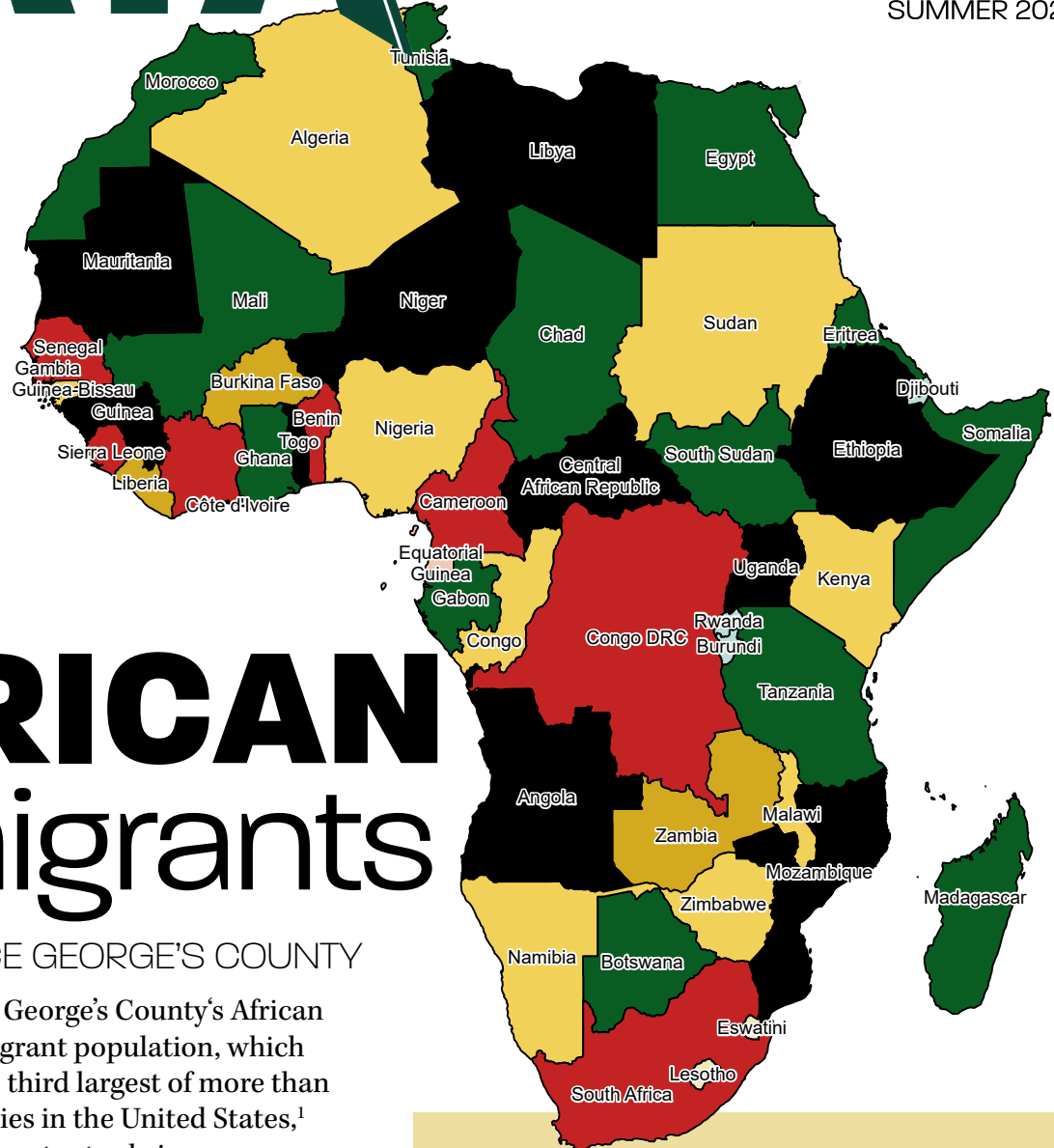




AFRICAN immigrants

IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Prince George's County's African immigrant population, which is the third largest of more than 3,000 counties in the United States,¹ plays an important role in many aspects of the community's vibrancy. This Data Journal provides a snapshot of their nations of origin, educational attainment, homeownership rate, level of English proficiency, and household income.

¹ <https://www.naco.org/page/what-are-counties>

ABOUT THE DATA JOURNAL

The Prince George's County Planning Department's Research Section periodically publishes the Planning Data Journal series, which covers significant demographic, housing, socioeconomic, nonresidential, land use, and other planning data. This series provides officials, County agencies, and the public with up-to-date information that is essential for policymaking and program planning for sustainable development through an equity lens.

African Immigrants



The County Ranks Third Nationally

The Washington, D.C., metropolitan area has one of the largest African immigrant populations in the nation, particularly in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Table 1 shows that the two counties ranked second and third, respectively, in the nation for the number of African immigrants.

