

2020 Census Redistricting Data

Arlington County, Virginia

This document is the first in a series to summarize 2020 Census results for Arlington County, Virginia. On August 12, 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau released 2020 Census redistricting data as part of P.L. 94-171. This redistricting data file provides the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico with population counts to use in their redrawing of congressional and state legislative district boundaries—a process known as “redistricting.” This data release only includes the following variables: total population, population by race and Hispanic or Latino origin, population 18 years and over by race and Hispanic or Latino origin, occupied and vacant housing units, and people living in group quarters like nursing homes, prisons, military barracks, and college dorms.

Due to the impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau was delayed with the release of 2020 Census data. This is the first release of results for all sub-state geographies (city/county, tracts, block groups, and blocks) and is to be used for the primary purpose of redistricting. The U.S. Census Bureau is currently working to release the full dataset in early 2022.

The implementation of a new privacy protection method, Differential Privacy, caused additional delay and impacts data accuracy for sub-state geographies. This privacy methodology is applied separately to the population and the housing files, which can lead to problematic calculations when combining these datasets, especially at sub-county level geographies. Due to this issue, data in this report that relates to housing unit occupancy, households, and average household size are to be considered preliminary. The U.S. Census Bureau has indicated that it will produce a combined persons and housing detailed dataset that eliminates the error caused by Differential Privacy as part of the 2022 release.

Arlington Demographers will begin conducting a low-level geographic analysis to understand the demographic changes that have occurred in the last 10 years. Once the full dataset is released in early 2022, staff will evaluate the how CPHD’s population estimates compare to the 2020 Census results and, if warranted, recommend process improvements.

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The U.S. Census Bureau conducted the 2020 Census, a count of every person living in the United States and the five U.S. territories from March 2020 to October 2020. Conducted every 10 years, this was 24th count in the Nation’s history and was the first-time participants could respond to the census online in addition to the traditional methods by mail and phone.

The data collected by the census determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used to adjust electoral districts based on population changes. The results inform decisions about the allocation of hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding nationally. On average, Arlington receives over \$50 million annually in federal grants that use census data.

The Covid-19 Pandemic impacted 2020 Census operations with stay-at-home orders coinciding with the start of the self-response period. Originally scheduled to be completed by the end of July 2021, the census data collection period was extended and completed on October 15, 2021.

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Population

The U.S. Census Bureau reported Arlington's 2020 population to be 238,643, growing by 31,016 persons over the last decade. Arlington's population increase of 14.9% is over double that of the nation's growth (7.1%) and is the highest decennial increase since the 1960 Census. Arlington's growth makes up 4.9% of the population growth in Virginia, which grew by 630,369 persons to reach a population of 8,631,369.

Northern Virginia's population of 2,550,377 represents 30% of Virginia. The increase of 319,754 persons accounted for 50.7% of Virginia's population growth over the last decade. Arlington's growth accounted for 9.7% of the population growth in Northern Virginia.

