



# Child Care in Arlington

Updated Risk and Reach Study

October 2024

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# Executive Summary

1

## Demographics

- Arlington's population of 12,820 children aged 0-5 has been declining since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Approximately one third of children under 5 live in ZIP code 22204.

2

## Workforce

- In 78% of Arlington families with children under 5, all parents in the home are employed.
- Child care workers make less money annually than 91% of workers in the region.
- 25% of the residents in ZIP code 22204 begin commuting before most child care opens at 7:00 AM.

3

## Risk Factors

- Of the 2,083 Arlington children aged 0-5 living below 200% FPL, 52% live in ZIP Code 22204.
- Overall social vulnerability is highest in South Arlington (ZIP Codes 22204, 22203, and 22206).

4

## School Readiness

- An average of 88% of Arlington children enter kindergarten with pre-K experience.
- On average, students with a formalized pre-k experience perform better on kindergarten readiness tests than students without that experience. This has increased since the pandemic began.

5

## Resources

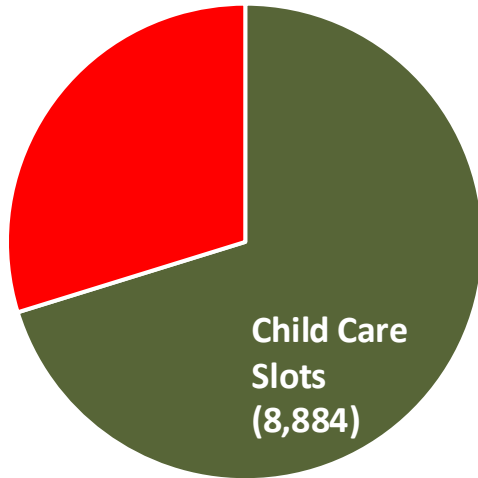
- Known child care capacity in Arlington is 8,884 slots.
- This could serve up to 69% of Arlington's total children under 5, an increase from the 55% in 2017.
- The significant gaps identified in 2017 in care outside standard hours, care for children with special needs, and affordable options remain present.

# Executive Summary

1

We have a capacity deficit, particularly for specific types of care

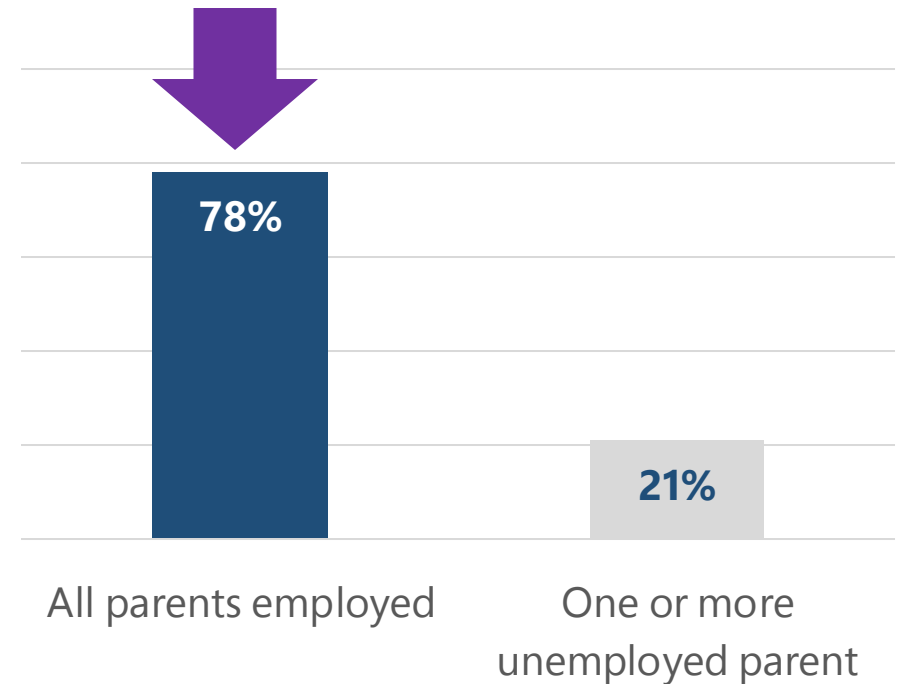
Total population  
under 5 (12,820)



Of the 8,884 child care spots...

- ✓ **87%** are full time
- ✓ **47%** are open to children as young as three-months old
- ✓ **51%** are accredited
- ✓ **21%** offer care outside standard hours

A national study found that, on average, families with all parents employed need **24-32 hours** of child care a week.

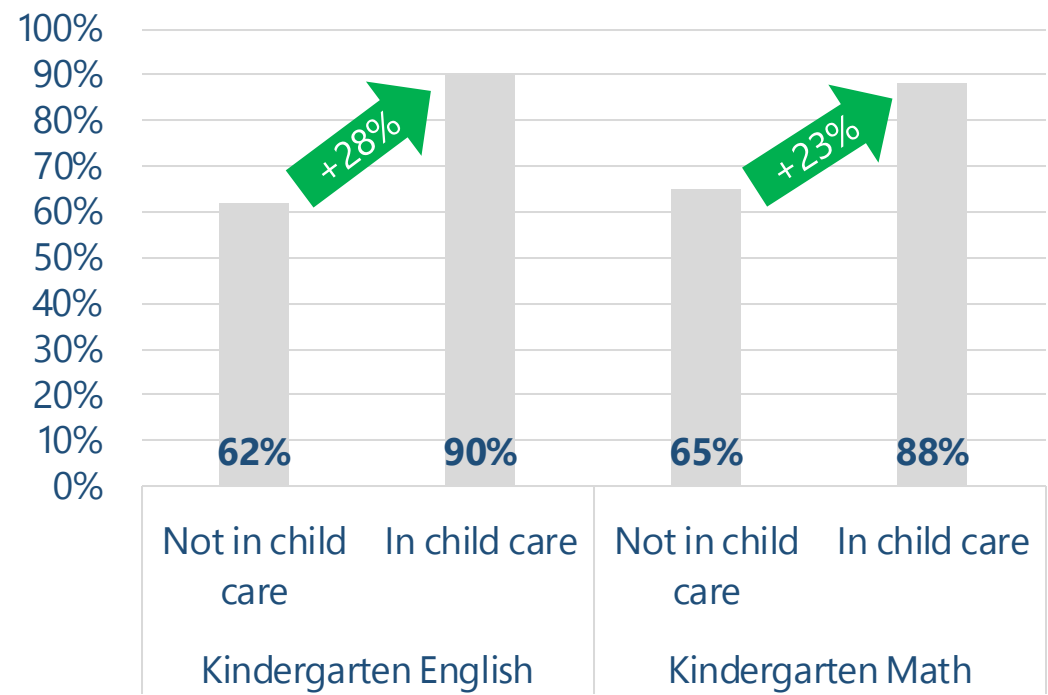


2

Most children aged 0-5 have working parents

# Executive Summary

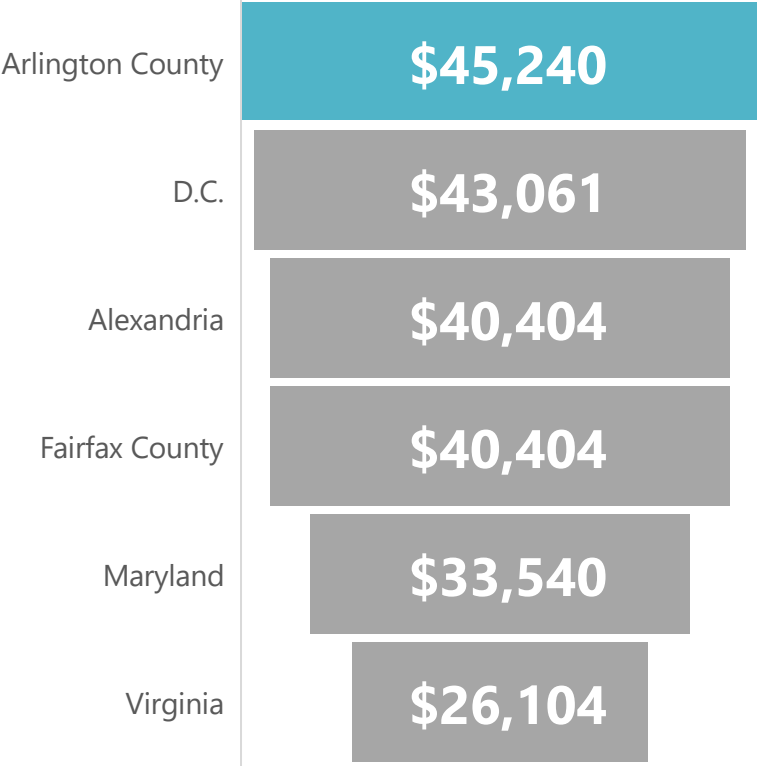
Percentage of Arlington children achieving proficient scores in 2023



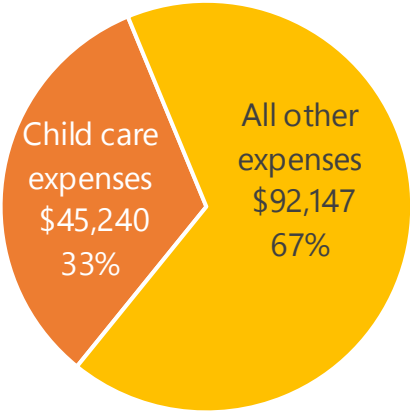
## 3 Child care leads to better school readiness

## 4 Care costs more in Arlington than its neighbors

Average child day center costs for an infant and a four year old

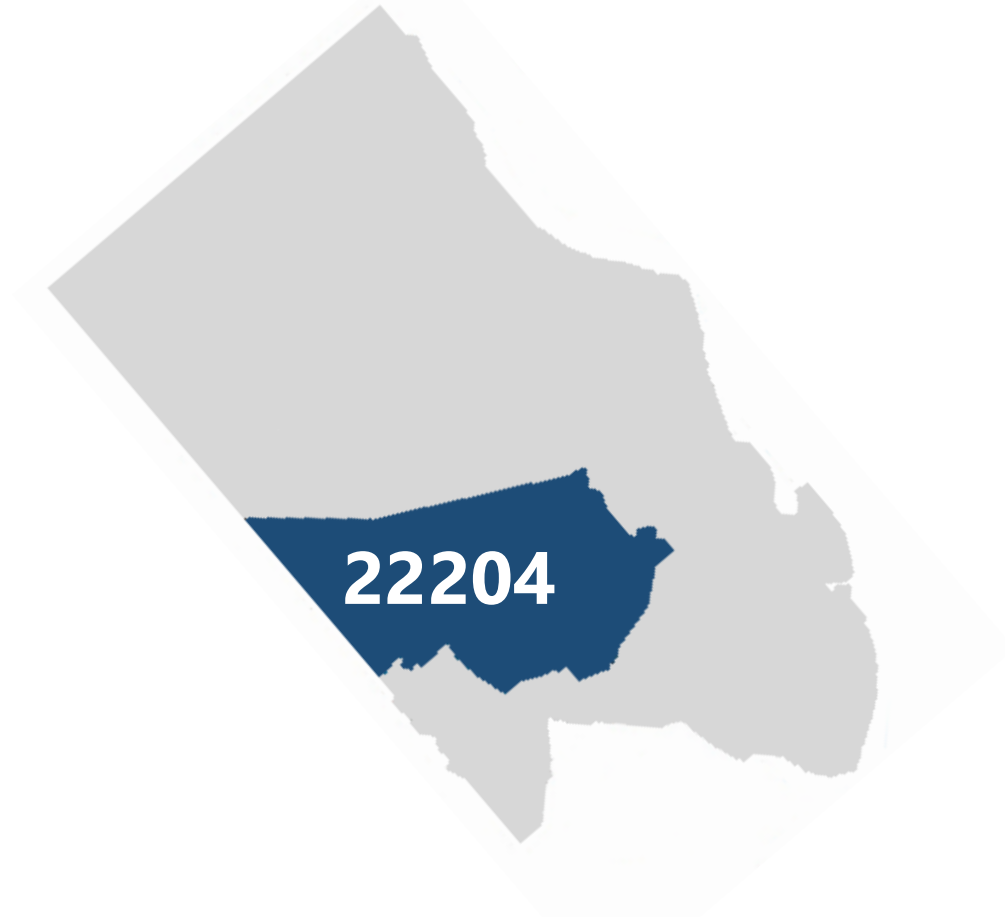


For an Arlington family making a median salary of \$137,387...



# Executive Summary

**5** 1 in 7 Arlington children under 5 are below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level



**52%** of these children live in zip code **22204**





1

Data sources track data differently, with differing margins of error.

Data derived from the ACS 2022 is based on a sample of households.



2

Race and ethnicity data is not tracked consistently across sources.

U.S. Census standard was used whenever possible.



3

Data included in this report is for most recent year available.

# Notes About Data Presented

# Demographics

## Who are the Children in Arlington Aged 0-5?

- How many are there?

- Where do they live?

- What is their background?





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Arlington's population of children under 5 totals approximately 12,820. It has been steadily declining since the COVID-19 pandemic. During the same time, Arlington's total population has remained steady.

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In approximately 35% of Arlington families with children under 5, one or both parents were born outside the United States.

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In the elementary population, 27% of children are Hispanic – as compared to 16% of Arlington's general population.

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31% of children under 5 live in ZIP Code 22204.

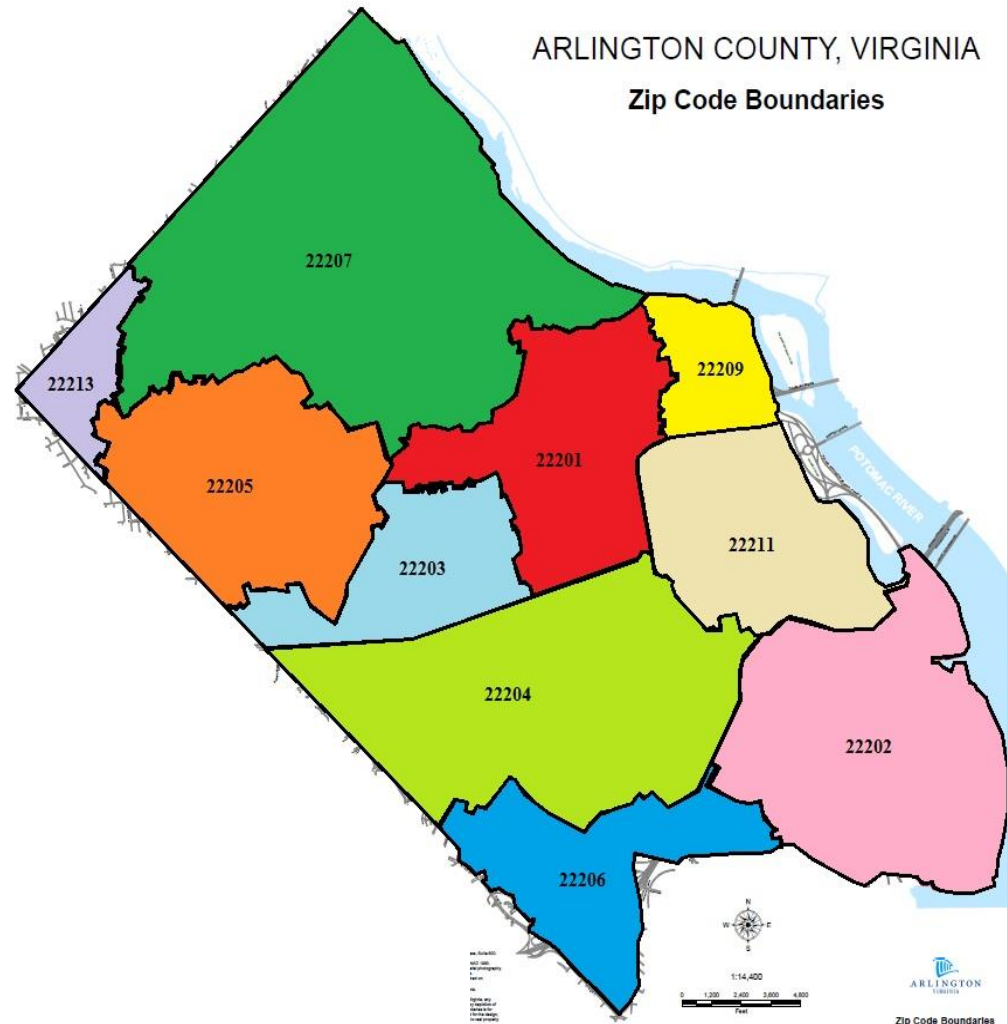
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The ZIP Codes with the highest number of births in 2022 were 22204 (24% of births), 22207 (17%), and 22201 (16%).

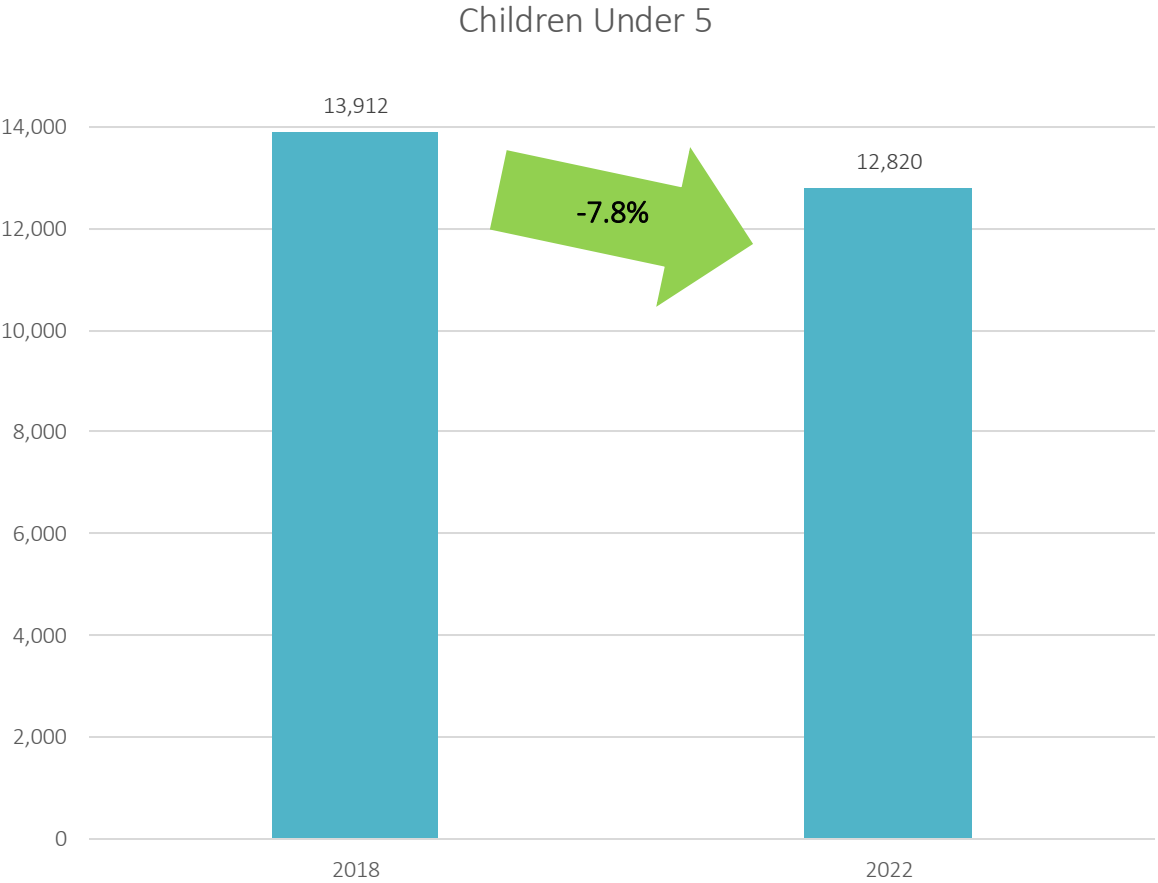
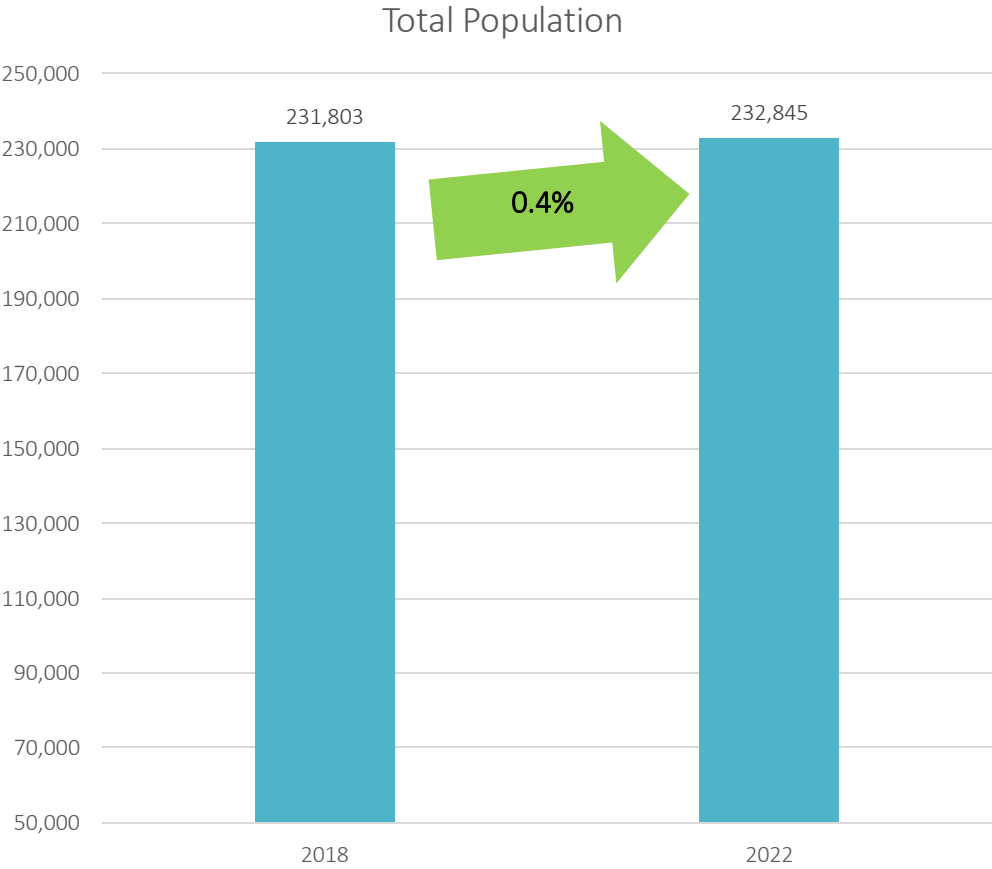
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## Overview of Demographic Findings

# ZIP Codes of Arlington



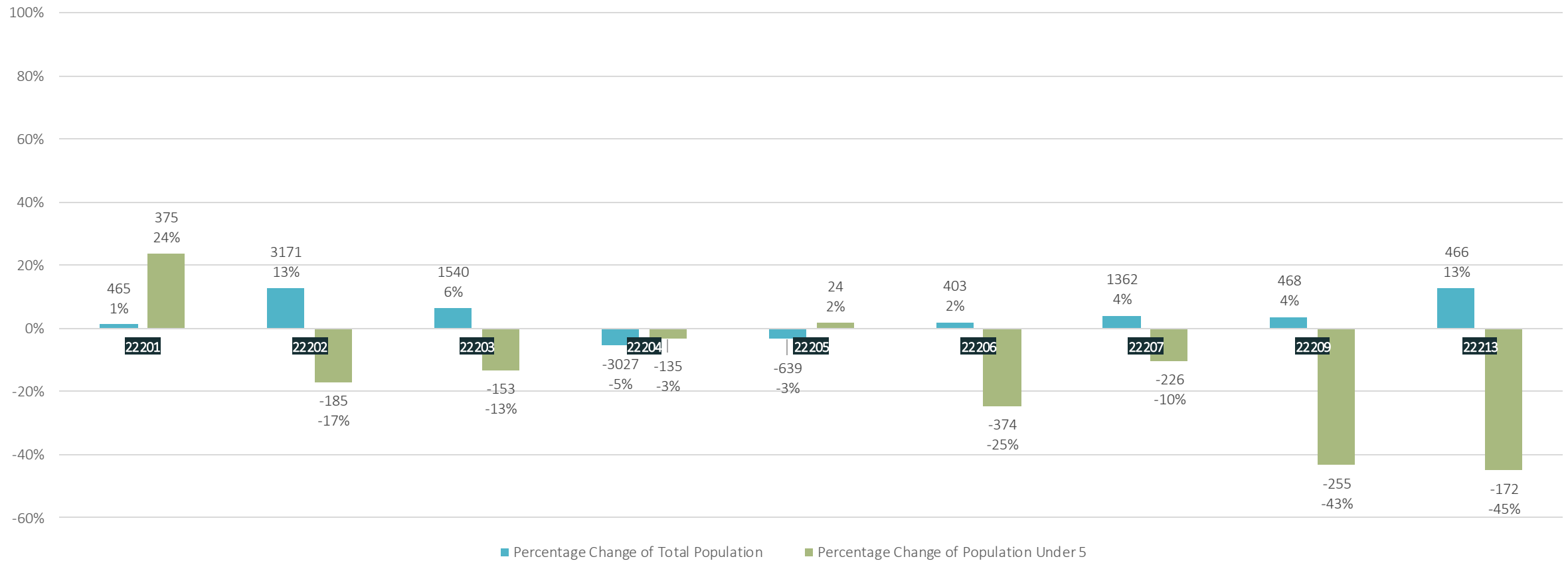
# Estimated Population Growth Rates



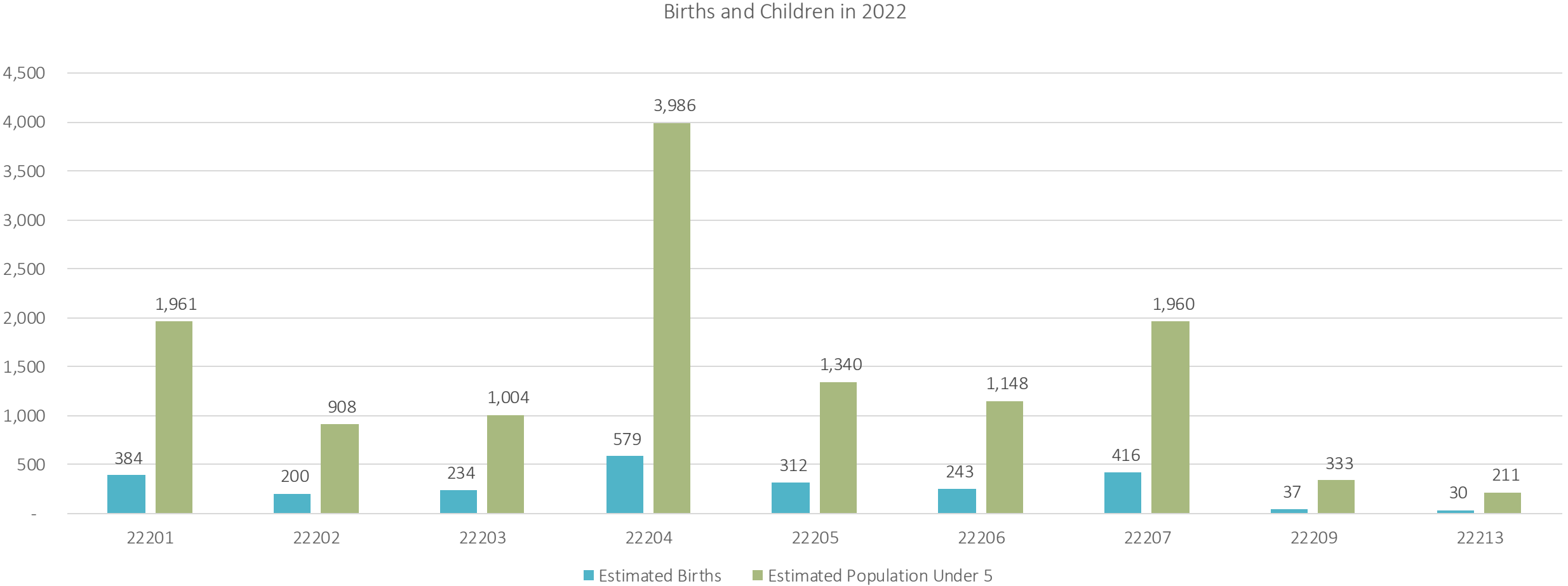
Source: [2018-2022 ACS](#), Table S0101

# Estimated Population Growth Rates

Estimated Population Change Between 2018 and 2022



# Arlington's Children by ZIP Code



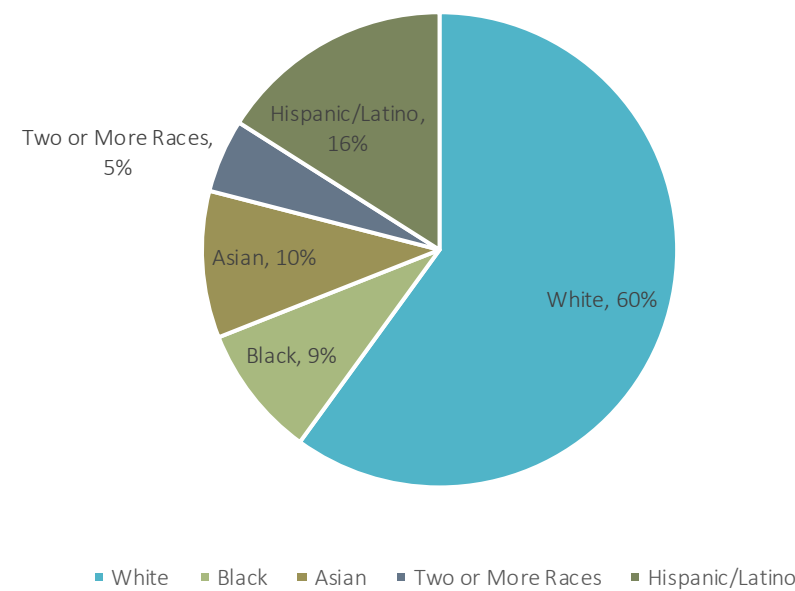
Sources: [2022](#) ACS, Table *S0101*  
[2022](#) ACS, Table *B13002*