"African residents represent a remarkable percentage of the County's business community, and they continue to shape the economic and cultural fabric of our County's future," said Prince George's County Council Member Wala Belgay ahead of a 2024 cultural night celebration. Earlier that year, Maryland Governor Wes Moore proclaimed September as African Heritage Month.

In 2024, 25 percent of the County's 959,754 residents were foreign born. Table 2 shows that 61,443 of these foreign-born residents are from African nations. The number of African immigrants increased 58 percent from 2010 to 2024.

ABOUT THE DATA

The data are from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates for 2010 and 2024 by public use microdata area (PUMA). PUMAs are non-overlapping, statistical geographic areas of no fewer than 100,000 people each.² There are seven PUMAs in Prince George's County.

PUMAs are used for statistical analysis because:

1. The larger the geography, the more accurate the data are.
2. PUMAs represent the County well, showing areas inside and outside the Capital Beltway (I-495).

For some categories, this Journal applies the ACS Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS or MDAT) to access specific cross-referenced data. MDAT files allow data users to filter records by both geography (PUMA) and specific demographics, such as place of birth (Nigeria) with limited English proficiency.

The more detailed the data, the larger the margin of error, because ACS estimates are based on a relatively small sample of approximately 2 percent of addresses nationwide. Cross-referenced data may face additional statistical limitations due to small sample sizes and federal confidentiality requirements. Additionally, totals may differ across tables because of sampling variation and statistical methods used in data collection and computation.

² [census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/pumas.html](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/pumas.html)

Table 1.

