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INCOME

2005-2009 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

May 2011



ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA

Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development
Planning Division
Planning Research and Analysis Team

Arlington Vision

“Arlington will be a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with secure, attractive residential and commercial neighborhoods where people unite to form a caring, learning, participating, sustainable community in which each person is important.”

— Arlington County Board

INTRODUCTION

2009 American Community Survey

This report, *Income 2005-2009 American Community Survey*, is the ninth in a series to examine the 2005-2009 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates for Arlington County, Virginia. This report compares the estimates of the 5-Year ACS to the 2000 Census long form survey. Other report topics in this series include: households and families, race/ethnicity, language, poverty, housing, commuting, employment, and education.

The ACS is an annual survey, administered by the U.S. Census Bureau, that samples 3 million residential addresses throughout the United States. It replaces the long-form survey previously used in the decennial census. The 2005-2009 ACS is not an average of five years nor 60 months, rather the data collected are aggregated and spread evenly across the entire period represented without over-representing any particular month or year.

Availability

The ACS provides time period estimates on population characteristics that were collected over one, three, and five years. Figure 1 shows the collection dates for each of the published ACS data products. The data produced in the one-year estimate are most current to the year of collection. However, the 5-year estimate provides data that are not as current but more precise and reliable, due to a larger sample size.

Also shown in Figure 1, each period estimate is only published for areas with minimum population requirements. For example, the one-year estimate provides data annually for city/county geographic areas with populations of at least 65,000. The 2005-2009 ACS 5-year estimate, released in December 2010, is the first set of ACS data released at the Census tract and block group geographic level since the 2000 Census.

Figure 1: ACS Published Data

ACS Estimate	Data Collected	Published for Areas
2009 ACS (1-Year)	1/1/2009-12/31/2009	Populations 65,000+
2009 ACS (3-Year)	1/1/2007-12/31/2009	Populations 20,000+
2009 ACS (5-Year)	1/1/2005-12/31/2009	Almost any size

Sample Size

While the ACS replaces the decennial census long form, it is administered to a much smaller sample of the population. The 2005-2009 ACS 5-Year Estimate data, used for this and subsequent topic reports, sampled 12,285 individuals out of an estimated 206,405 Arlington residents. This sample size represents about 5.95 percent of Arlington's population. The sample size for the 2000 Census long form was more than double the ACS sample at 12.8 percent.

Margin of Error and Coefficients of Variation

Since the period estimates are based on a sample of the population, there is a margin of error (MOE) associated with each estimate. The MOE provides information on how much sampling error is associated with each estimate. A larger MOE indicates a less reliable estimate, relative to the size of the estimate. Since estimates vary, it can be difficult to decipher whether an estimate is reliable using the MOE.

Coefficients of variation (CV) are values that represent a percentage of variability and determine the reliability for an estimate. The CV is a ratio of the standard error to the estimated value. Estimates with lower CV are more reliable. For this series of reports, the CV will be used to determine if the estimates are reliable. Estimates with CV values below 5.00 are considered to be very reliable. For this and subsequent topic reports, estimates with CV values between 5.00 and 15.00 are considered slightly less reliable. Estimates with CV values higher than 15.00 are not considered reliable.

Significance Testing

Significance testing is important for determining whether the difference between the 2000 Census and 2005-2009 ACS 5-Year estimates are likely due to random chance (sampling error) or likely represents a true difference that exists in the population as a whole. This report identifies the statistical significance of the change in the estimates at a 90 percent confidence level.