# Relative Population Size by Zip Code

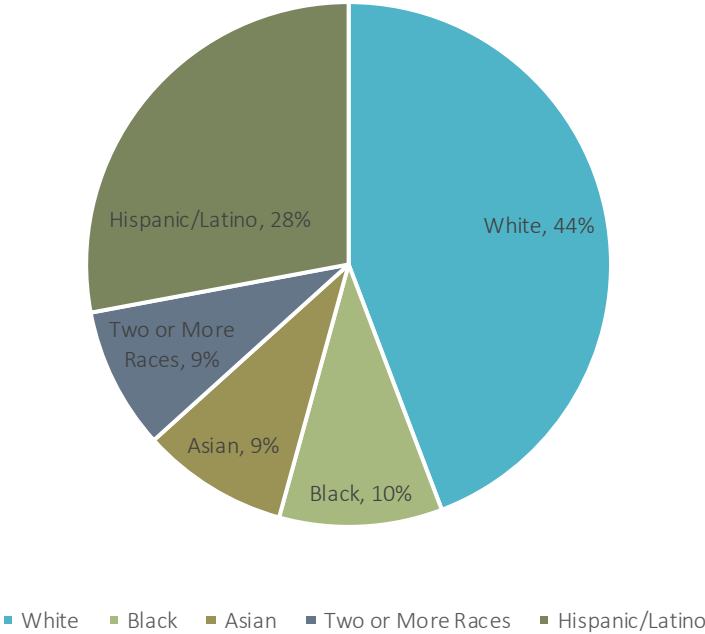
ZIP Code	Total Population Size Ranking	Total Population Under 5 Ranking	Estimated Births Ranking	Total Child Care Capacity
22201	2	2	3	3
22202	4	7	7	4
22203	5	6	6	5
22204	1	1	1	1
22205	7	4	4	7
22206	6	5	5	6
22207	3	3	2	2
22209	8	8	8	8
22213	9	9	9	9

# Race/Ethnic Diversity in Arlington

Racial/Ethnic Demographics of Arlington's Total Population in 2022



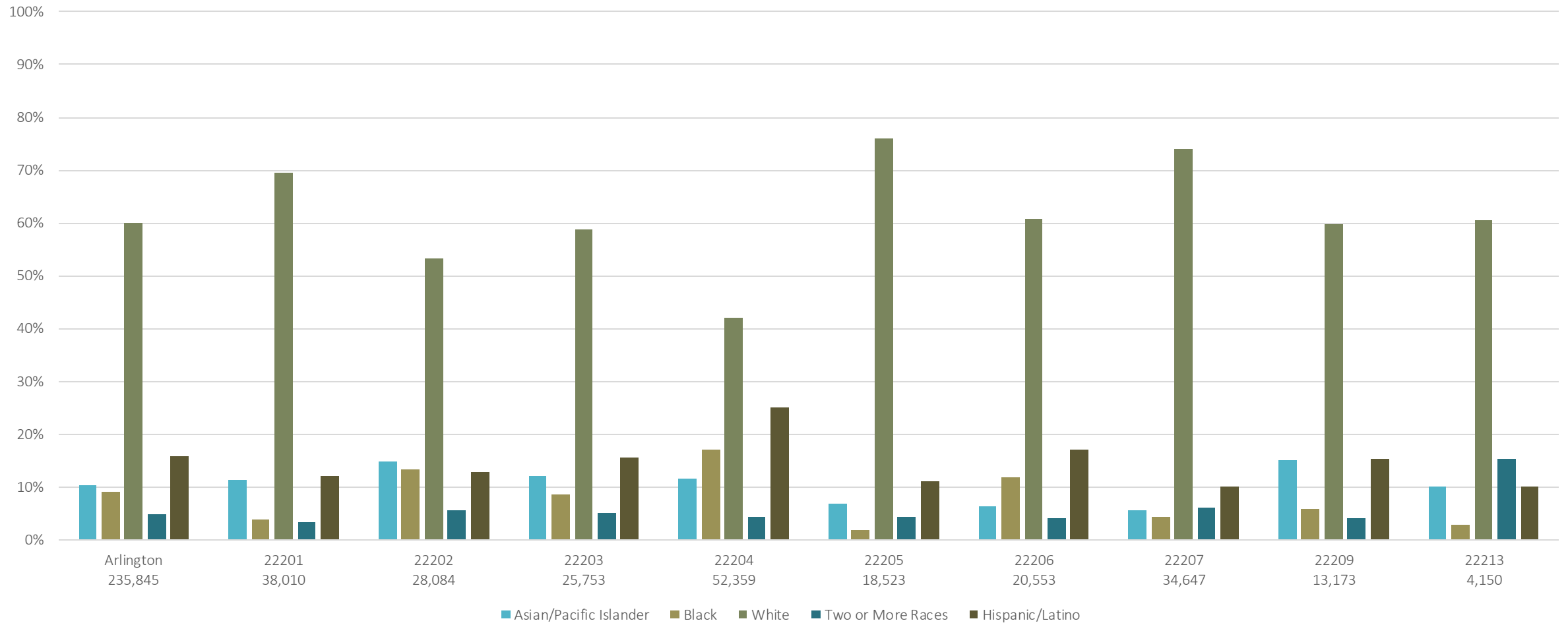
Racial/Ethnic Demographics of Arlington's Elementary Schools in 2022





# Race/Ethnic Diversity in Arlington

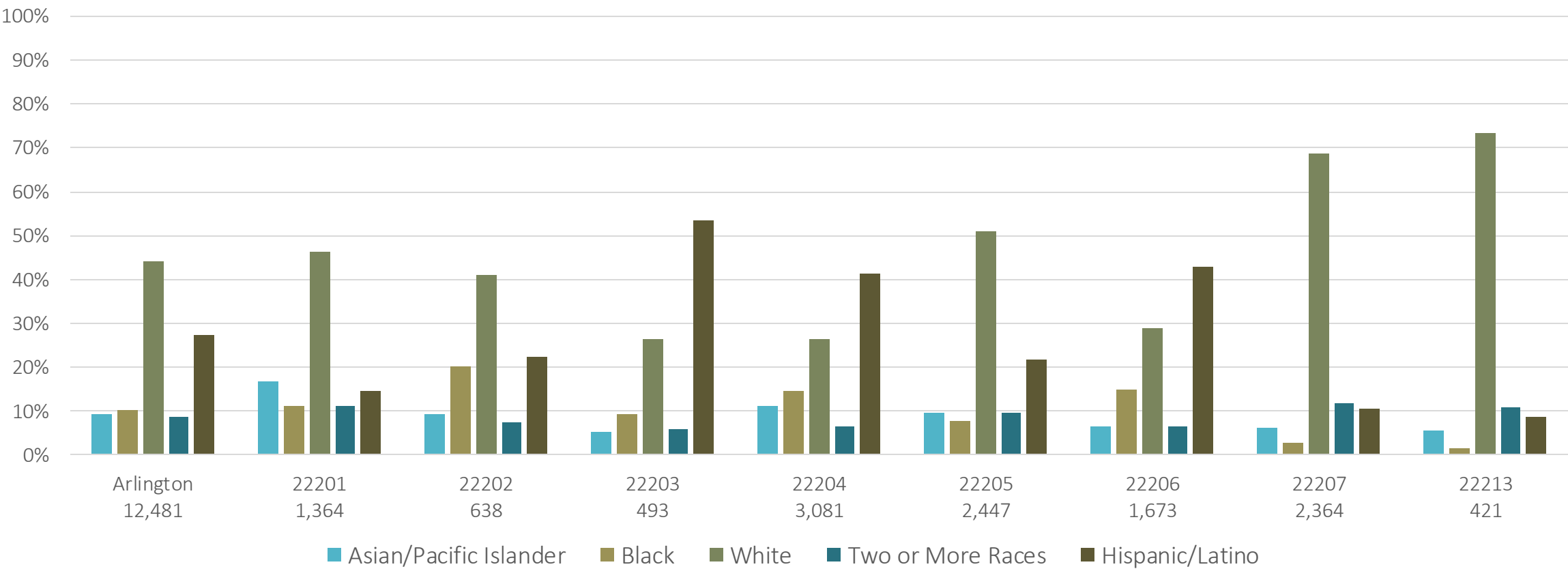
Racial/Ethnic Demographics of Arlington's Total Population in 2022



Source: [2022](#) ACS, Table *B03002*

# Race/Ethnic Diversity in Arlington

Racial/Ethnic Demographics of Arlington's Elementary Students in 2022

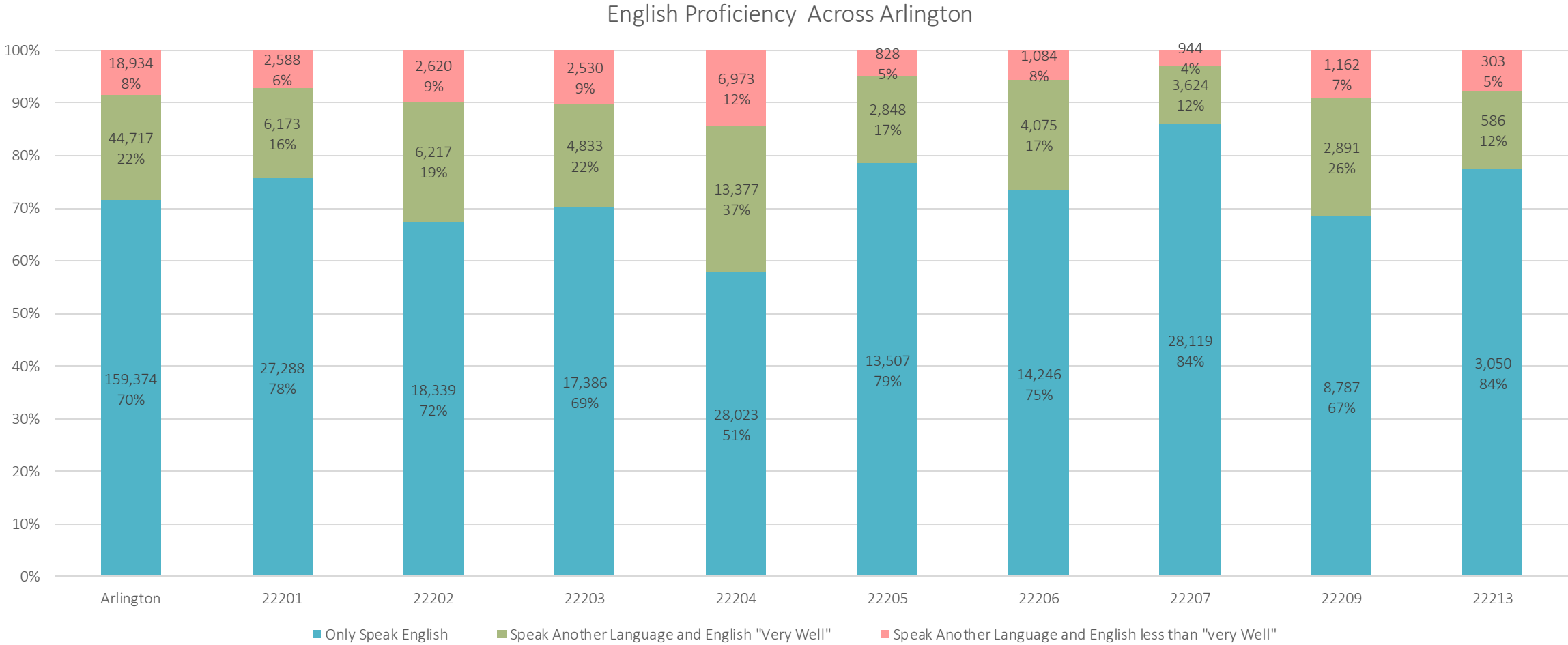


# How Does the Racial Diversity of Elementary Students in each ZIP Code Compare to Overall Population?

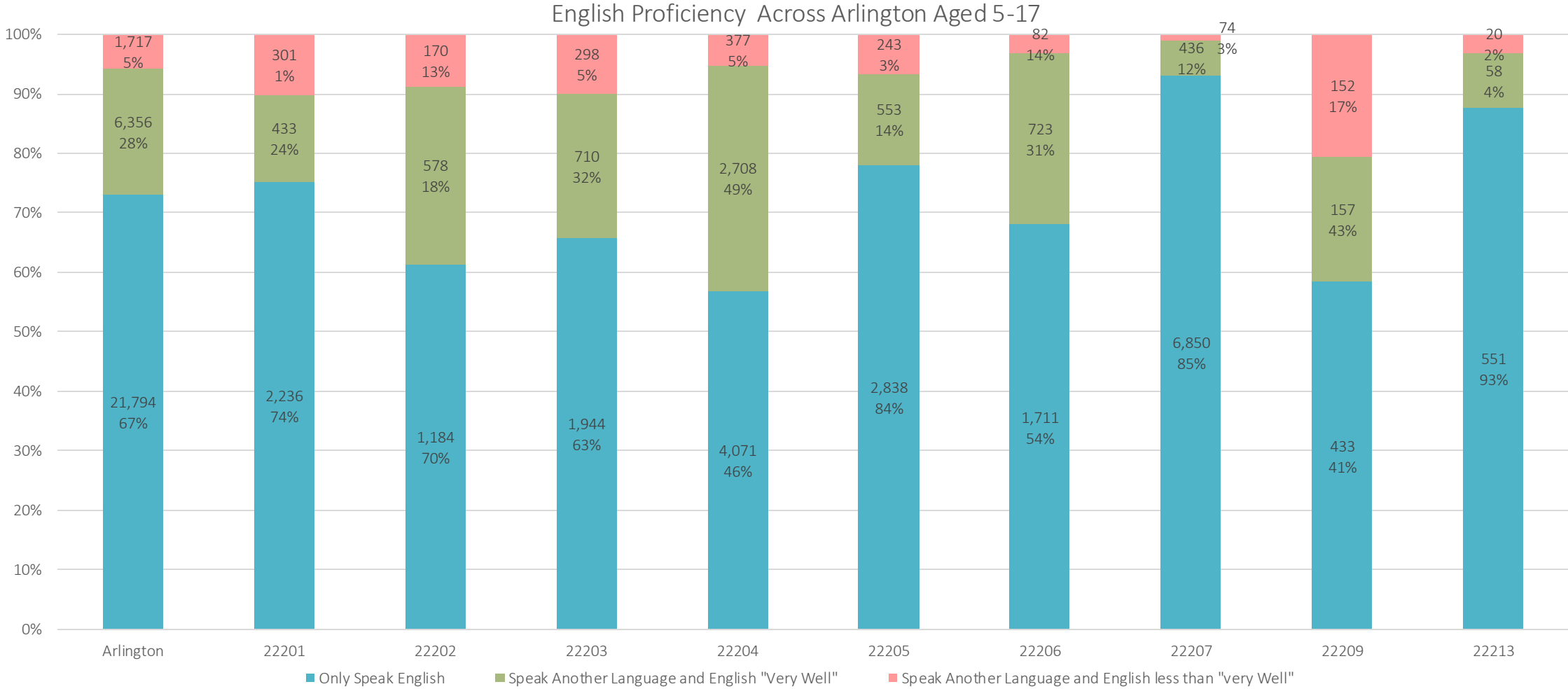
Location	Asian/Pacific Islander	Black	White	Two or More Races	Hispanic/Latino
<b>Arlington</b>	-1%	1%	-17%	5%	12%
<b>22201</b>	6%	7%	-24%	8%	5%
<b>22202</b>	-6%	10%	-16%	3%	10%
<b>22203</b>	-8%	2%	-36%	2%	40%
<b>22204</b>	0%	-3%	-13%	3%	14%
<b>22205</b>	5%	5%	-25%	7%	10%
<b>22206</b>	2%	4%	-34%	3%	27%
<b>22207</b>	0%	-2%	-7%	8%	1%
<b>22213</b>	-5%	-2%	16%	-5%	-2%

Source: 2022 ACS, Table [B03002](#); Arlington Public Schools, [2023](#)

# English Proficiency – General Population



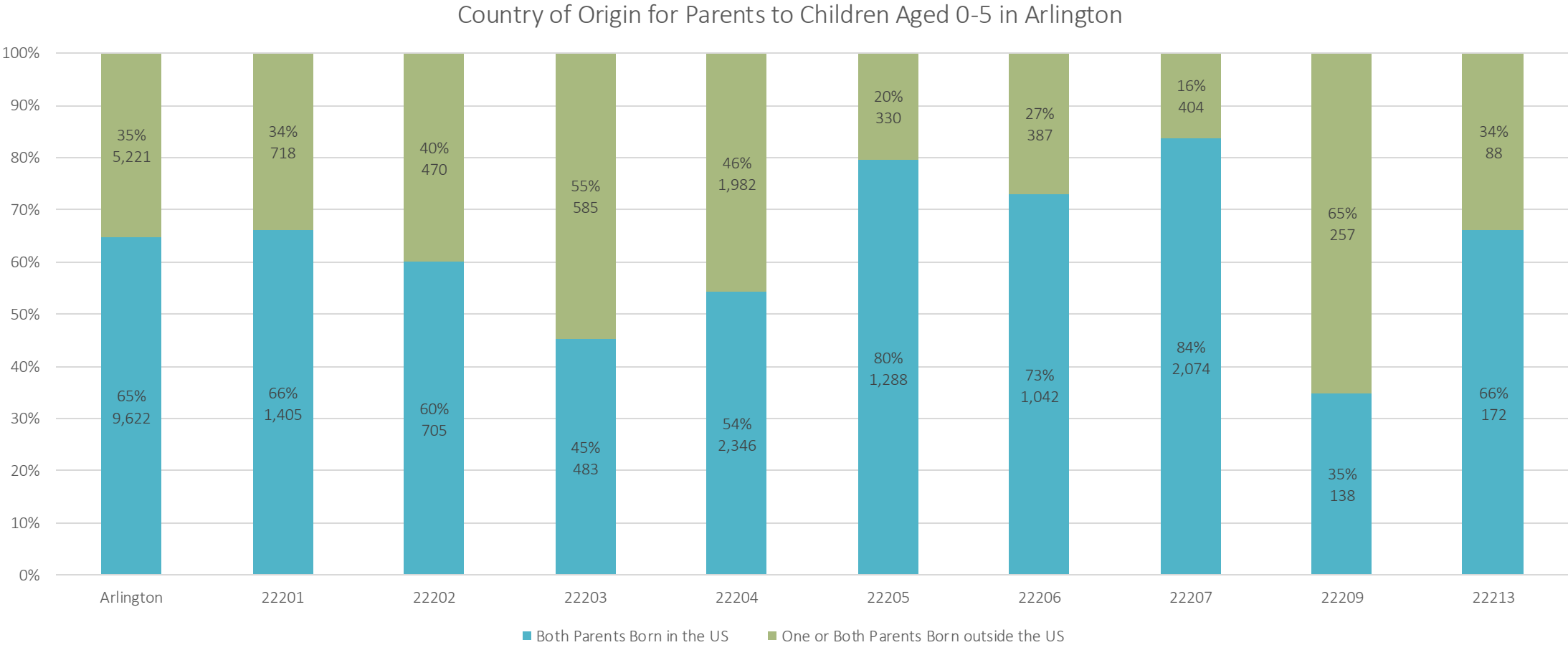
# English Proficiency – Children Aged 5-17



# How do English Proficiency Rates for Children Aged 5-17 Compare to Rates in the Overall Population?

Location	Only Speak English	Speak Another Language and English "Very Well"	Speak Another Language and English less than "Very Well"
Arlington	2%	1%	-3%
22201	0%	-3%	3%
22202	-6%	7%	-1%
22203	-4%	5%	0%
22204	-1%	10%	-9%
22205	-1%	-1%	2%
22206	-5%	8%	-2%
22207	7%	-5%	-2%
22209	-10%	-1%	11%
22213	10%	-6%	-5%

# Country of Origin for Arlington Parents





# Workforce

What is the  
Employment  
Picture for  
Families and  
Child Care  
Professionals in  
Arlington?

- Career and Income data for families and child care professionals



- Commuting



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In 78% of Arlington families with children under 5, all parents in the home are employed.

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Median Household Income ranges from \$105,674 in 22204 to \$227,941 in 22207.

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Approximately half of all Arlington County residents work in Arlington.

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The average commute time for an Arlington resident is about 30 minutes. A quarter of the residents in 22204 begin their commutes before most child care centers open at 7 AM.

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71% of individuals working in Arlington are commuting in from another jurisdiction. These individuals may seek child care near their work.

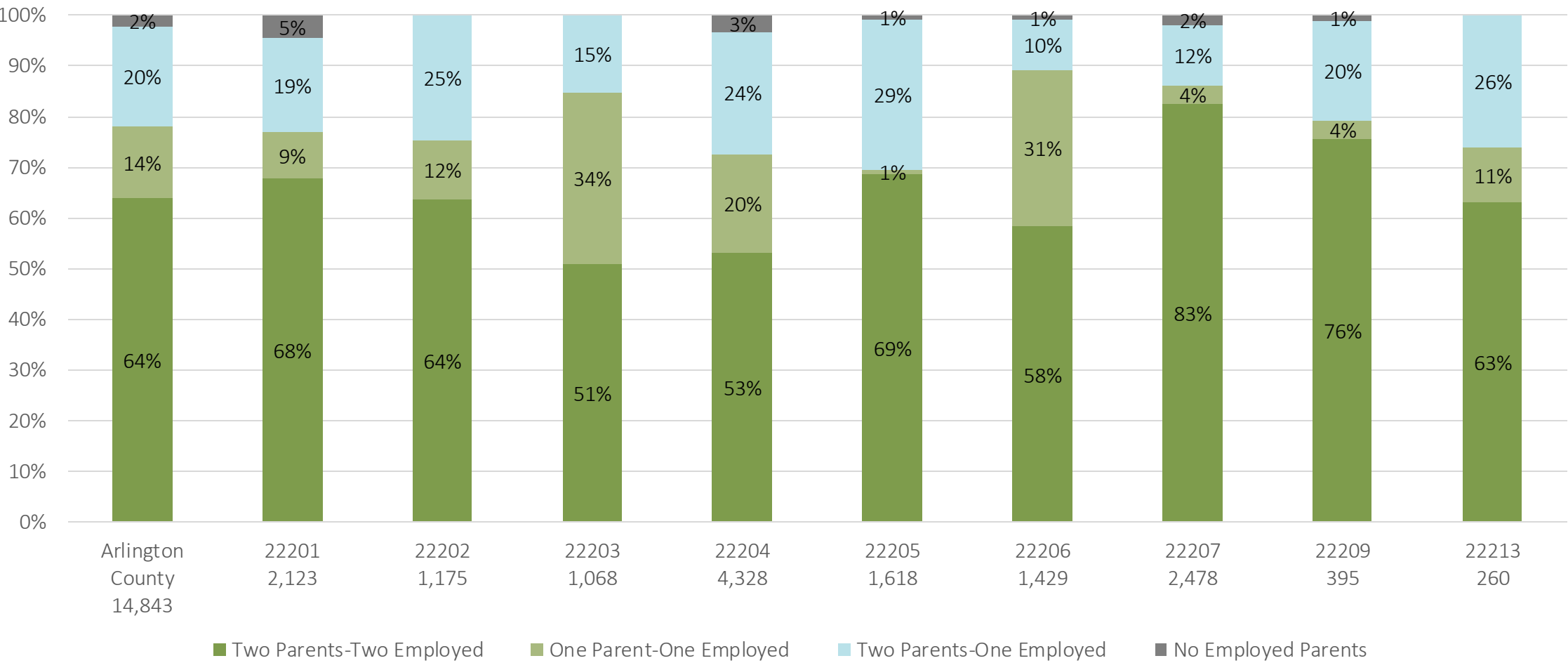
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91% of employees in the D.C. metro area make more than the average child care worker.

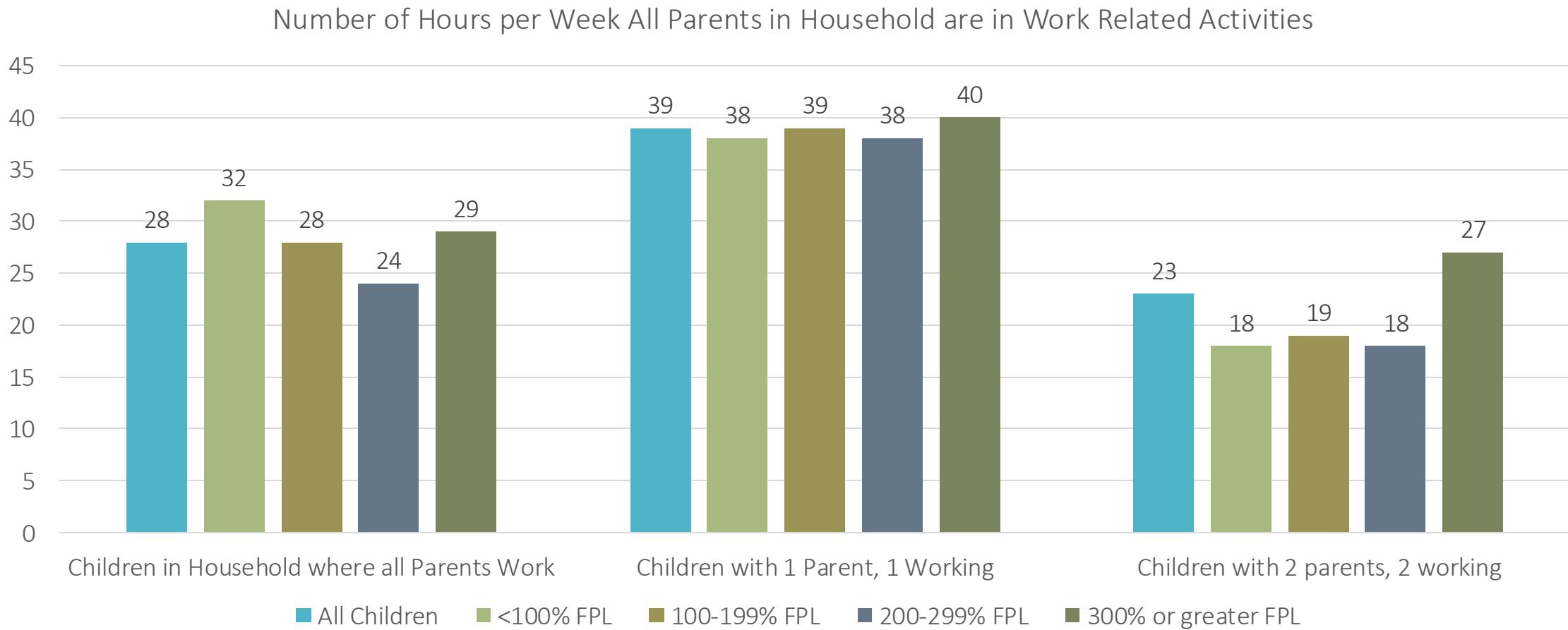
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## Overview of Workforce Findings

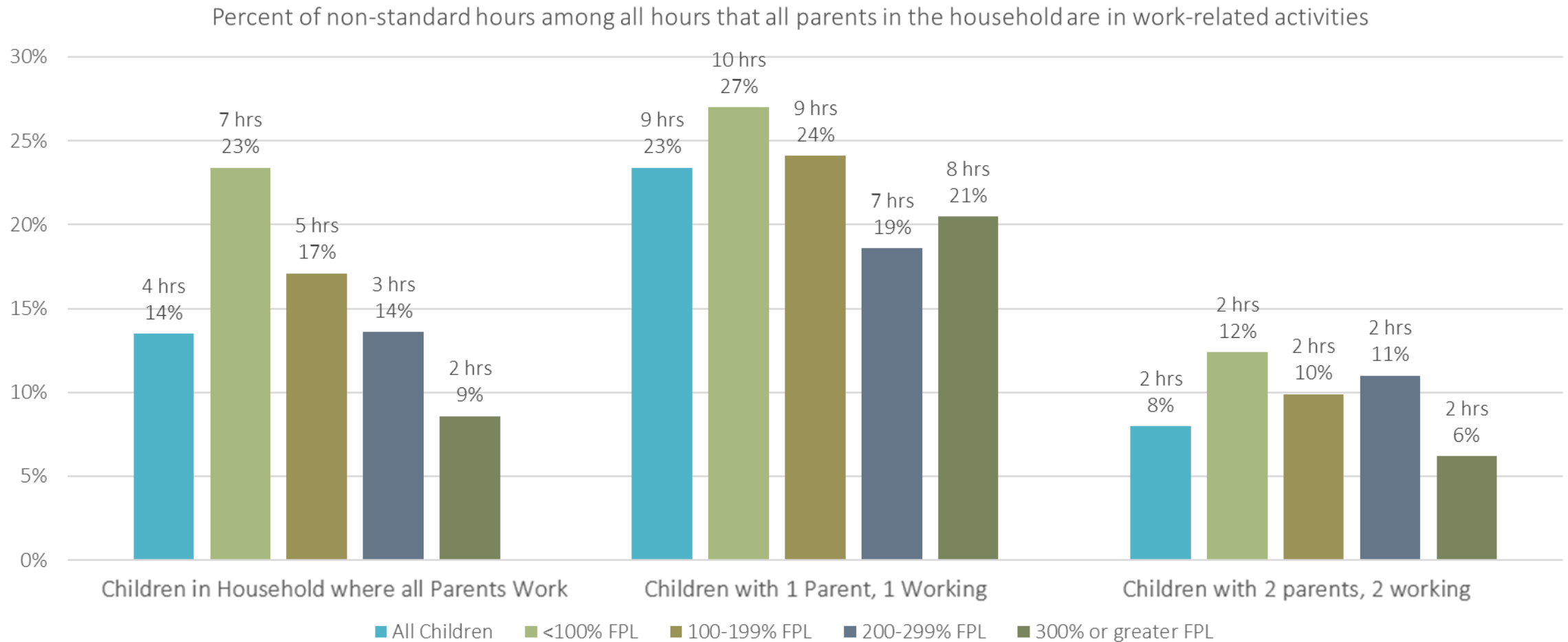
# Employment Status of Families with Children Aged 0-5