TOP 10

counties in the U.S. with the largest African immigrant populations in 2024

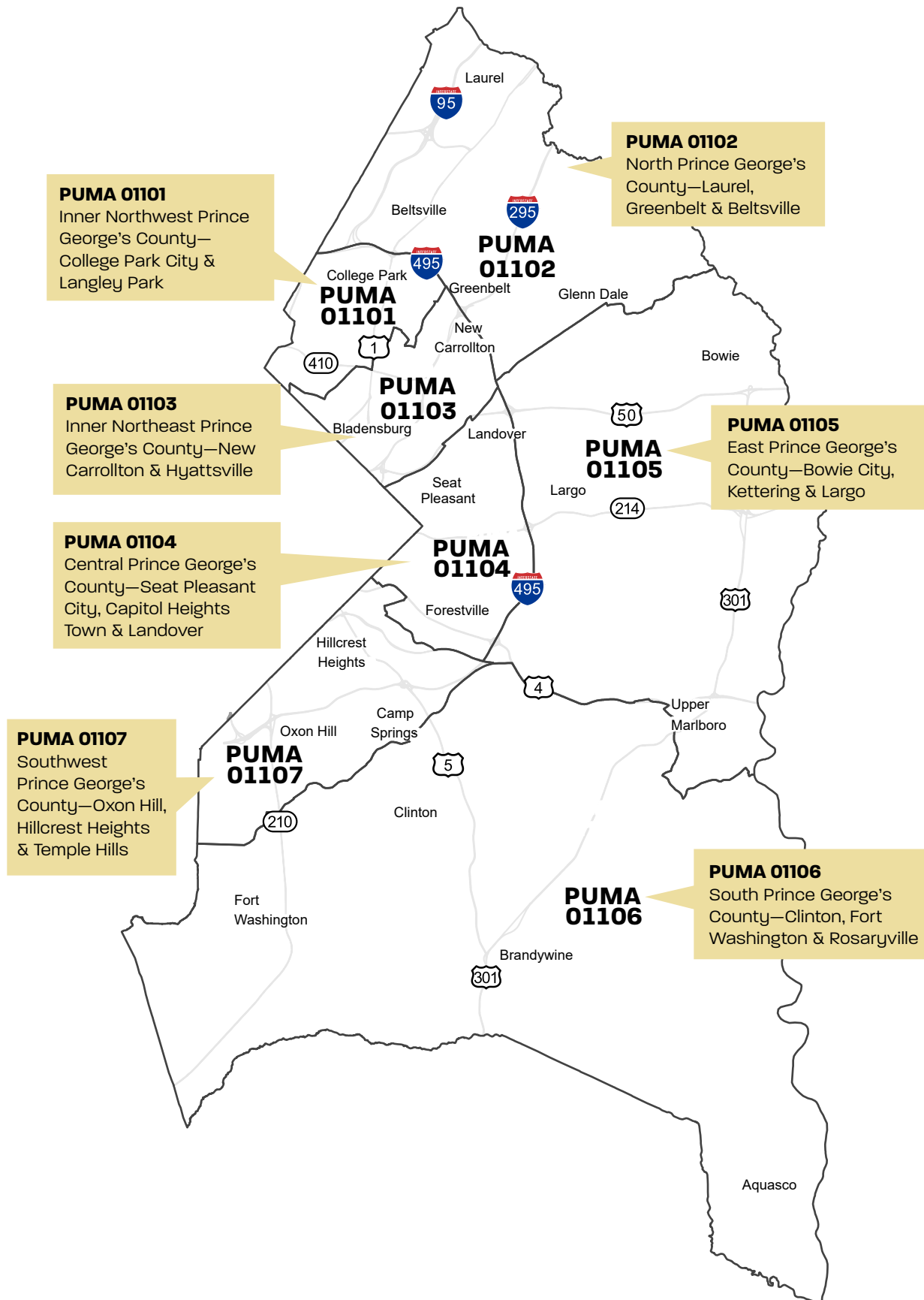
IN 2024

County	Population
1. Harris County, Texas	76,731
2. Montgomery County	62,763
3. Prince George's County	61,443
4. Bronx County, New York	60,060
5. Los Angeles County, California	59,313
6. Hennepin County, Minnesota	58,613
7. Franklin County, Ohio	54,889
8. Dallas County, Texas	52,475
9. Cook County, Illinois	50,198
10. King County, Washington	48,452
United States	2,762,710

IN 2010

County	Population
1. Los Angeles County, California	47,484
2. Montgomery County	41,473
3. Prince George's County	38,889
4. Bronx County, New York	38,811
5. Hennepin County, Minnesota	35,205
6. Harris County, Texas	33,119
7. Cook County, Illinois	30,350
8. King County, Washington	28,618
9. Kings County, New York	27,654
10. Fairfax County, Virginia	26,917
United States	1,466,454

Map 1. Prince George's County Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs)