Figure 1: Arlington Population 1950 – 2020

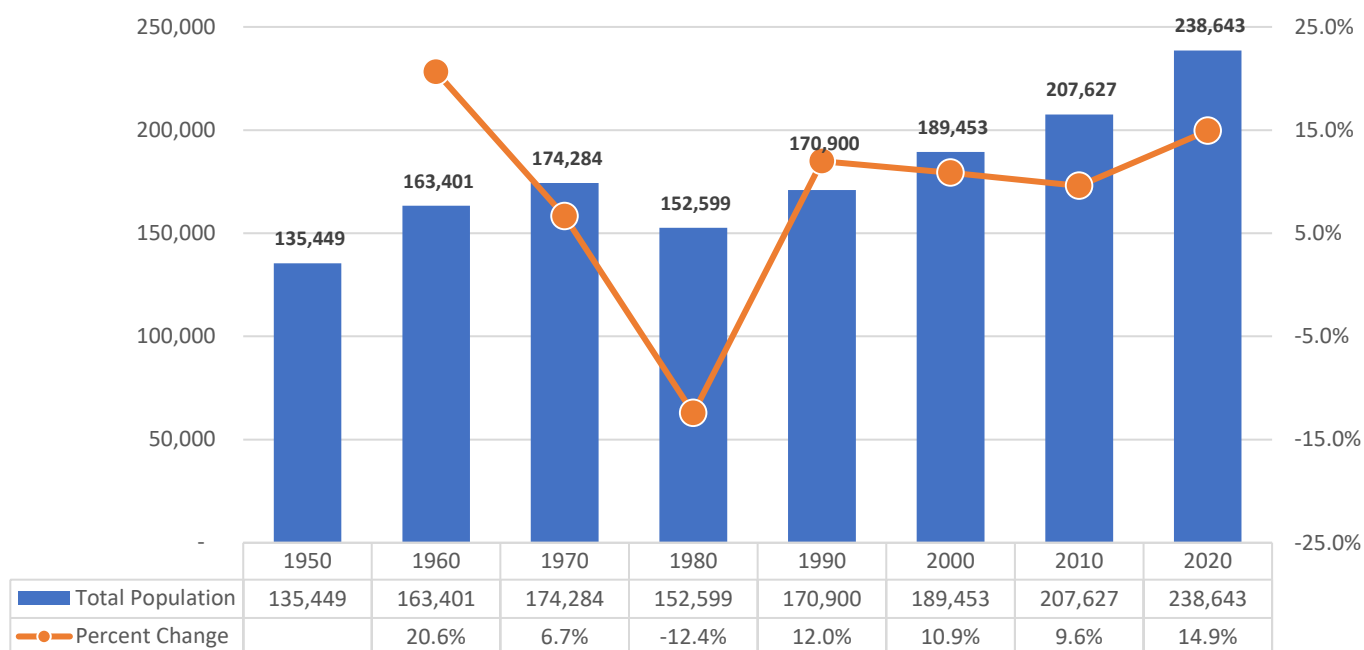


Figure 2: Population Change by Area 2010- 2020

	2010	2020	Change 2010-2020	
United States	308,745,538	331,449,281	22,703,743	7.4%
Virginia	8,001,024	8,631,393	630,369	7.9%
Northern Virginia	2,230,623	2,550,377	319,754	14.3%
Arlington County	207,627	238,643	31,016	14.9%
Fairfax County	1,081,726	1,150,309	68,583	6.3%
Loudoun County	312,311	420,959	108,648	34.8%
Prince William County	402,002	482,204	80,202	20.0%
Alexandria City	139,966	159,467	19,501	13.9%
Fairfax City	22,565	24,146	1,581	7.0%
Falls Church City	12,332	14,658	2,326	18.9%
Manassas City	37,821	42,772	4,951	13.1%
Manassas Park City	14,273	17,219	2,946	20.6%

Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin

The U.S. Census Bureau redesigned, and improved, the race and origin questions on the 2020 Census to capture a more thorough and accurate depiction of how people self-identify. The results show a much more diverse community in Arlington and the nation compared to what had been measured in any previous census. In an August 12, 2021 blog post, the U.S. Census Bureau wrote: “We are confident that differences in the overall racial distributions are largely due to improvements in the design of the two separate questions for race data collection and processing as well as some demographic changes over the past 10 years”.

Between 2000-2010 the majority of Arlington’s population growth was within the White population; in this last decade (2010-2020) Arlington experienced the reverse –78.4% of growth occurring in the Non-White population. The 2020 Census reported that Arlington’s White population makes up 58.5% and is at the lowest percentage in Arlington’s history.