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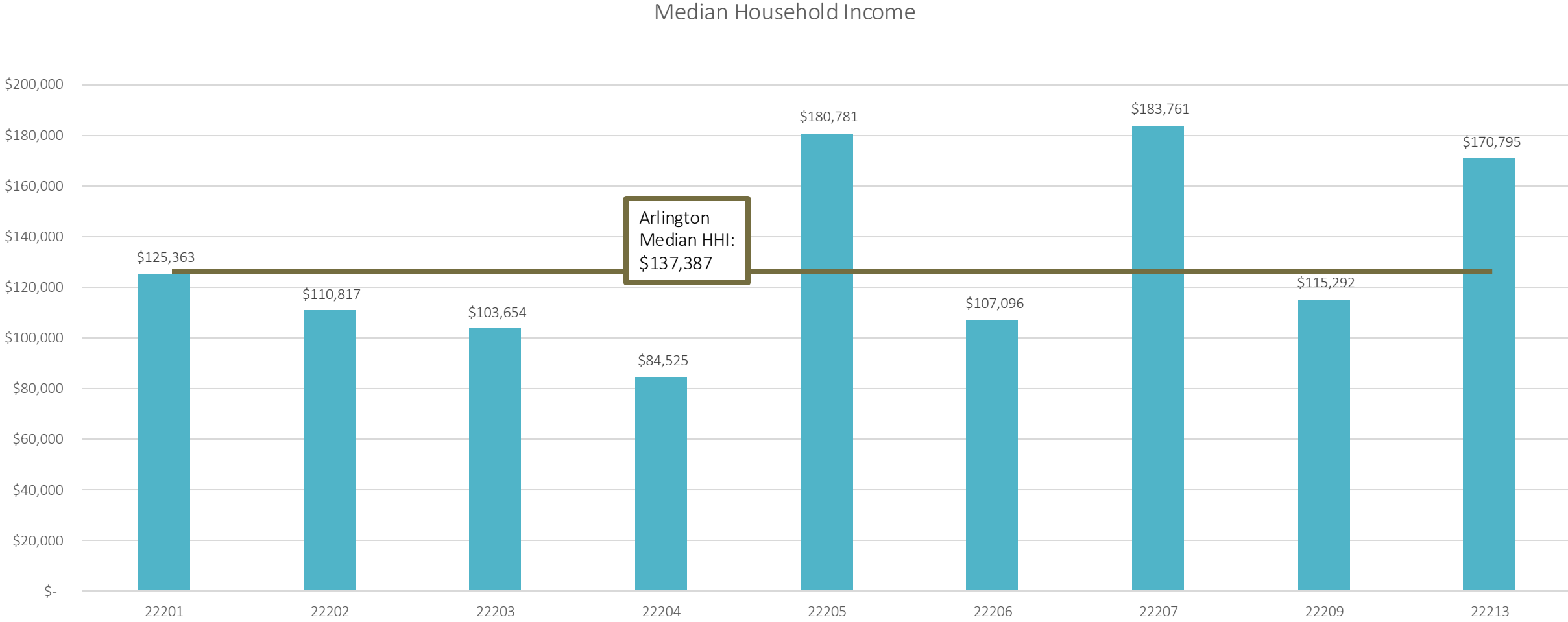


# Employment Status of Families with Children Aged 0-5



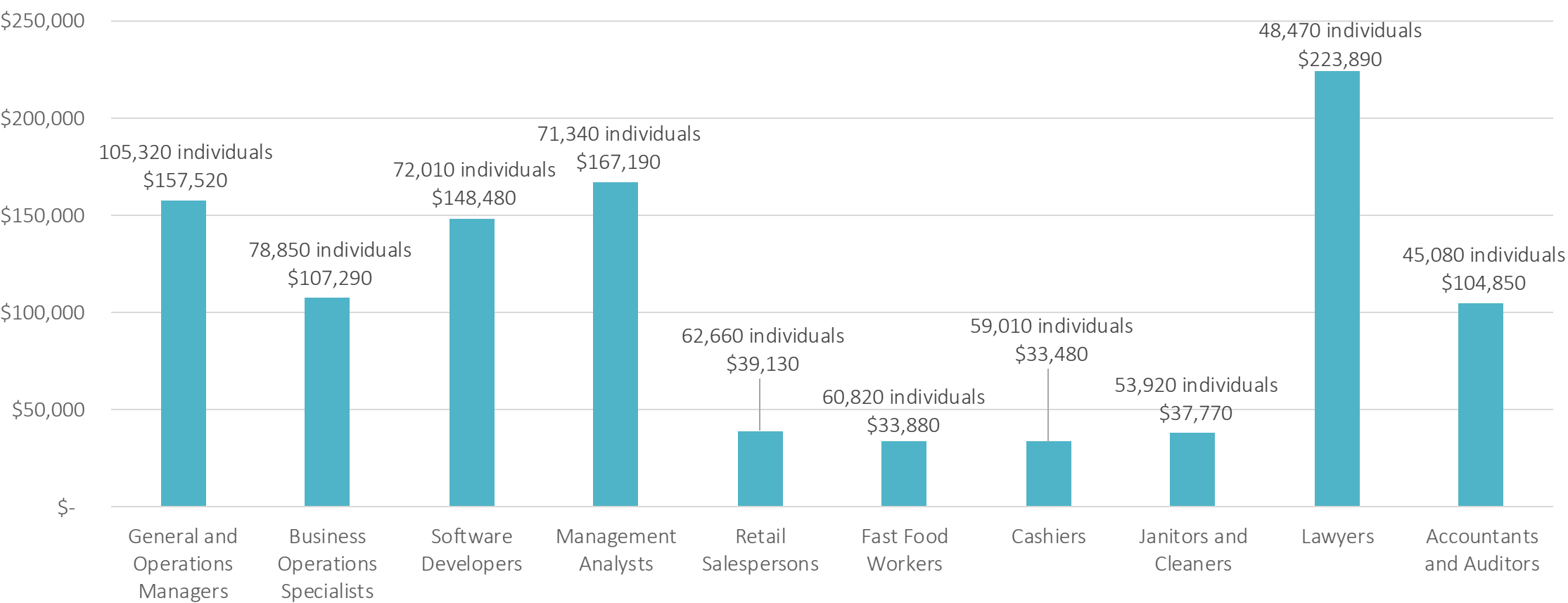
Source: National Survey of Early Care and Education Project Team, [2021](#)

# Household Income



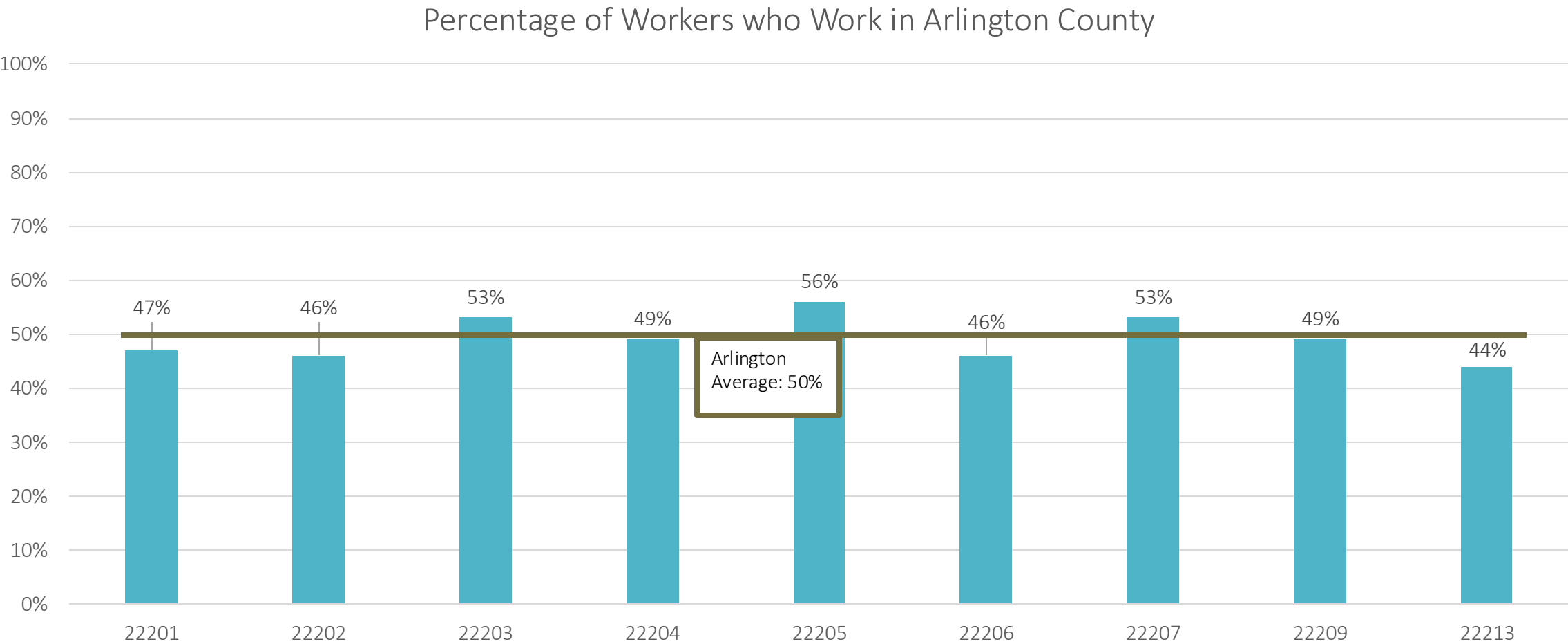
# Most Common Regional Jobs

Average Annual Salaries for the Ten Most Common Careers in the Region

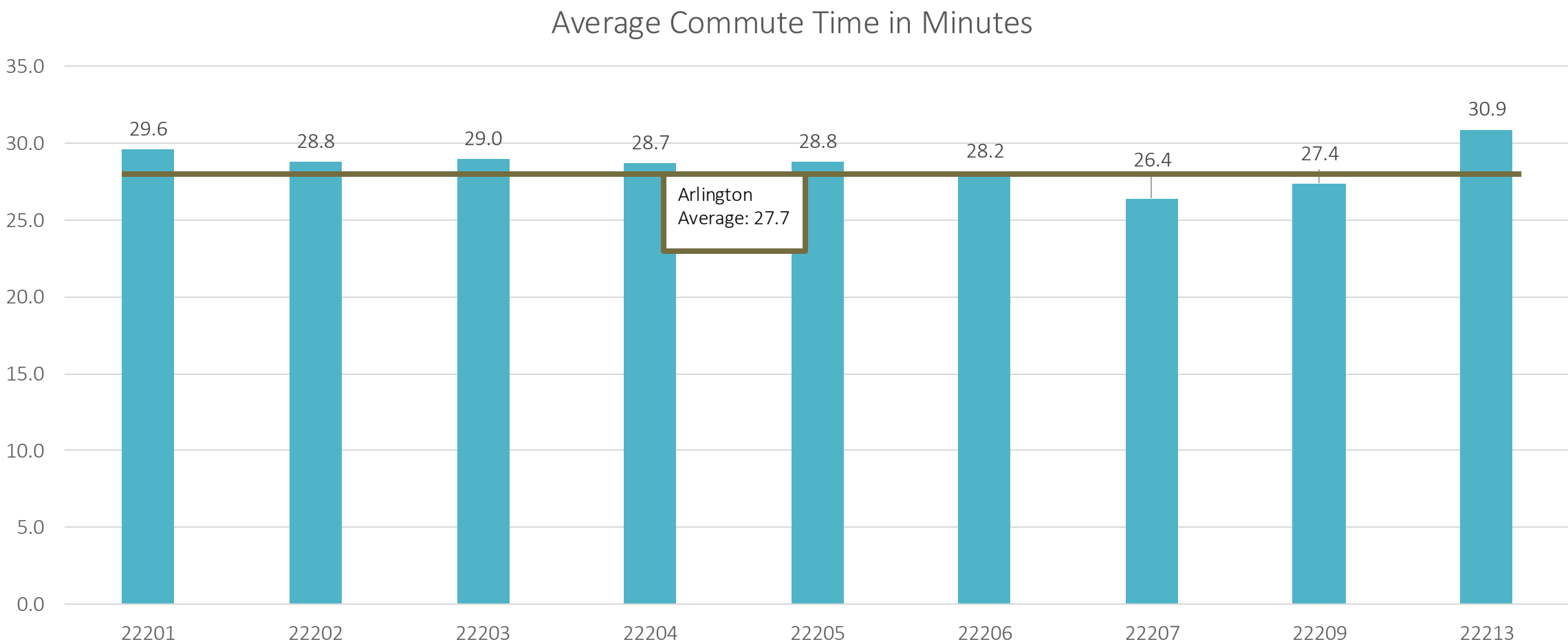




# Commuting

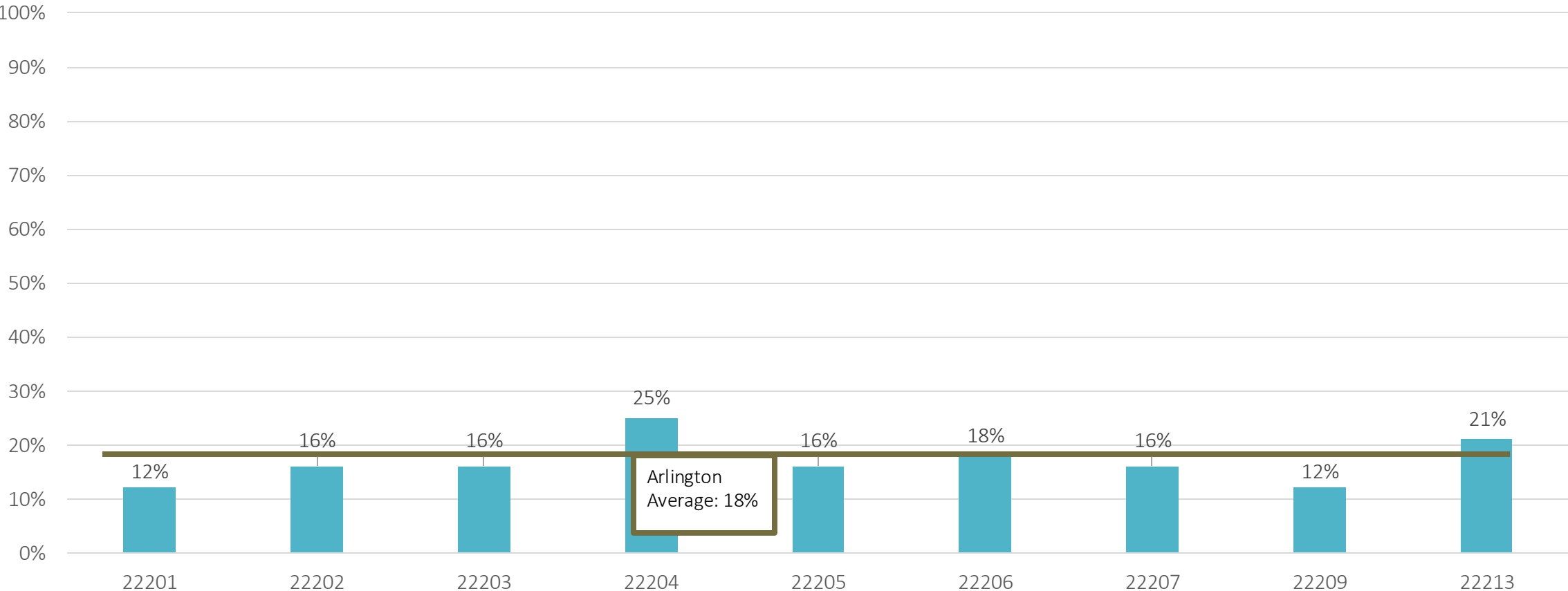


# Commuting



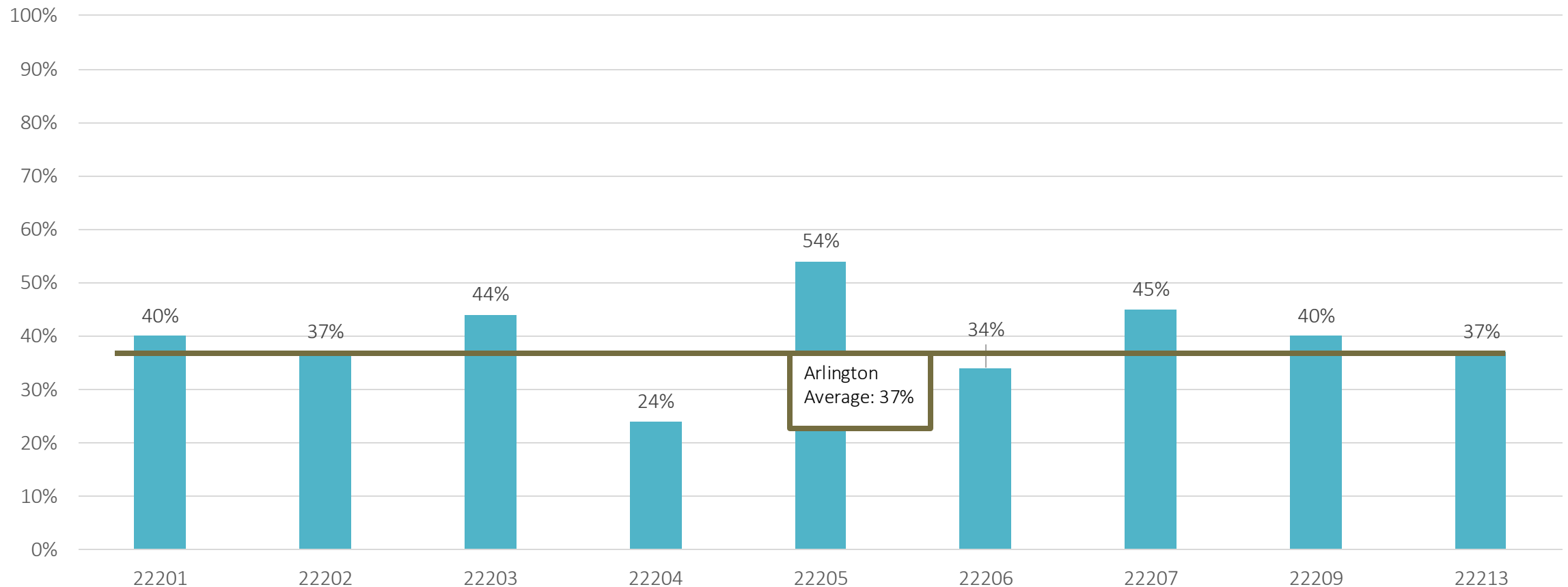
# Early Commutes

Percentage of Commuting Workers who Begin their Commute Before 7 AM



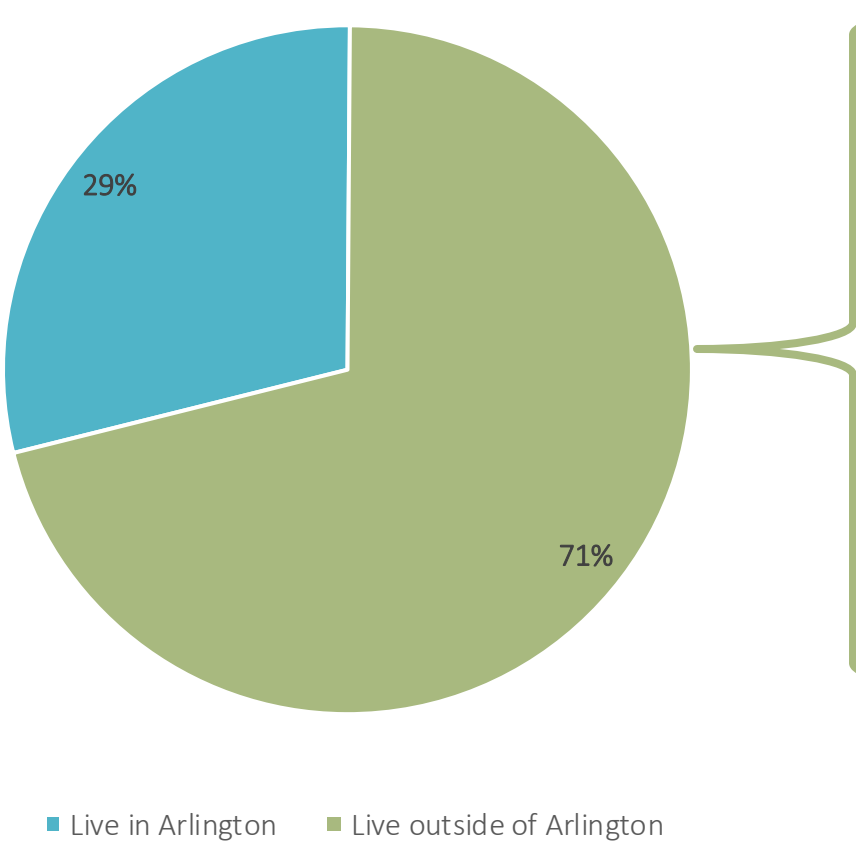
# Work from Home

Percentage of Workers who Work from Home



# Commuting

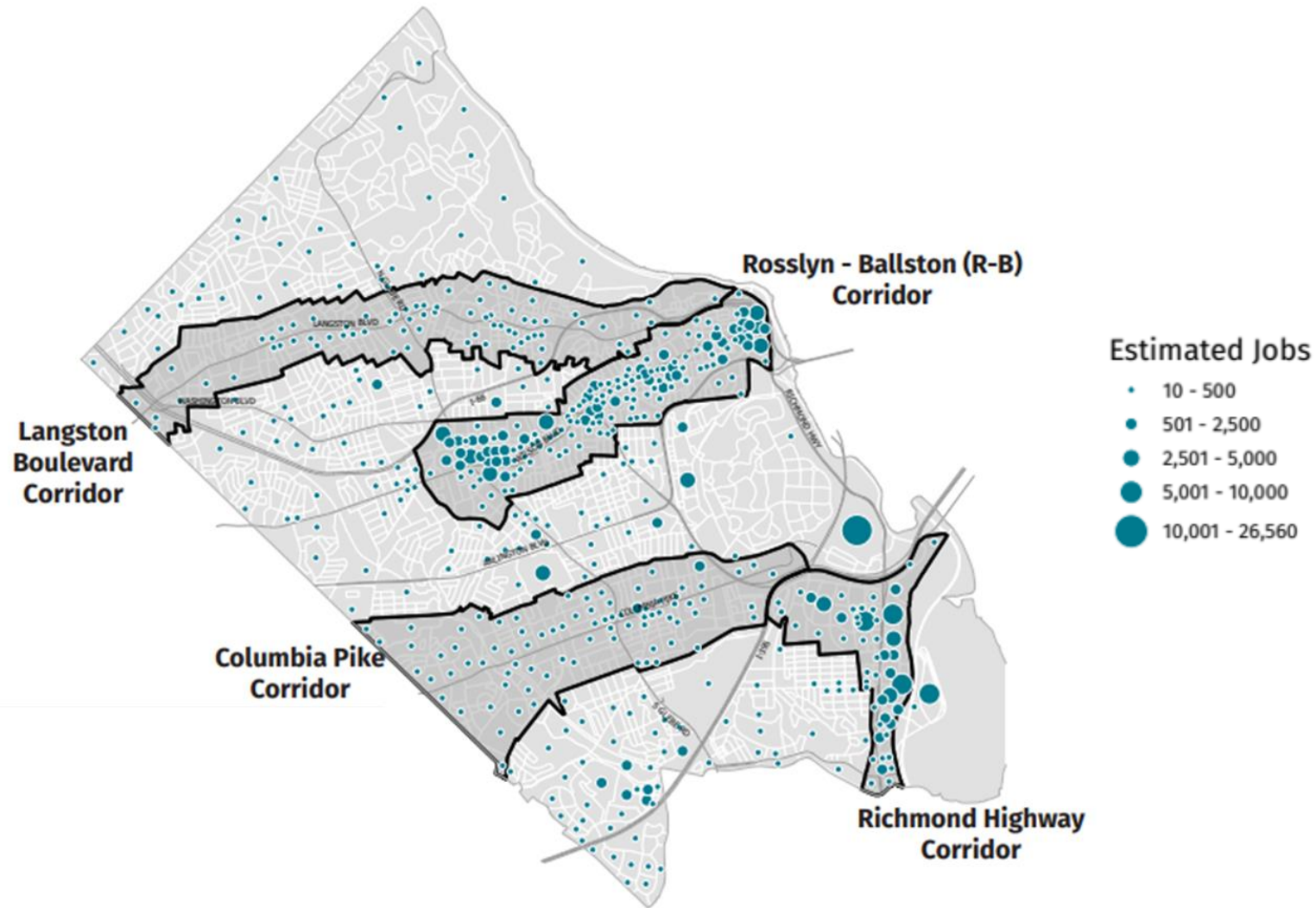
Total Individuals Working in Arlington



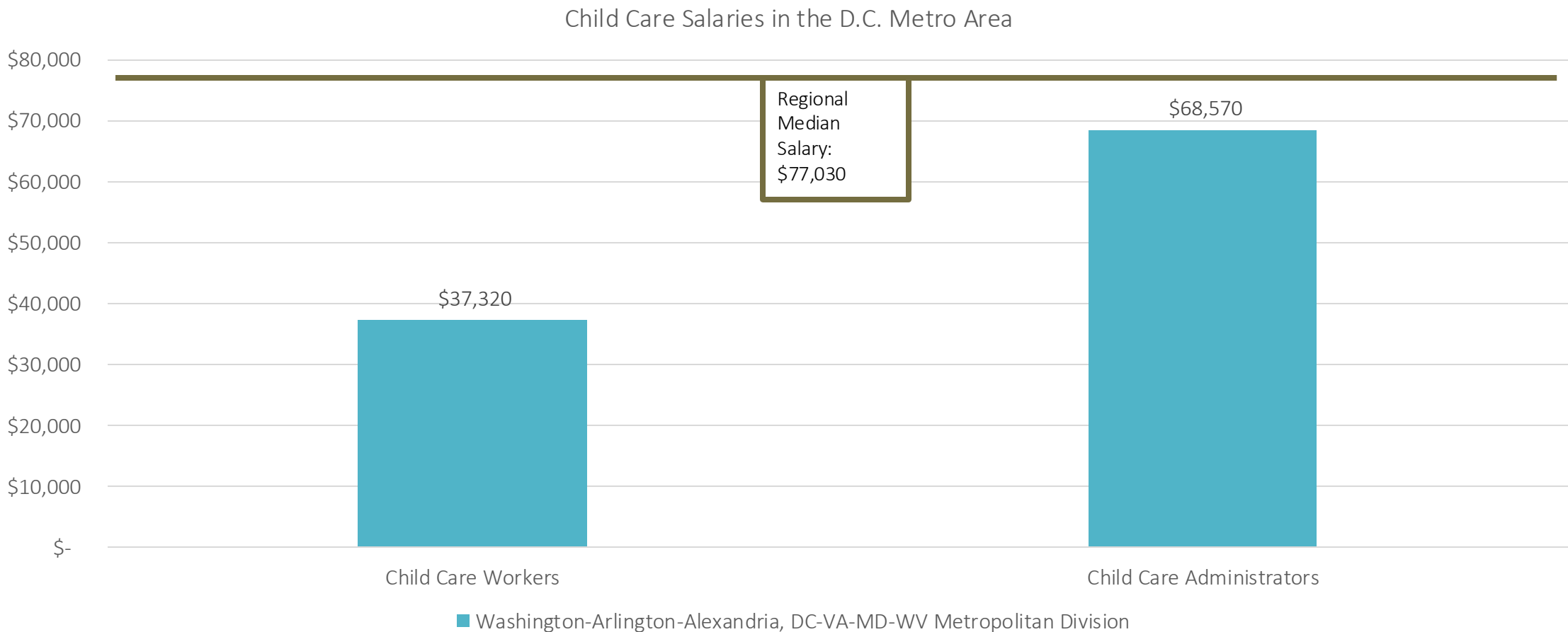
Top Home Locations for Commuters into Arlington

Jurisdiction	Workers Commuting into Arlington
Fairfax County, VA	45,212
Washington D.C.	18,426
Prince George's County, MD	13,531
Alexandria, VA	13,010
Prince William County, VA	11,914
Montgomery County, MD	9,538
Loudoun County, VA	5,755

# Job Locations in Arlington

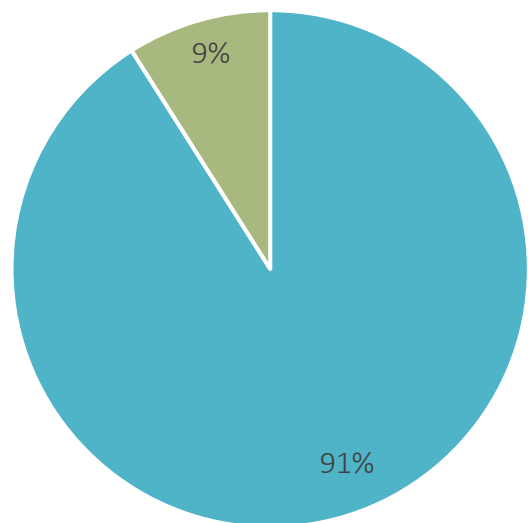


# Child Care Professionals



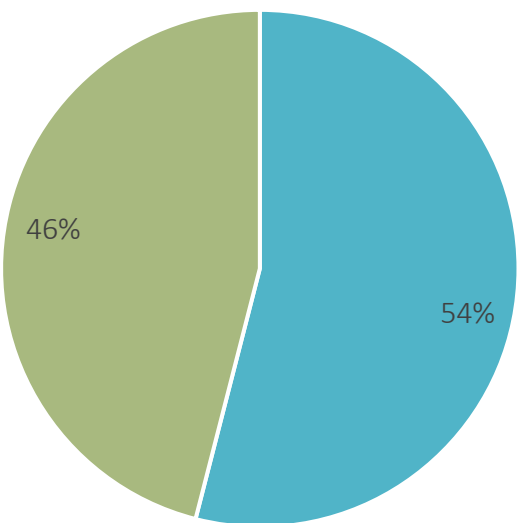
# Child Care Professionals

Percentage of Workers with Higher Incomes than **Child Care Workers** in the D.C. Metro Region



- Higher income than child care workers
- Lower income than child care workers

Percentage of Workers with Higher Incomes than **Child Care Administrators** in the D.C. Metro Region

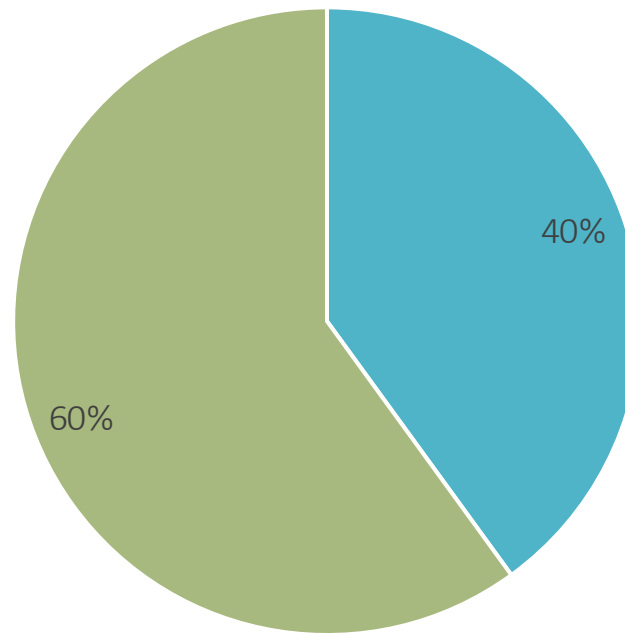


- Higher income than child care administrators
- Lower income than child care administrators



# Child Care Professionals

Participation of Virginia Child Care Workers in Public Support Programs (SNAP, TANF, etc.)