African Immigrants

Map 2. African Immigrant Population
by Public Use Microdata Area

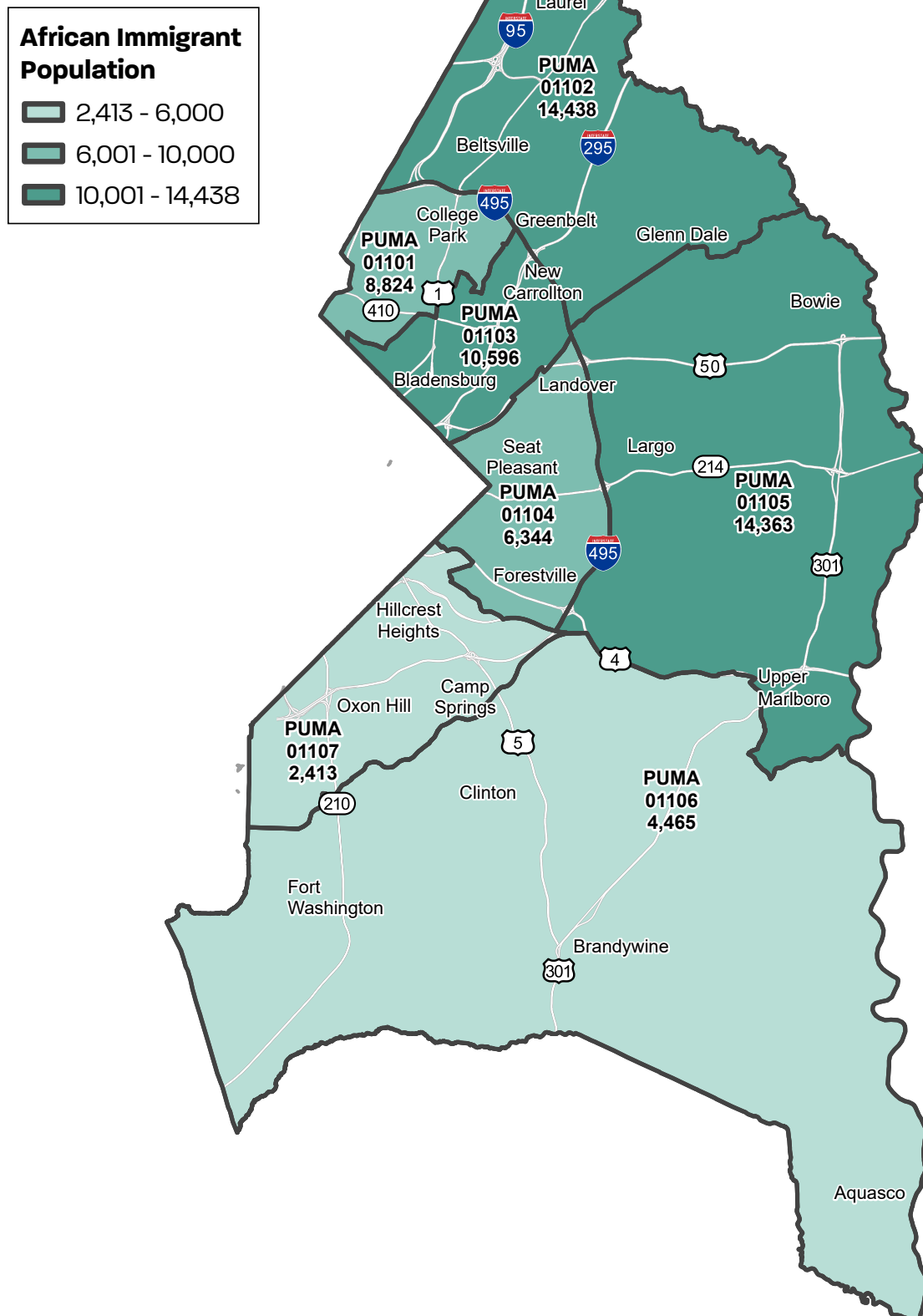


Table 2. Prince George's County population born in Africa by PUMA, 2010 and 2024

	PUMA 01101	PUMA 01102	PUMA 01103	PUMA 01104	PUMA 01105	PUMA 01106	PUMA 01107	County
2024 Population	129,371	145,892	120,587	116,524	196,488	136,335	114,557	959,754
Total Foreign-born	59,718	46,776	47,604	19,124	33,609	17,875	17,673	242,379
Born in Africa	8,824	14,438	10,596	6,344	14,363	4,465	2,413	61,443
Percent of foreign-born population born in Africa	14.8%	30.9%	22.3%	33.2%	42.7%	25.0%	13.7%	25.3%
2010 Population	112,608	128,142	107,048	95,302	162,844	144,132	104,646	854,722
Total Foreign-born	47,942	33,892	34,587	7,506	21,819	11,831	8,267	165,844
Born in Africa	7,922	9,196	7,005	2,059	9,189	2,184	1,334	38,889
Percent of foreign-born population born in Africa	16.5%	27.1%	20.3%	27.4%	42.1%	18.5%	16.1%	23.4%
Change in population between 2010-2024	16,763	17,750	13,539	21,222	33,644	-7,797	9,911	105,032
African immigrant population	902	5,242	3,591	4,285	5,174	2,281	1,079	22,554
Percent change	11.4%	57.0%	51.3%	208.1%	56.3%	104.4%	80.9%	58.0%

Table 3. Decade of Entry of African Immigrants by PUMA, 2024

	PUMA 01101	PUMA 01102	PUMA 01103	PUMA 01104	PUMA 01105	PUMA 01106	PUMA 01107	County
Before 1950	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	11
1950 - 1959	0	21	0	0	71	32	0	124
1960 - 1969	37	196	14	48	182	22	40	539
1970 - 1979	289	175	473	84	365	146	104	1,636
1980 - 1989	586	1,056	820	306	1,716	502	184	5,170
1990 - 1999	1,140	2,329	889	699	3,422	859	520	9,858
2000 - 2009	1,849	3,982	2,009	1,999	4,593	1,670	778	16,880
2010 or later	5,212	6,587	6,841	3,810	6,040	1,712	984	31,186
Total	9,113	14,346	11,046	6,946	16,389	4,954	2,610	65,404

African Immigrants

Table 4. African Immigrants by African Region by PUMA, 2024 and 2010

	PUMA 01101	PUMA 01102	PUMA 01103	PUMA 01104	PUMA 01105	PUMA 01106	PUMA 01107	County
2024	8,824	14,438	10,596	6,344	14,363	4,465	2,413	61,443
Eastern Africa	2,654	1,467	1,570	752	707	898	555	8,603
Middle Africa	2,029	3,297	1,873	1,402	3,080	747	209	12,637
Northern Africa	286	191	56	38	494	181	104	1,350
Southern Africa	79	0	121	0	116	20	64	400
Western Africa	3,451	9,155	6,835	4,138	9,881	2,601	1,335	37,396
Africa, not elsewhere classified	325	328	141	14	85	18	146	1,057
2010	7,922	9,196	7,005	2,059	9,189	2,184	1,334	38,889
Eastern Africa	1,648	1,278	994	271	700	642	580	6,113
Middle Africa	1,665	1,205	717	213	553	29	32	4,414
Northern Africa	38	299	127	30	32	24	36	586
Southern Africa	56	18	11	0	48	0	0	133
Western Africa	3,522	5,745	4,181	1,326	6,944	1,275	519	23,512
Africa, not elsewhere classified	993	651	975	219	912	214	167	4,131