Figure 3: Arlington Population by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin 2000-2020

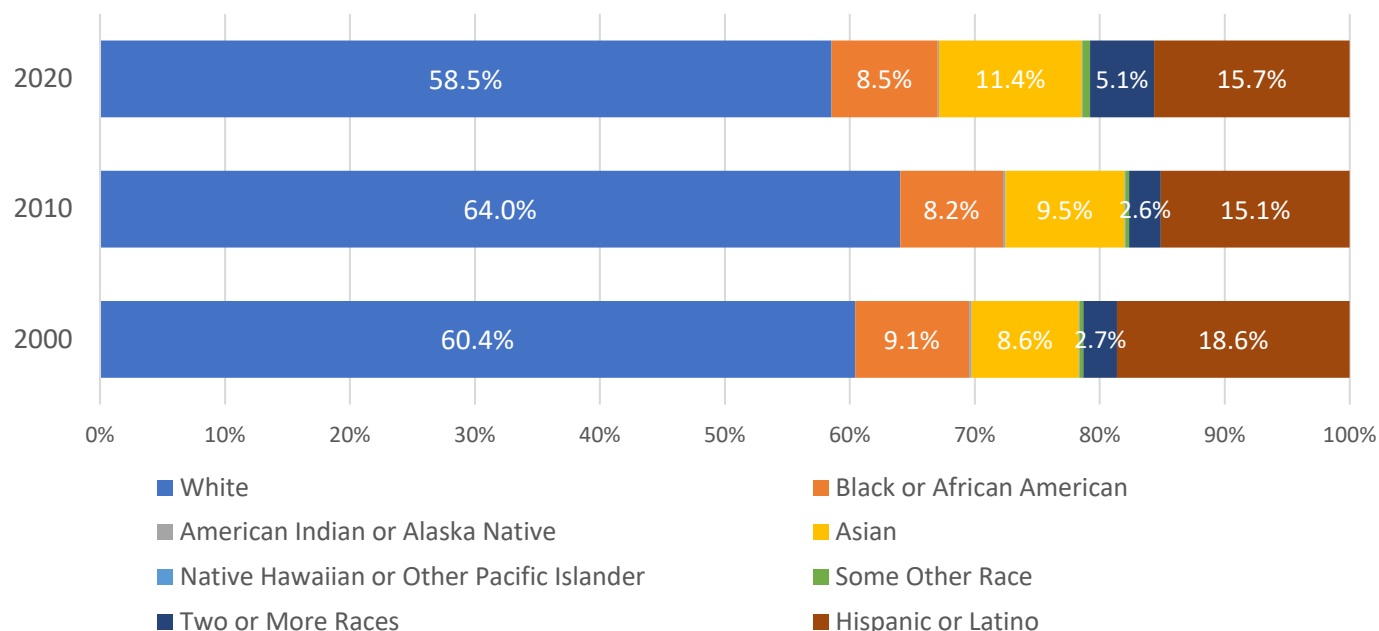


Figure 4: Arlington Population by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin 2010-2020

	2010	2020	2010-2020	
Total Population	207,627	238,643	31,016	14.9%
White	132,961	139,653	6,692	5.0%
Black or African American	17,088	20,330	3,242	19.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	394	258	-136	-34.5%
Asian	19,762	27,235	7,473	37.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	133	118	-15	-11.3%
Some Other Race	611	1,491	880	144.0%
Two or More Races	5,296	12,196	6,900	130.3%
Hispanic or Latino	31,382	37,362	5,980	19.1%

White

The White population grew by 5% from 132,961 persons in 2010 to 139,653 persons in 2020, only ranking higher than the population that saw a decline, American Indian or Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

Black or African Americans

The Black or African American population grew by 19.0% adding 3,242 persons and reaching a total of 20,330. This is the first decade since the 1980 Census that the Black or African American population has increased in Arlington.

Asian

The Asian population had the largest growth in overall population with 7,476 persons, an increase of 37.8%.

Two or More Races or Some Other Race

Those who identify as Two or More Races (multi-racial) or Some Other Race not listed on the census had the highest growth rates of 130.3% and 144.0% respectively. Those of two or more races increased by 6,900 persons, reaching a total population of 12,196. While those who are of another race not listed on the census make up a small portion of Arlington's population, this group had the highest growth rate, increasing by 880 persons and reaching a total population of 1,491.

Hispanic or Latino Origin

Between 2000 - 2010, those of Hispanic or Latino origin had the biggest population decline by 21.4%. The 2020 Census shows that over the last 10 years, this population has surpassed their previous peak in 2000 and reached 37,362 persons. This is a growth of 19.1% representing 5,980 persons.