■ Percentage of Child Care Workers who Participate

■ Percentage of Child Care Workers who do not Participate

# Risk Factors

What Risks are Experienced by Children in Arlington Aged 0-5?

- Socioeconomic factors
- Other factors



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Among Arlington residents,  
13.9% live below 200% of the  
Federal Poverty Level.

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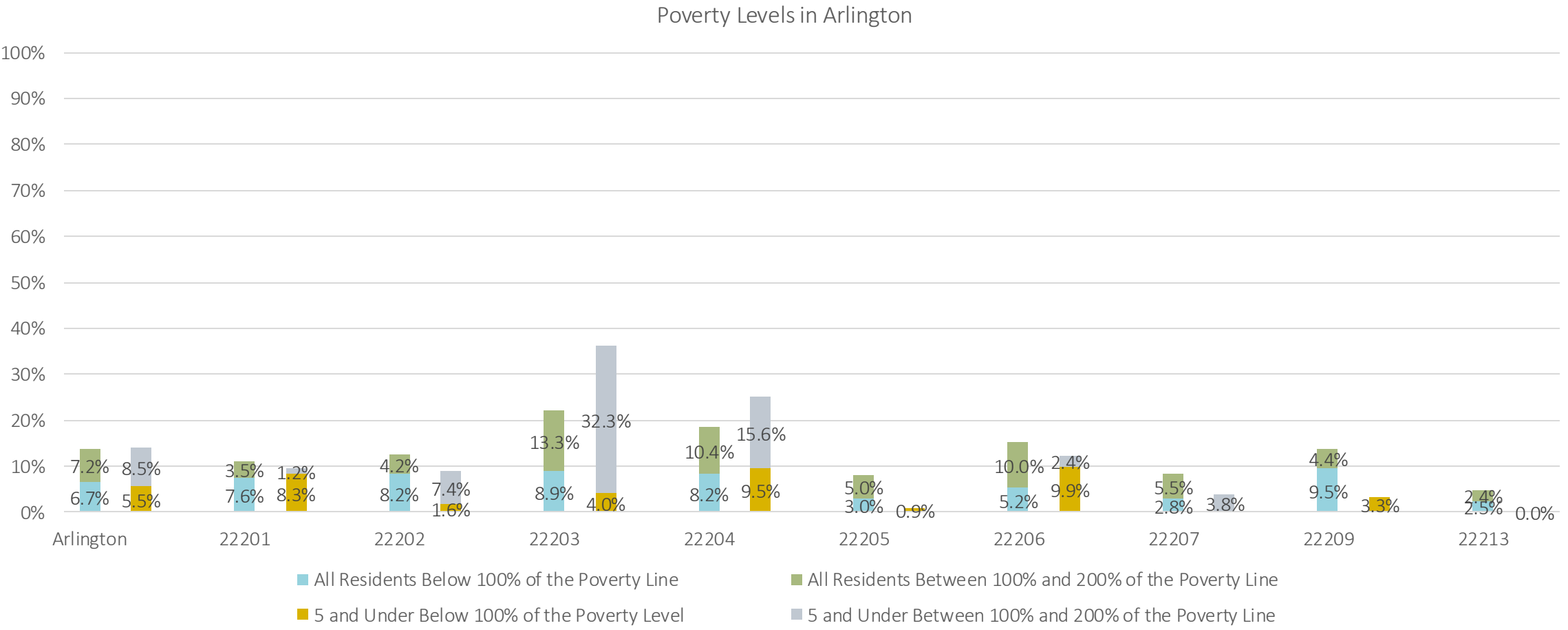
Of the 2,083 Arlington children  
aged 0-5 living below 200% FPL,  
52% live in ZIP Code 22204.

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Overall social vulnerability is  
highest in South Arlington (ZIP  
Codes 22204, 22203, and 22206).

## Overview of Risk Factor Findings

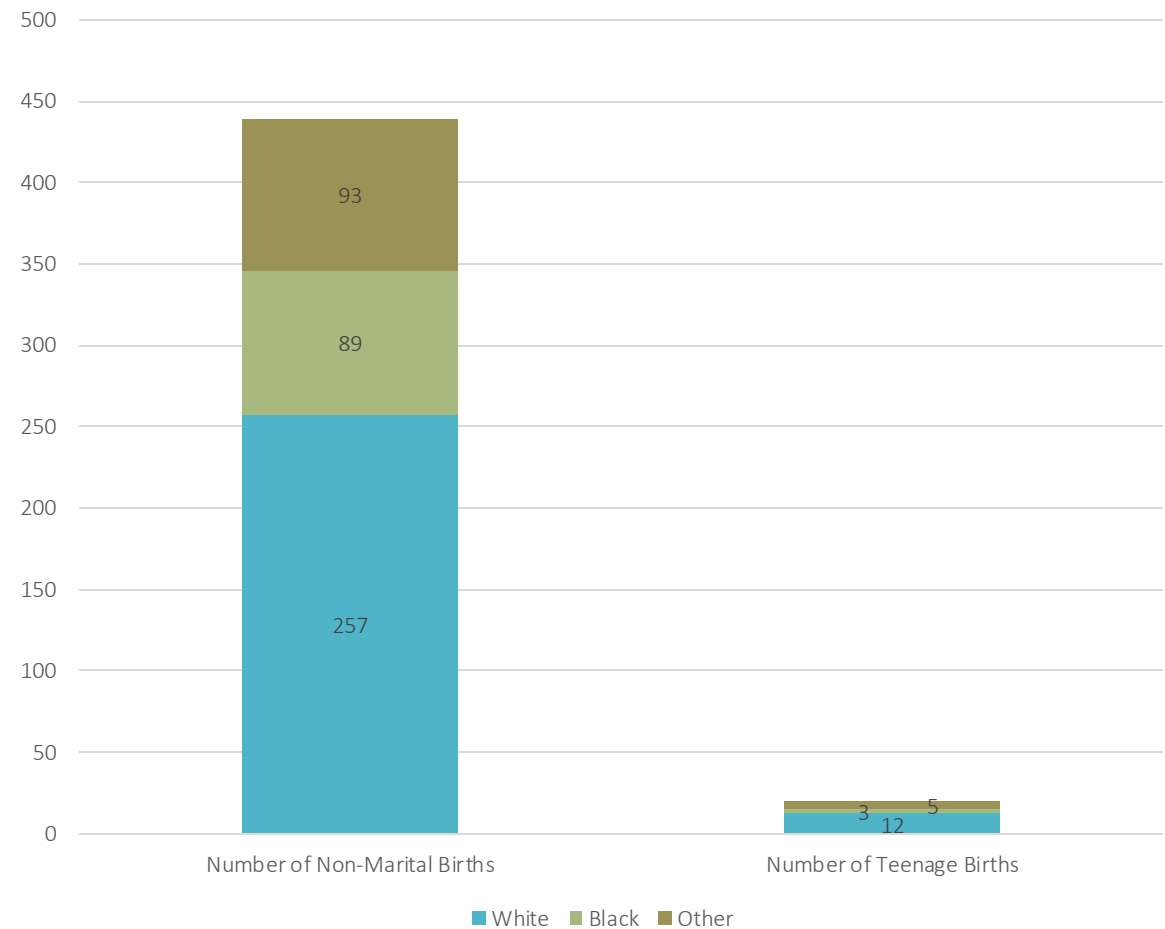
# Poverty in Arlington



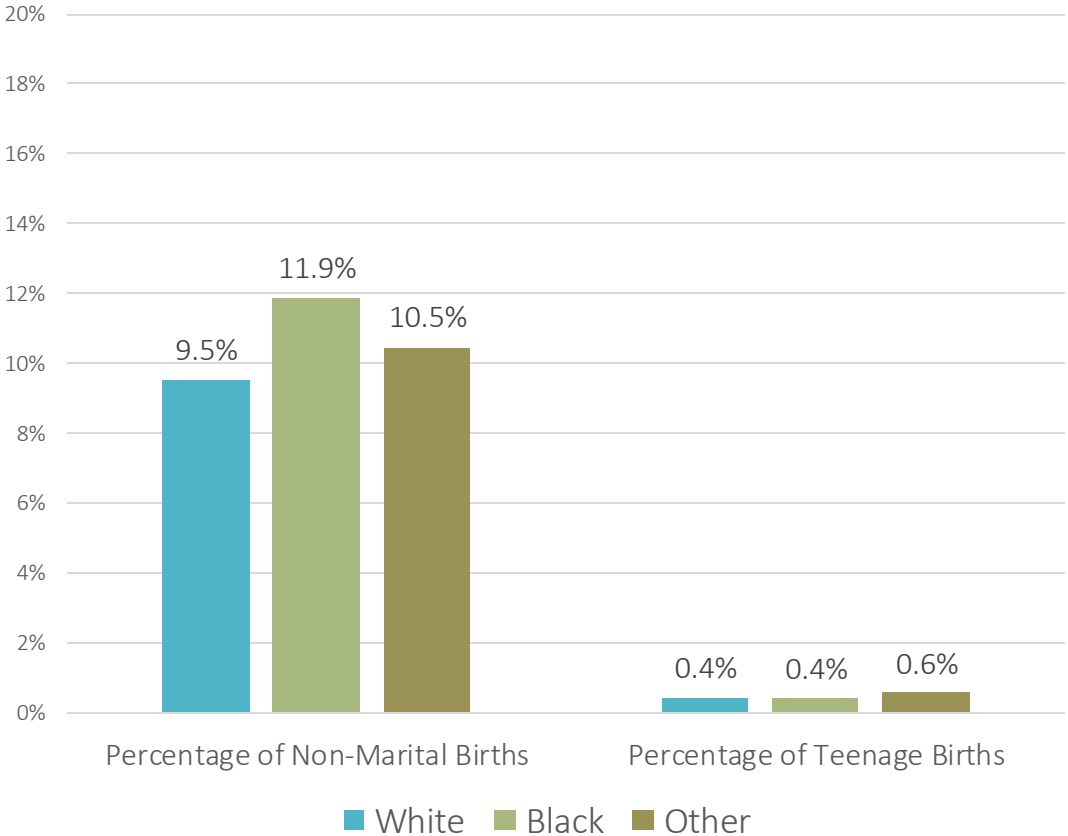
Sources: [2022](#) ACS, Table C17002  
[2022](#) ACS, Table B17024

# Non-Marital and Teenage Births

Total Non-Marital and Teenage Births

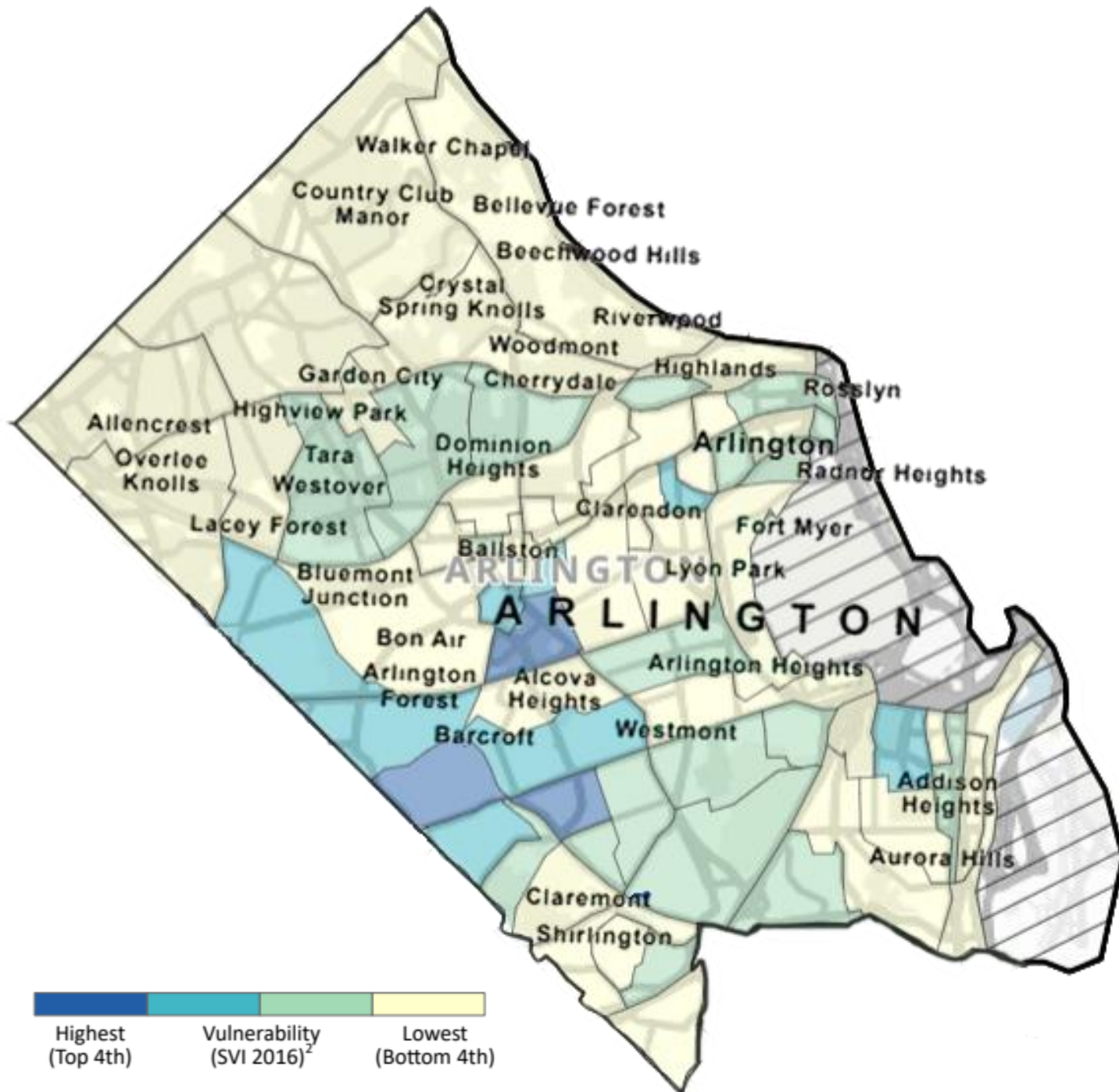


Non-Marital and Teenage Births as a Percentage of All Births



Source: Virginia Department of Health, [2020](#)

# Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

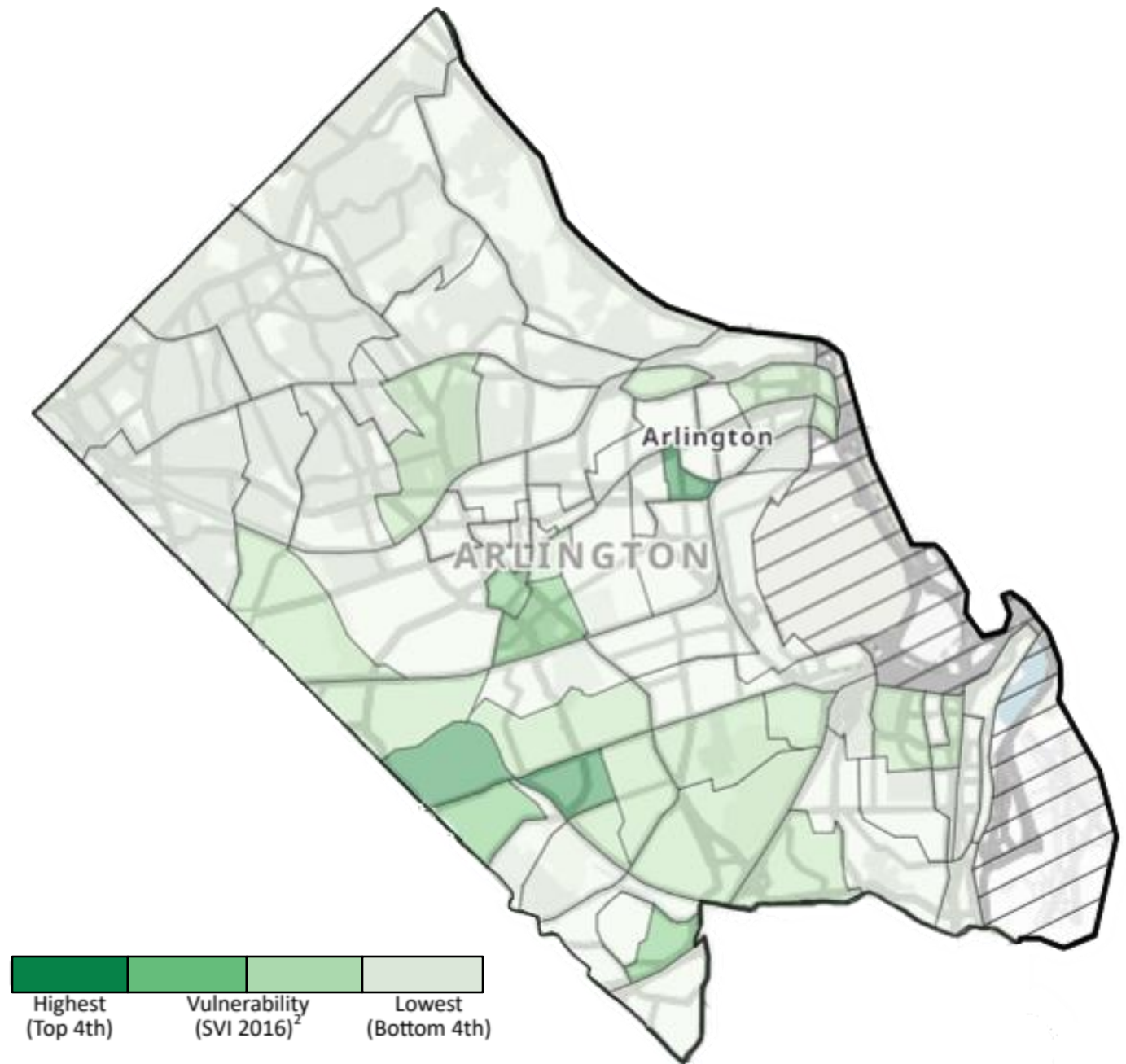


- Social vulnerability refers to the resilience of communities when confronted by external stresses on human health
- The index was created by the Center for Disease Control
- SVI is calculated using factors across four themes: Socioeconomics, Household Composition & Disability, Language & Racial Identity, and Housing & Transportation

Source: Center for Disease Control, [2020](#)

# Socioeconomic

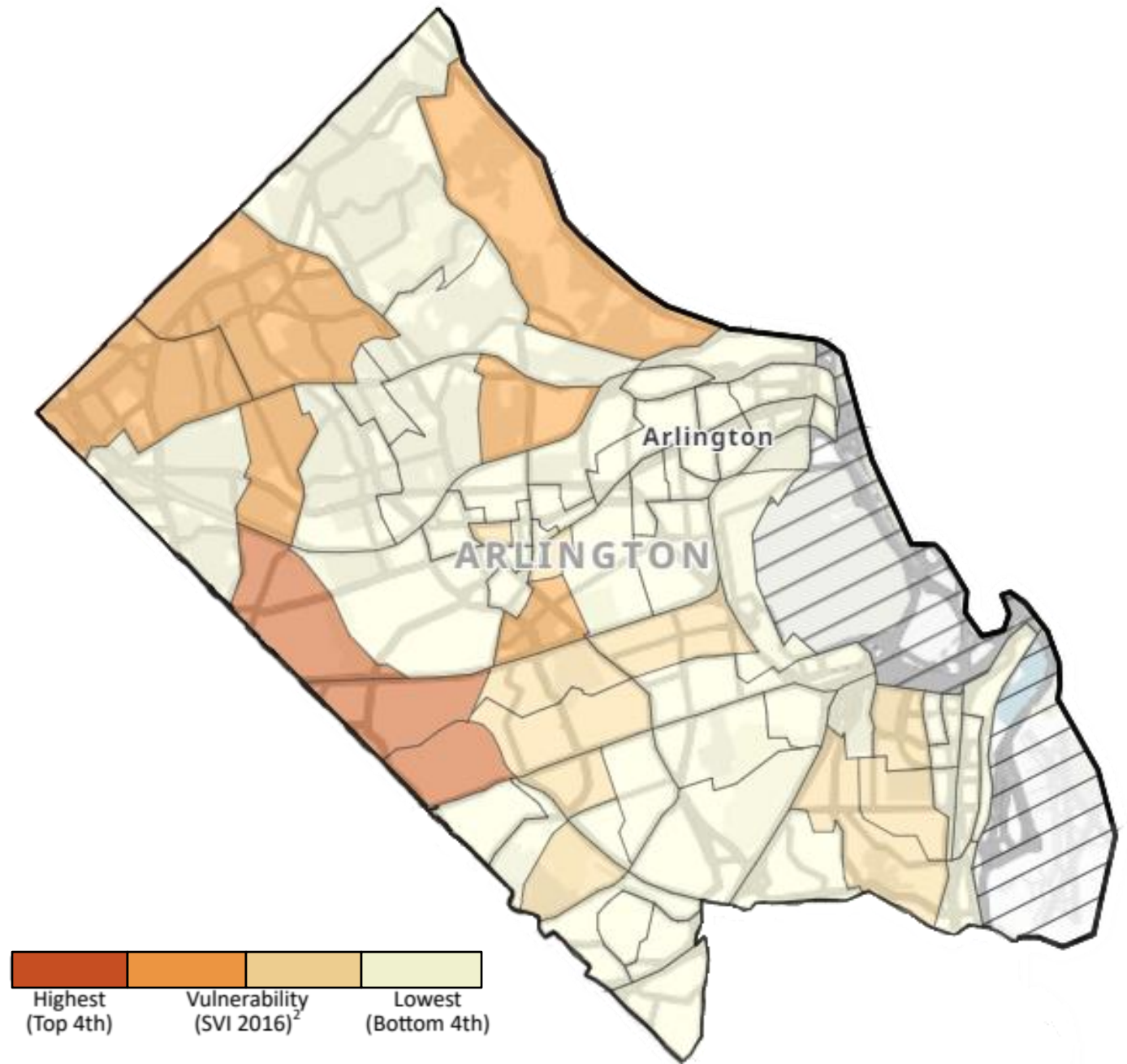
- This measure takes into account the following data points:
  - Unemployment rate
  - Number of residents below poverty
  - Median household income
  - Number of residents over 18 without a high school diploma





# Household Composition & Disabilities

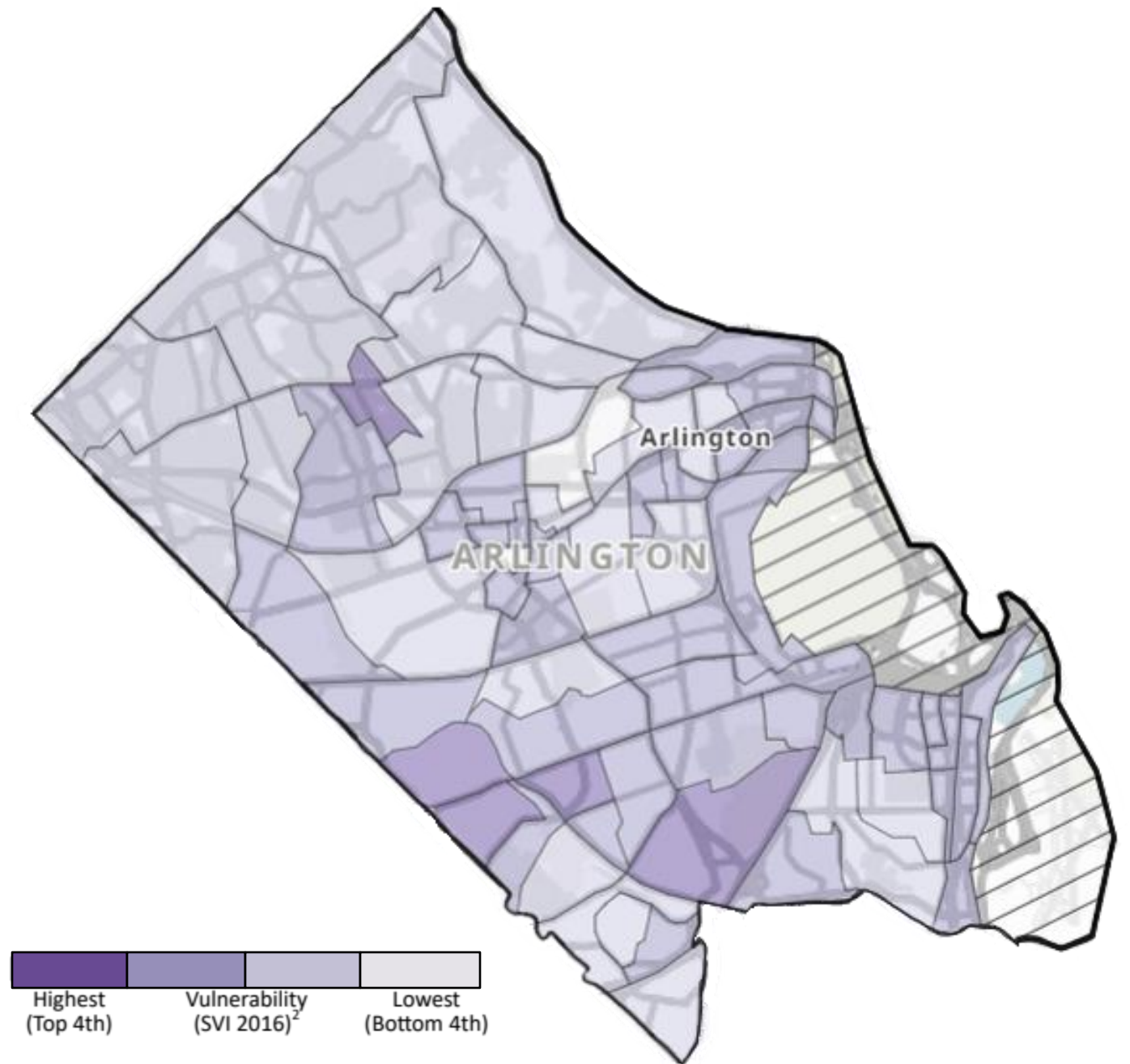
- This measure takes into account the following data points:
  - Number of residents aged 65 or older
  - Number of residents aged 17 or younger
  - Number of residents with a disability
  - Single-parent households





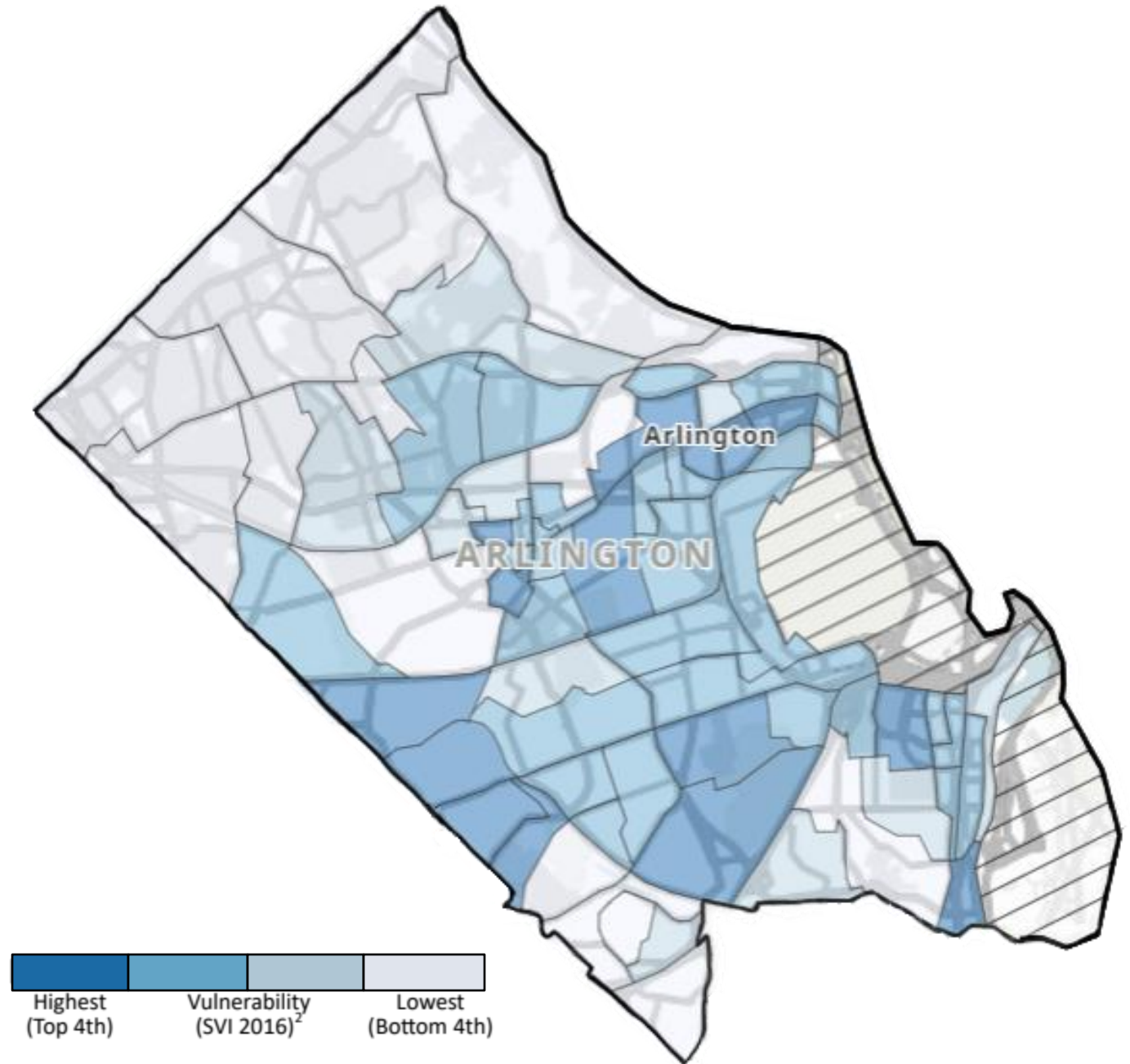
# Language, Race & Ethnicity

- This measure takes into account the following data points:
  - Ability to speak English “well”
  - Racial & ethnic identities



# Housing & Transportation

- This measure takes into account the following data points:
  - Number of multi-unit structures
  - Number of mobile homes
  - Crowding
  - Number of residents without a personal vehicle
  - Group quarters



# School Readiness

How Prepared are Arlington's Young Children to Succeed in School?