Table 5. Top Five African Nations of African Immigrants by PUMA, 2024 and 2010

	PUMA 01101	PUMA 01102	PUMA 01103	PUMA 01104	PUMA 01105	PUMA 01106	PUMA 01107
2024							
1.	Ethiopia 1,570	Nigeria 4,388	Nigeria 4,274	Nigeria 3,051	Nigeria 6,047	Nigeria 1,036	Nigeria 440
2.	Cameroon 1,546	Cameroon 3,172	Cameroon 1,716	Cameroon 965	Cameroon 3,030	Ghana 754	Ethiopia 373
3.	Nigeria 707	Ghana 2,118	Sierra Leone 1,059	Kenya 350	Sierra Leone 1,402	Cameroon 687	Ghana 344
4.	Sierra Leone 659	Sierra Leone 1,455	Ethiopia 841	Ethiopia 255	Ghana 770	Sierra Leone 400	Cameroon 187
5.	Togo 406	Ethiopia 995	Ghana 533	Senegal 238	Liberia 633	Ethiopia 380	Ivory Coast 131
2010							
1.	Cameroon 1,478	Nigeria 3,178	Nigeria 2,294	Nigeria 857	Nigeria 4,133	Nigeria 851	Ethiopia 510
2.	Ethiopia 1,054	Cameroon 1,191	Sierra Leone 797	Sierra Leone 267	Sierra Leone 1,099	Ethiopia 416	Ghana 215
3.	Nigeria 1,023	Sierra Leone 1,051	Cameroon 550	Cameroon 171	Liberia 665	Ghana 265	Nigeria 135
4.	Sierra Leone 783	Ghana 998	Ghana 534	Ethiopia 98	Ghana 562	Kenya 139	Liberia 109
5.	Ghana 614	Ethiopia 383	Ethiopia 360	Ghana 59	Cameroon 455	Sierra Leone 116	Kenya 49



The largest absolute increases of African immigrants were in PUMAs 01102 and 01105, while PUMAs 01104 and 01106 recorded the highest growth rates (Table 2). In PUMA 01105, African immigrants composed the largest share of the foreign-born population in 2010 and 2024. African immigrants live throughout the County, as shown in Map 2, with concentrations in the northern and eastern areas.

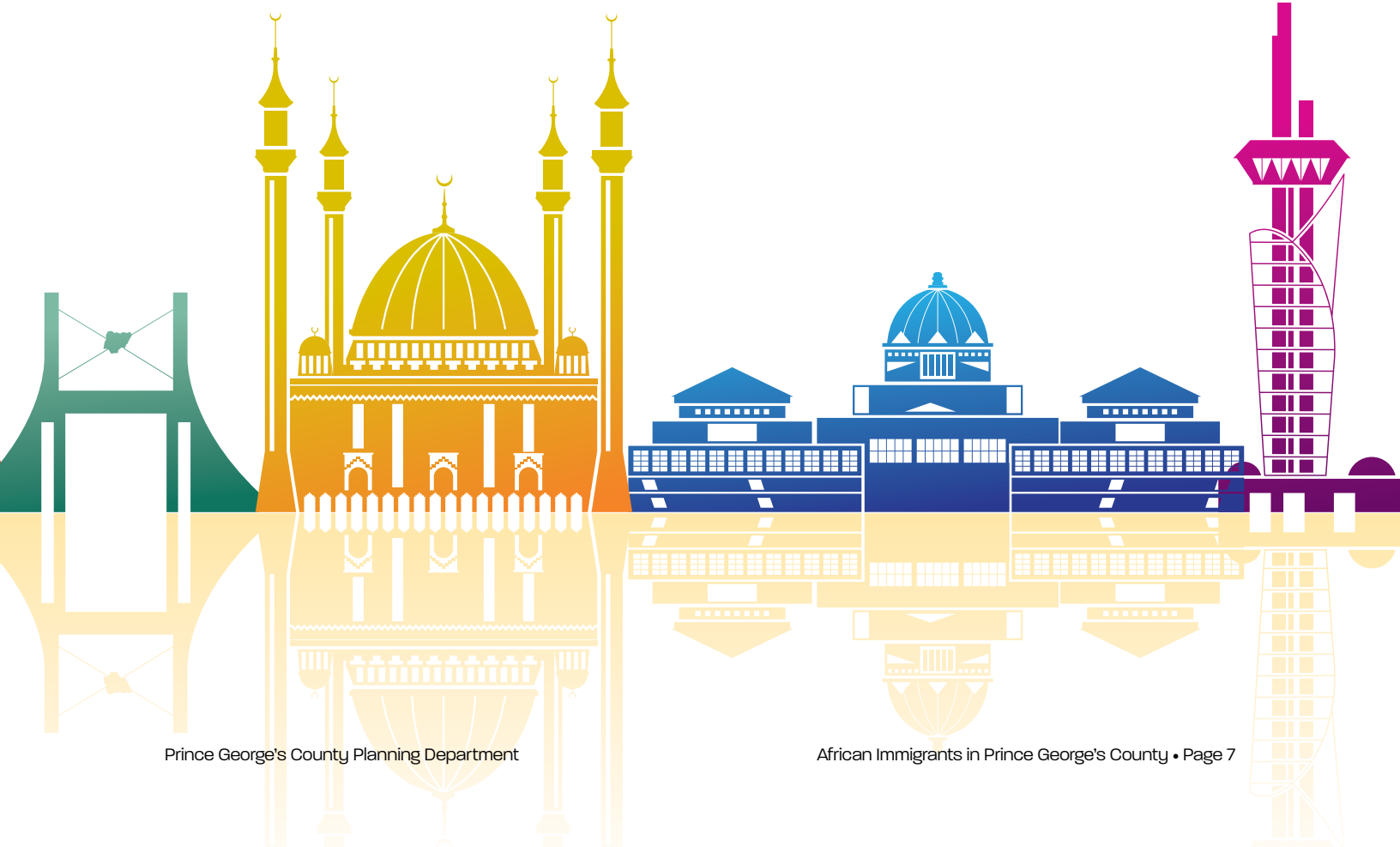
Overall, the County’s African immigrants are relatively recent arrivals and increasingly diverse in their nations of origin. More than 88 percent arrived in the United States in or after 1990, as shown in Table 3. The Census Bureau defines the year of entry as “the year in which people born outside the United States came to live in the United States.”

