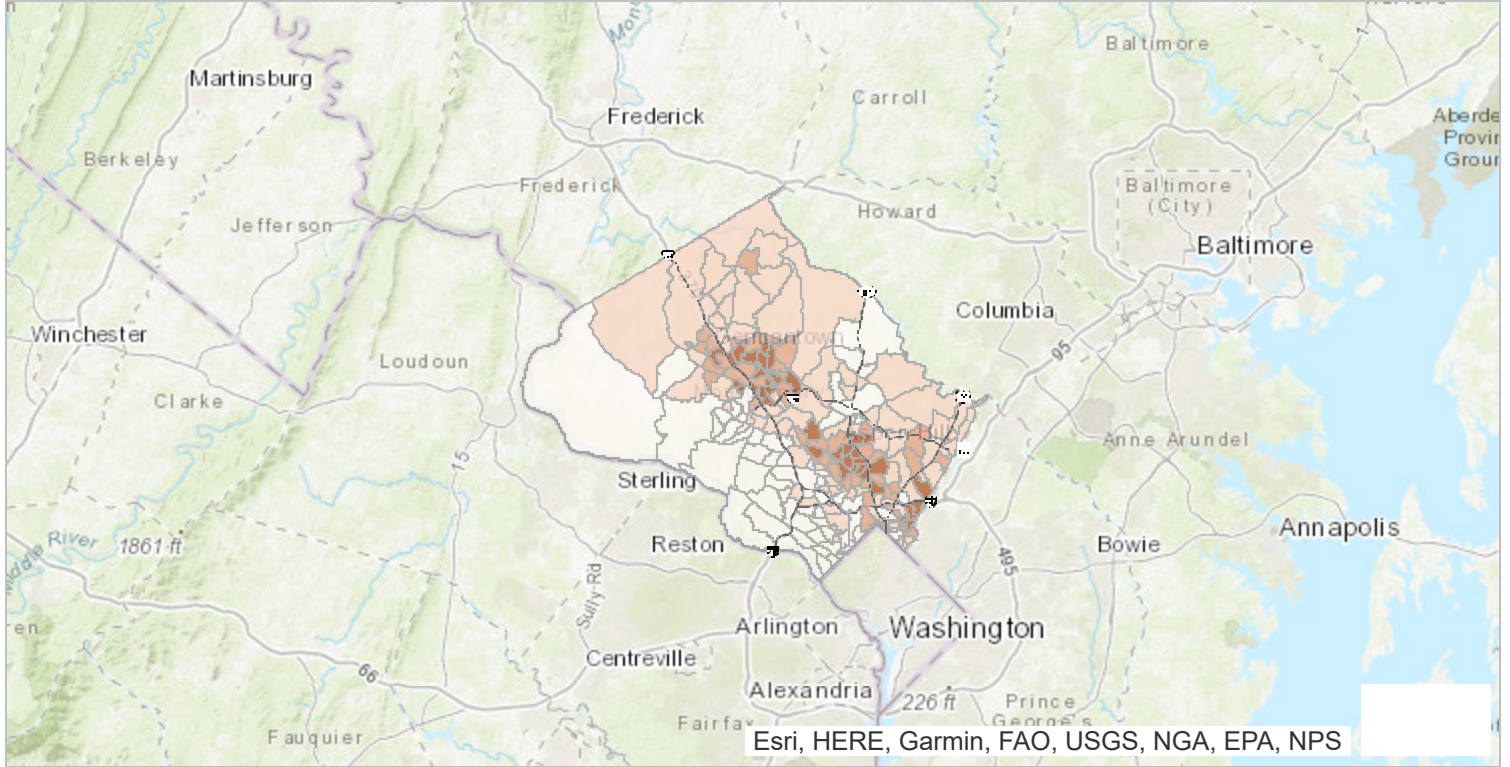
Hispanics totaling 165,398 people in 2010, became the second largest group behind non-Hispanic Whites (478,765) and surpassing the number of non-Hispanic Blacks (161,689). A gain of 64,794 Hispanics between 2000 and 2010, marks the greatest numeric increase in Hispanics since notable gains started in the 1980s. Hispanics are the fastest growing group, increasing by 64% since 2000.

People who identify as Hispanic or Latino may be any race.



Source: 2010 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

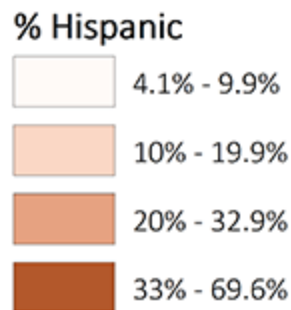
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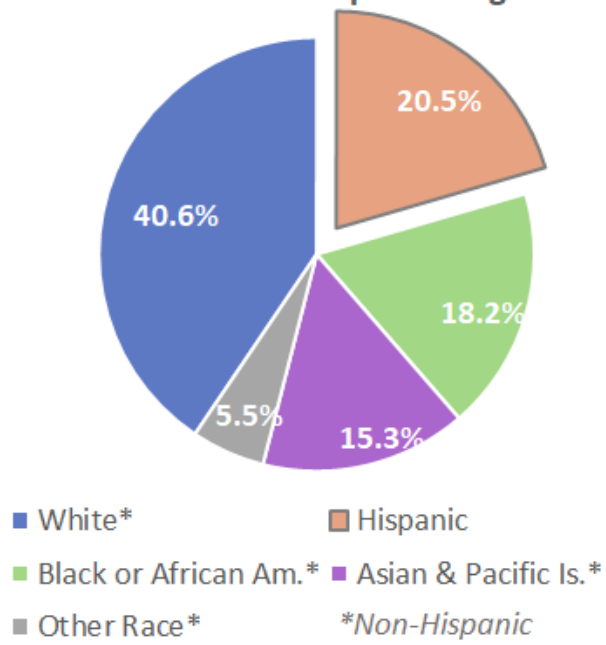
Hispanic: 2020

Montgomery's Hispanic population increased by 31%, gaining 52,000 people between 2010 and 2020. In 2020, 217,409 Hispanics comprised 20.5% of the county's population. Montgomery's Hispanic residents make up one-fifth of the one million Latinos living in the Washington, D.C. region in 2020.

People who identify as Hispanic or Latino may be any race.