INCOME

2005-2009 American Community Survey

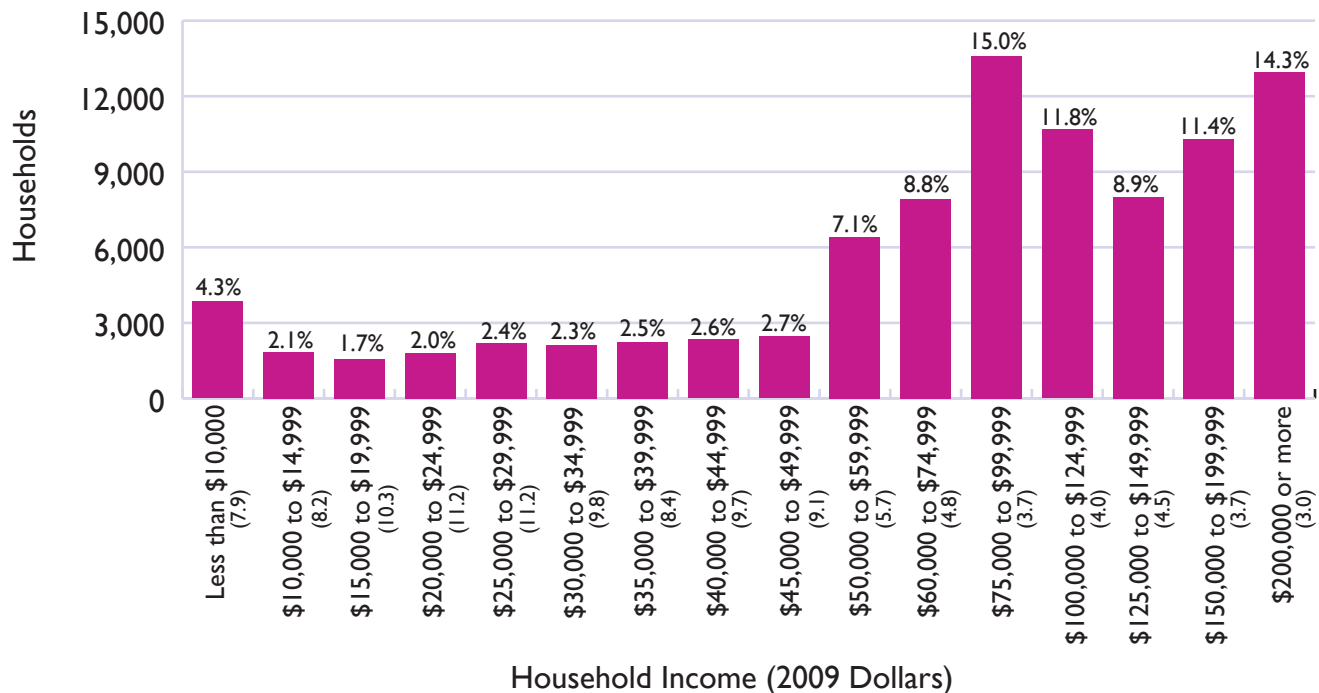
The ACS asks the respondent to identify any source of income during the last 12 months. Income data are very important for understanding the general economic circumstance of an area. The information provided to the U.S. Census Bureau is used for programs related to social services, employment, housing, and education. For example, these data are used to identify local areas eligible for grants to stimulate economic recovery and provide job-training programs.

Median household income divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median income and one-half above the median. For households and families, the median income is based on the distribution of the total number of households and families including those with no income. Median income for households, families, and individuals is computed on the basis of a standard distribution, and it is rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

Arlington's median household income in the past 12 months is estimated to be \$93,806 in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars, according to the 2005-2009 ACS 5-Year Estimate. Figure 2 shows households distributed by income levels. Almost three-quarters (70.3 percent) of Arlington households have an income of \$50,000 or higher per year. 46.4 percent of households have incomes of \$100,000 or higher, well above the median household income. All income levels have low enough CV values to be considered reliable.

Households earning less than \$30,000 per year account for 12.5 percent of households or 11,282 households. 10.1 percent of households have annual incomes between \$30,000 to \$50,000. The CV values for incomes up to \$50,000 are slightly high, making these estimates not as reliable as those for higher income levels.

Figure 2: Household Income in the Past 12 Months (2009 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)