Figure 5: Hispanic Origin Question

2020 Census Hispanic Origin Question

→ **NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 6 about Hispanic origin and Question 7 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.**

6. Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- ☐ No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- ☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- ☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
- ☐ Yes, Cuban
- ☐ Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – *Print, for example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.*

Figure 6: Race Question

2020 Census Race Question

7. What is this person's race?

Mark ☒ one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

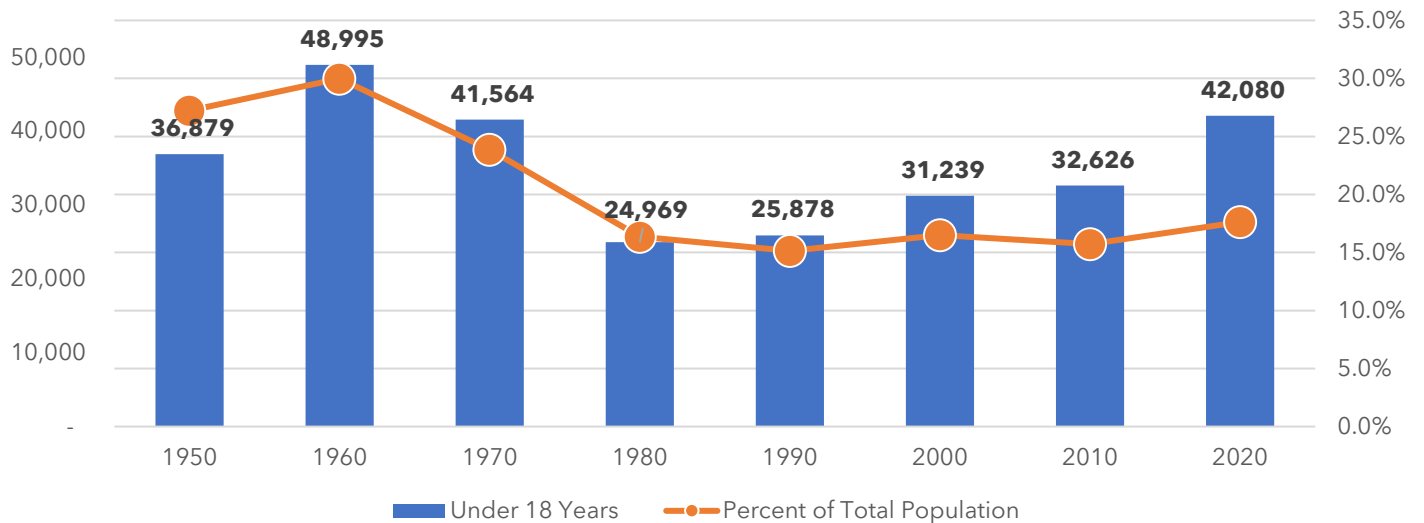
- ☐ White – *Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.*
- ☐ Black or African Am. – *Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.*
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native – *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.*
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Vietnamese
- ☐ Native Hawaiian
- ☐ Filipino
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Samoan
- ☐ Asian Indian
- ☐ Japanese
- ☐ Chamorro
- ☐ Other Asian – *Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.*
- ☐ Other Pacific Islander – *Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.*
- ☐ Some other race – *Print race or origin.*

<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2021/08/improvements-to-2020-census-race-hispanic-origin-question-designs.html>

Age

Arlington's population under the age of 18 years old had the largest increase in both number and growth rate since 1950-1960. From 2010 - 2020, the population under the age of 18 grew by 9,454 persons - a 29.0% increase. The total number of persons under the age of 18 years is 42,080, still less than the peak of 48,995 reported in the 1960 Census.

Figure 7: Arlington Population Under 18 Years



Arlington's population under the age of 18 years makes up 17.6% of the total population. When broken down by race and Hispanic origin, there are some populations that have substantially higher percentages including: Two or More Races (36.5%), Some Other Race (27.6%), and those of Hispanic or Latino Origin (25.3%).