- Preschool experience
- Kindergarten readiness
- School achievement



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Approximately 90% of Arlington students enter kindergarten with pre-K experience. These numbers dipped in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic but have been steadily returning to baseline.

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Rates of pre-K enrollment were approximately 10 percentage points lower for students with limited English proficiency, but 7 percentage points higher for students with disabilities and 2 percentage points higher for students with disadvantaged economic status.

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Arlington students without pre-K experience score lower than their peers on literacy, mathematics, and self-regulation assessments.

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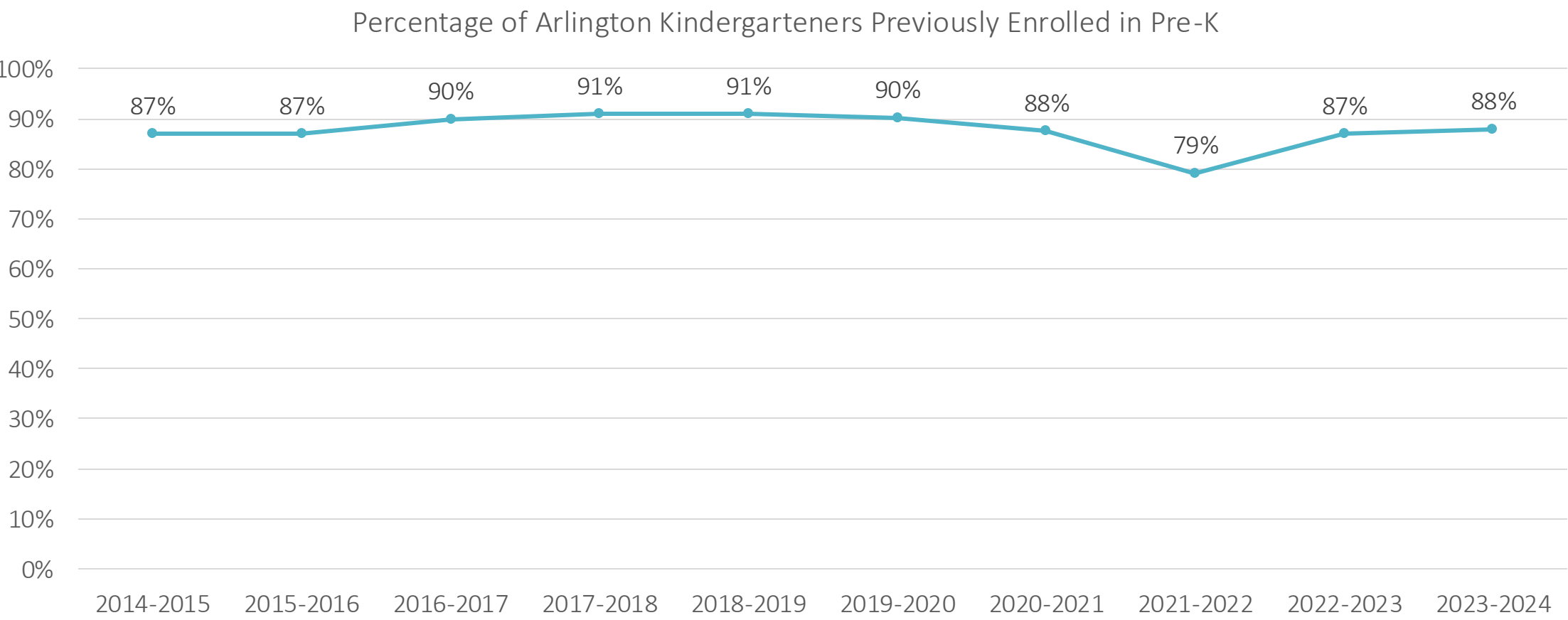
3<sup>rd</sup> grade SOL Proficiency varies significantly across demographics, with lower proficiency rates for students who are Black, Hispanic, English Language Learners, Economically Disadvantaged, and Students with Disabilities.

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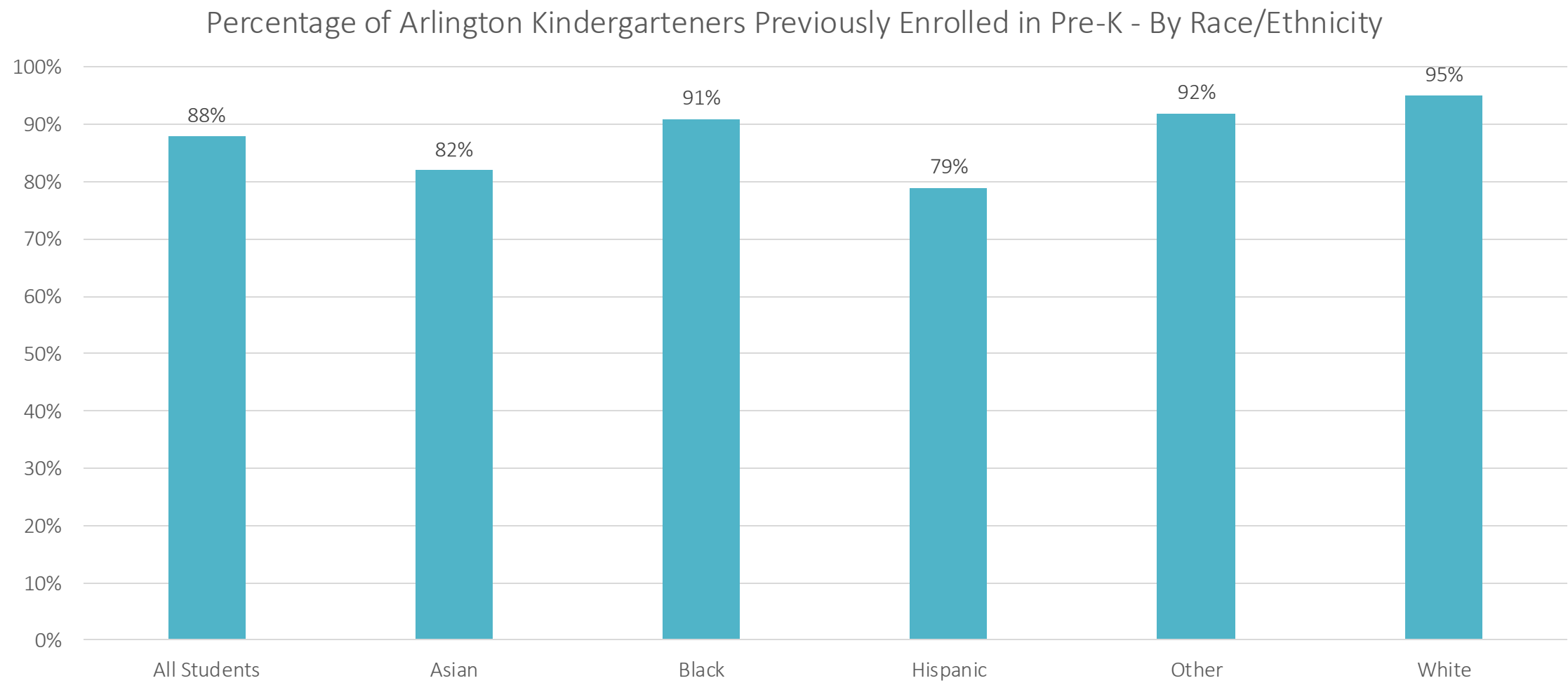
The percentage of K-3 students held back has remained below 1%.

## Overview of School Readiness

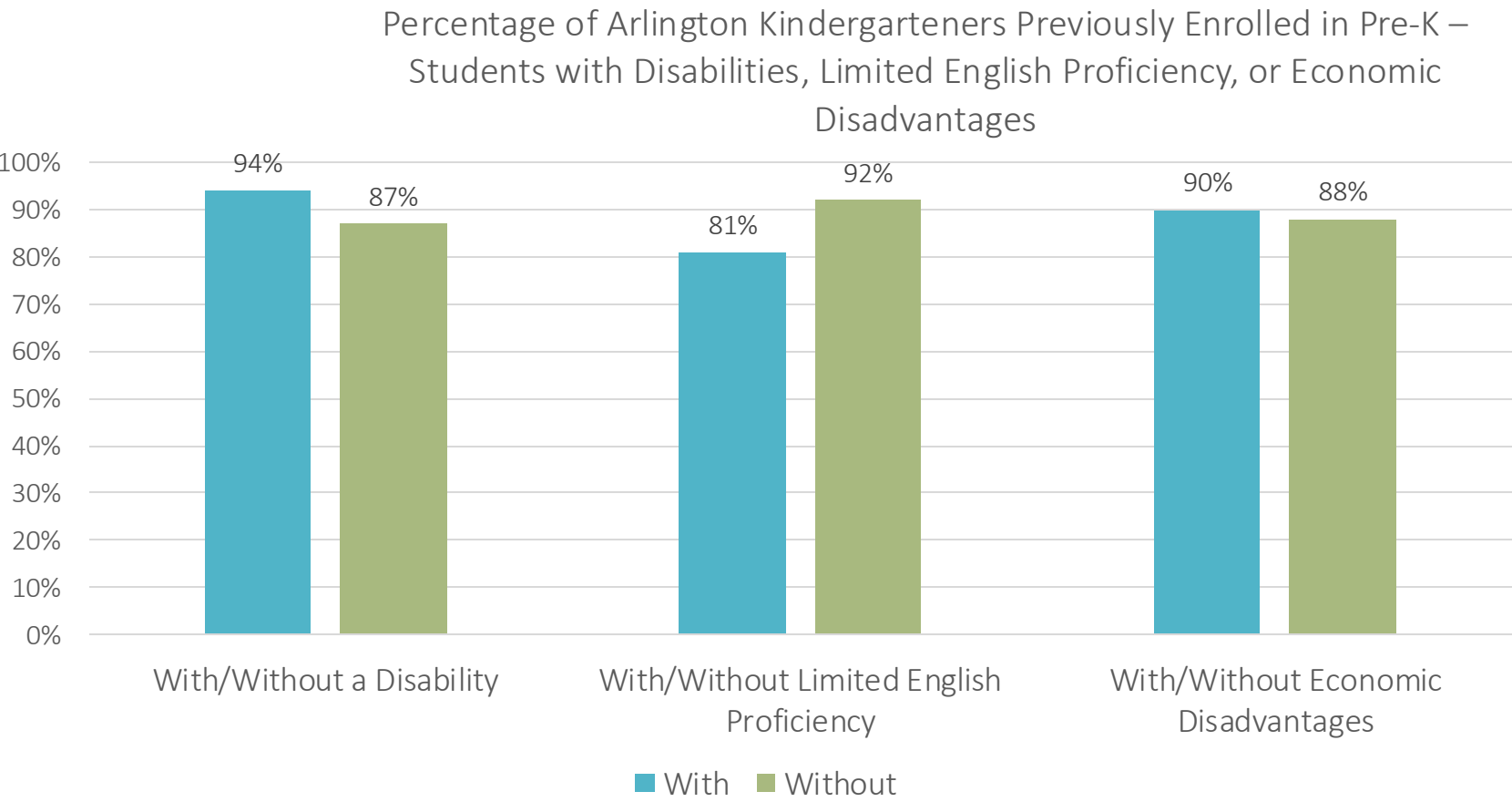
# Preschool Enrollment



# Preschool Enrollment



# Preschool Enrollment



*A student is economically disadvantaged if the student meets any of the following criteria:*

- is eligible for Free/Reduced Meals*
- receives TANF*
- is eligible for Medicaid*
- experiences homelessness at some time during the school year*



# Elementary Proficiency Examinations

## PALS-K

- *Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening Before Kindergarten*
- Assesses knowledge of literacy fundamentals before children enter school.

## VKRP

- *Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program*
- Assesses learning across subject areas (mathematics) as well as skills (self-regulation and social skills)

## DIBELS

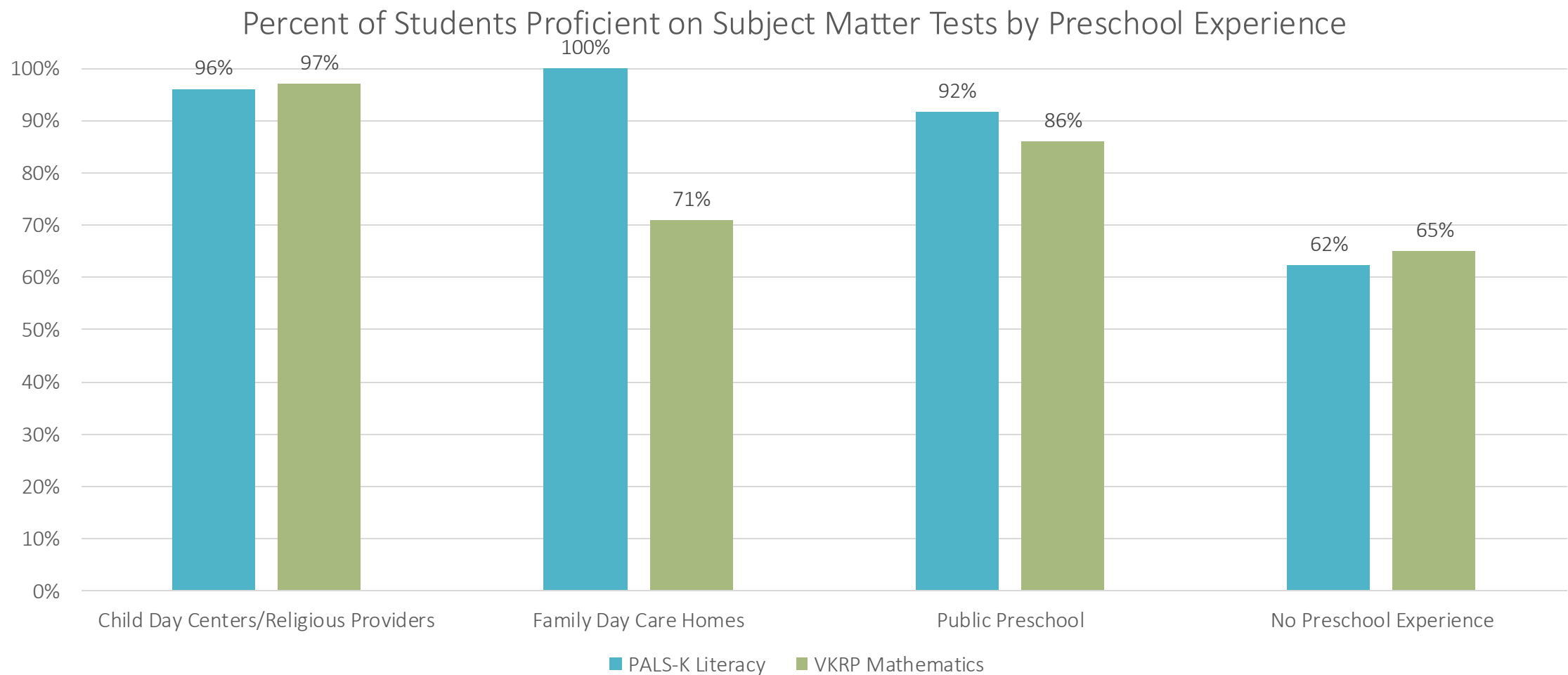
- *Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills*
- A comprehensive set of procedures and measures designed to assess the acquisition of early literacy skills

## SOL

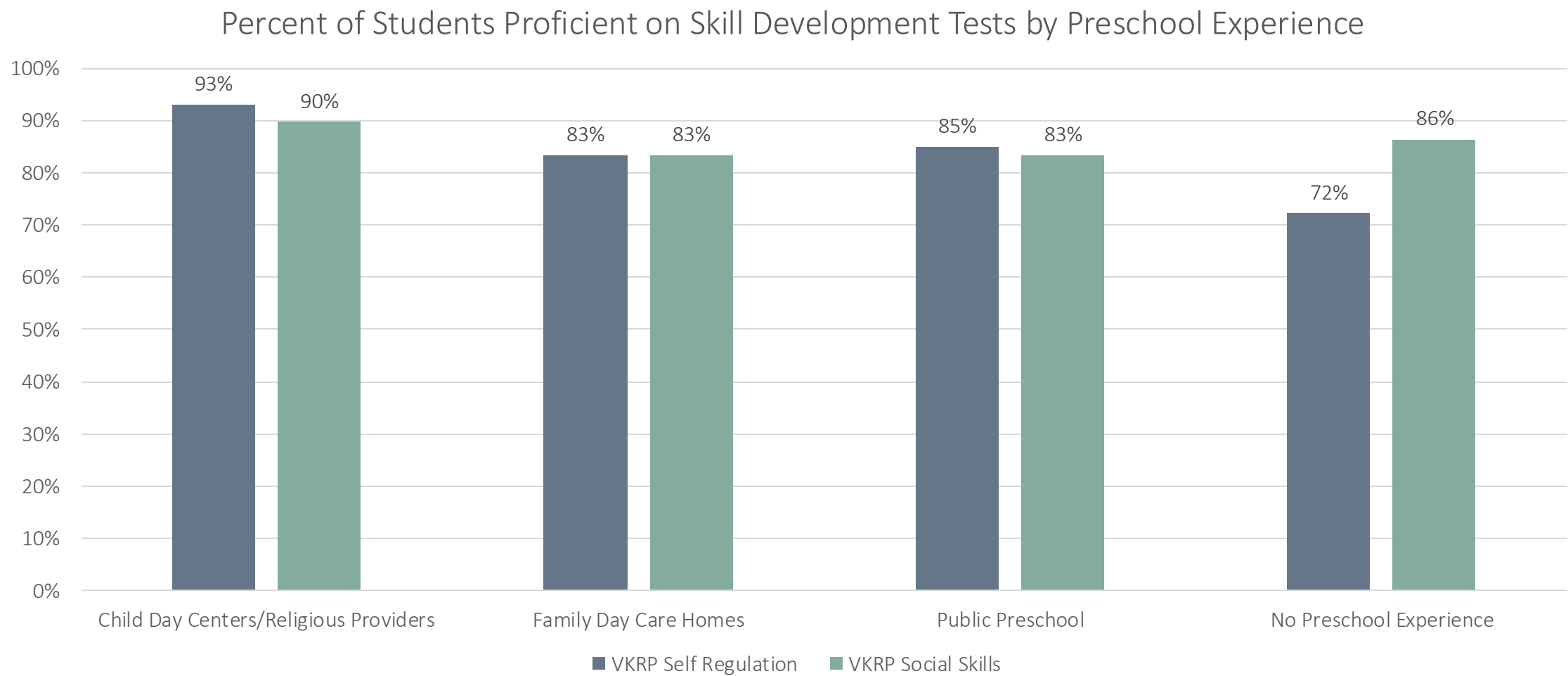
- *Standards of Learning*
- Academic achievement test given at the third grade level. It is part of a standardized testing program determining learning and achievement in core subjects.