Coefficient of Variation (CV) = Percent of Variability

Reliable = CV < 5.00

Less Reliable = 5.00 < CV < 15.00

Not Reliable = CV > 15.00

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

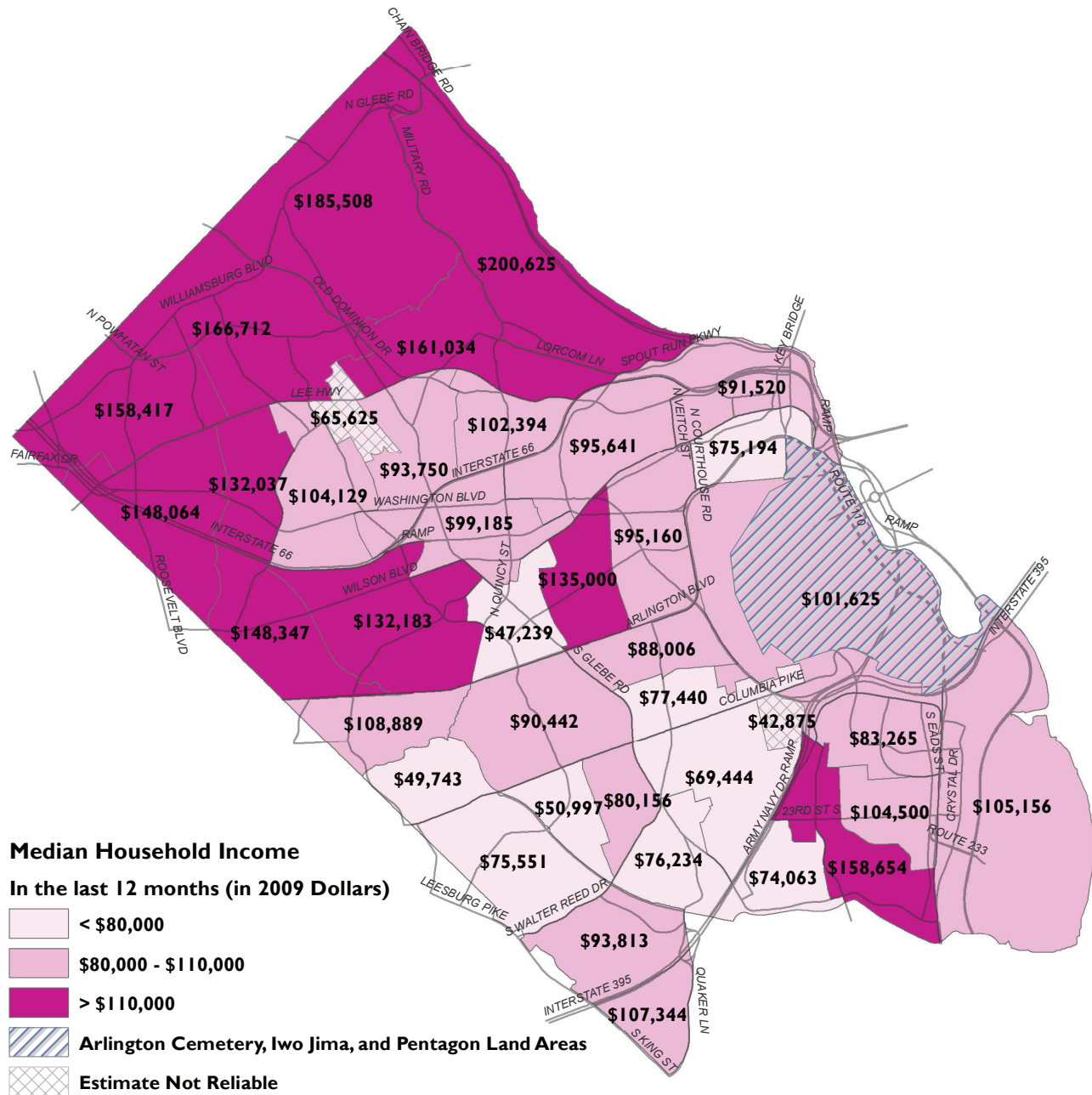
2005-2009 American Community Survey

In 2005-2009, Arlington County had a median household income of \$93,806 (with a CV of 1.1) in 2009 inflation adjusted dollars. During this same time period, the United States had a median household income of \$51,425 in 2009 inflation adjusted dollars and, Virginia had a median household income of

\$60,316 in 2009 inflation adjusted dollars.

High median household income census tracts were primarily located in North Arlington. Low median household income census tracts were located primarily in South Arlington and along Columbia Pike.

Figure 3: Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months by Census Tracts, 2005-2009 (2009 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars).