Figure 8: Arlington Population Under 18 Years by Race

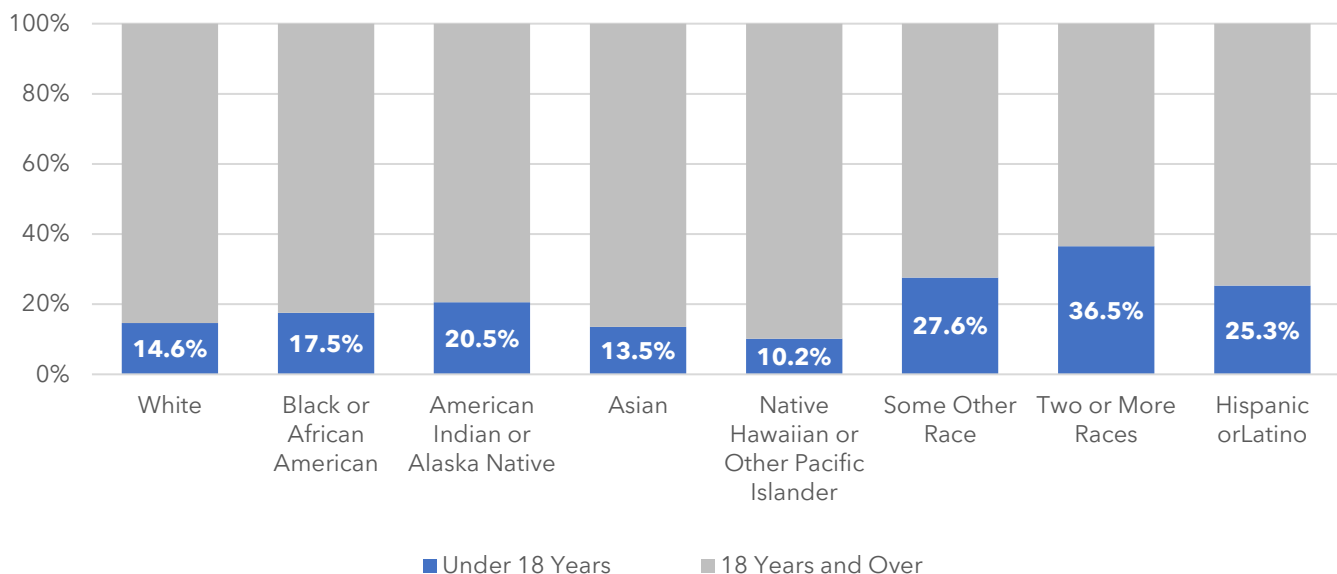


Figure 9: Population Under 18 Years by Race and Origin 2010- 2020

	2010	2020	Change 2010-2020	
Total Population	32,626	42,080	9,454	29.0%
White	17,244	20,458	3,214	18.6%
Black or African American	3,003	3,567	564	18.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	52	53	1	1.9%
Asian	2,842	3,685	843	29.7%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	21	12	-9	-42.9%
Some Other Race	229	411	182	79.5%
Two or More Races	1,953	4,452	2,499	128.0%
Hispanic or Latino	7,282	9,442	2,160	29.7%

Figure 10: Population 18 Years and Over by Race and Origin 2010- 2020

	2010	2020	Change 2010-2020	
Total Population	175,001	196,563	21,562	12.3%
White	115,717	119,195	3,478	3.0%
Black or African American	14,085	16,763	2,678	19.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	342	205	-137	-40.1%
Asian	16,920	23,550	6,630	39.2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	112	106	-6	-5.4%
Some Other Race	382	1,080	698	182.7%
Two or More Races	3,343	7,744	4,401	131.6%
Hispanic or Latino	24,100	27,920	3,820	15.9%

Overall, Arlington's population under the age of 18 grew over twice as fast as the population 18 years and over. When broken down for each race and those of Hispanic origin, only the White population and those of Hispanic or Latino origin show the same trend. The growth in the White population under the age of 18 was over six (6) times that of the White population 18 years and over. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin under the age of 18 grew twice as fast as those 18 years and over.