Most African immigrants in the County are from Western African nations, with concentrations in PUMA 01105 and PUMA 01102 in 2010 and 2024, as shown in Table 4. The top nation of origin for African immigrants in the County is Nigeria, as shown in Tables 5 and 6. African immigrants from other nations, such as Cameroon, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Ethiopia, are also emerging.

Table 6.
TOP 5
African Nations of Origin of Prince George’s
County Residents

IN 2024	
Nation	Population in County
1. Nigeria	19,943
2. Cameroon	11,303
3. Sierra Leone	5,200
4. Ghana	5,139
5. Ethiopia	4,618

IN 2010	
Nation	Population in County
1. Nigeria	12,471
2. Sierra Leone	4,141
3. Cameroon	3,896
4. Ghana	3,247
5. Ethiopia	3,081



African Immigrants



Superb Educational Attainment

The share of African immigrants in the County who hold a bachelor's degree continues to grow. In 2010, this group already outpaced the County average for bachelor's degree or higher (Table 7 and Figure 1). In 2024, all but one PUMA have educational attainment levels that exceed the County level of 37.6 percent, particularly PUMAs 01105 and 01107, where more than 50 percent of African immigrants age 25 and older hold a bachelor's degree or higher.



Various Homeownership Rate

Tenure refers to the distinction between owner-occupied and renter-occupied housing units, as defined by the Census Bureau. Occupied housing units are considered households. The homeownership rate is the percent share of owner-occupied housing units among all occupied housing units.

The homeownership rate for African immigrants fell from 60.9 percent in 2010 to 55.5 percent in 2024, noticeably lower than the County rate (Table 7 and Figure 1). Homeownership rates varied by location. PUMA 01106 continues to have the highest rate among and remains considerably above the County level. PUMAs 01101 and 01106 were the only two areas where the rate increased from 2010 to 2024. Available data are insufficient to establish a correlation between low homeownership rates and the recent arrival of African immigrants in the County.

Similar to overall County patterns, the homeownership rate is high outside the Beltway and relatively low inside the Beltway, where there is a large concentration of renter-occupied housing units or households, as analyzed and discussed in *The Housing Cost Study for Prince George's County*, published in early 2026.²

HOUSEHOLD INCOME DATA

Because of the small data sample, household income estimates are available for only some African nations of origin. Comparisons and conclusions should be conducted with caution.



Notably High Household Income

The exceptionally high household incomes of many African immigrants may be attributable to their strong educational backgrounds. In most PUMAs, the average household income for African immigrants exceeds the County average. Although average household income declined in PUMAs 01104 and 01106 between 2010 and 2024, income levels remain substantially high (Figure 1 and Table 7).

Table 7 displays the “average of household income” (as defined by the Census Bureau) by PUMA for 2010 and 2024 and adjust the 2010 income using the Consumer Price Index (CPI). It is standard practice among scholars, economists, and other data users to use CPI to adjust dollar-denominated values before comparing data across different periods.