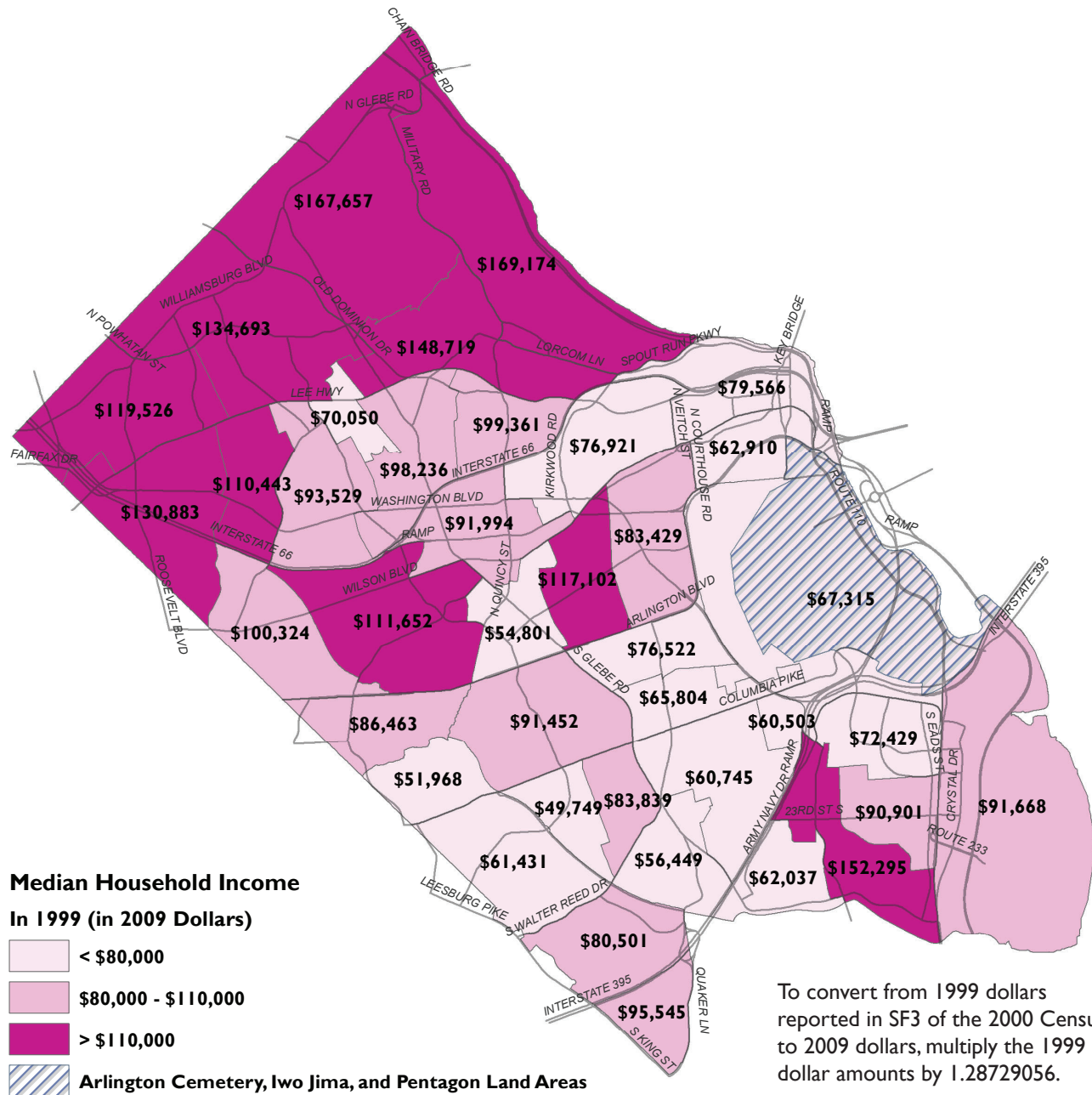
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

2000 Decennial Census

In 2000, Arlington County had a median household income of \$81,101 in 2009 inflation adjusted dollars. During this same time period, the United States had a median household income of \$55,058 in 2009 inflation adjusted dollars, and Virginia had a median household income of \$60,087 in 2009 inflation adjusted dollars.

High median household income census tracts were primarily located in North Arlington. Low median household income census tracts were located primarily in South Arlington and along Columbia Pike.

Figure 4: Median Household Income in 1999 by Census Tracts (2009 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars).



AGE

2005-2009 American Community Survey

The 2005-2009 ACS provides household income information by the age of the householder. The householder is a member of a household who lives at a housing unit and owns, is buying, or rents the housing unit. If there is no such person present when the Census Bureau contacts the household, any household member who is at least 15 years old can serve as the householder for the purposes of a census or survey.

By age category, households with 25-44 year old householders contain the largest number households with income, and the largest number of households in each income category.

Households with 45-64 year old householders had the highest percentage of households with income greater than \$100,000 (54.7%).

By percentage share of their age category, households with 65 years and older or 25 years and under householders were split more evenly by income levels when compared to the households with a householder aged 25-44 and 45-64. The under 25 category, however, has less reliable CVs.

Figure 5: Age of Householder by Household Income in the Past 12 Months, 2005-2009 (2009 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars).