# Kindergarten Proficiency in Arlington

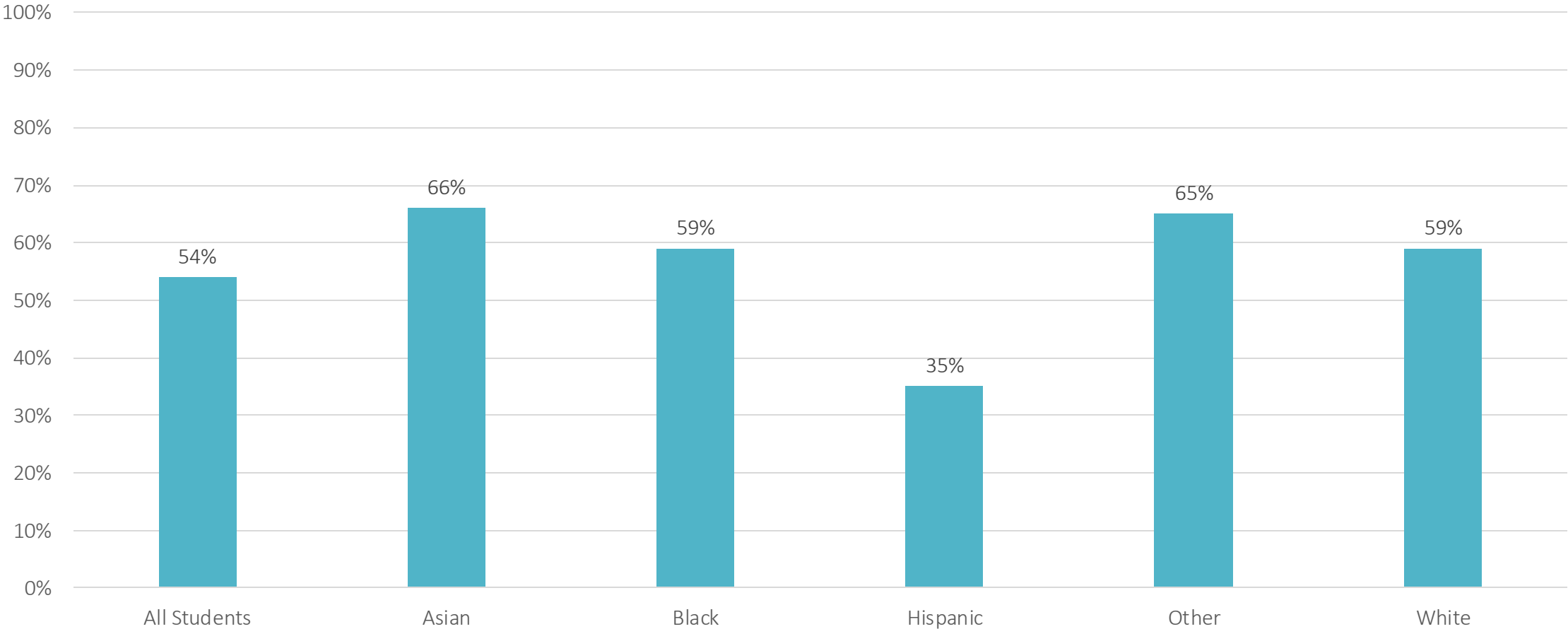


# Kindergarten Proficiency in Arlington



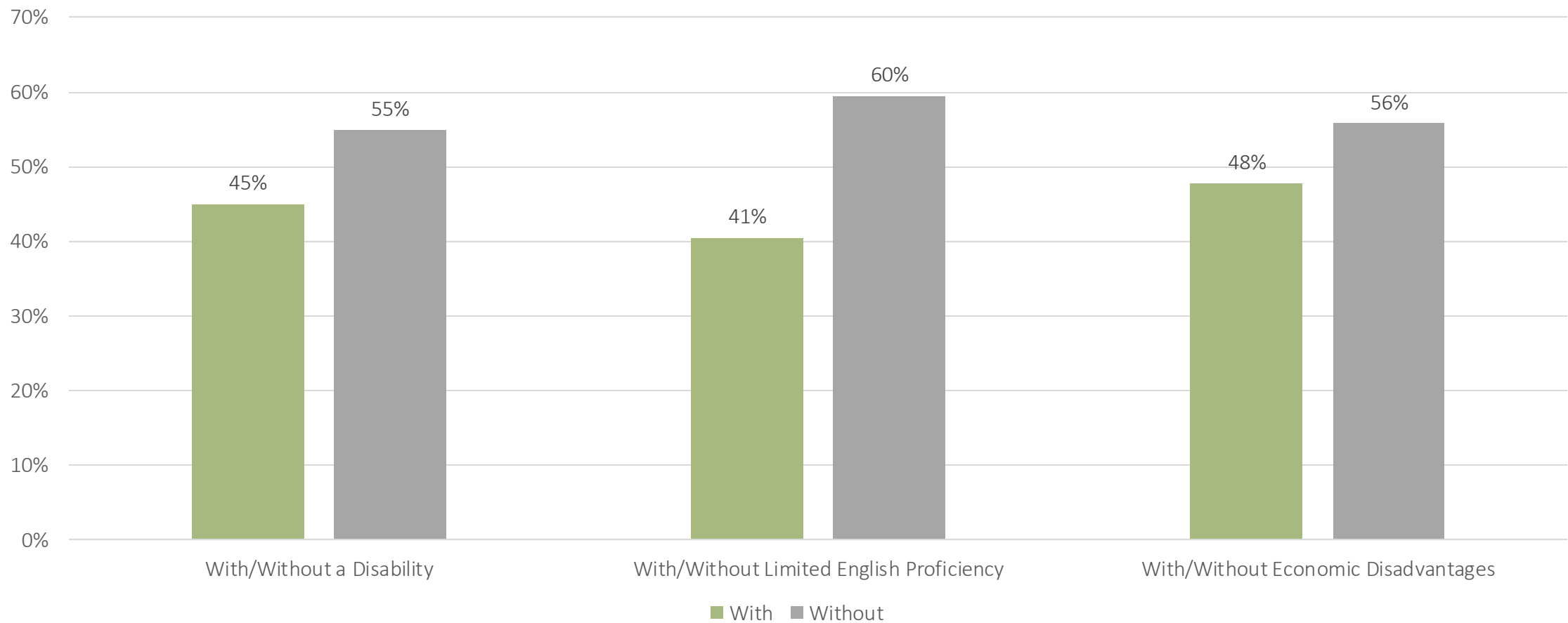
# Kindergarten Proficiency in Arlington

Students Scoring On/Above Goals on DIBELS



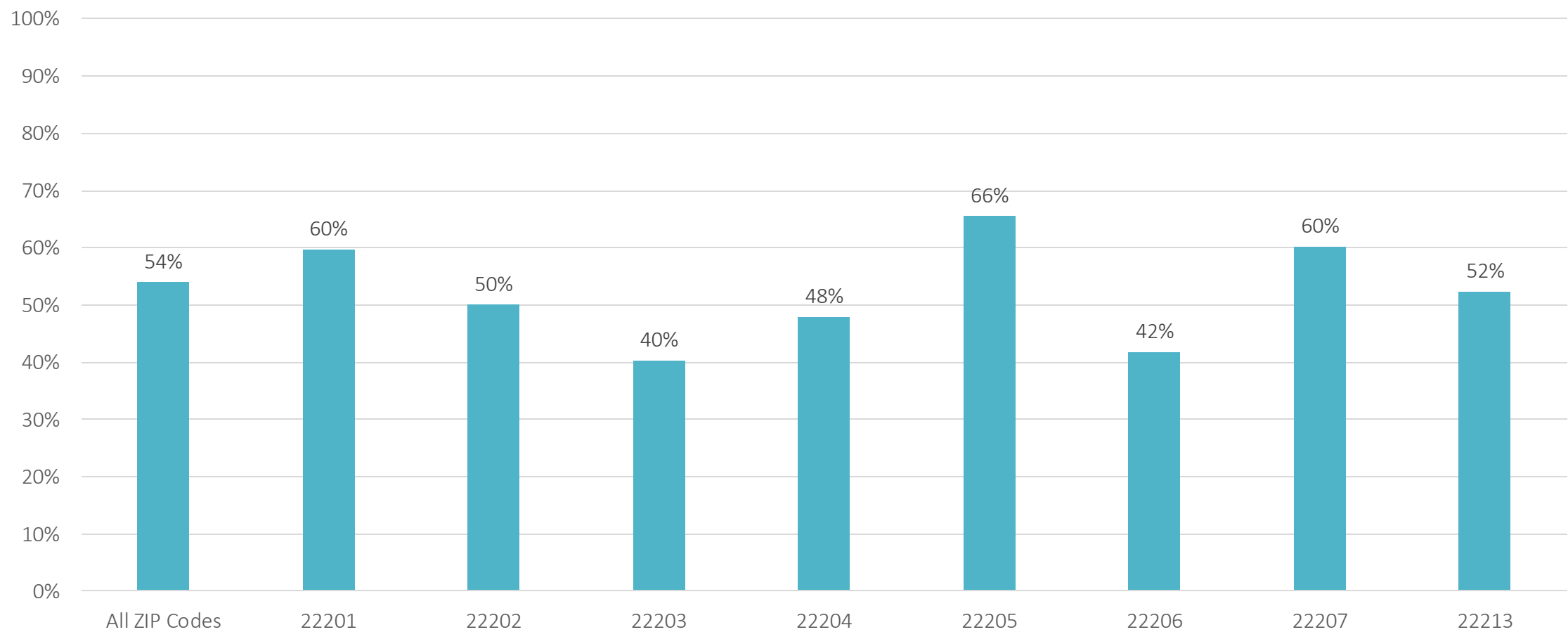
# Kindergarten Proficiency in Arlington

Students Scoring On/Above Goals on DIBELS

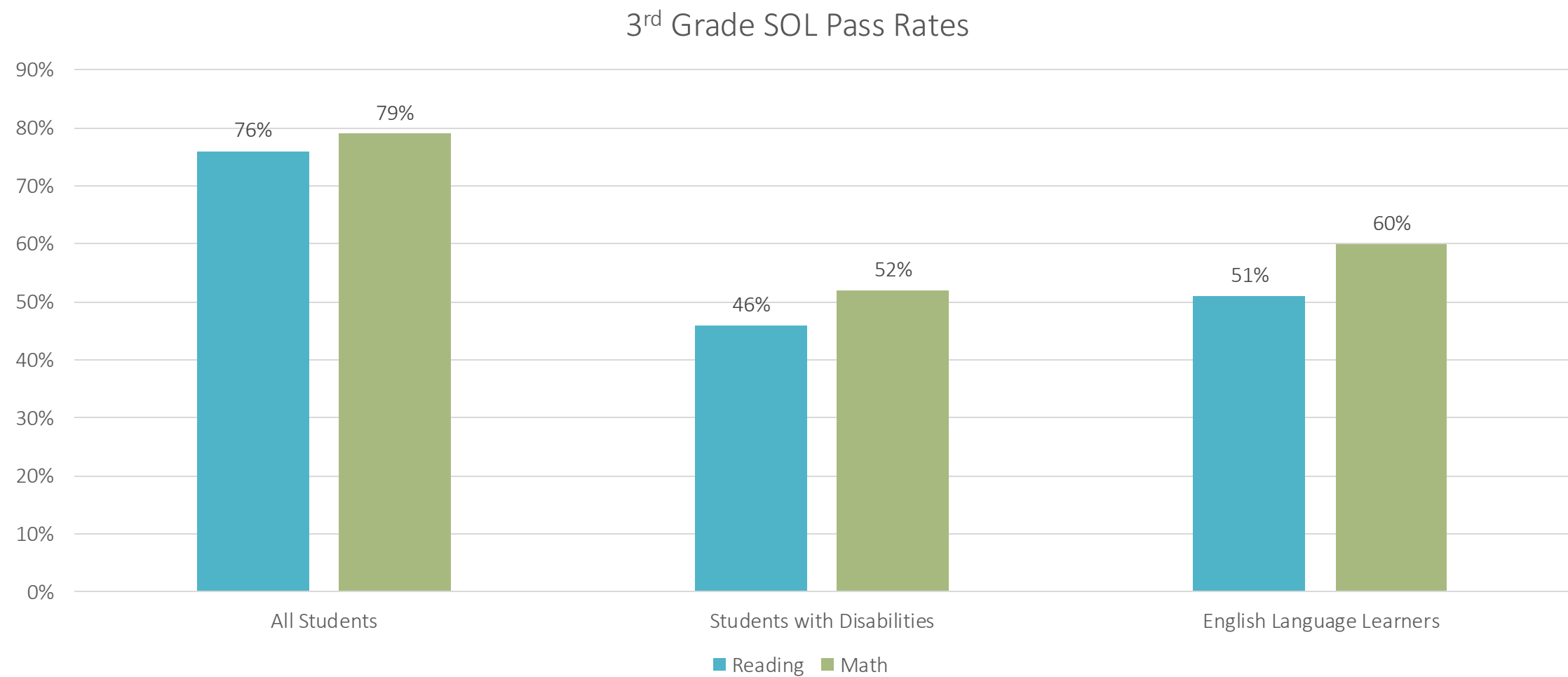


# Kindergarten Proficiency in Arlington

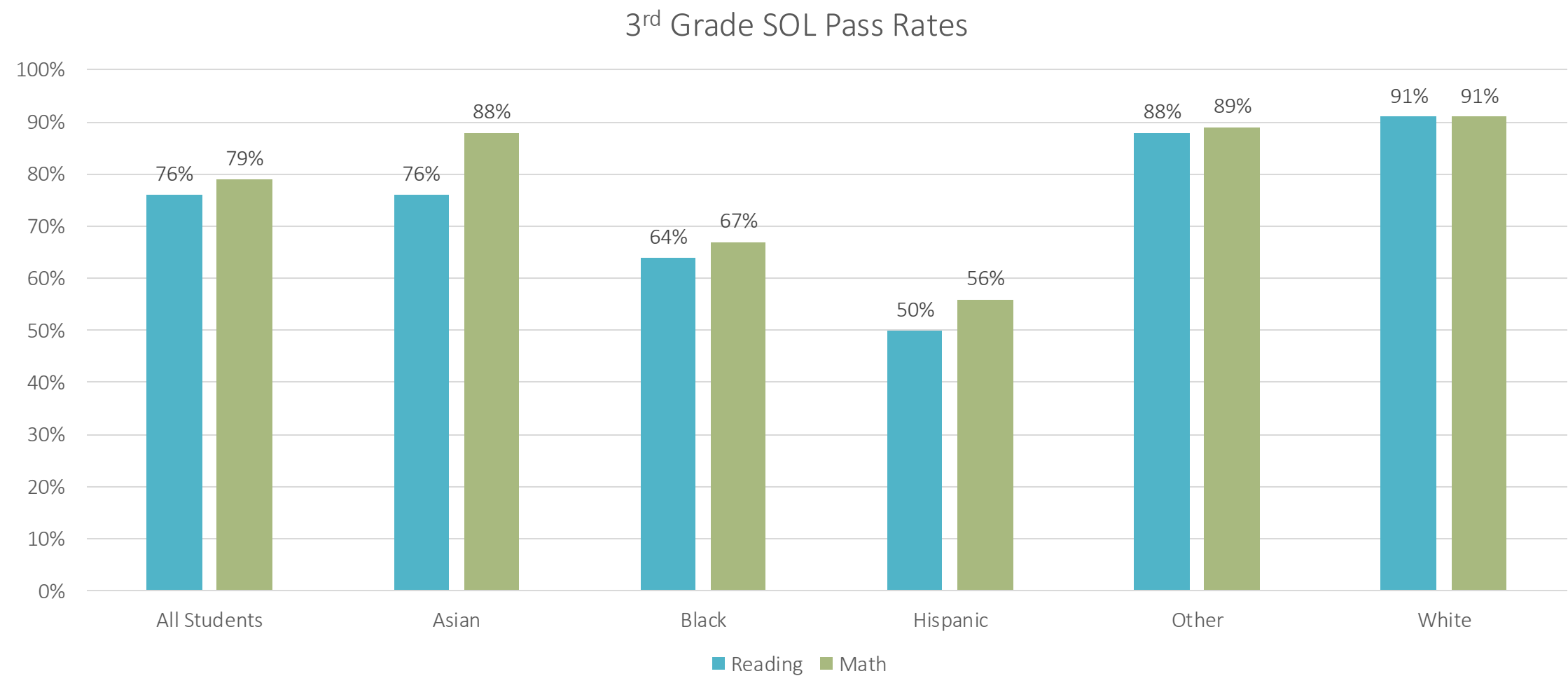
Average Percent of Students Scoring Proficient on DIBELS by School ZIP Code



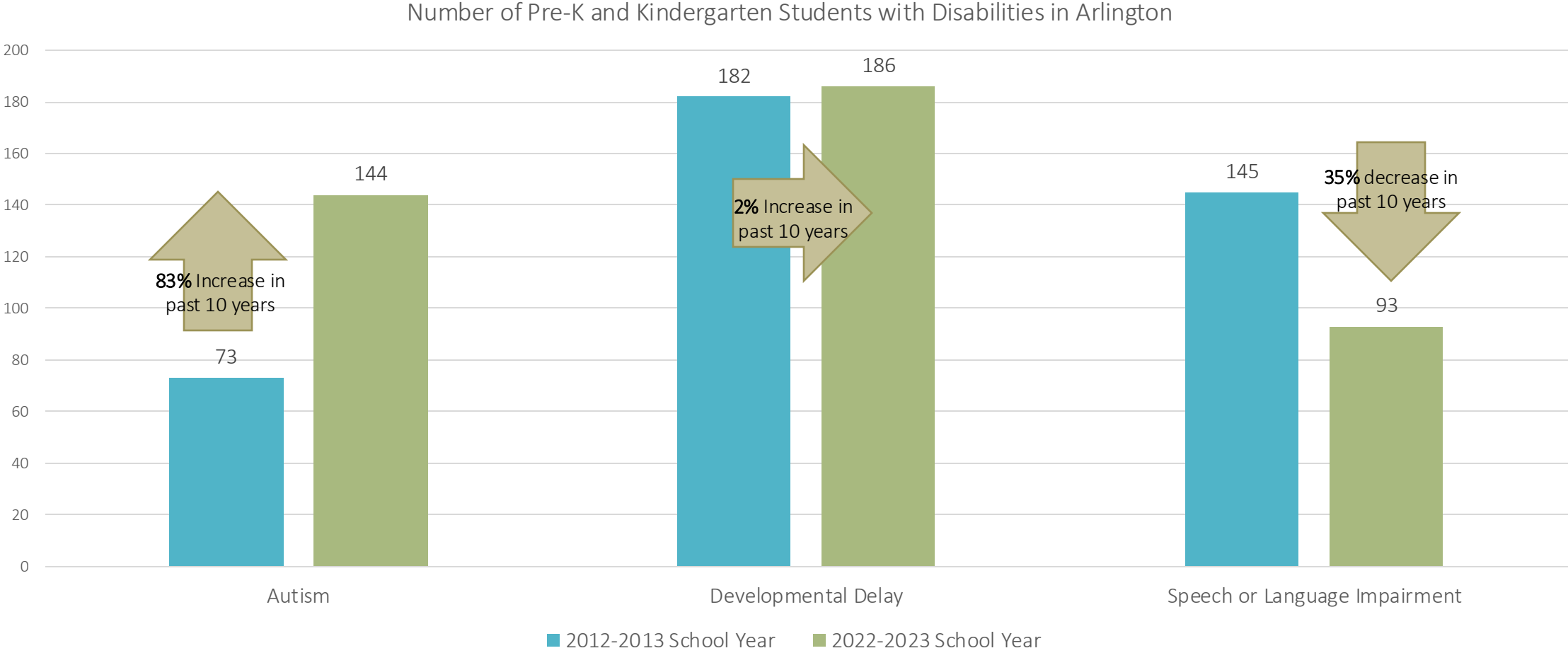
# SOL Proficiency in Arlington



# SOL Proficiency in Arlington

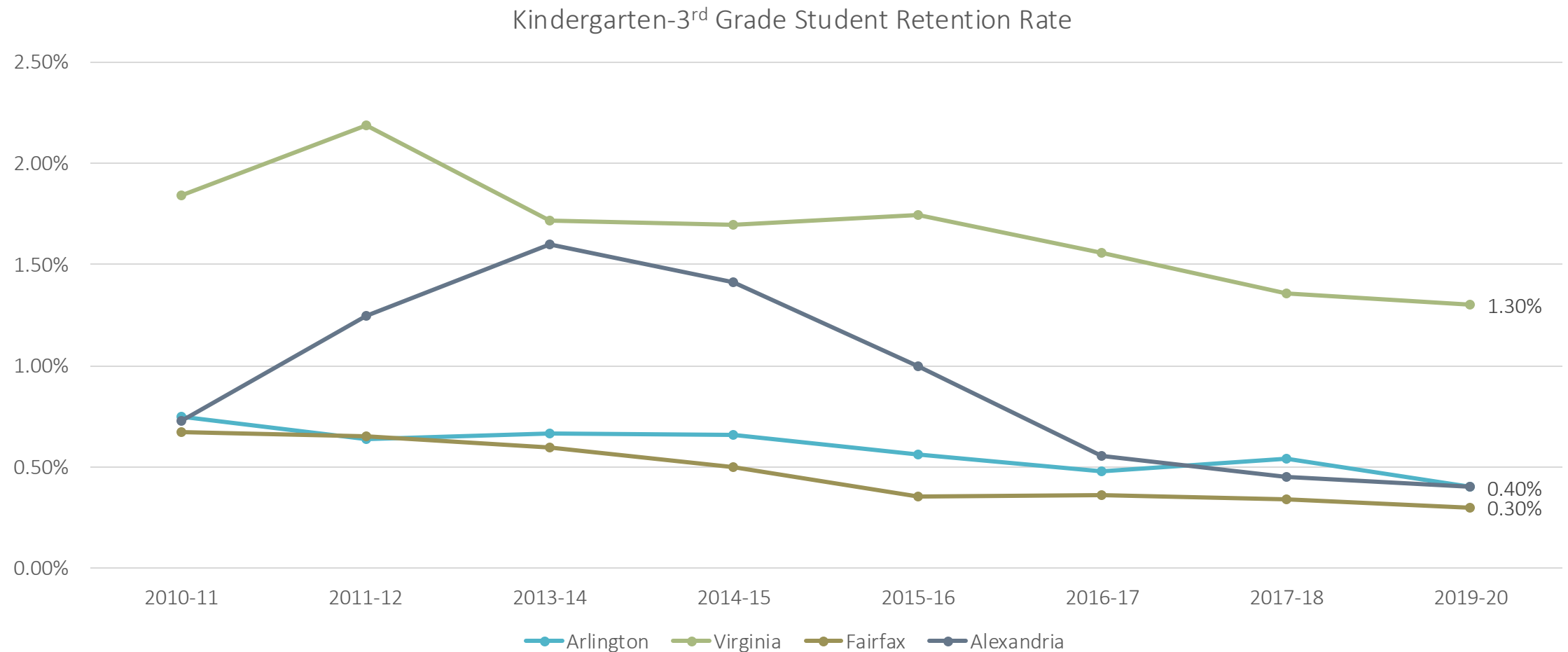


# Students with Disabilities





# Students Held Back Each Year



# Known Resources

What is the Existing Infrastructure for Child Care in Arlington?

- Child Care Capacity
- Play Space Capacity
- Financial Resources



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The known child care capacity in Arlington – 8,884 slots – is sufficient to serve 69% of Arlington’s total children under 5. This is an increase from 55% in 2017.

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Child Day Centers make up 64% of child care capacity. Religious Programs are the next largest type at 17% of capacity.

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Approximately 47% of Arlington’s Family Day Home capacity is located in ZIP Code 22204.

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Among 446 current child care subsidy recipients, 81% access child care in Arlington County. 79% utilize their subsidy at a Child Day Center.

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Currently, providers that offer slots to children with subsidies make up 21% of total capacity (1,930 slots). However, not all slots may be available or accessible to subsidy recipients.

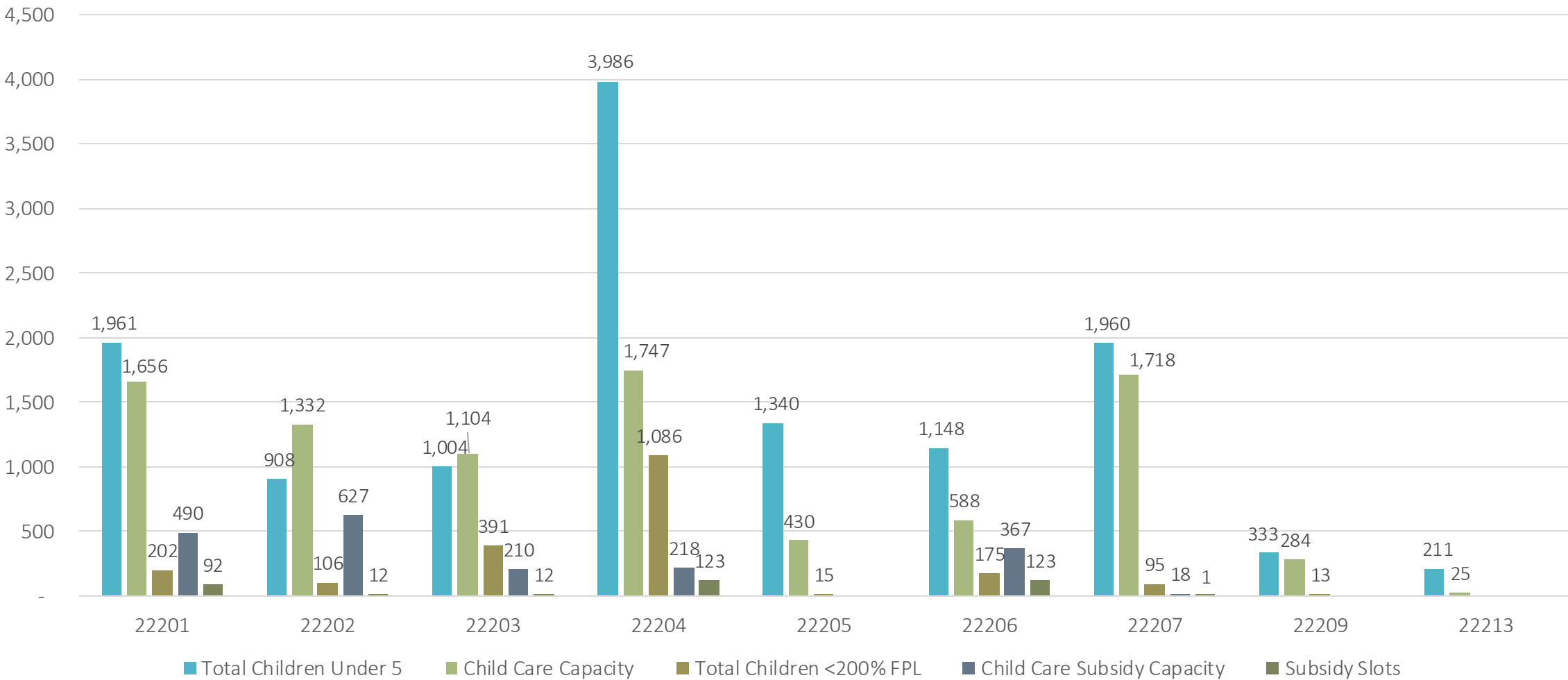
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Only 21% of child care slots offer any care outside of standard hours (7 AM-6 PM Monday-Friday)

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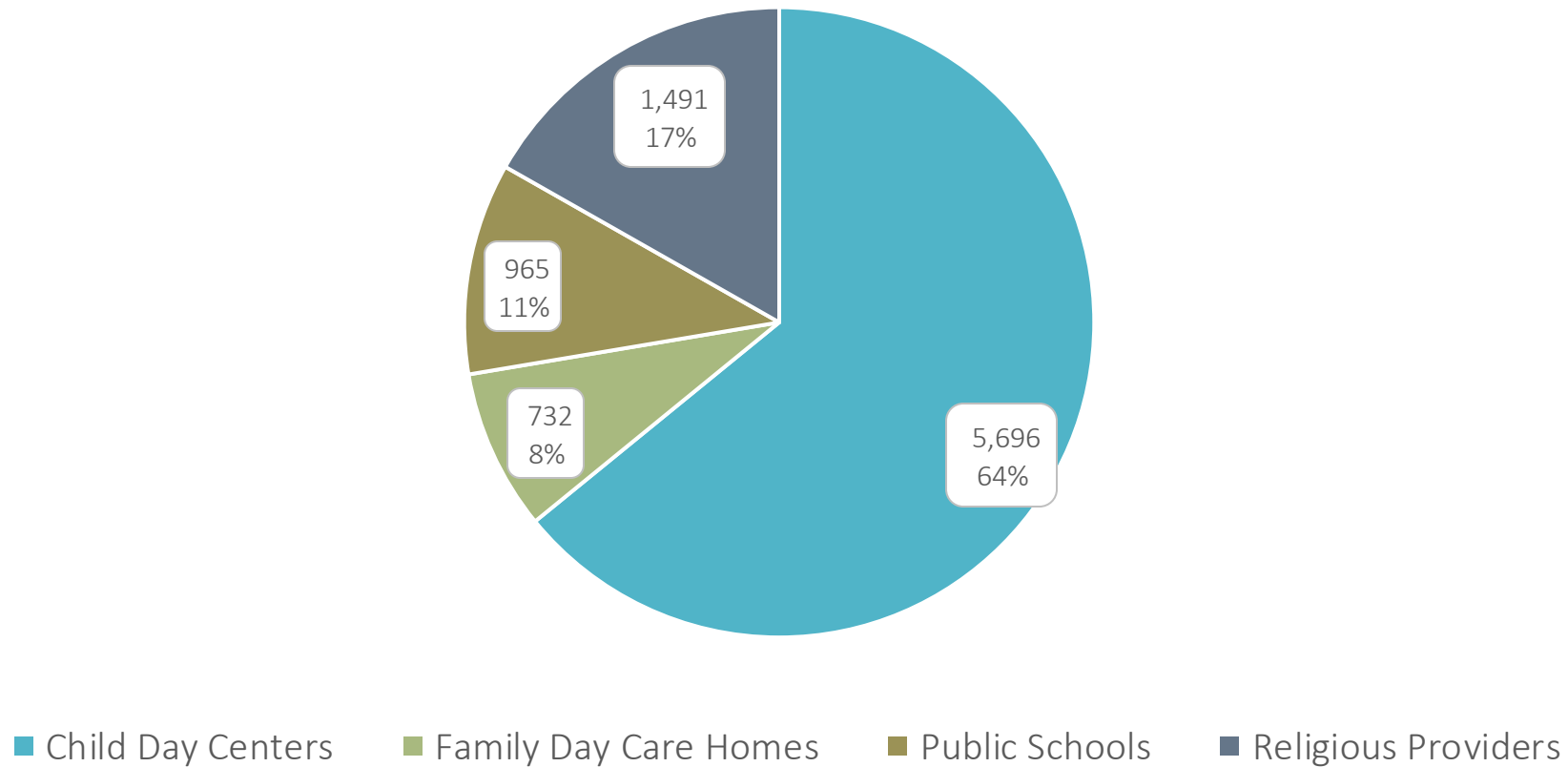
## Overview of Known Resources