The Asian, Some Other Race, and those of Two or More Races had higher growth rates for the population age 18 years and over compared to those under 18 years. In particular, the 18 years and over population that identified as Some Other Race grew over twice as fast as the under 18 years population.

The Black and African American population under 18 years grew at a rate of 18.6%. This is very close to the 18 years and over growth rate of 19.0% and can be considered to grow at a similar rate.

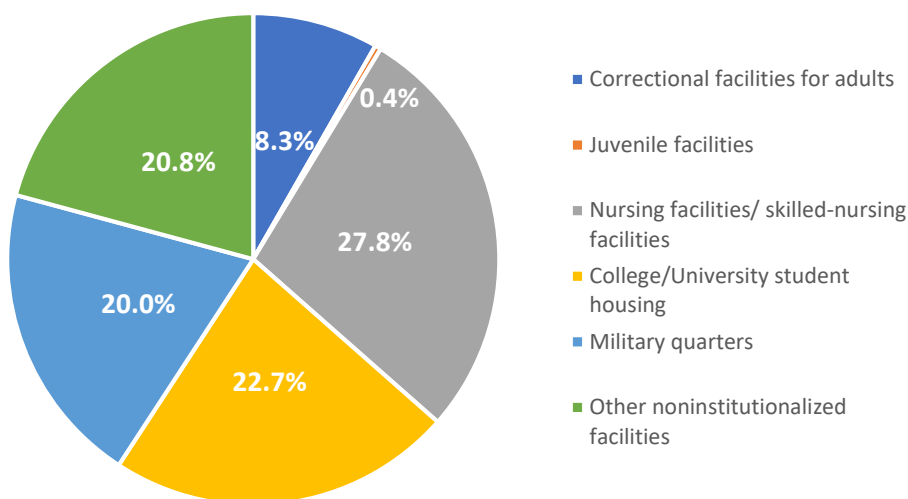
The American Indian or Alaska Native population are the smallest racial groups in Arlington and, when broken down by age, a slight change will result in a significant percentage change. In addition, the implementation of Differential Privacy can skew results for small populations, and it is difficult to determine if the change was statistically significant for these racial populations.

Group Quarters

"The Census Bureau classifies all people not living in housing units as living in group quarters. A group quarters is a place where people live or stay, in a group living arrangement, that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents." From 2010 - 2020, Arlington's group quarters population increased by 94 persons, from 2,892 in 2010 to 2,986 in 2020.

Further analysis will be conducted on the group quarters population because of the likely movement of this population during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

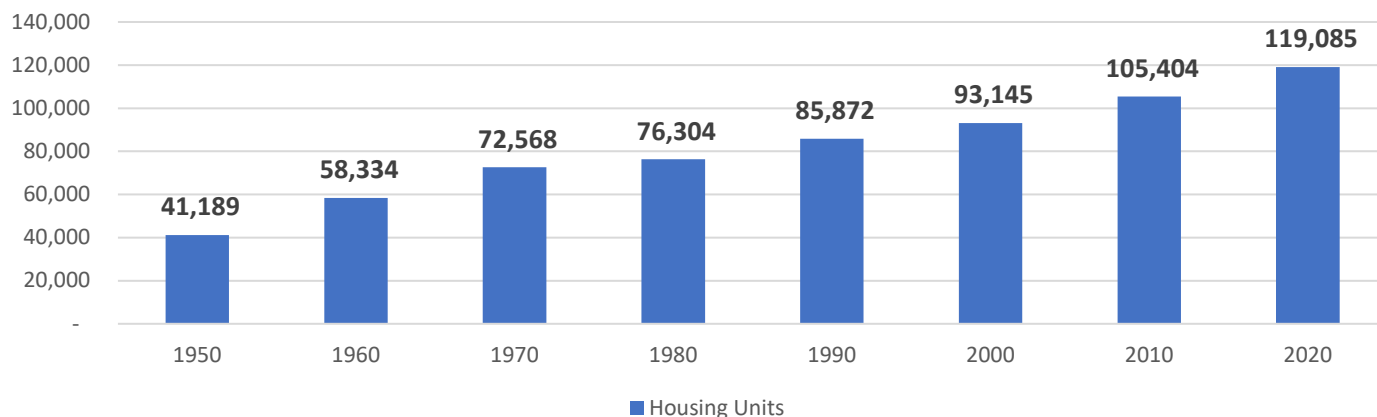
Figure 11: Group Quarters Population



Housing Units

The 2020 Census reports Arlington to have 119,085 housing units, an increase of 13,681 units. Housing units are invariant and are not impacted by Differential Privacy. Characteristics pertaining to housing such as vacancy and occupancy are impacted by Differential Privacy.