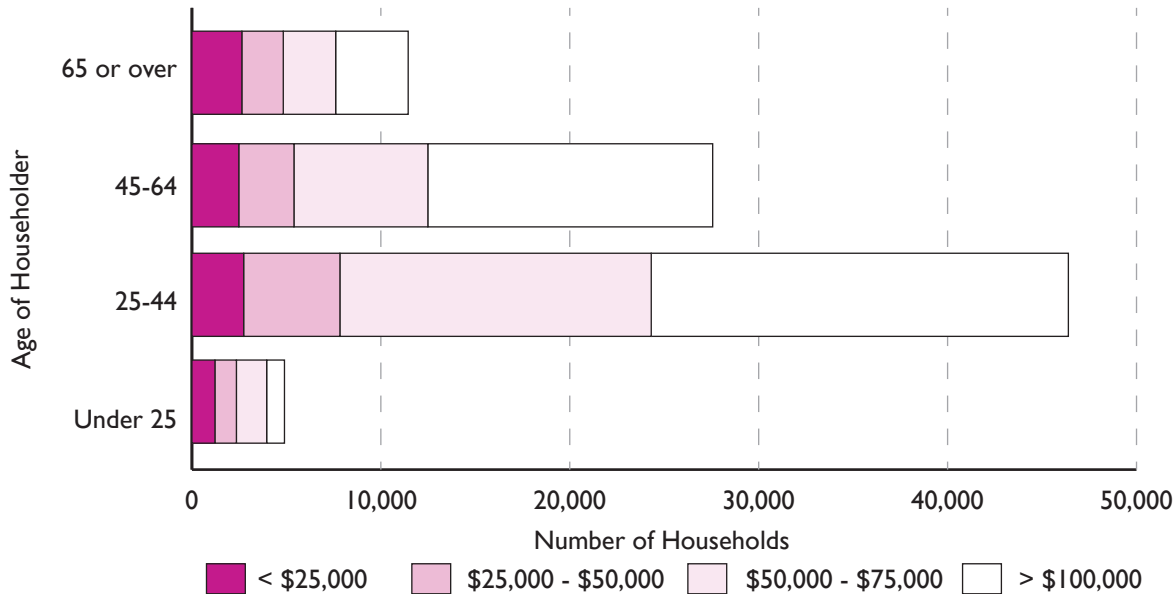


Figure 6: Age of Householder by Household Income in the Past 12 Months, 2005-2009 (2009 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars).

Income Categories	Under 25			25-44			45-64			65 and Older		
	Estimate	CV	%	Estimate	CV	%	Estimate	CV	%	Estimate	CV	%
Less than \$25,000	1,217	14.8	24.8%	2,738	9.2	5.9%	2,480	8.9	9.0%	2,642	7.1	23.1%
\$25,000 - \$50,000	1,137	14.4	23.2%	5,094	6.8	11.0%	2,920	8.7	10.6%	2,193	8.1	19.2%
\$50,000 - \$100,000	1,602	11.1	32.7%	16,481	3.6	35.5%	7,087	5.0	25.7%	2,773	7.0	24.2%
Greater than \$100,000	942	12.8	19.2%	22,080	2.8	47.6%	15,078	3.0	54.7%	3,839	5.2	33.5%
All Income Categories	4,898	6.6	100%	46,393	2.1	100%	27,565	2.4	100%	11,447	3.3	100%

Coefficient of Variation (CV) = Percent of Variability

Reliable = CV < 5.00

Less Reliable = 5.00 < CV < 15.00

Not Reliable = CV > 15.00

RACE / ETHNICITY

2005-2009 American Community Survey

In 2005-2009, households with a white householder contained the largest number of households with income (69,893 with a CV of 1.5). Out of all other racial or ethnic categories, these households had the largest number households within all income categories and the largest percentage of households with incomes over \$100,000 (51.6%).

Out of all other race and ethnicity categories, households with a Black/African American

householder had the highest percentage of households with incomes less than \$25,000 (22.4%), while households with a White householder had the highest number (5,034 with a CV of 5.9). Households with an Other/Multiracial householder had the highest percentage (23.9%) of households with incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

Households with a Hispanic or Latino householder had the highest percentage (33.4%) of households with

Figure 7: Household Income in the Past 12 Months (2009 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars).