# Child Care Capacity



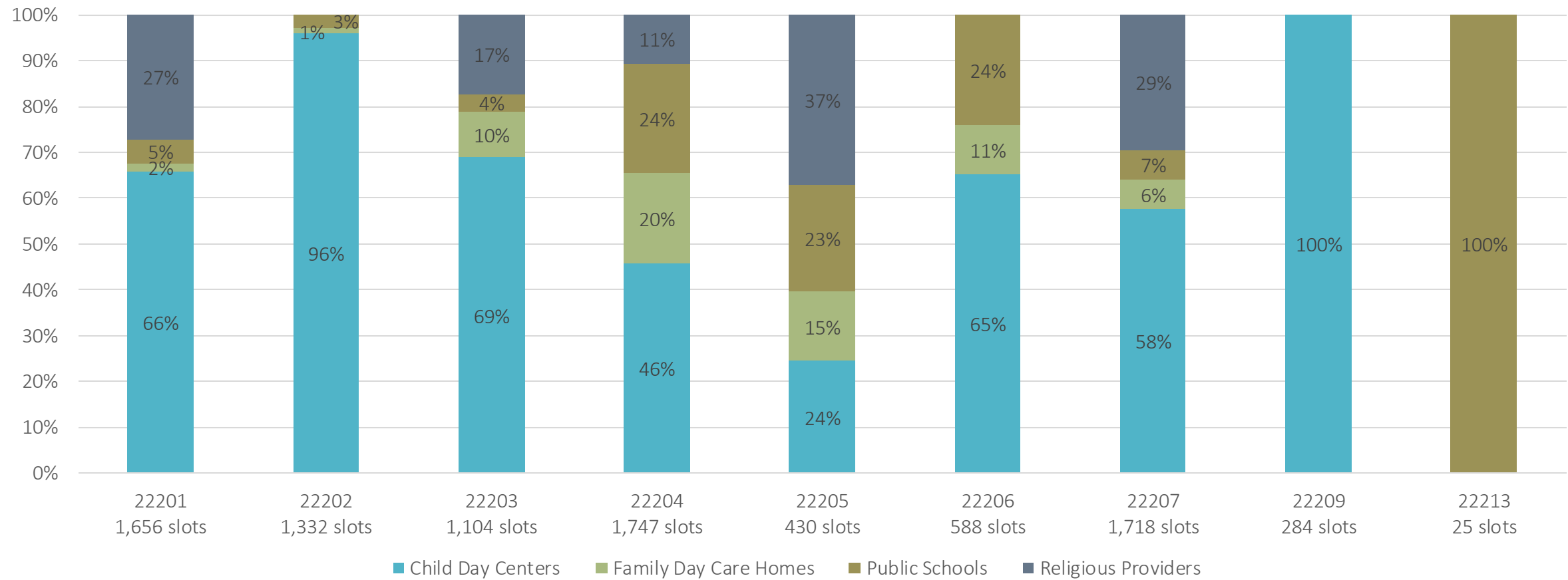
# Child Care Capacity

Capacity by Provider Type



# Child Care Capacity

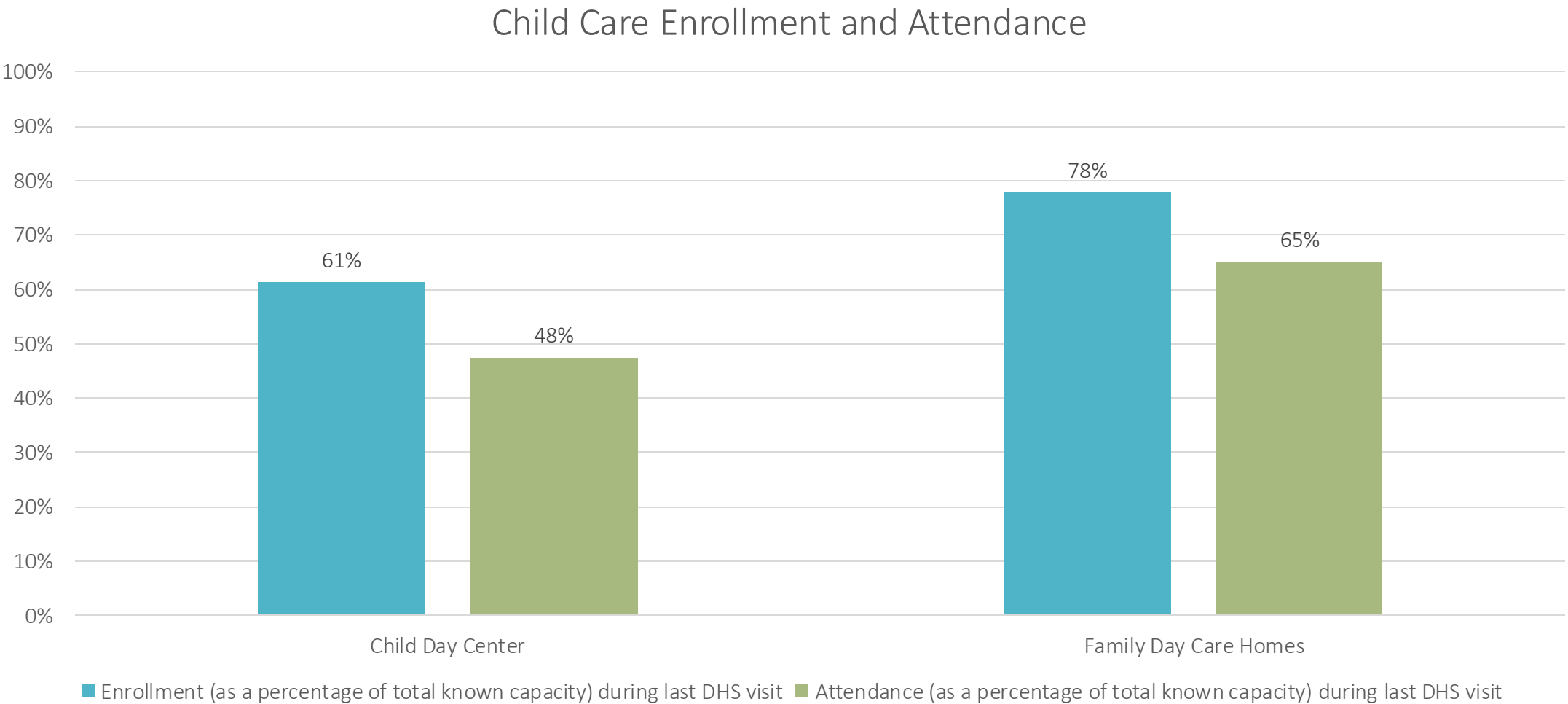
Capacity by Provider Type by Zip Code



# Child Care Utilization Methodology

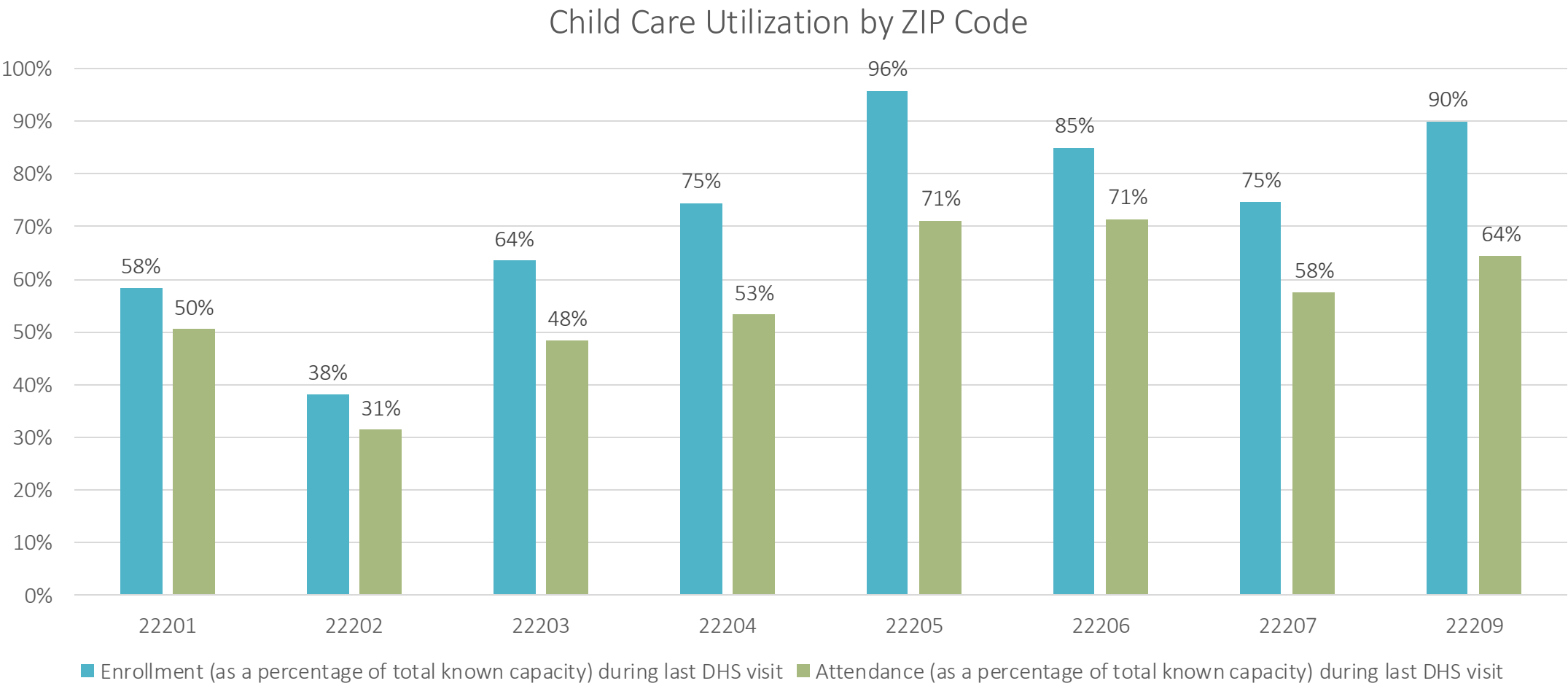
- Not all licensed child care slots are utilized at any given time, due to factors such as:
  - *Provider staffing levels may limit the number of children who can be enrolled.*
  - *Infants and children with higher levels of need may require more support.*
  - *Seasonal factors may affect enrollment.*
- There is no single data source for utilization of child care slots in Arlington.
- The following three slides contain rough utilization estimates for child care providers licensed by the Department of Human Services (DHS). They are based on point-in-time enrollment and attendance data recorded by DHS staff at their bi-annual inspection visits.
- Religious and public schools are exempt from these visits and are therefore not included in the utilization data that follows.
- Some providers may not pursue any form of licensure and are unknown to government entities. These providers are excluded from all counts.

# Child Care Utilization



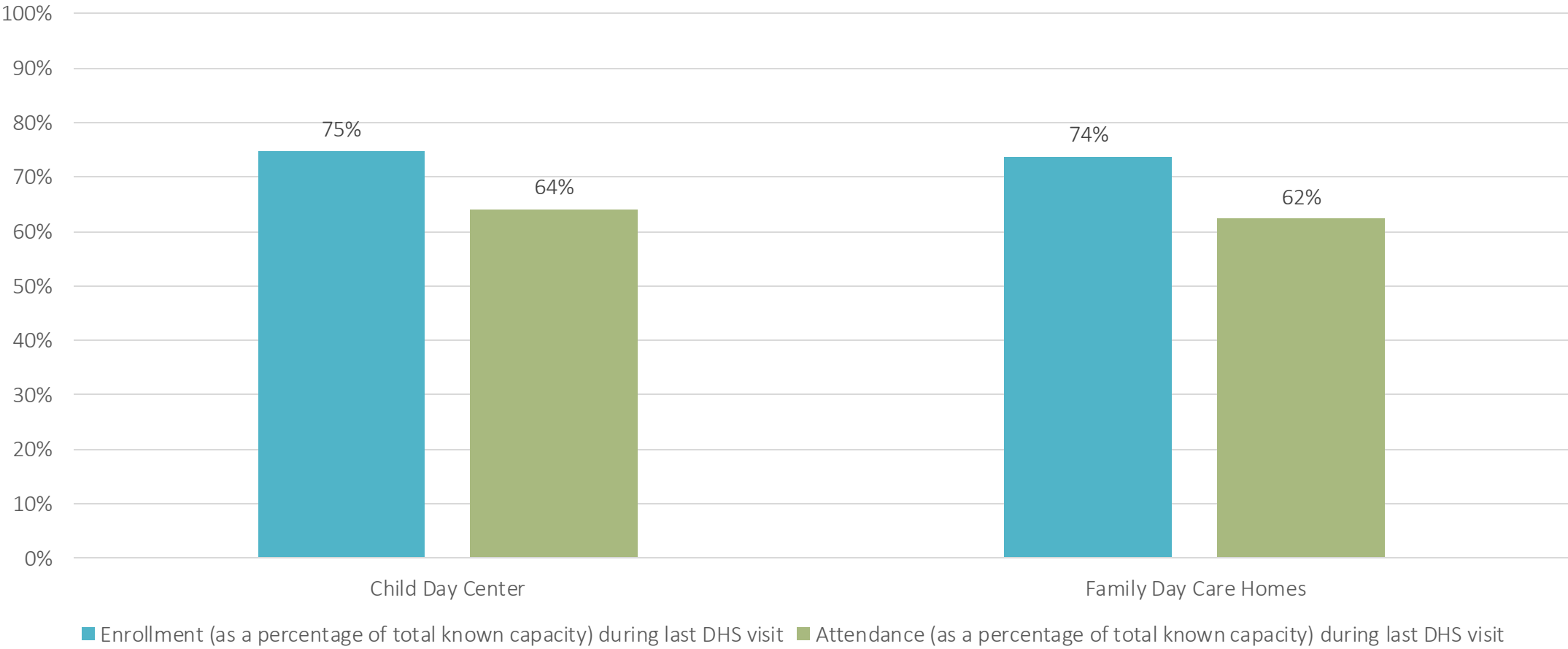


# Child Care Utilization

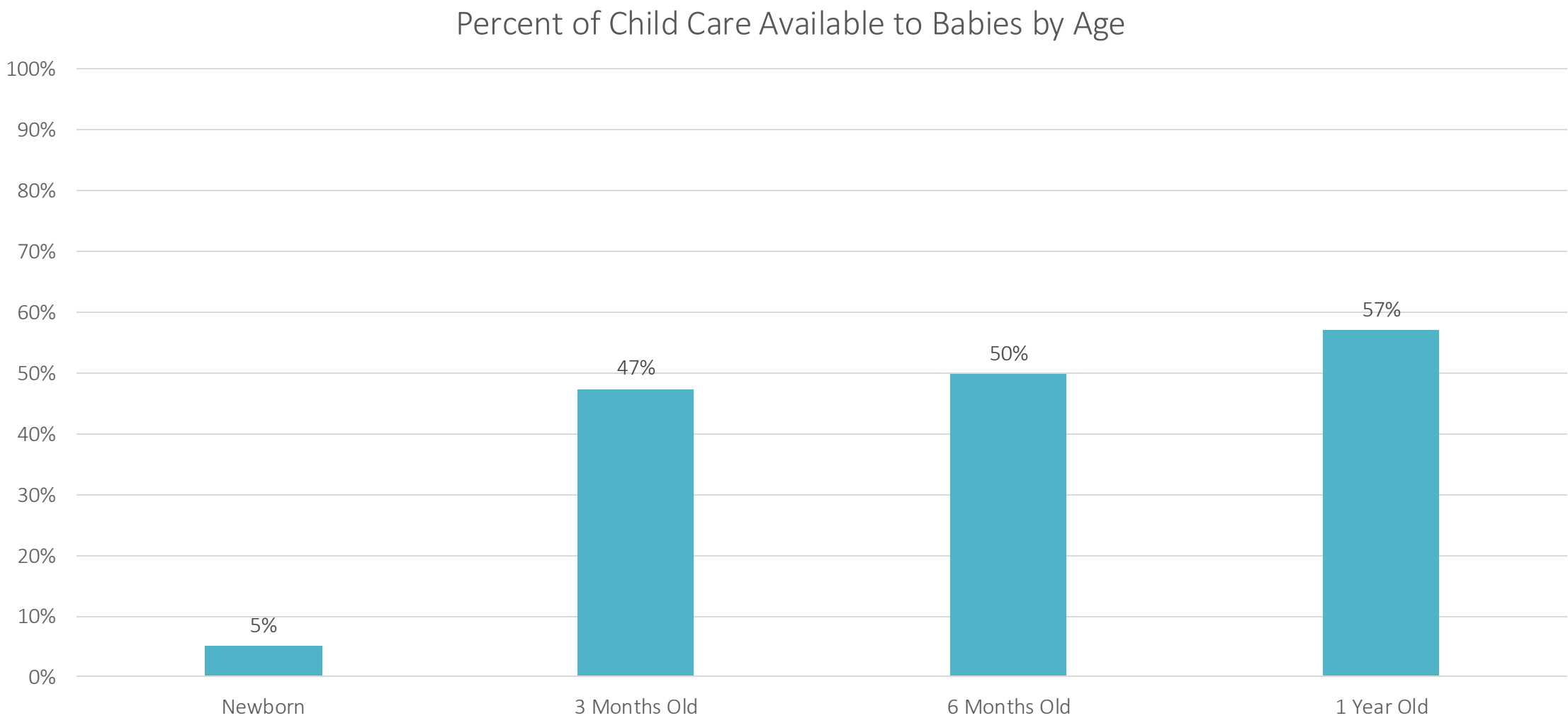


# Child Care Utilization

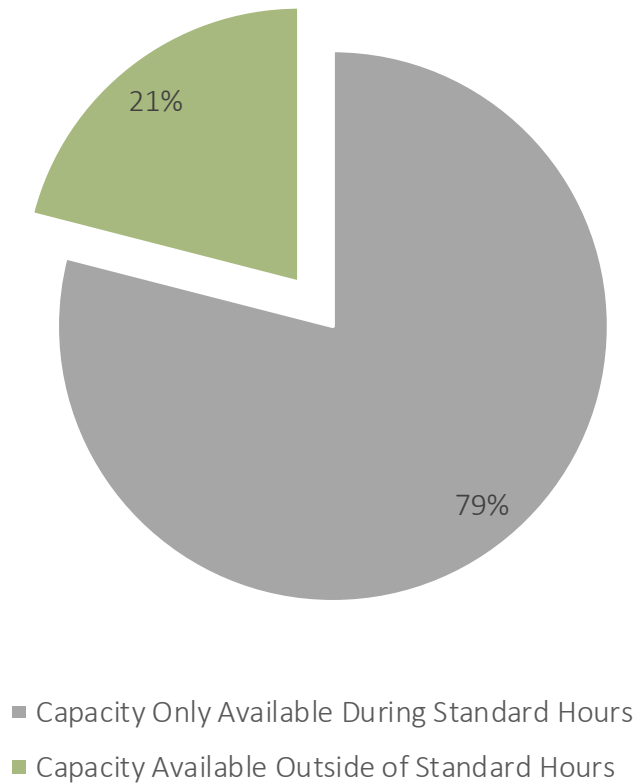
Child Care Enrollment and Attendance for Providers accepting Newborns



# Capacity Available by Age of Child



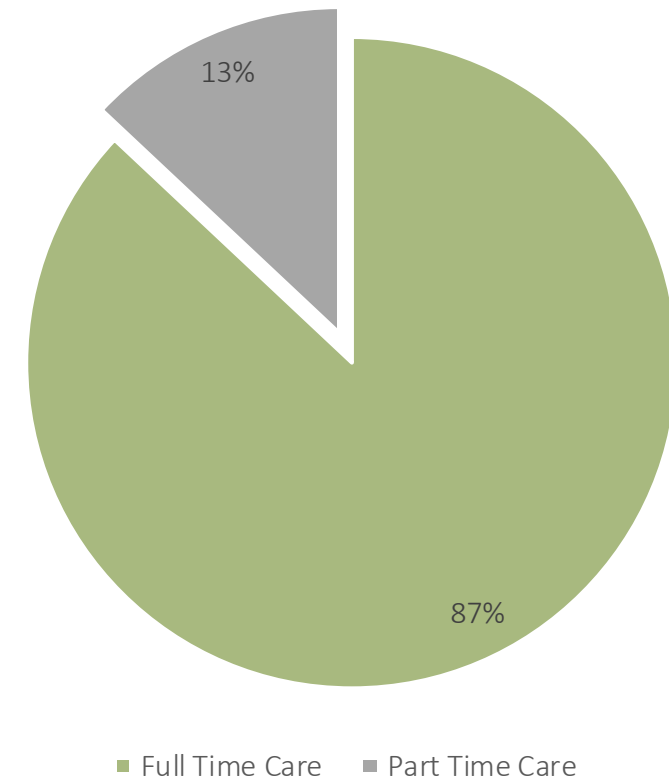
# Coverage Outside of Standard Hours



- 79% of slots are only available during standard hours, defined as 7 AM-6 PM Monday-Friday
- 21% of slots offer additional coverage:
  - 11 providers (7% of slots) offer care that starts before 7 AM.
  - 14 providers (19% of slots) offer care that ends after 6 PM.
  - 1 provider (0.1% of slots) offers weekend care.

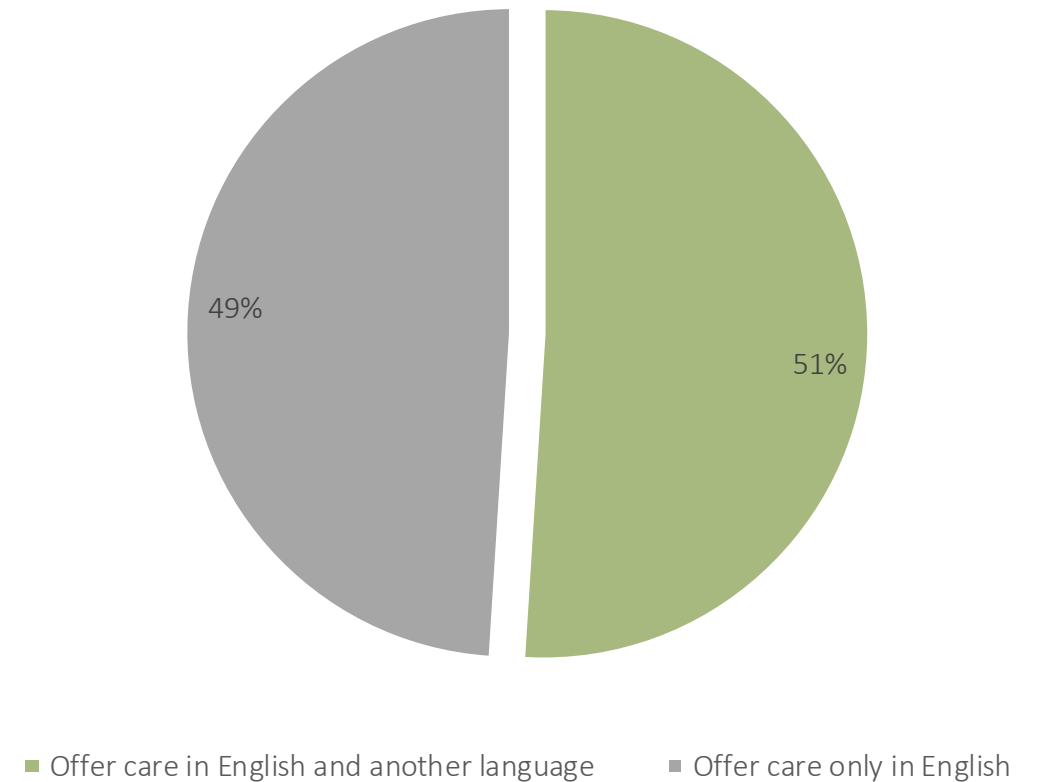
# Full Time Care

- 87% of slots in Arlington are with providers that offer full time care that would cover a standard working day.
- Most providers that offer full time care also offer part time care. It is possible that some of the 87% of slots at full time providers are designated for part time care.
- 39% of slots with part time providers are in ZIP Code 22204.



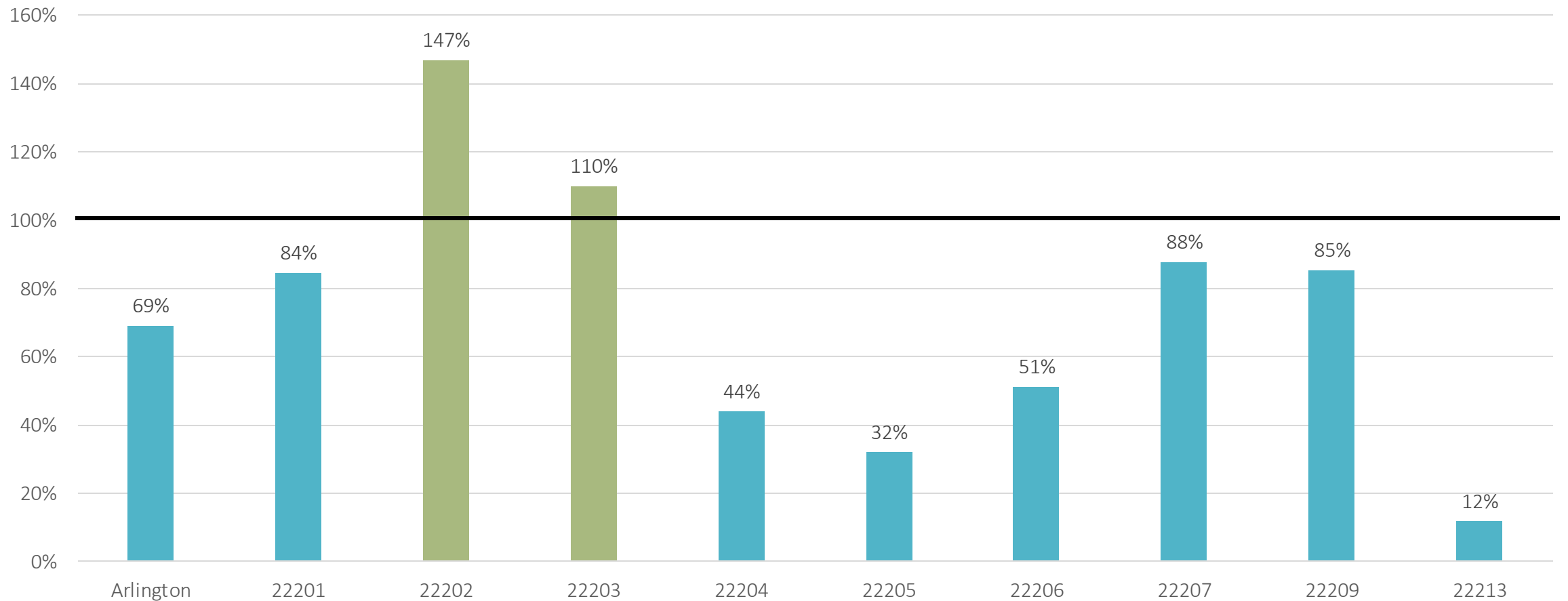
# Languages at Family Day Care Homes

- Over half of Family Day Care Home providers offer care in English and another language.
- Languages offered include Amharic, Bengali, Farsi, Hindi, Spanish, and Urdu.
- For many families who speak these languages, Family Day Care Homes offer an accessible option that facilitates parent and child care worker communication.



# Capacity by ZIP Code

Percentage of Children Under 5 that Could be Served by the existing capacity in the ZIP Code



# Accredited Child Care Opportunities

**naeyc**

NAEYC

- Providers with this label are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
- These providers are:
  - Bright Horizons FDIC
  - Bright Horizons Crystal City
  - Everbrook Academy



VQB5

- Providers with this label are participants in the Quality Measurement and Improvement System at the state level.
- 76 programs across Arlington are included
- All programs that are publicly funded or receive State or Federal subsidies are required to be involved.
- 21 programs who are not required to be involved in the initiative have chosen to be involved.



NECPA

- Providers with this label are accredited by the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation Commission.
- Two locations of The Little Ambassadors program in Arlington are accredited



NAFCC

- The National Association for Family Child Care is the nationally recognized accreditor of Family Day Homes.
- There are currently no NAFCC accredited providers in Arlington.



AMI

- Providers with this label are accredited by the Association Montessori International/USA.
- The only AMI accredited provider in Arlington is Arlington Montessori House, Inc.

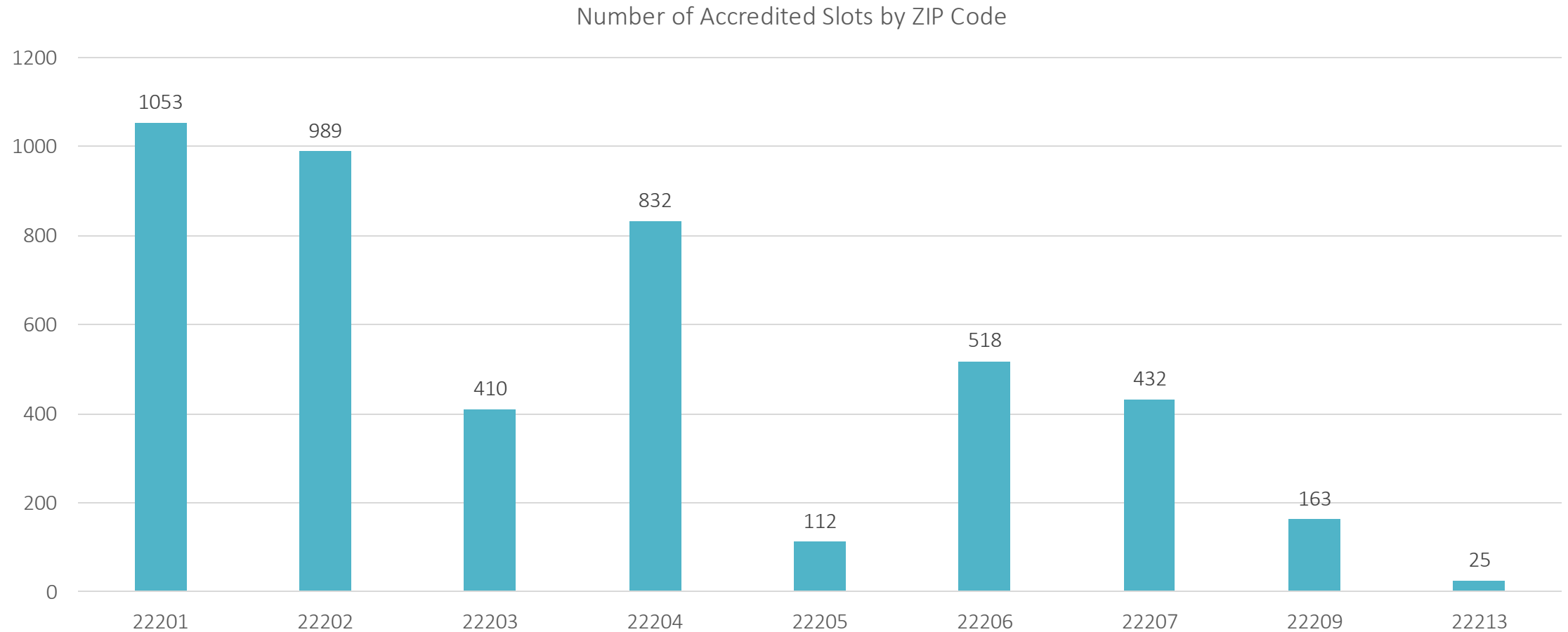


AMS

- Providers with this label are accredited by the American Montessori Society.
- The only provider accredited by AMS is Montessori Public School of Arlington.
- Even though some programs may not be accredited by AMS, teachers for that program may hold Montessori credentials.



# Accredited Child Care Opportunities

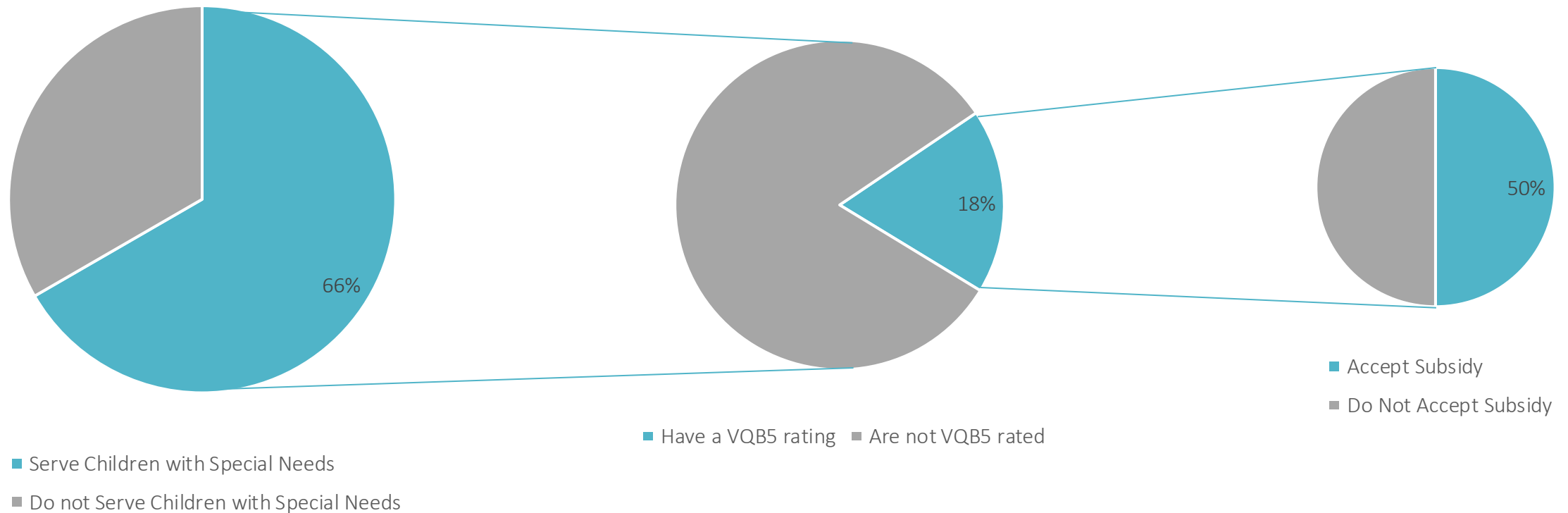


# Child Care Fees

Area	Child Care Center Annual Fees		Family Day Care Home Annual Fees	
	<i>Infant</i>	<i>4 Year Old</i>	<i>Infant</i>	<i>4 Year Old</i>
Arlington County	\$25,220	\$20,020	\$17,472	\$16,432
Montgomery County	\$24,180	\$18,720	\$16,952	\$15,704
District of Columbia	\$24,081	\$18,980	\$18,200	\$11,180
Alexandria	\$22,360	\$18,044	\$17,836	\$16,796
Fairfax	\$22,256	\$18,148	\$15,912	\$14,300
Prince George's County	\$18,512	\$13,052	\$14,092	\$11,908

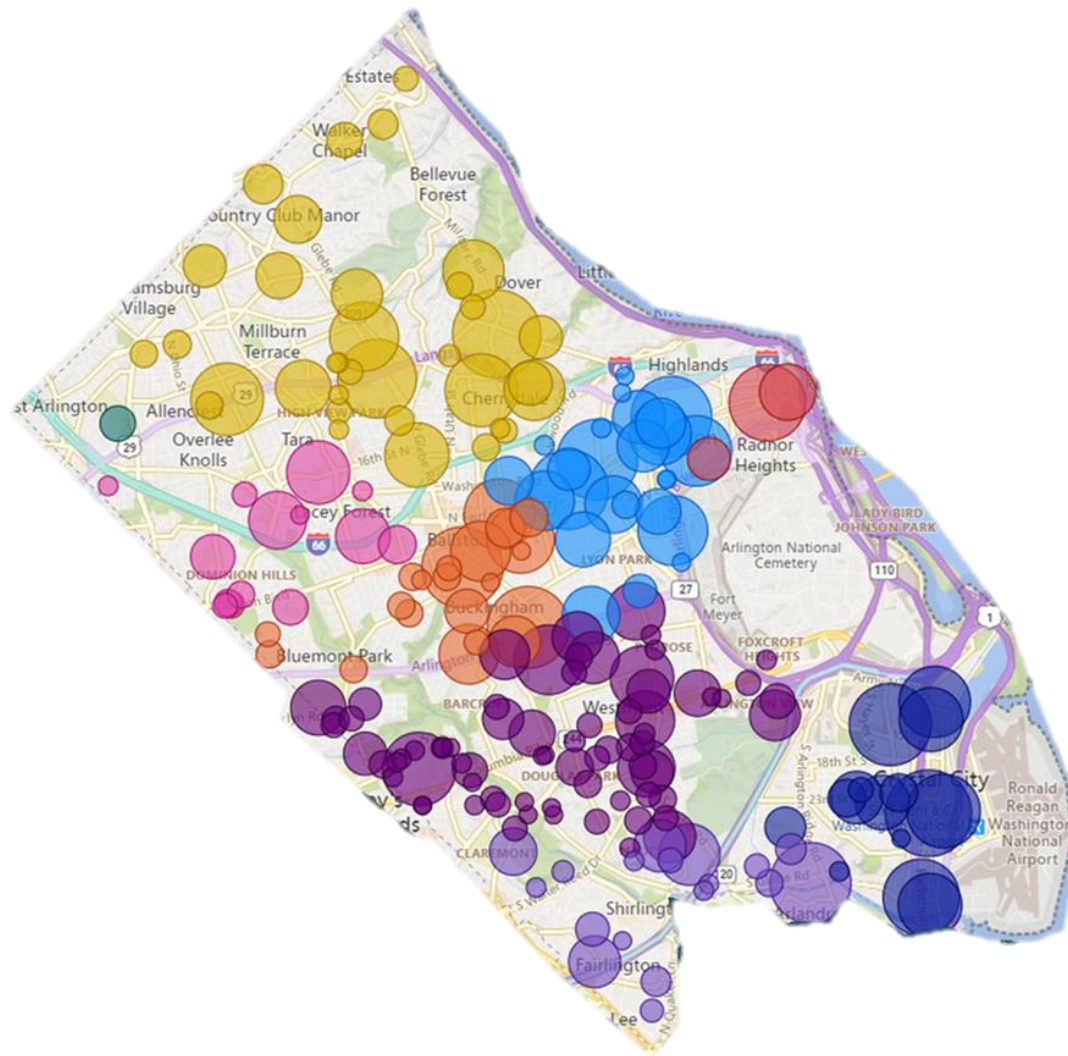
Source: Child Care Aware of America, [2022](#)

# Accessibility, Quality, and Affordability of Child Day Centers for Children with Special Needs



Only 6% of all Child Day Centers could serve a family seeking subsidized, VQB5 rated care for a child with special needs

# Child Care Locations by ZIP Code

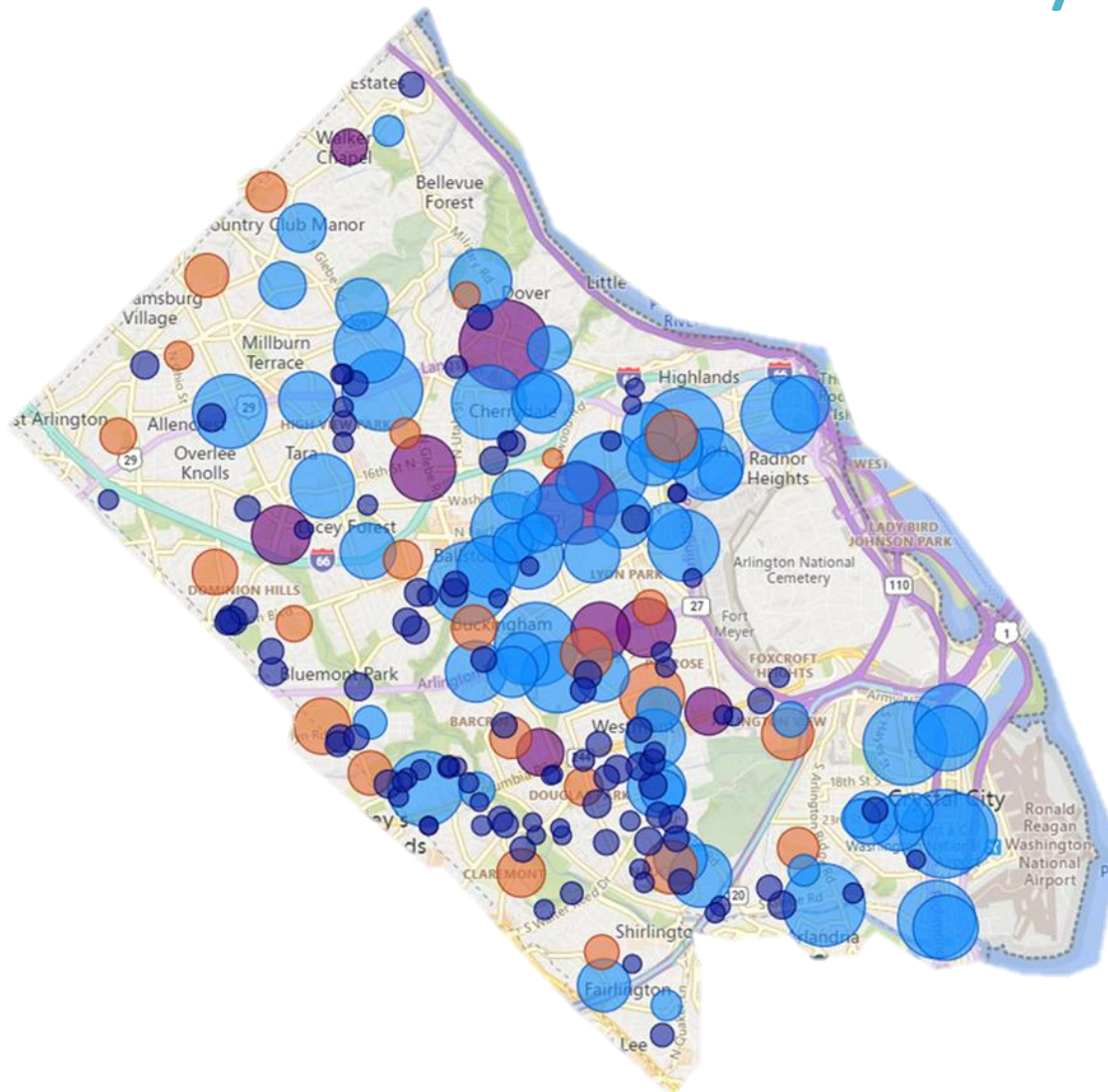


## ZIP Code

- 22201
- 22202
- 22203
- 22204
- 22205
- 22206
- 22207
- 22209
- 22213

Bubbles are related to size of capacity, with larger bubbles representing locations with higher total capacities.

# Child Care Locations by Provider Type

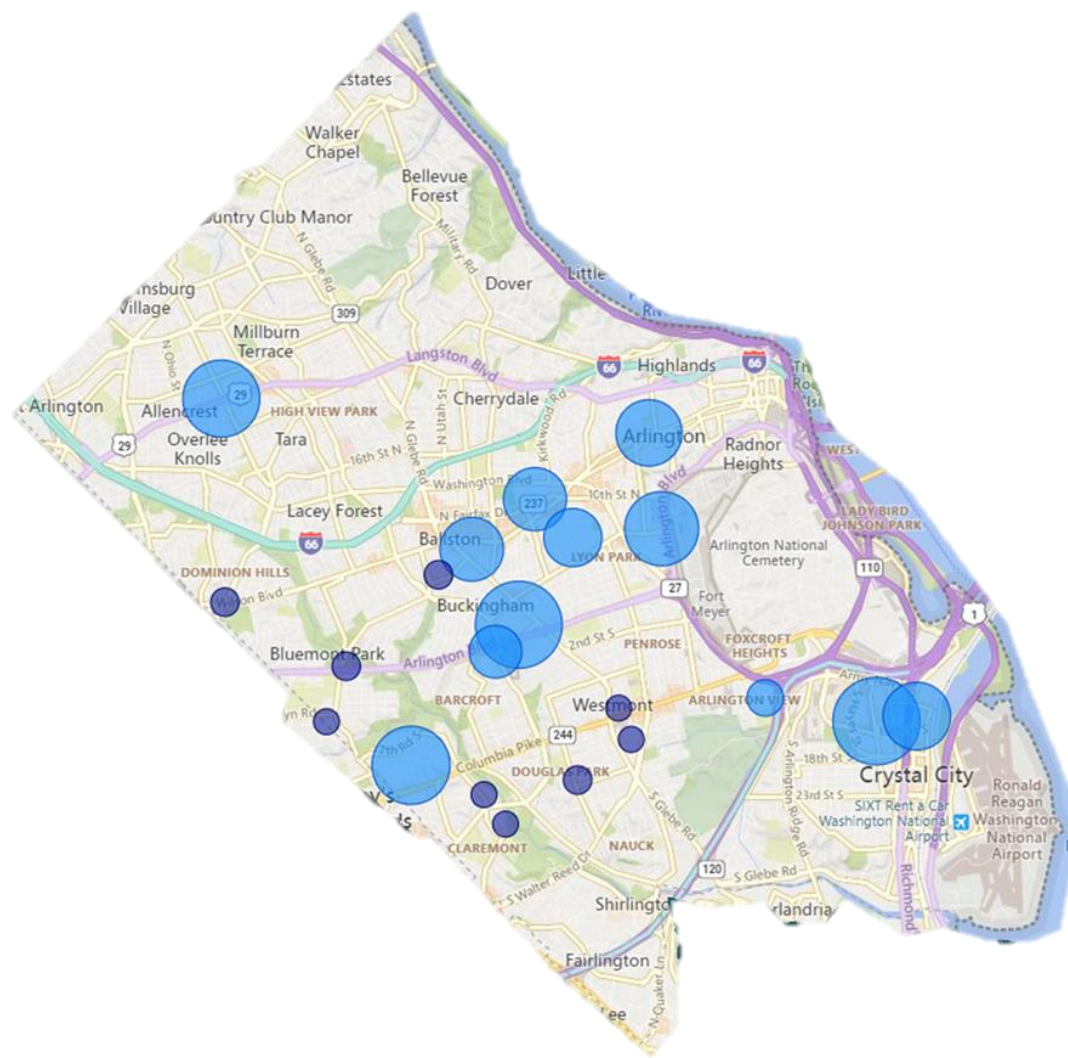


## Provider Type



- Child Day Centers
- Family Day Care Homes
- Public Schools
- Religious Providers

Bubbles are related to size of capacity, with larger bubbles representing locations with higher total capacities.

# Locations Offering Non-Standard Hours



## Provider Type

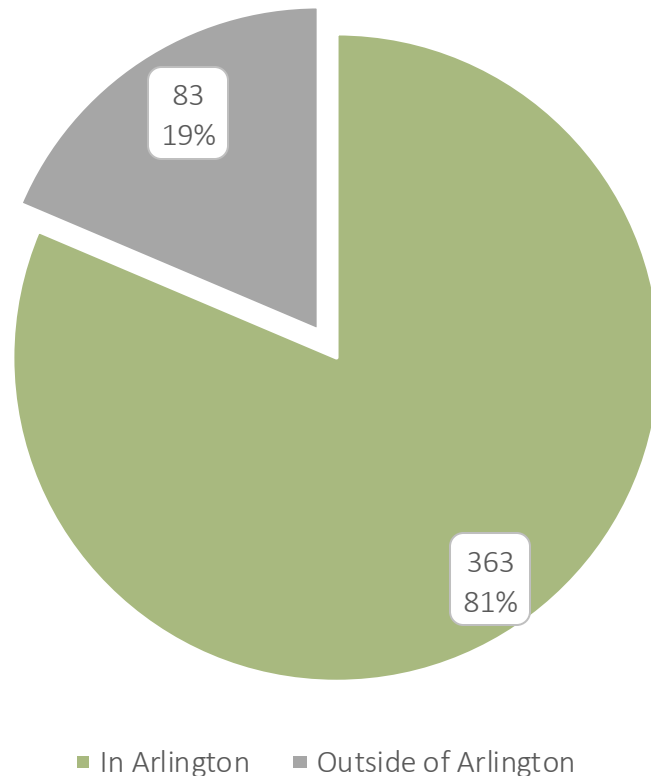
-  Child Day Centers
-  Family Day Care Homes

Bubbles are related to size of capacity, with larger bubbles representing locations with higher total capacities.



# Childcare Subsidy Usage

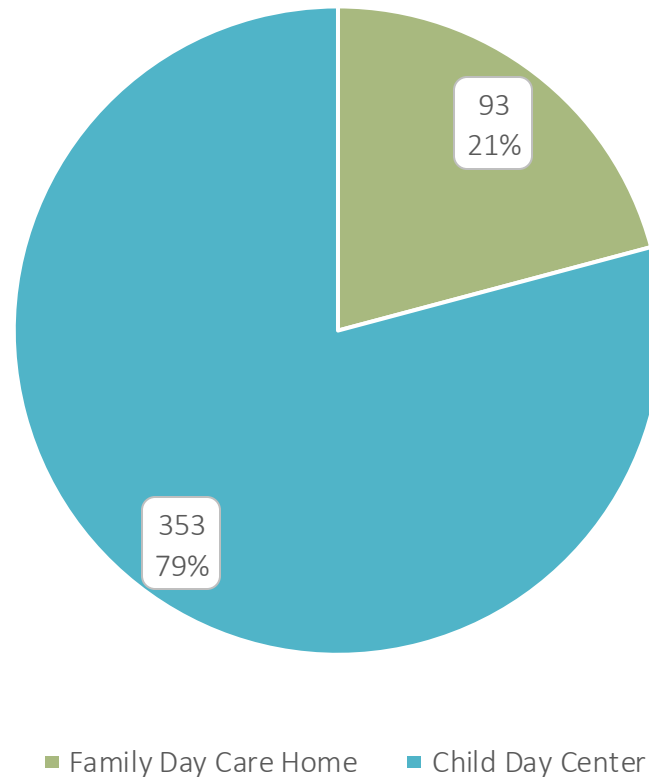
Location of Provider where Subsidy is Currently Used



- 81% of subsidy recipients are using their subsidy at an Arlington County provider.
- The other localities where recipients are seeking care include:
  - Alexandria (36 recipients)
  - Falls Church (26 recipients)
  - Springfield (9 recipients)
  - Annandale (8 recipients)
  - Woodbridge (3 recipients)
  - Fairfax (1 recipient)

# Childcare Subsidy Usage

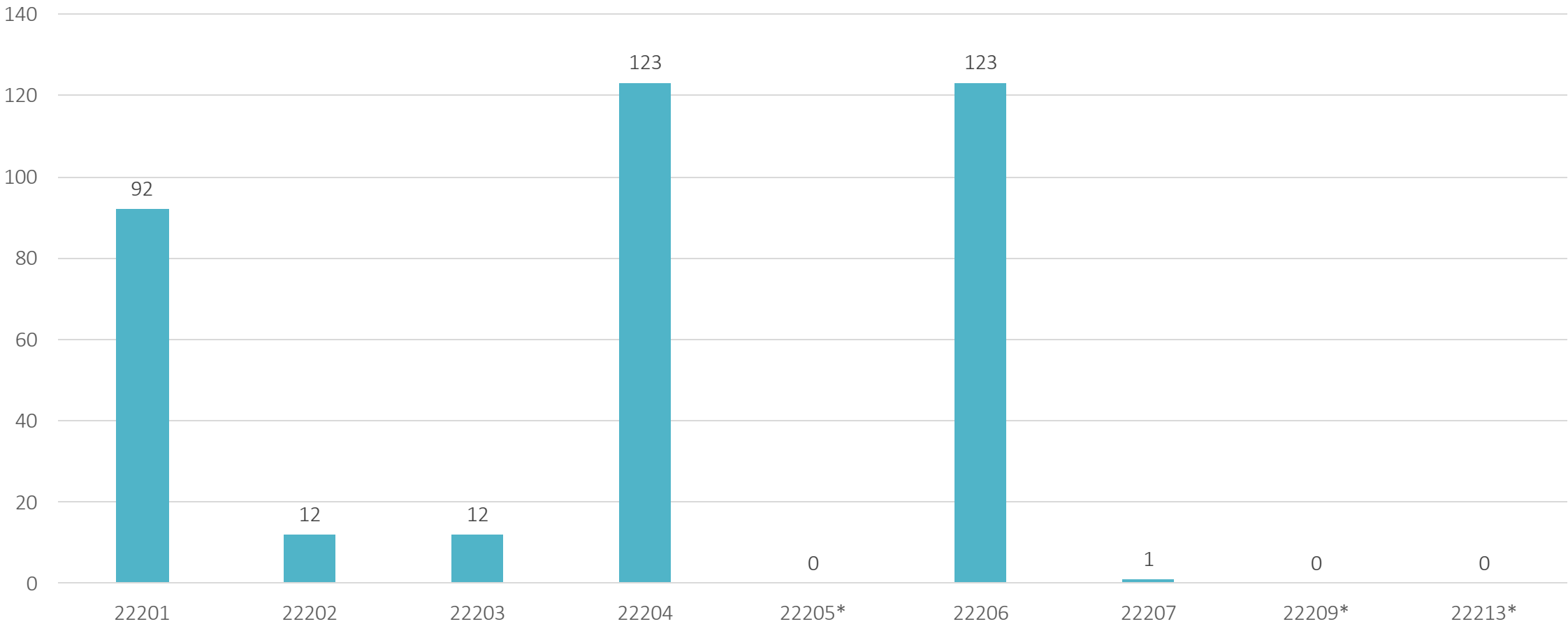
Type of Provider where Subsidy is Currently Used





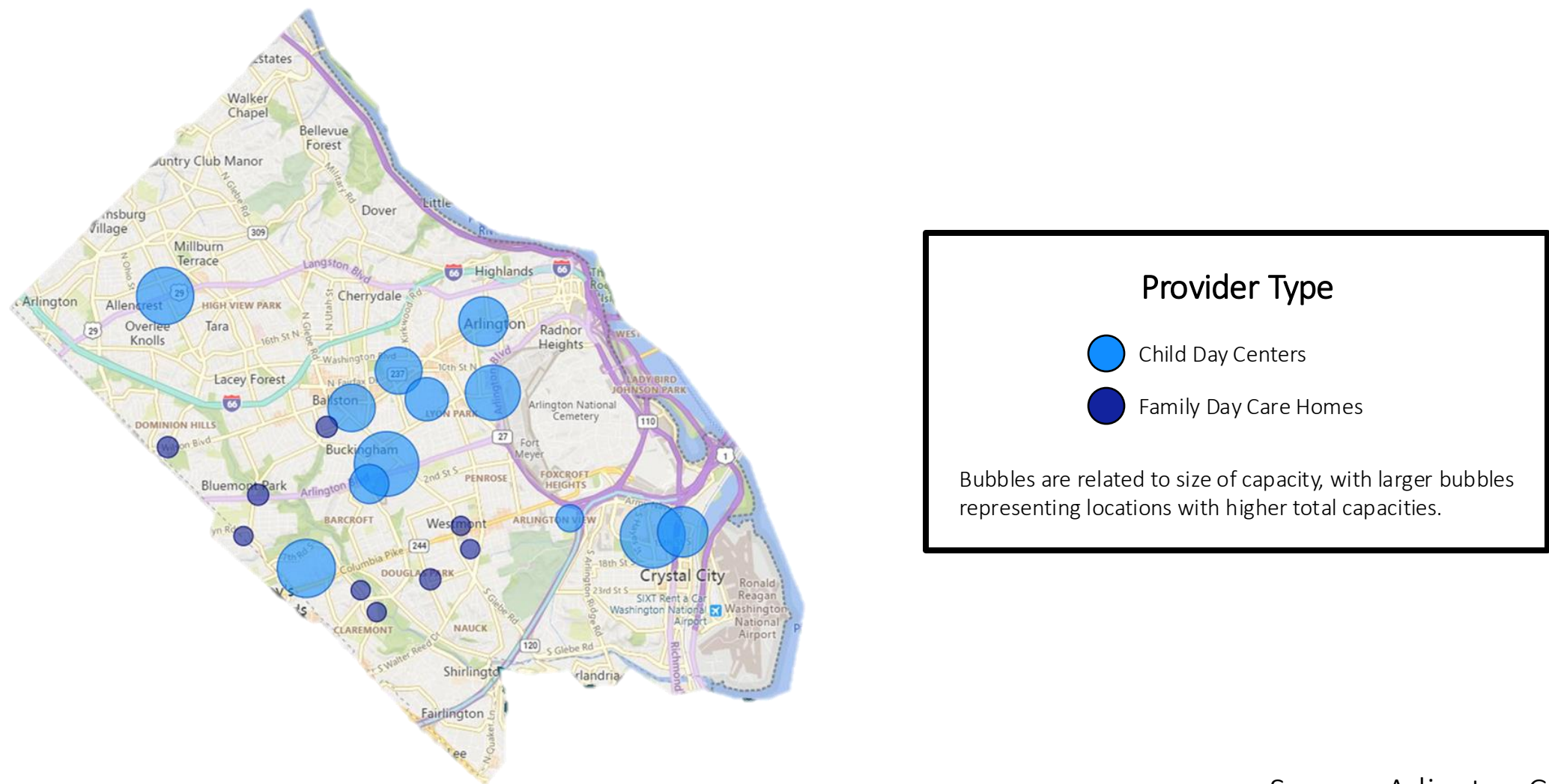
# Childcare Subsidy Usage

Number of Subsidy Recipients by ZIP Code of Provider



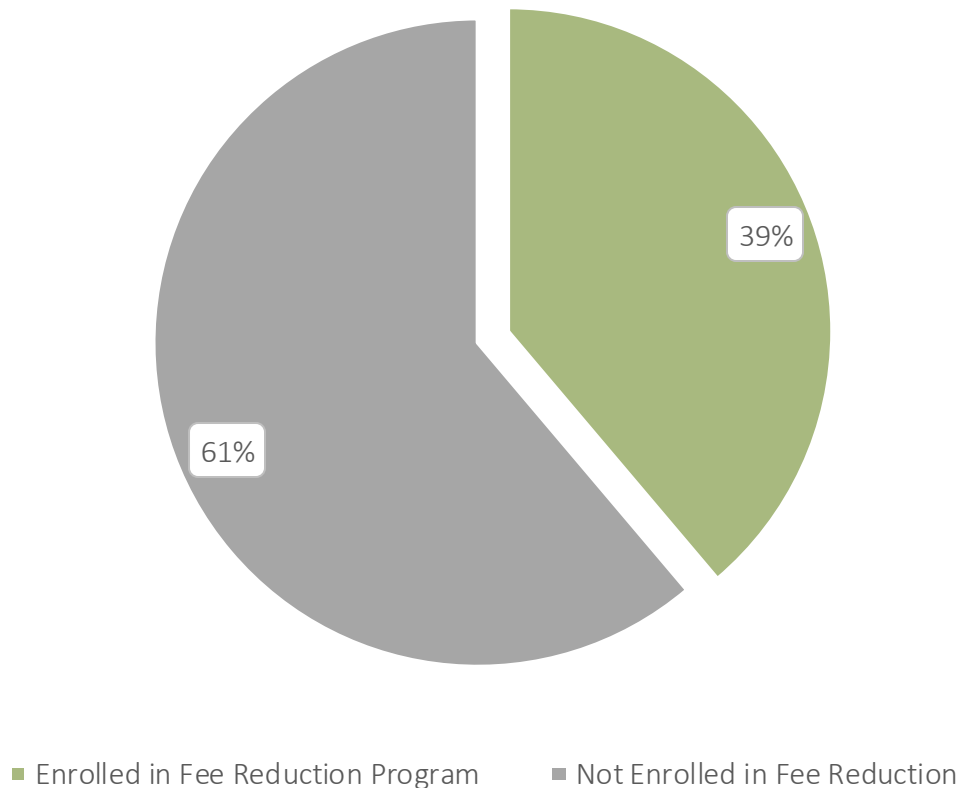
*\*There are no subsidy accepting providers in 22205, 22209, or 22213*

# Locations that Accept Subsidies



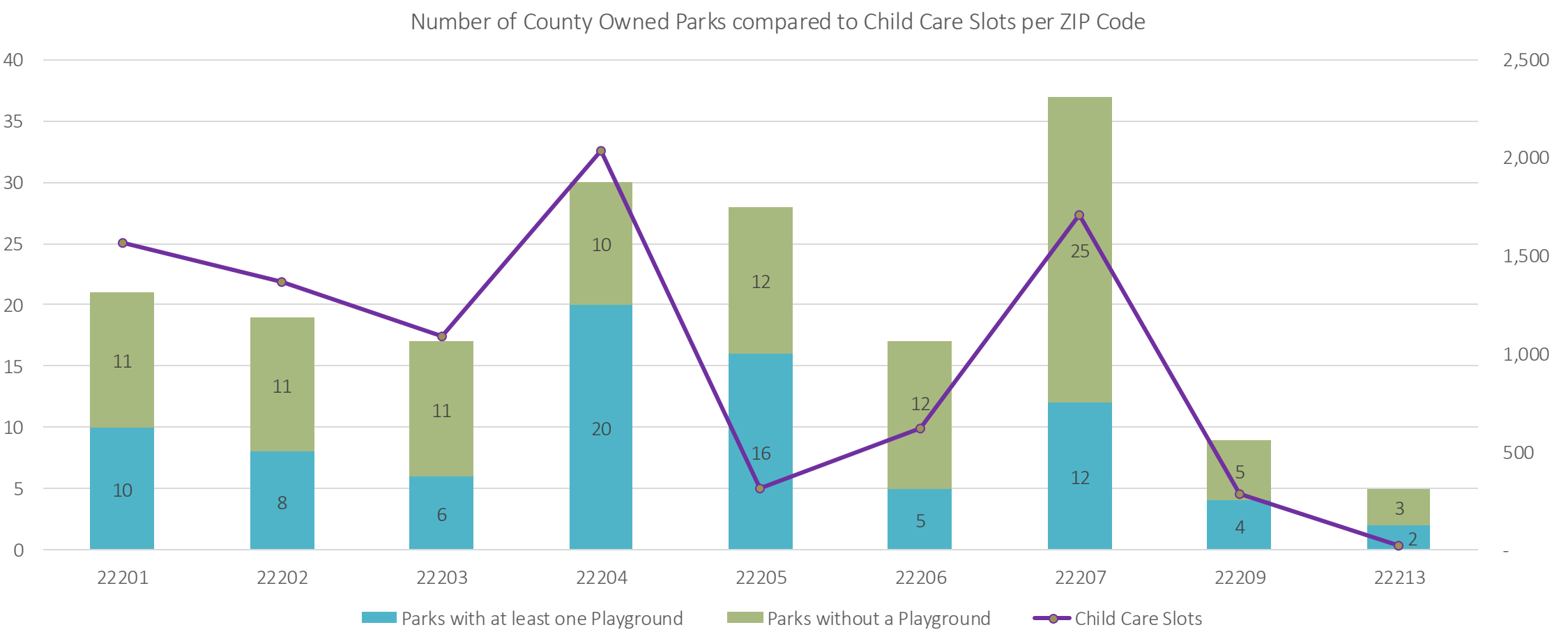
# Creative Preschool Fee Reductions

Location of Provider where Subsidy is Currently Used



- Fee reductions are available to low-income families enrolled in the Department of Parks and Recreation's Creative Preschool programs.
- 33% of preschoolers are in the fee reduction program.
- Of these children, the majority (76%) are at the highest level of fee reductions.

# Arlington Parks



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