Figure 12: Arlington Housing Units 1950-2020



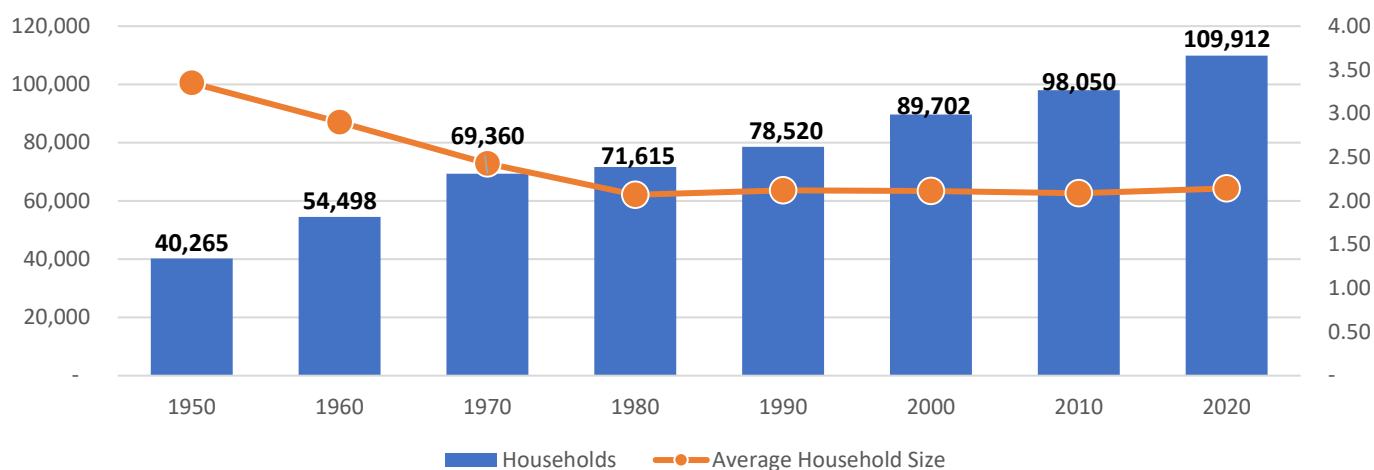
Households

(Preliminary and subject to change upon the release of the detailed demographic and housing characteristics files to be released by the U.S. Census Bureau 2022.)

Arlington households well surpassed the 100,000 mark in the 2020 Census, reaching 109,912. A household is an occupied housing unit. Every person living in that housing unit is considered part of the same household. Over the last decade, 11,862 households were added to Arlington - the largest amount since the 1970 Census.

Arlington's average household size (number of people per household) has been between 2.07 and 2.12 since the 1980 Census. The 2020 Census reported a 2.14 average household size, increasing by 2.7% since 2010 and only the second time Arlington's average household size increased in its history.

Figure 13: Arlington Households and Average Household Size 1950-2020



Definitions

Population

All people living in a geographic area.

Race

A person's self-identification with one or more social groups.

Group Quarters

Places where people live or stay in a group living arrangement that is owned or managed by an organization providing housing and/or services for the residents.

Housing Units

A house, townhouse, mobile home or trailer, apartment, group of rooms, or single room that is occupied or intended for occupancy as a separate living quarter.

Households

A person or group of people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.

Average Household Size

The average number of people living in occupied housing units.

For more information and resources:

Arlington County 2020 Census: arlingtonva.us/Census
Arlington Demographics: arlingtonva.us/demographics

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If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact CPHD at (703) 228-3525.