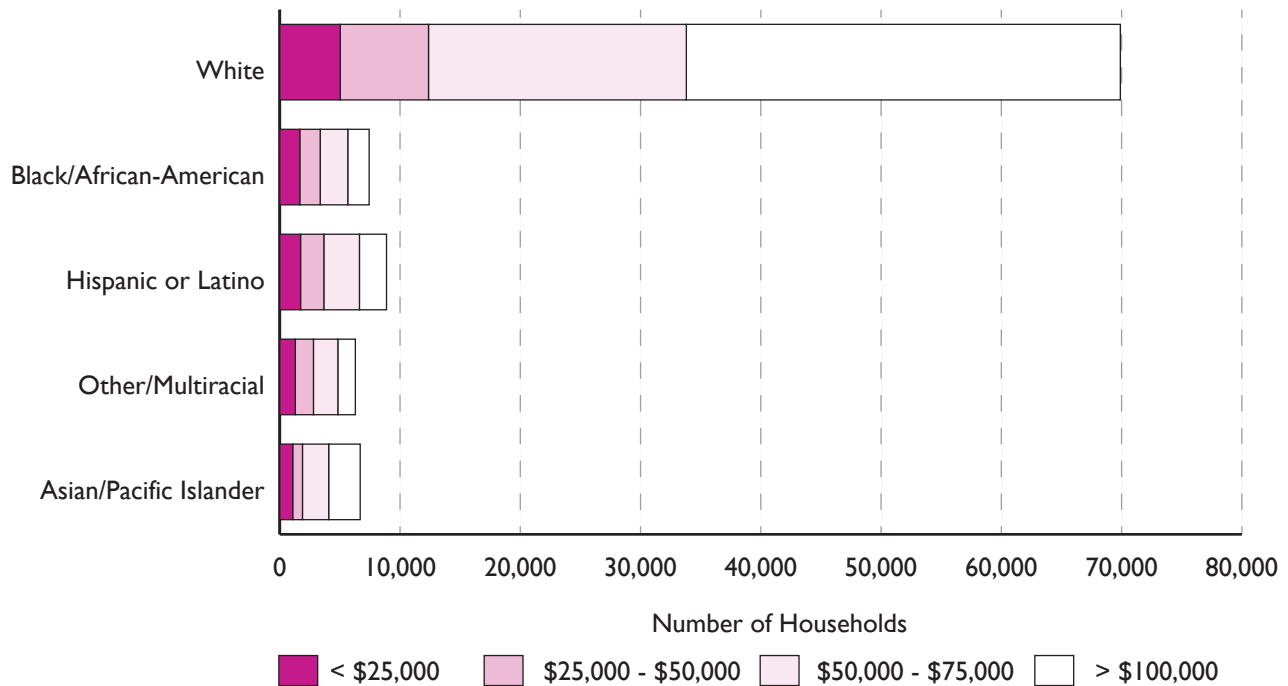


Figure 8: Household Income in the Past 12 Months (2009 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars).

Income Categories	White			Black/African American			Hispanic or Latino			Other/Multiracial			Asian/Pacific Islander		
	Estimate	CV	%	Estimate	CV	%	Estimate	CV	%	Estimate	CV	%	Estimate	CV	%
Less than \$25,000	5,034	5.9	7.2%	1,667	11.6	22.4%	1,729	11.8	19.5%	1,297	15.4	20.6%	1,079	17.1	16.1%
\$25,000 - \$50,000	7,335	5.2	10.5%	1,695	11.3	22.8%	1,936	11.8	21.8%	1,504	16.7	23.9%	810	25.5	12.1%
\$50,000 - \$100,000	21,438	2.9	30.7%	2,296	10.0	30.9%	2,961	8.1	33.4%	2,028	10.7	32.3%	2,181	10.4	32.6%
Greater than \$100,000	36,086	2.0	51.6%	1,776	11.6	23.9%	2,251	8.5	25.4%	1,458	12.8	23.2%	2,619	9.6	39.2%
All Income Categories	69,893	1.5	100%	7,434	5.5	100%	8,877	4.9	100%	6,287	6.8	100%	6,689	6.5	100%

Coefficient of Variation (CV) = Percent of Variability

Reliable = CV < 5.00

Less Reliable = 5.00 < CV < 15.00

Not Reliable = CV > 15.00

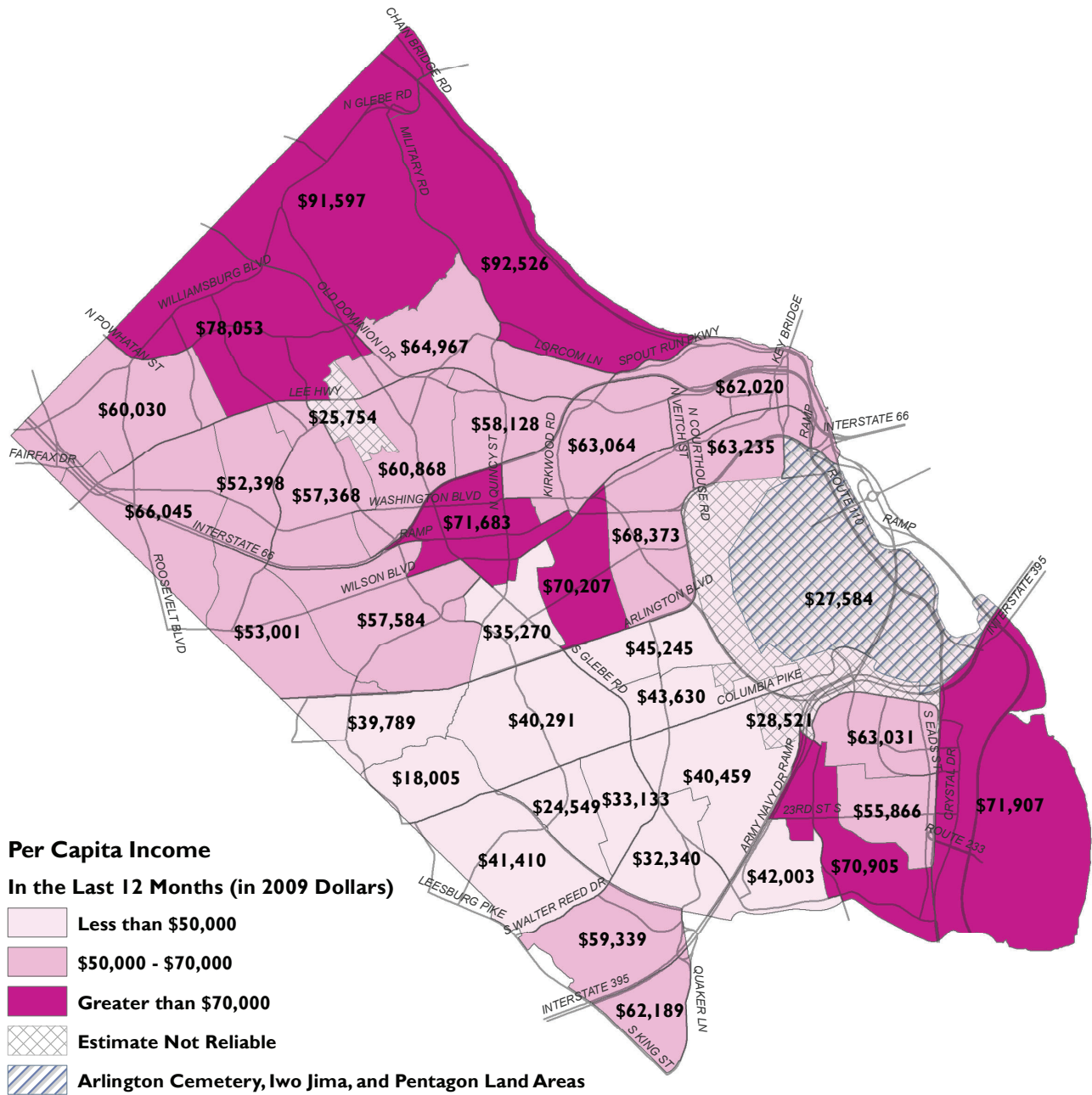
PER CAPITA INCOME

2005-2009 American Community Survey

In 2005-2009, Arlington County had a per capita income of \$55,514 (CV of 1.1) in 2009 inflation adjusted dollars. During this same time period, the United States had a per capita income of \$27,041 in 2009 inflation adjusted dollars, and Virginia had a per capita income of \$31,606 in 2009 inflation adjusted dollars.

High per capita income census tracts were primarily located north of Lee Highway, in Ballston and Ashton Heights, Crystal City, and in Arlington Ridge. Low per capita income census tracts were primarily located along Columbia Pike and in South Arlington.

Figure 9: Per Capita Income in the Past 12 Months by Census Tract, 2005-2009 (2009 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars).



GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY

2005-2009 American Community Survey

In 2005-2009, 78% of Arlington residents over the age of 15 and with income lived in the same house as they did the year before. During the same time period, 21.5% of Arlington residents over the age of 15 and with income moved residences from the previous year (either they moved within the same county, moved to a different county within the same state, or moved to a different state).

When compared to the Arlington average, individuals with incomes greater than \$75,000 stayed in the same

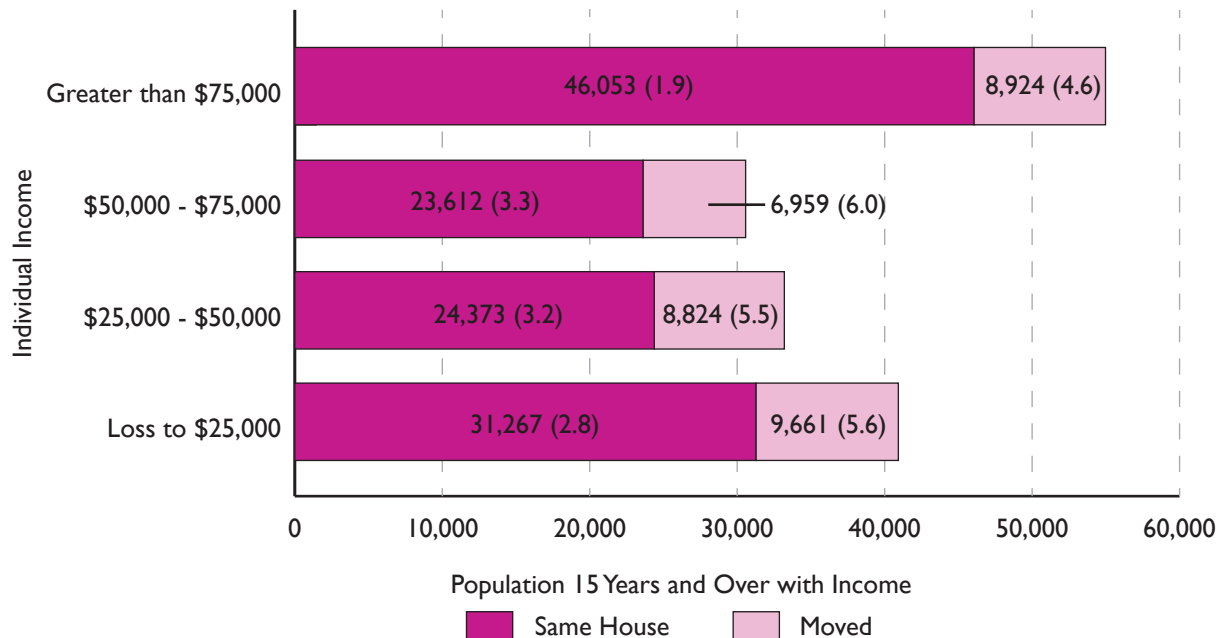
house at a higher rate (83.8%) and moved at the lowest rate (16.2%). Individuals with incomes from \$25,000 - \$50,000 moved at the greatest rate (26.6%).

The largest number of individuals staying in the same home were those with incomes greater than \$75,000 (46,053 with a CV of 1.9). The largest number of individuals moving were those with incomes less than \$25,000 (9,661 with a CV of 5.6).

Figure 10: Geographic Mobility by Individual Income, 2005-2009 (2009 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars).

Income Categories	Same House			Moved			Total		
	Estimate	CV	%	Estimate	CV	%	Estimate	CV	%
Loss to \$25,000	31,267	2.8	76.4%	9,661	5.6	23.6%	40,928	2.3	100%
\$25,000 - \$50,000	24,373	3.2	73.4%	8,824	5.5	26.6%	33,197	2.8	100%
\$50,000 - \$75,000	23,612	3.3	77.2%	6,959	6.0	22.8%	30,571	2.9	100%
Greater than \$75,000	46,053	1.9	83.8%	8,924	4.6	16.2%	54,977	1.7	100%
Total	125,305	0.8	78.5%	34,368	10.8	21.5%	159,673	0.8	100%

Figure 11: Geographic Mobility by Individual Income, 2005-2009 (2009 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars).



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Published and Forthcoming Reports

A series of 2005-2009 ACS 5-Year Estimate reports will be released in 2011. Below is a list of ACS topics and release months.

Overview (January 2011)

Households and Families (February 2011)

Age (February 2011)

Race and Ethnicity (March 2011)

Language (March 2011)

Foreign Population (April 2011)

Employment (April 2011)

Education (May 2011)

Poverty (June 2011)

Journey to Work (June 2011)

Housing (July 2011)

Once published, copies of the reports may be downloaded at the following location:

www.arlingtonva.us/PRAT

The Planning Research and Analysis Team (PRAT) is part of Arlington County Planning Division and is responsible for maintaining, analyzing, and disseminating information related to planning development and demographics.

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