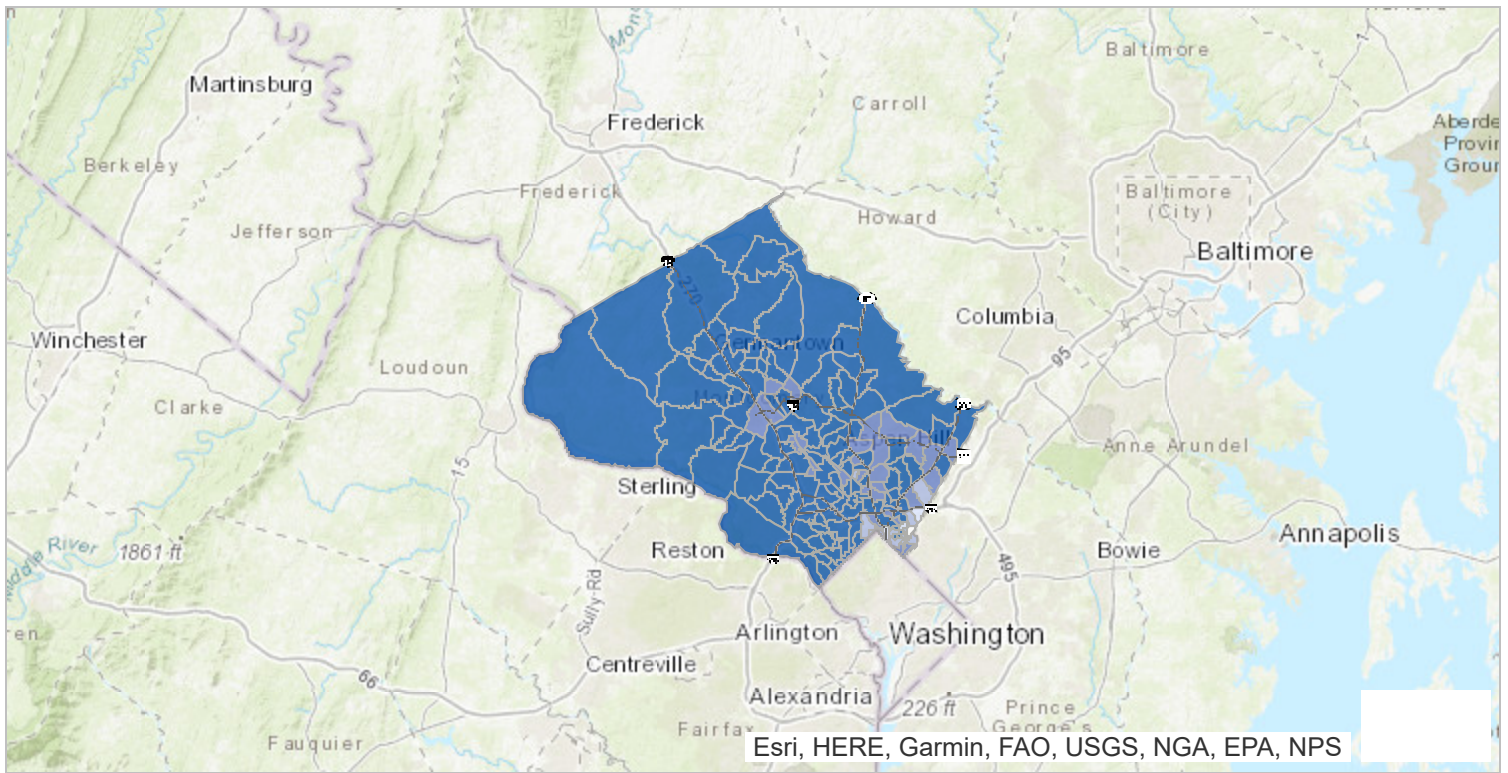


2020 Race & Hispanic Origin



Source: 2020 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

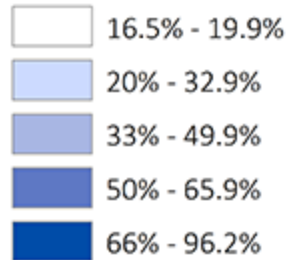
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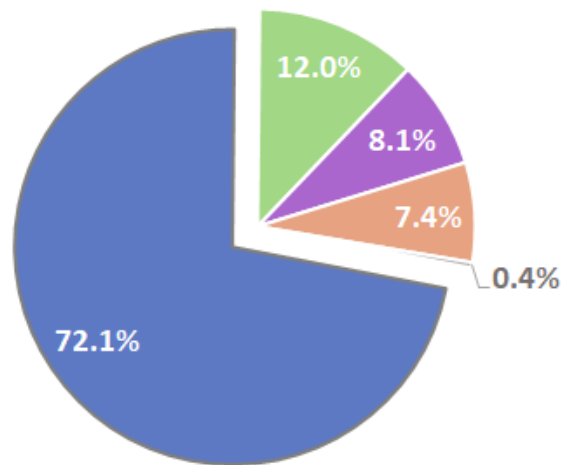
White, Non-Hispanic: 1990

1990 marked the largest decennial population of White residents, 548,453, in Montgomery County. The last decade the White population increased was in the 1980s with a gain of 70,477 people, up 14.7%.

% White, Non-Hispanic

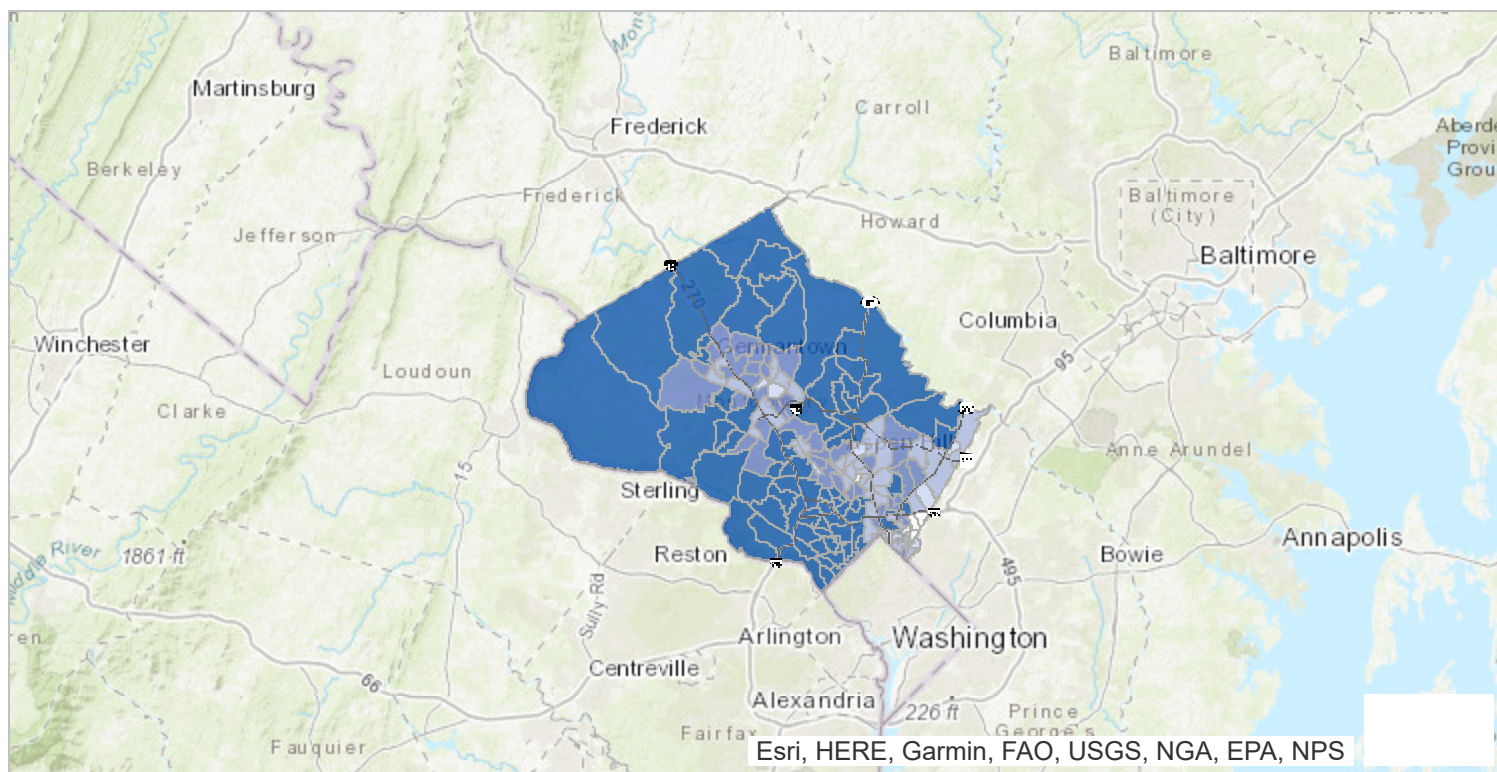


1990 Race & Hispanic Origin



- White*
 - Black or African Am.*
 - Asian & Pacific Is.*
 - Hispanic
 - Other Race*
- *Non-Hispanic

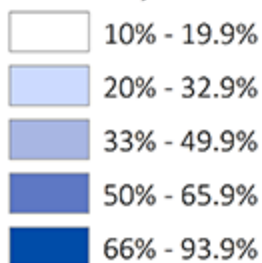
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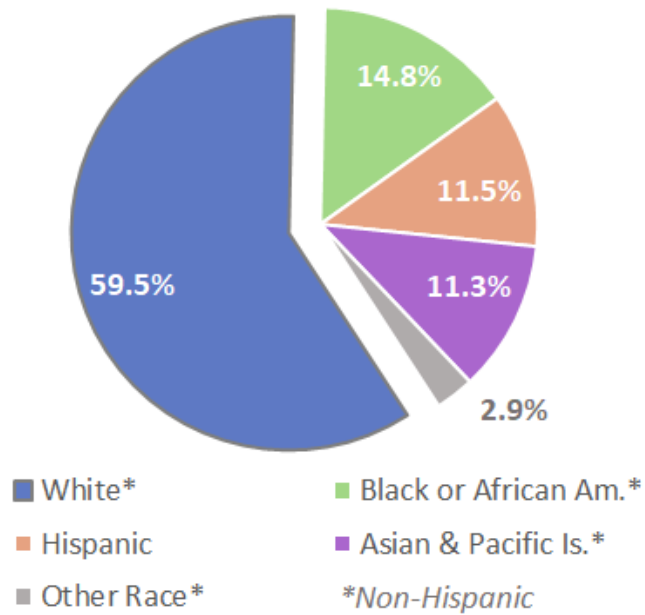
White, Non-Hispanic: 2000

The reported White population was 519,318 in 2000 following a 5.3% decline or drop of 29,135 people since 1990. The percentage of White residents fell below 60% in 2000, two decades before the nation registered the same landmark in 2020.

% White, Non-Hispanic

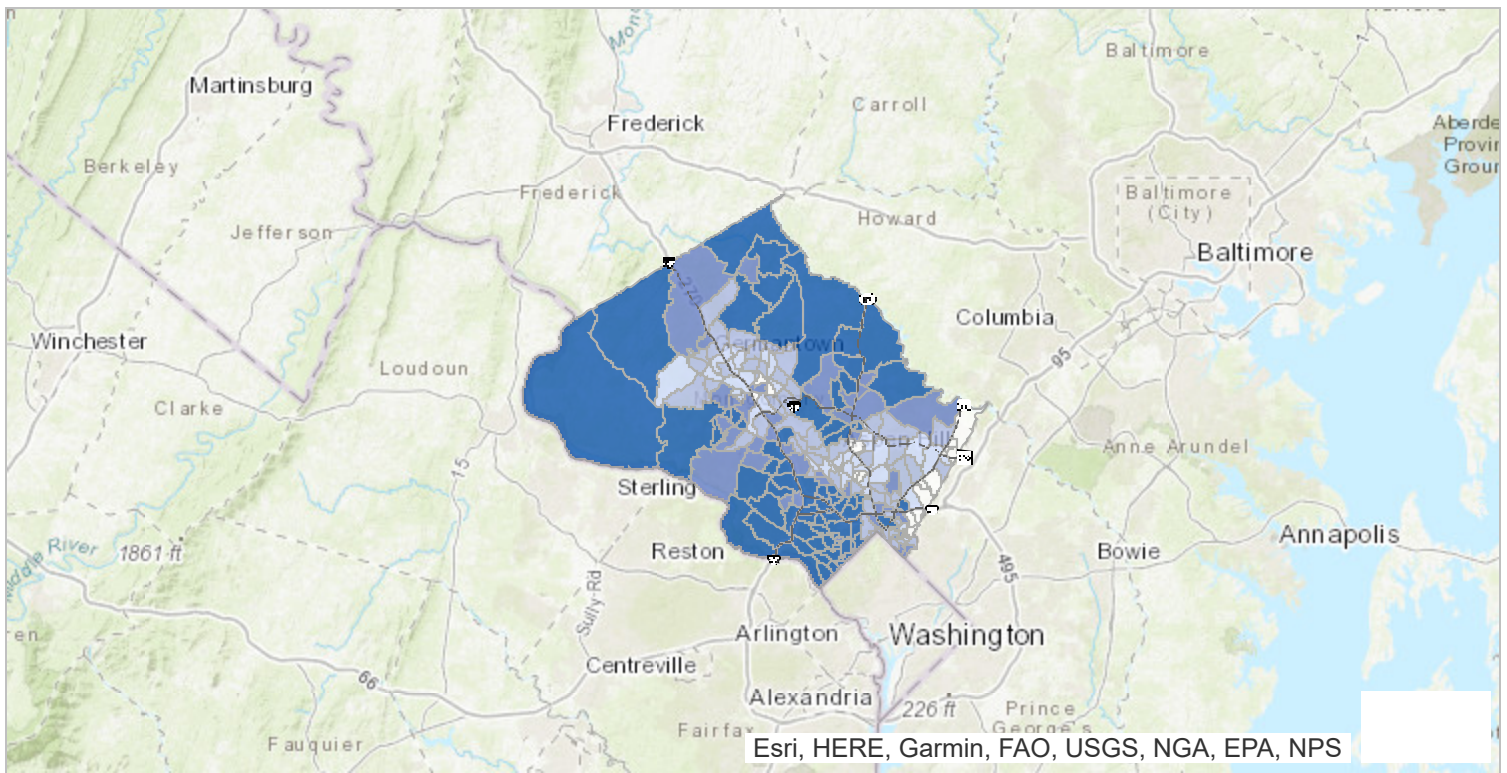


2000 Race & Hispanic Origin



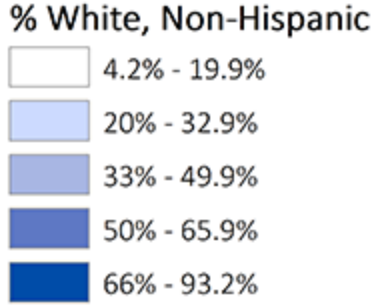
Source: 2000 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.

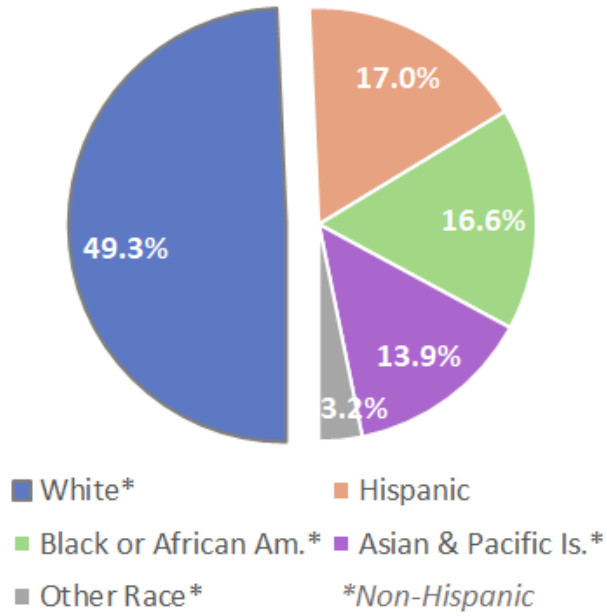


White, Non-Hispanic: 2010

White residents totaled 478,765 people in 2010. For the first time, the decennial census reported the White share of the county's population dropped below half, 49.3%, thereby designating people of color the majority racial and ethnic group.

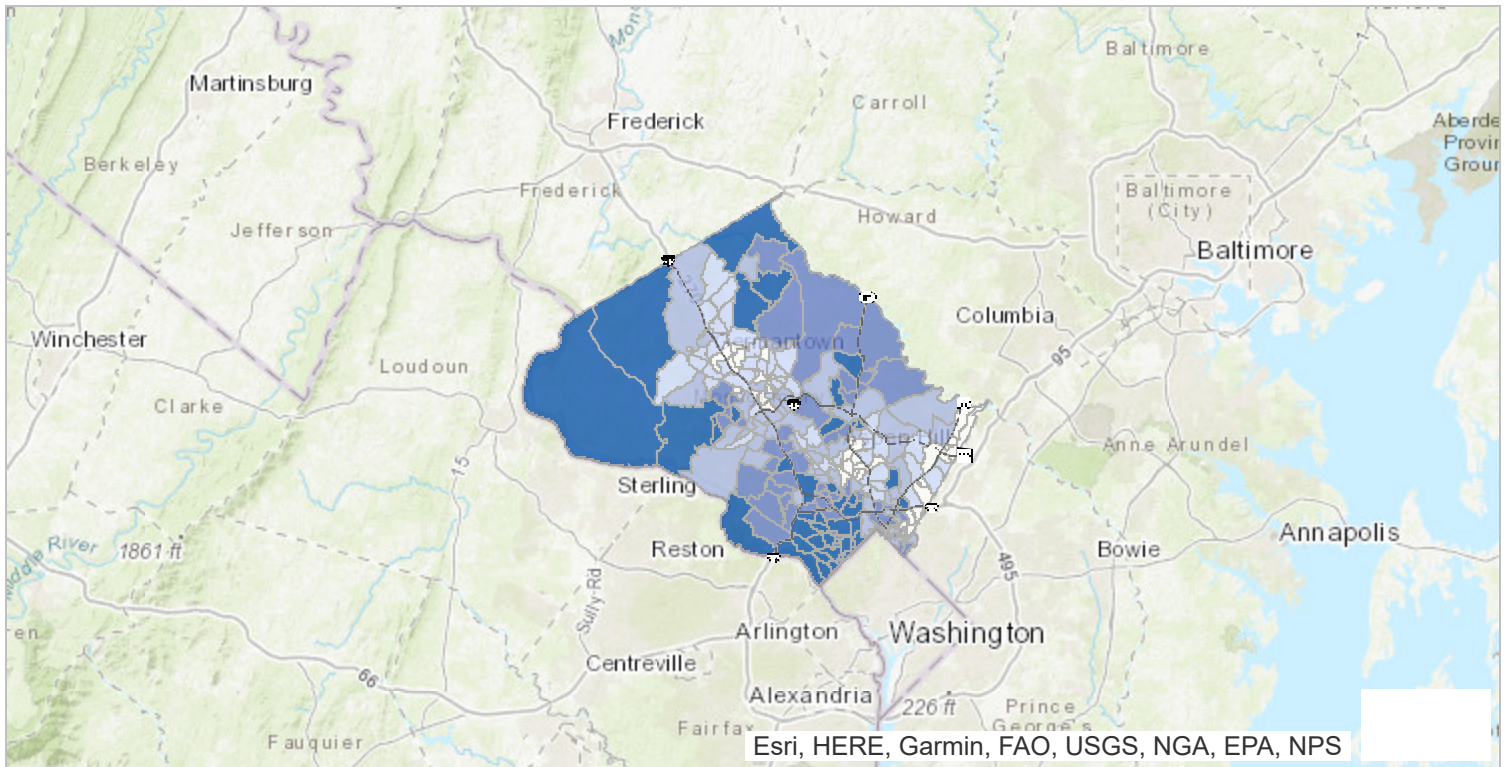


2010 Race & Hispanic Origin



Source: 2010 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

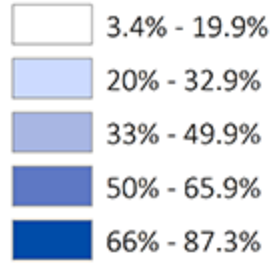
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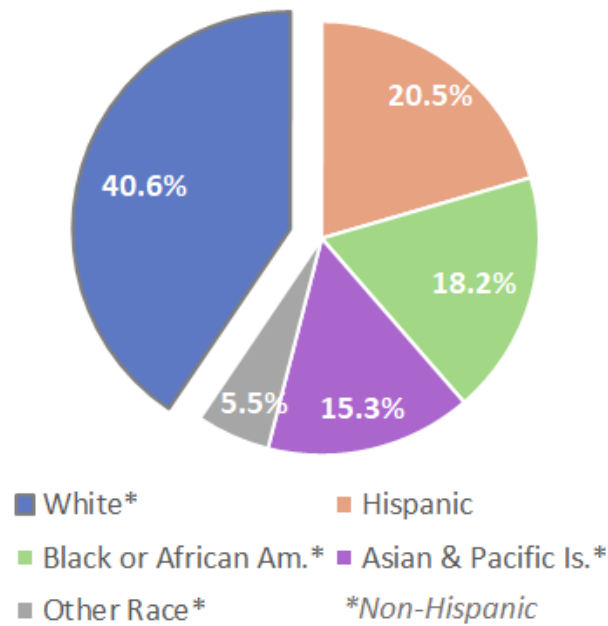
White, Non-Hispanic: 2020

The White population at 430,980 (40.6%) in 2020 remained the largest race or ethnicity group in Montgomery County despite its increasing rate of decline since 1990. The largest decrease, 10% of the White population (47,785 people), occurred in the past decade.

% White, Non-Hispanic



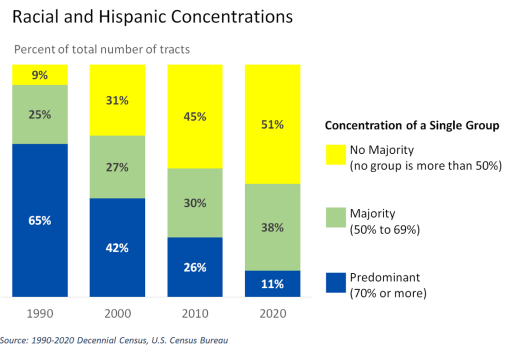
2020 Race & Hispanic Origin



Source: 2020 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.

Changing Race and Ethnicity Across Communities

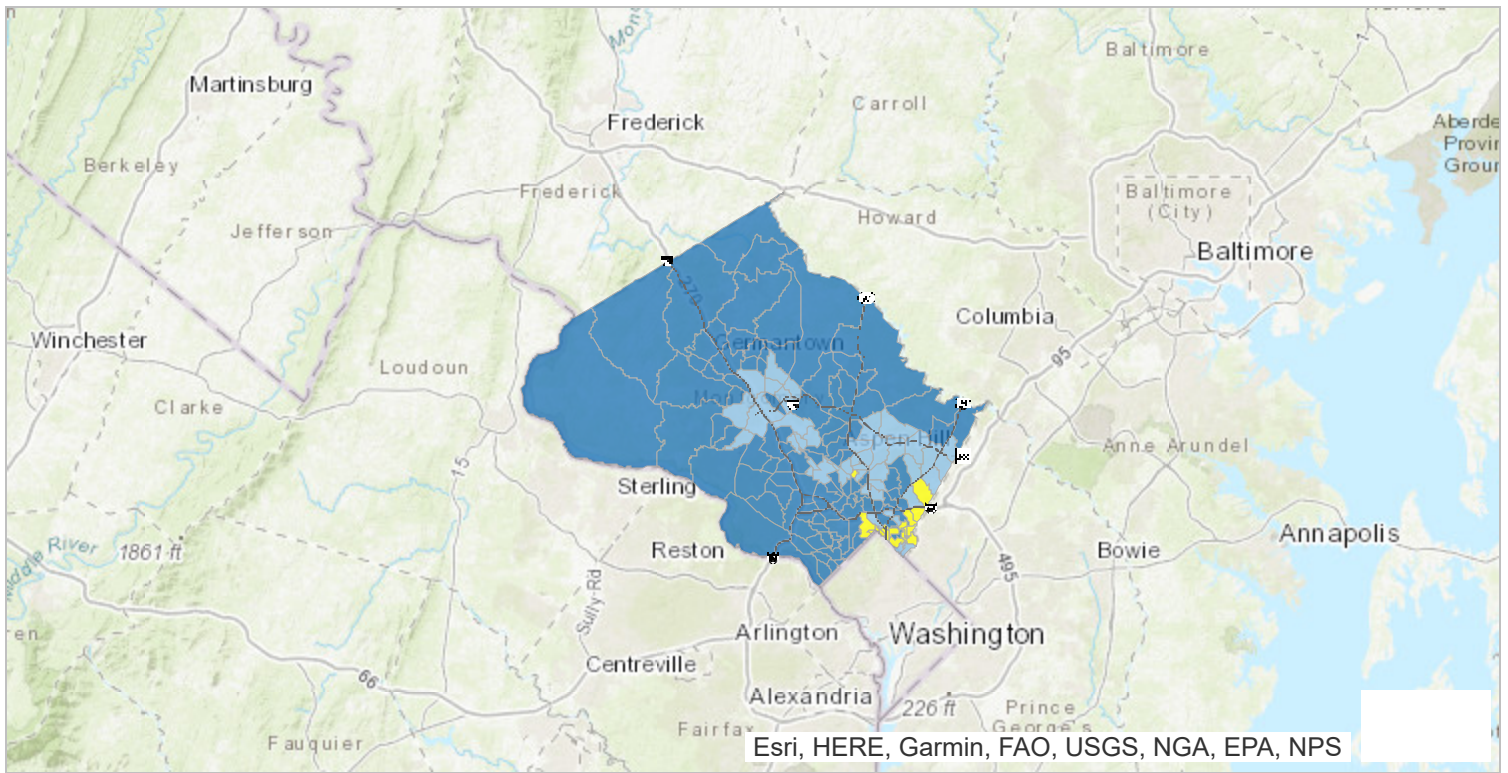


To better understand the neighborhood-level shifting of racial and Hispanic groups over the decades, staff conducted a predominance analysis of the four racial and ethnic groups and displayed the results in a map series showing which racial or ethnic group had the highest number of people in each Census tract each decade. Each map identifies at the tract-level which race or ethnicity is predominant (single group concentration is 70% or more), is a majority (single group concentration ranges from 50% to 70%) or instances where no group is majority (no group is more than 50%).

In 1990, almost all tracts in Montgomery County were predominantly White comprising 70% or more of the population in each tract, or majority White with concentrations ranging from 50% to 70%. The time series of maps below illustrate how diversity has grown and is having the most influence through the center and south edges of Montgomery County along our major corridors and centers, where transit and road investments have supported population growths. Outside of key corridors and centers, the lower density suburban and rural neighborhoods are still predominantly non-Hispanic White.

The map series that follows illustrates the tract level changes in the most common racial or Hispanic group. A predominantly White county in 1990 becomes increasingly racially and ethnically diverse by 2020.

Note: *Click on a census tract in the interactive maps to see population data for the area.*



Predominant / Majority Race: 1990

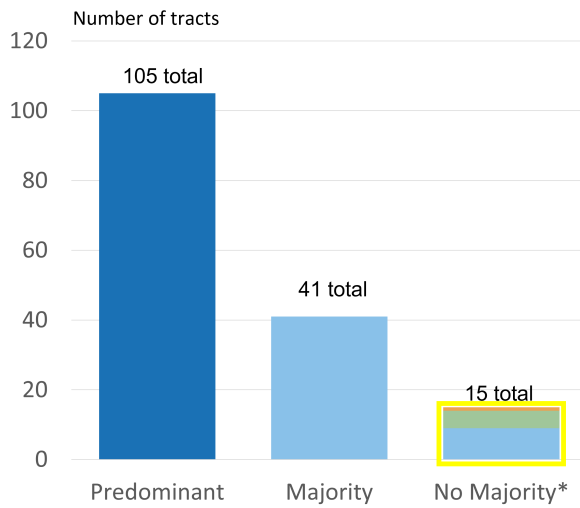
Montgomery County, with a population of 757,027, became the most populous jurisdiction in Maryland in 1990, surpassing Baltimore City. The county's increased population reflected gains in Hispanic, Black and Asian residents.

With 3 out of 4 residents non-Hispanic White, almost all tracts (90%) in Montgomery County were predominantly White, or majority White. Tracts where no one racial or Hispanic group was majority (9%) were mainly located inside the I-495 Beltway in North Chevy Chase, Silver Spring, and Takoma Park.

Predominant Race or Hispanic Group, 1990

- White Predominant (>70% of Tract population)
- White Majority (50% - 70%)
- Black Predominant (> 70%)
- Black Majority (50% - 70%)
- Hispanic Majority (50% - 70%)
- No Majority (No Group with more than 50%)

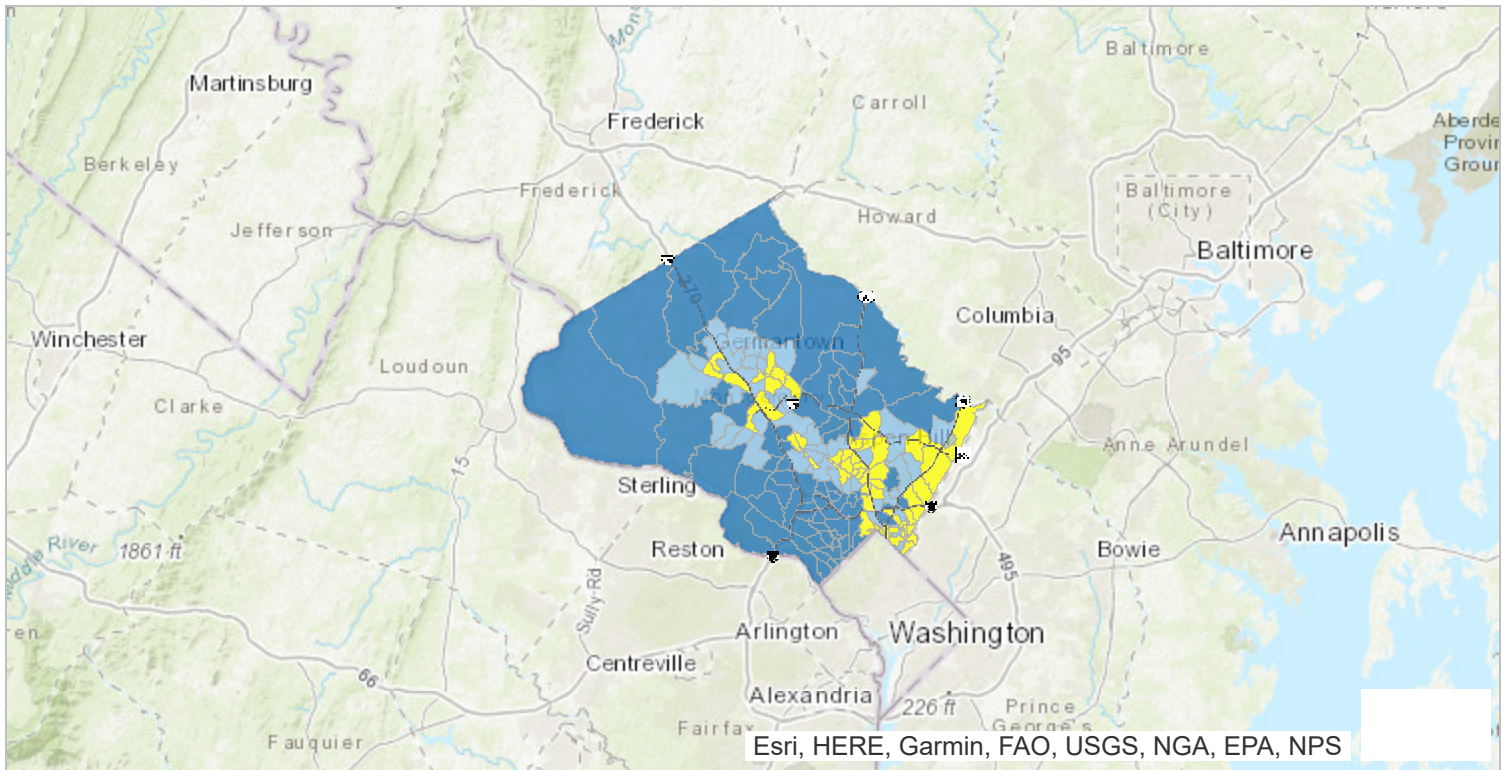
1990 Race & Ethnicity by Predominant Class



*Reports the most common race or ethnicity in the tract

Source: 1990 Decennial U.S. Census, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.



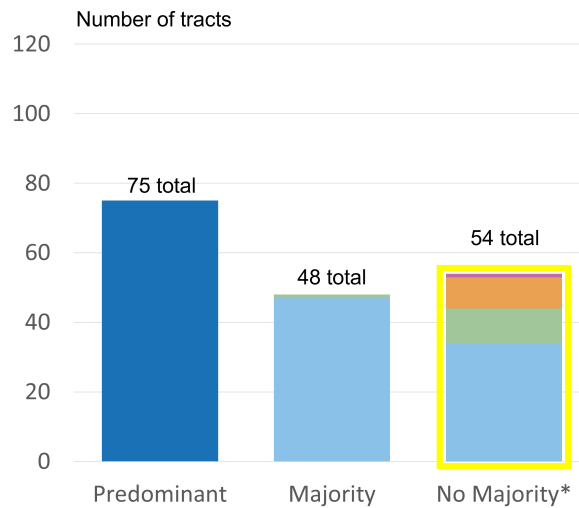
Predominant / Majority Race: 2000

The county's population increased by 15.4% from 1990, totaling 873,341 people in 2000. A 70% increase in people of color boosted the percentage of tracts with no majority group from 9% in 1990 to 31% in 2000. The percentage of predominantly White tracts dropped from 64% to 42% and no other group attained predominant status.

Predominant Race or Hispanic Group, 2000

- White Predominant (>70% of Tract population)
- White Majority (50% - 70%)
- Black Predominant (> 70%)
- Black Majority (50% - 70%)
- Asian Majority (50% -70%)
- Hispanic Majority (50% -70%)
- No Majority (No Group with more than 50%)

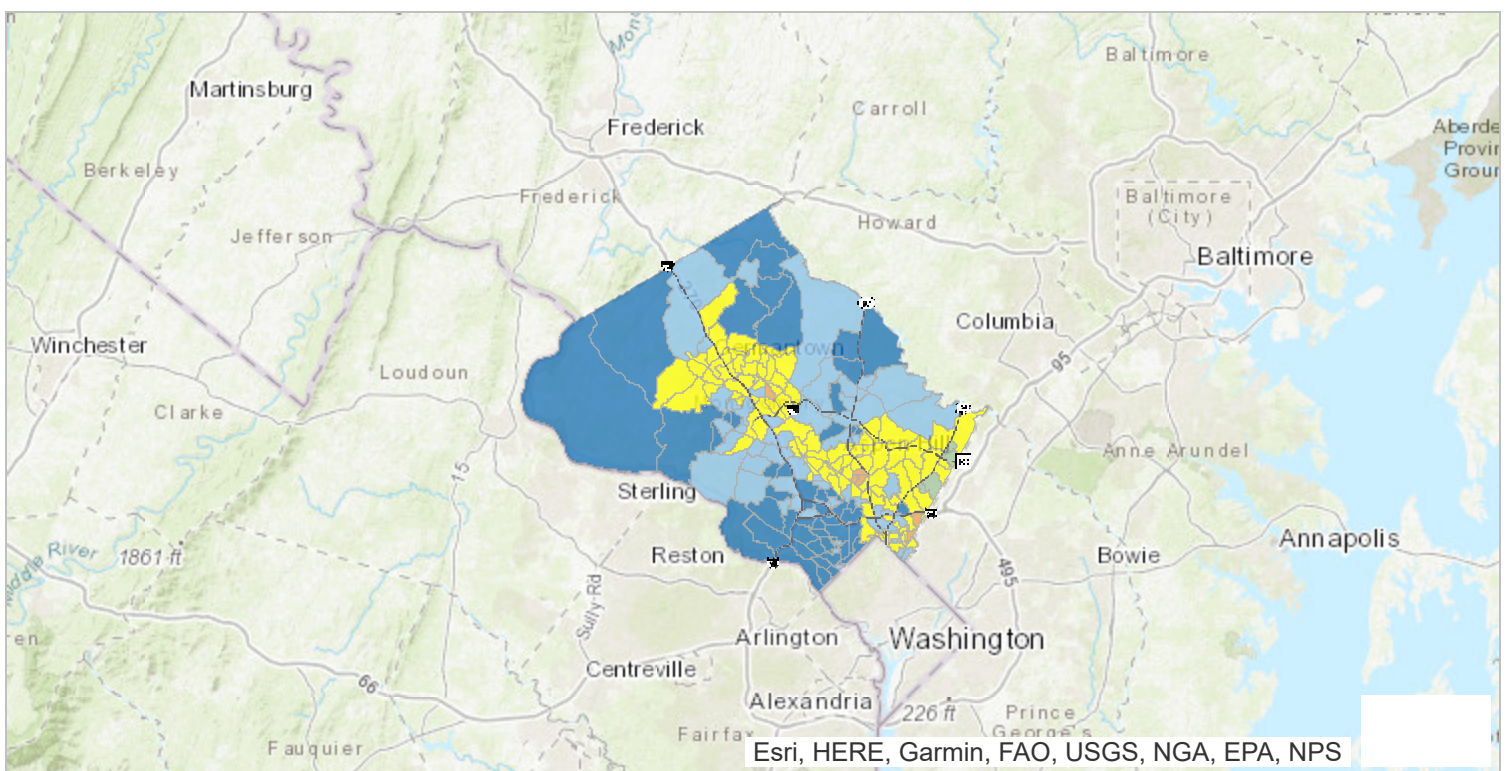
2000 Race & Ethnicity by Predominant Class



*Reports the most common race or ethnicity in the tract

Source: 2000 Decennial U.S. Census, U.S. Census Bureau

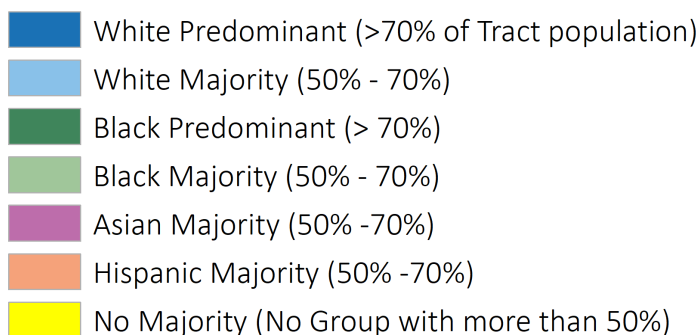
Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.



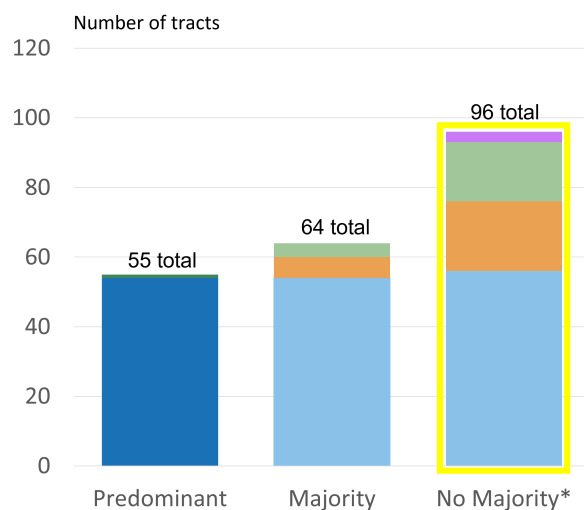
Predominant / Majority Race: 2010

By 2010, the percentage of non-Hispanic Whites dropped to 49.3%, creating a plurality among racial and ethnic groups where no single group was a majority. The percentage of tracts with no one predominant group increased to almost half of all tracts (45%). Hispanics (17% countywide) became the 2nd largest group and registered the first set of majority Hispanic tracts (6 tracts) in 2010. A tract in the Fairland area became the first predominant Black tract.

Predominant Race or Hispanic Group, 2010



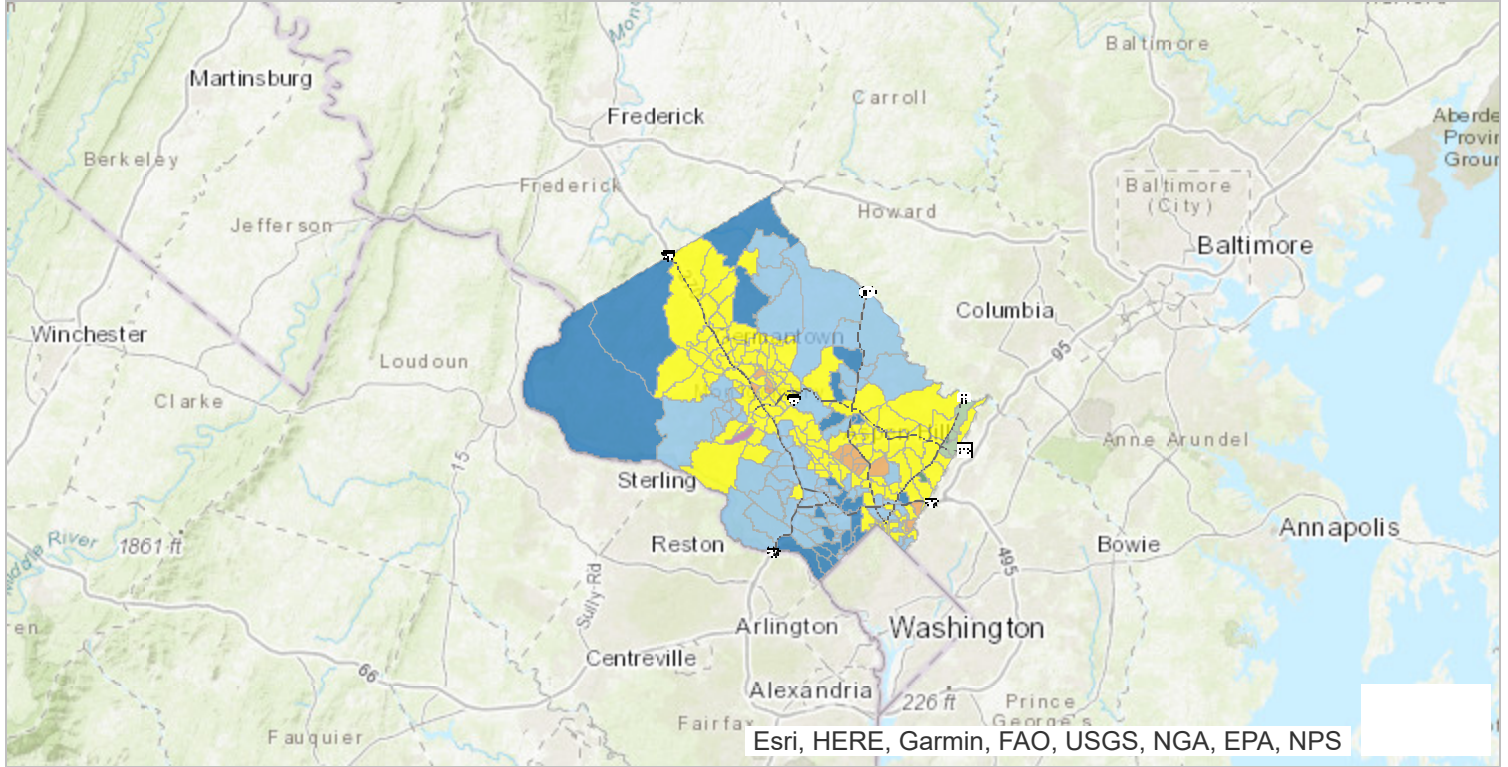
2010 Race & Ethnicity by Predominant Class



*Reports the most common race or ethnicity in the tract

Source: 2010 Decennial U.S. Census, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.



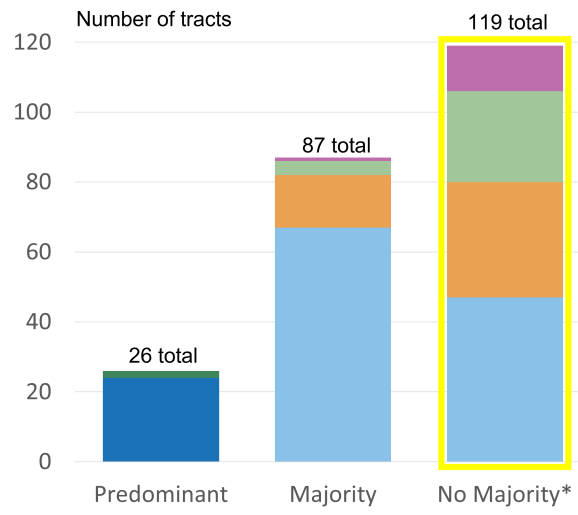
Predominant / Majority Race: 2020

Increases in residents of color, up 28%, outpaced a slowing rate of overall population growth at 9% between 2010 and 2020. Hispanics, the fastest growing group, registered 15 majority tracts in 2020 up from 6 in 2010. The first majority Asian tract appeared in North Potomac. Over half of all tracts do not have one group comprising a majority in the area. The number of tracts with one predominant group dropped by half between 2010 and 2020 from 55 to only 26 tracts. These changes across the predominance classifications reflect the county's increasing racial and ethnic diversity at the neighborhood level.

Predominant Race or Hispanic Group, 2020

- White Predominant (>70% of Tract population)
- White Majority (50% - 70%)
- Black Predominant (> 70%)
- Black Majority (50% - 70%)
- Asian Majority (50% -70%)
- Hispanic Majority (50% -70%)
- No Majority (No Group with more than 50%)

2020 Race & Ethnicity by Predominant Class



*Reports the most common race or ethnicity in the tract

Source: 2020 Decennial U.S. Census, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Click on a census tract to see population data for the area.

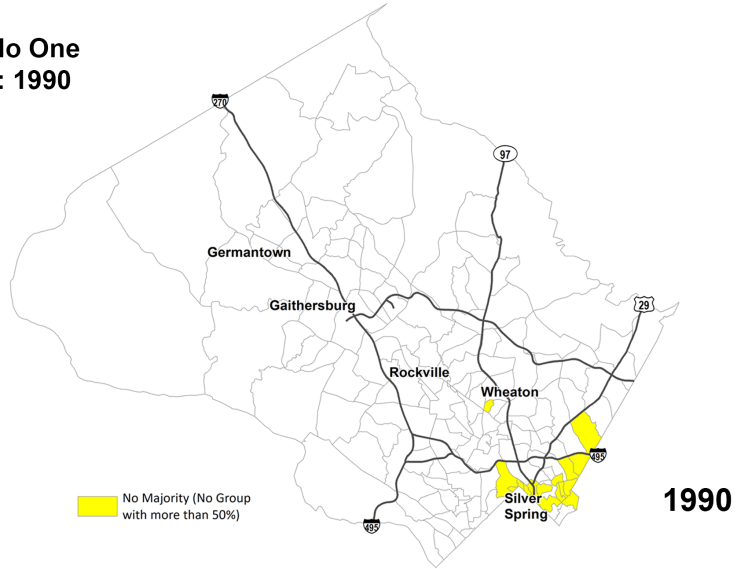
Multi-Racial and Hispanic Neighborhoods

The following map series from 1990 to 2020 identifies the **most common** racial or ethnic group in a census tract where no one race or ethnicity is a majority. The percentage of tracts with “No majority group” quickly increased between 1990 and 2020 from 9% to 51% of all tracts.

Scroll down using the slider bar to reveal the most common racial or ethnic group underlying tracts with no one group a majority denoted in yellow.

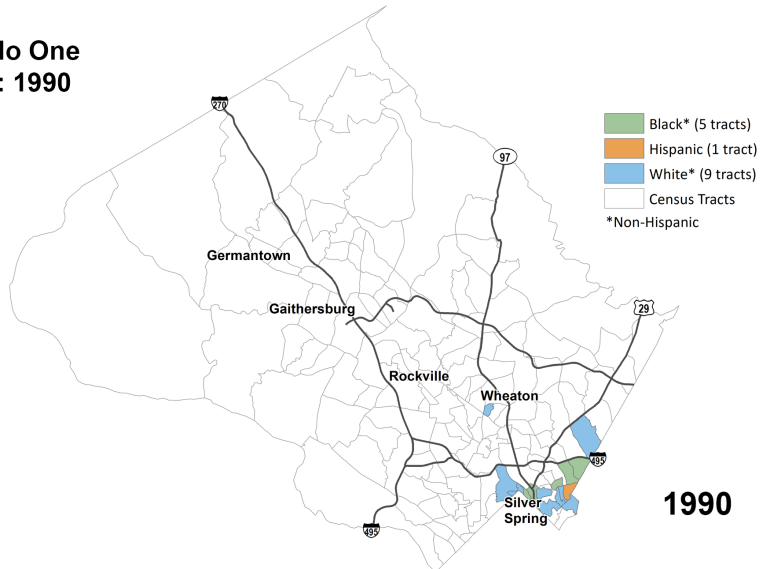
Most Common Group Where No One Race or Ethnicity is a Majority: 1990

15 No-Majority Tracts



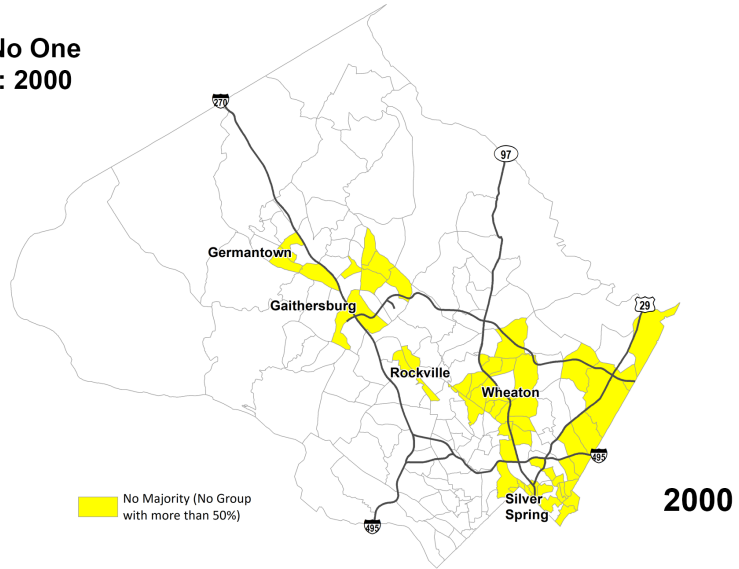
Most Common Group Where No One Race or Ethnicity is a Majority: 1990

15 No-Majority Tracts



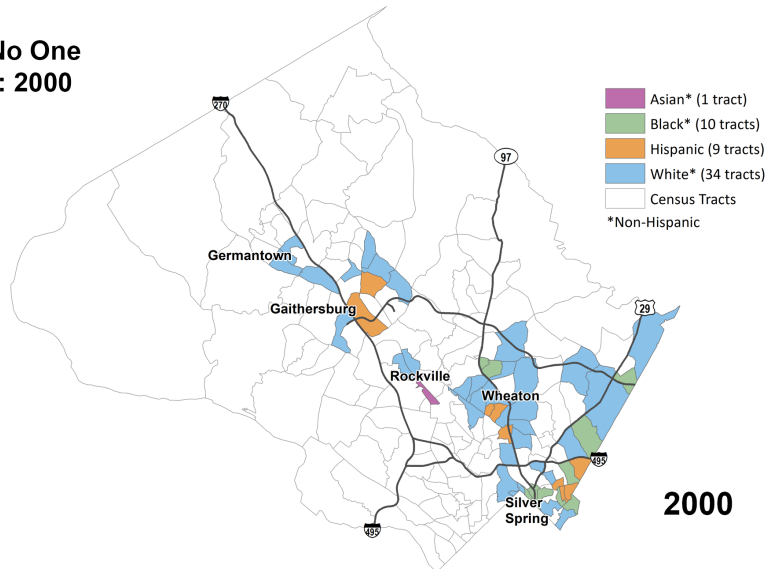
Most Common Group Where No One Race or Ethnicity is a Majority: 2000

54 No-Majority Tracts



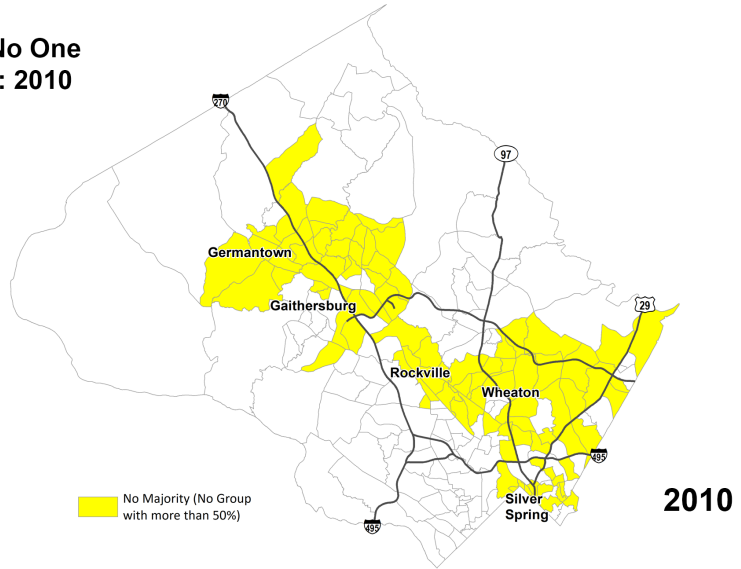
Most Common Group Where No One Race or Ethnicity is a Majority: 2000

54 No-Majority Tracts



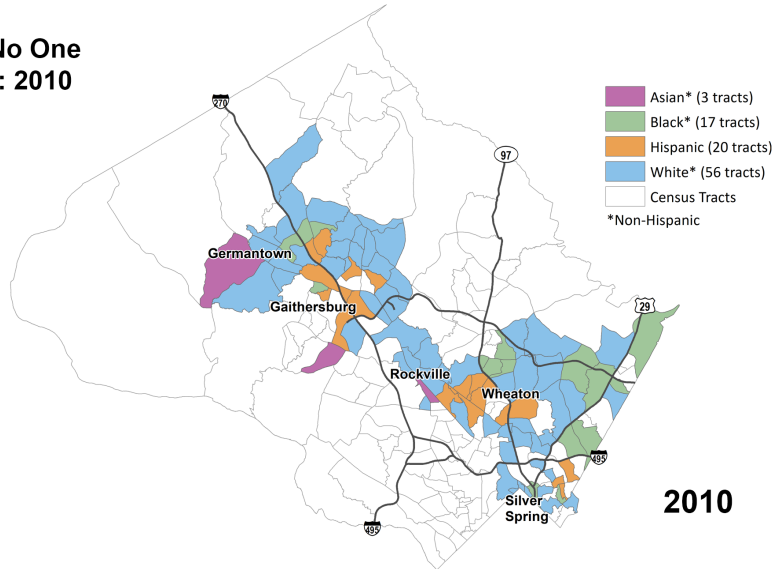
Most Common Group Where No One Race or Ethnicity is a Majority: 2010

96 No-Majority Tracts



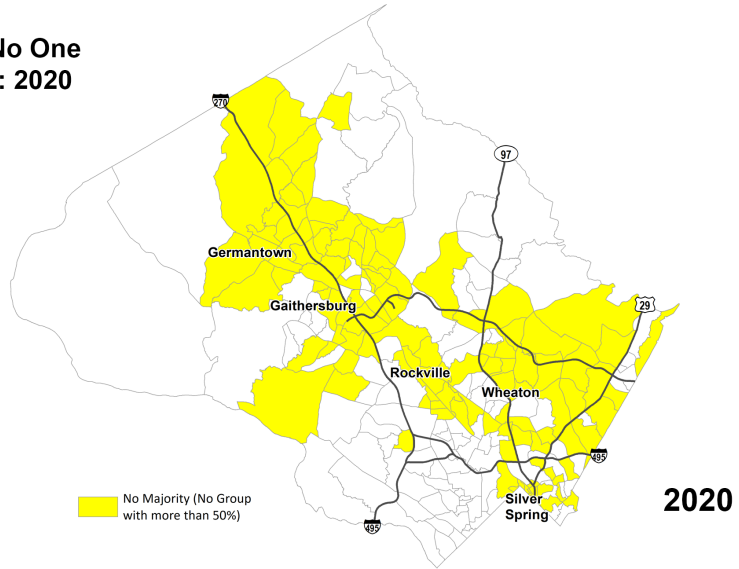
Most Common Group Where No One Race or Ethnicity is a Majority: 2010

96 No-Majority Tracts



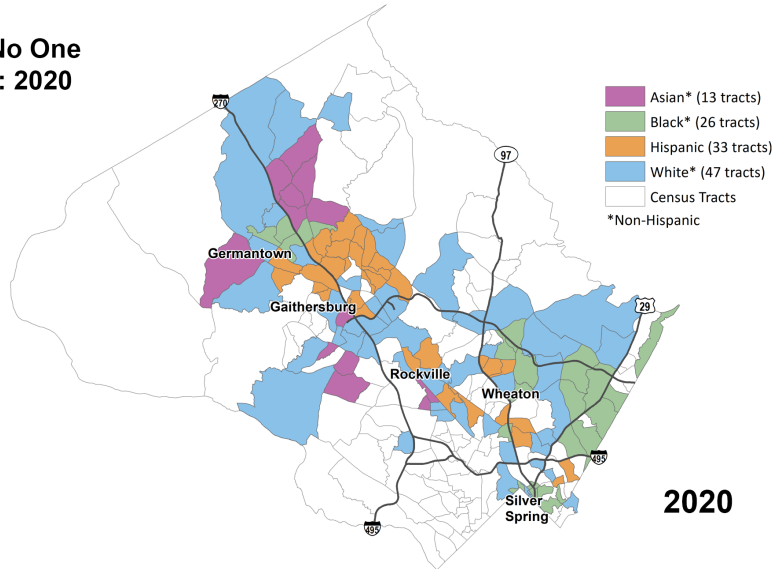
Most Common Group Where No One Race or Ethnicity is a Majority: 2020

119 No-Majority Tracts



Most Common Group Where No One Race or Ethnicity is a Majority: 2020

119 No-Majority Tracts



Notes and Resources

- The data in this report reflect the race and ethnicity classifications used by the U.S. Census Bureau following the standards determined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. The U.S. Census Bureau provides information on the [race](#) and [Hispanic origin](#) classifications.
- This report examines U.S. Census data on race and ethnicity by cross-tabulating Hispanic origin by race. The designations of Black, Asian or Pacific Islander, and White refers to people self-identifying with their respective single race and who do not identify as Hispanic ethnicity. These racial groups may also be denoted as non-Hispanic populations of Black, Asian, or White people in the text. Hispanics may be of any race. For the purpose of this analysis, they are counted only in the Hispanic category.
- The “Other Race” category includes people who identify as “American Indian and Alaska Native”, “Some Other Race”, and “Two or More Races”, but not Hispanic. In 2020, this category included 58,046 people, 5.5% of the population. This storymap does not include a separate analysis of this group given the small size. Certainly in the future, the “Other Race” will become more important as a growing segment of the population.
- [Equity Focus Areas Analysis](#) Montgomery Planning developed the Equity Focus Areas Analysis tool in support of its Equity Agenda for Planning. It is an analytical tool to identify marginalized populations for analysis of racial equity and social justice issues for supporting ongoing and future planning efforts.
- [Equity Focus Areas](#) A GIS story map providing an overview of the methodology and the data used for developing Equity Focus Areas and examples of applications. Equity Focus Areas are parts of Montgomery County characterized by high concentrations of lower-income households, people of color, and individuals who may speak English less than very well.
- [Montgomery County Council District Demographic Profile](#) The latest updated demographic profile of the Council Districts with recent American Community Survey data accounts for the upcoming changes to seven districts.
- [MCFacts.org](#) Website of the Research & Strategic Projects, Montgomery County Planning Department.

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