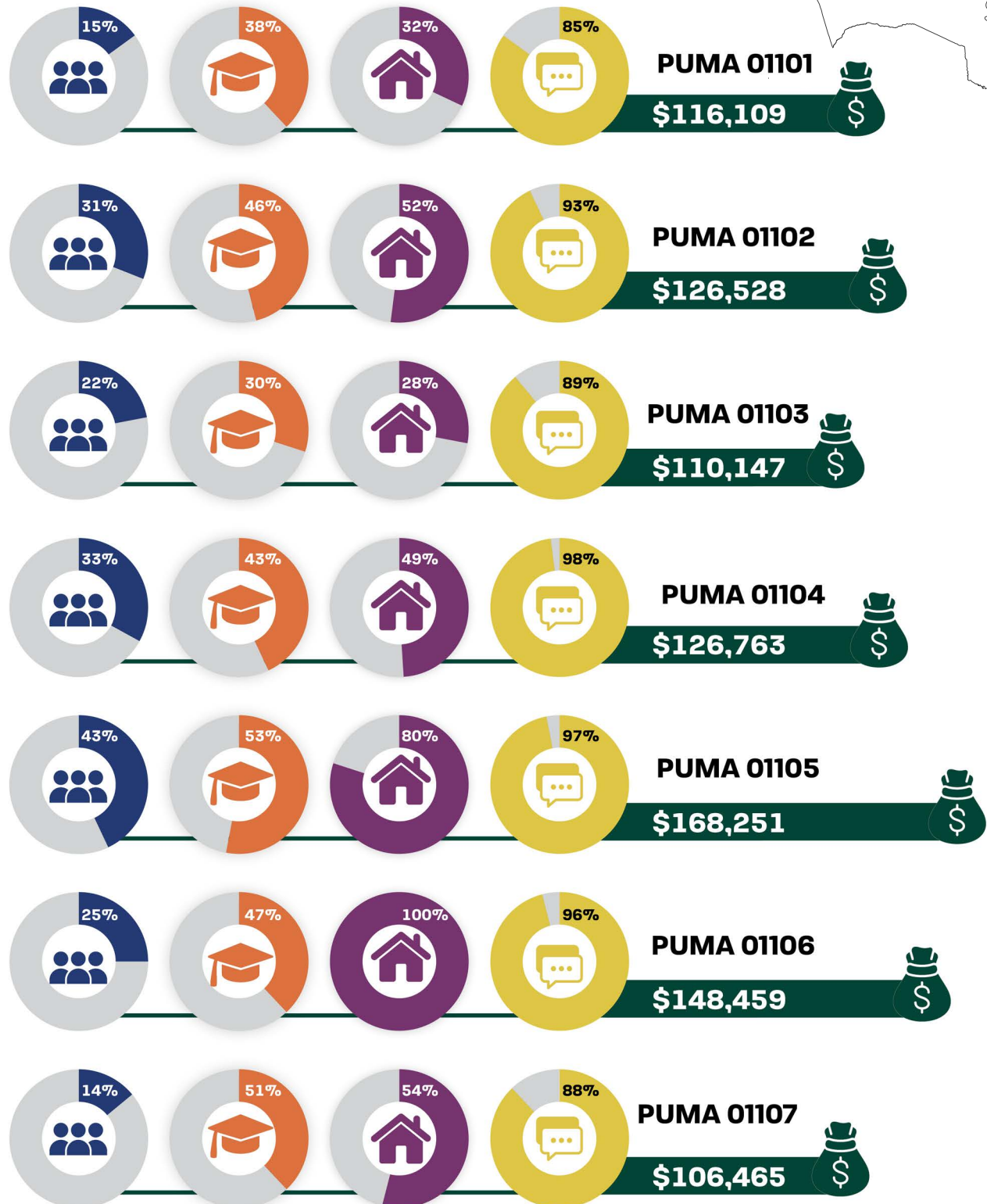
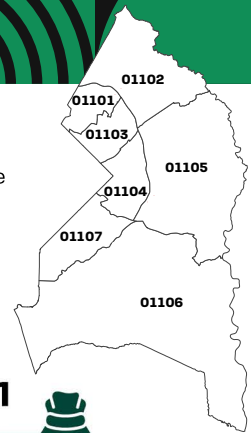
Strong English Proficiency

At least one person in 93 percent of African immigrant households speaks English very well, or it is their only language, according to Table 7 and Figure 1. Across the County, African immigrants in households where no one aged 14 or older speaks English only or very well are largely from Ethiopia, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana, and Sierra Leone, due to their population size. However, data are not available for some African immigrant groups in the County due to the small population size.

² https://www.pgplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2025_Housing-Cost-Study-1.pdf

Figure 1. A Snapshot of African Immigrants Across Prince George's County as of 2024

-  Percent of all immigrants born in Africa
-  Percent with Bachelor's degree or higher
-  Percent who own their home
-  Percent of households where at least one person speaks English only or very well
-  Average Household income



African Immigrants

Conclusion

Prince George's County has the third-largest African immigrant population in the nation, growing 58 percent since 2010, and largely concentrated in the northern and eastern portions of the County. Today, one in four foreign-born residents originates from an African country. Nigeria remains the leading nation of origin, while Cameroon, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Ethiopia also contribute to the County's diversity.

African immigrants in Prince George's County demonstrate notable socioeconomic strengths, including high levels of educational attainment, strong English proficiency, and generally high household incomes. Their homeownership rates vary geographically, reflecting overall County patterns. These findings underscore that African immigrants are an integral part of Prince George's County's social and economic fabric, contributing significantly to the County's continued population growth, racial and cultural diversity, and economic prosperity.



CELEBRATE AFRICA

The Prince George's County Government and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will jointly host the annual Celebrate Africa Festival during Federal African Heritage Month in September. The festival recognizes African immigrants' contributions to the County and the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region while showcasing cultural vibrancy and diversity through art and other creative works.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



Table 7. African Immigrant Communities by PUMA: Education, Homeownership, Language, and Income, 2010 and 2024

	PUMA 01101	PUMA 01102	PUMA 01103	PUMA 01104	PUMA 01105	PUMA 01106	PUMA 01107	County
Educational Attainment								
2010								
Total Population 25 Years Old and Over	6,028	8,401	5,642	1,941	8,566	2,182	1,000	558,007
Bachelor's degree or higher	1,773	3,551	1,583	477	3,744	973	374	163,904
Bachelor's degree	1,261	2,155	891	259	2,357	519	374	95,118
Master's degree	300	822	410	204	1,078	288	0	51,257
Professional school degree	96	380	232	14	207	87	0	9,792
Doctorate degree	116	194	50	0	102	79	0	7,737
% of Population 25+ with Bachelor's+	29.4%	42.3%	28.1%	24.6%	43.7%	44.6%	37.4%	29.4%
2024								
Total Population 25 Years Old and Over	8,628	14,075	10,662	6,458	16,209	4,850	2,556	667,226
Bachelor's degree or higher	3,312	6,534	3,237	2,790	8,568	2,298	1,299	250,544
Bachelor's degree	2,106	3,676	2,031	1,884	4,183	1,138	762	133,836
Master's degree	837	1,857	883	745	3,545	877	384	86,724
Professional school degree	105	407	283	118	457	0	71	13,915
Doctorate degree	264	594	40	43	383	283	82	16,069
% of Population 25+ with Bachelor's+	38.4%	46.4%	30.4%	43.2%	52.9%	47.4%	50.8%	37.6%
Tenure and Homeownership Rate								
2010								
Owner-Occupied	1,360	5,468	1,799	1,140	7,947	2,052	618	189,330
Renter-Occupied	4,613	2,767	3,843	801	565	130	382	112,593
Homeownership Rate	22.8%	66.4%	31.9%	58.7%	93.4%	94.0%	61.8%	62.7%
2024								
Owner-Occupied	2,866	7,405	3,101	3,398	13,081	4,931	1,401	216,692
Renter-Occupied	6,133	6,932	7,926	3,544	3,303	23	1,209	131,052
Homeownership Rate	31.8%	51.6%	28.1%	48.9%	79.8%	99.5%	53.7%	62.3%
Limited English Proficiency (Members in Households 14 Years Old and Over)								
2010								
1+ person speaks English only/very well	5,506	7,590	5,370	1,912	7,983	2,039	991	31,391
No one speaks English only or very well	467	645	272	29	529	143	9	2,094
2024								
1+ person speaks English only/very well	7,017	12,965	9,572	6,551	15,624	4,972	2,227	58,928
No one speaks English only or very well	1,197	1,001	1,138	165	510	198	300	4,509
Average of Household Income								
2010	\$53,248	\$87,656	\$68,057	\$92,967	\$104,893	\$128,858	\$68,357	\$85,275
2010 CPI Adjusted to 2024 Value	\$76,845	\$126,501	\$98,216	\$134,165	\$151,376	\$185,962	\$98,650	\$123,065
2024	\$116,109	\$126,528	\$110,147	\$126,763	\$168,251	\$148,459	\$106,465	\$125,138
Change, 2010 (Adjusted) and 2024	\$39,264	\$27	\$11,930	-\$7,402	\$16,875	-\$37,503	\$7,815	\$2,073

African Immigrants

Acknowledgments

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

James R. Hunt, MPA	Acting Planning Director
Gwen McCall-Winston	Deputy Director of Administration
Katina Shoulars	Acting Deputy Director of Operations
James Cannistra, C.P., GISP	Division Chief, Information Management

PRODUCTION TEAM

Kui Zhao, AICP	Planning Supervisor
William Lescure, GISP	Senior GIS Specialist
Emma Walker	Planner II
Xuedi Yan	Intern II, University of Maryland

PUBLICATIONS TEAM

Carly Brockinton	Public Affairs and Marketing Specialist II
------------------	--



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION