

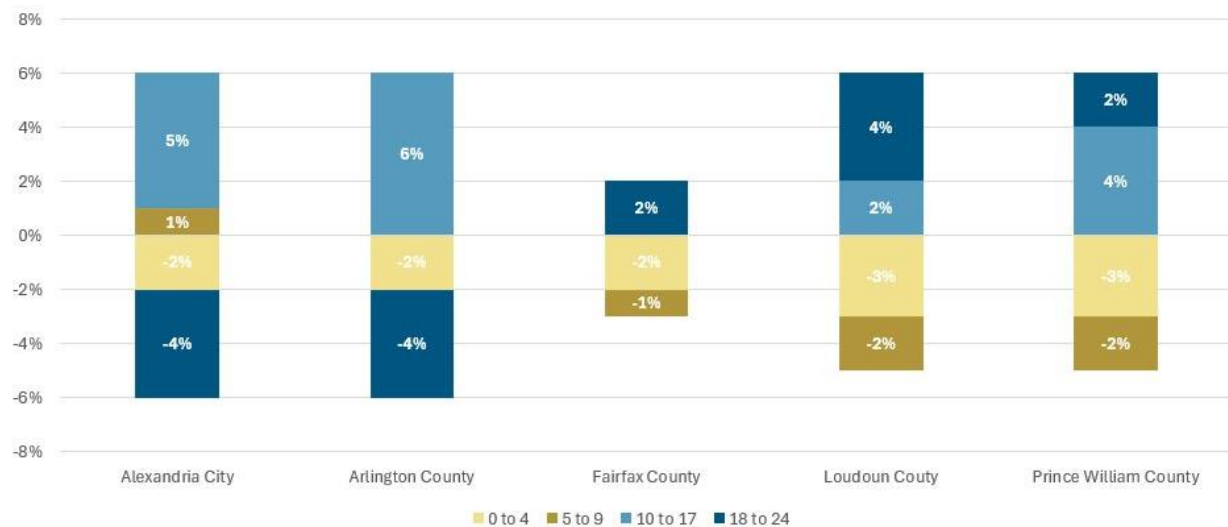
Who are Northern Virginia's Youth?

By Denise Bellows, PhD and Katharyn Loweth, MS

Our first event in our Deep Dive Series discussed the demographics of Northern Virginia's youth and how they have changed over a ten-year period. These findings, along with other data, will be shared in our full report that will be published in time for our Shape of the Region event, March 25, 2025. You can register for Shape of the Region, here: [Register | The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia](#). You can also learn more about these data through our Deep Dive presentation series on Northern Virginia's Children and Youth, here: <https://www.cfnova.org/community-leadership/insight-region/insight-region-deep-dives/>

Age. Among youth under age 25, across jurisdictions, most are aged 10-24. The population of **youth under age 5 has decreased** by two to three percentage points across all jurisdictions in Northern Virginia over the past decade, from 2012 to 2022. For reference, the birth rate in the region has decreased 1.8 percentage points over the same period.

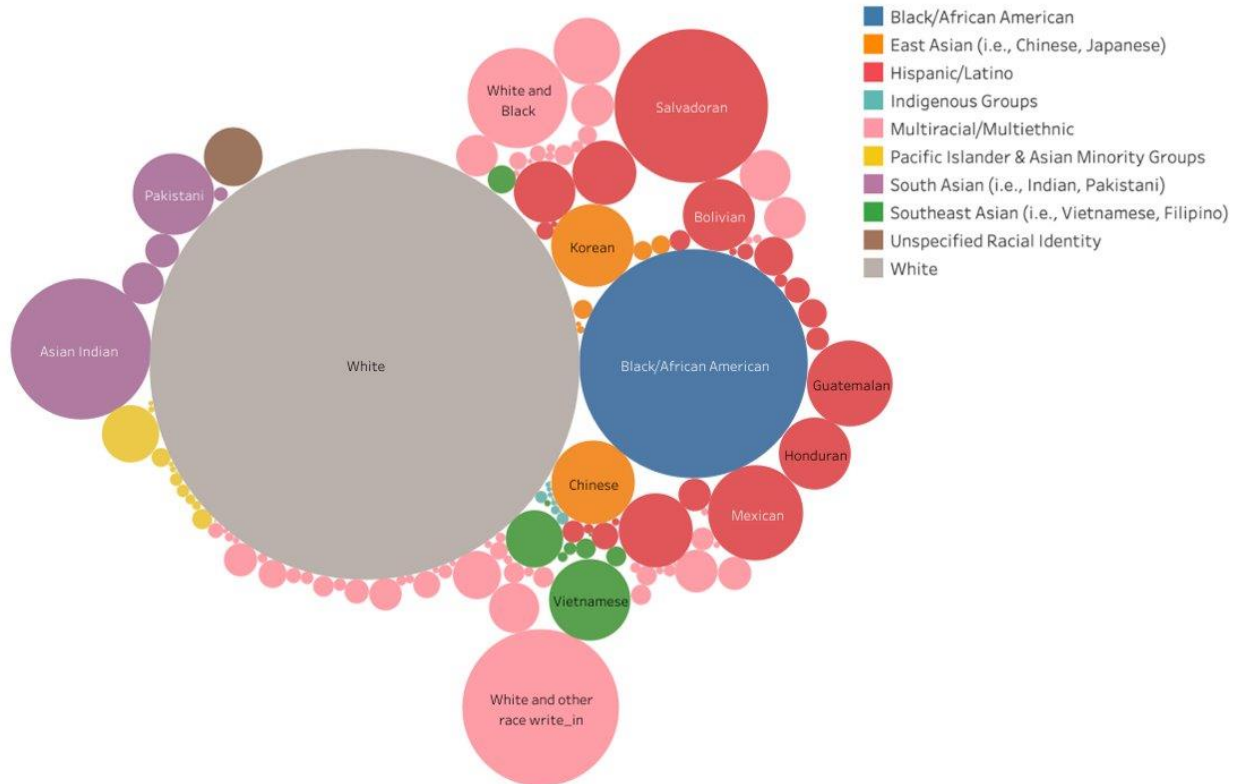
Figure 1. Percentage point changes in age distribution by jurisdiction, 2012 to 2022.



Source: Insight Region analysis of American Communities Survey, 2012 and 2022 5-year estimates, accessed through IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota www.ipums.org.

Race and ethnicity. Northern Virginia's youth have become more diverse over the past decade. Figure 2 provides detailed racial and ethnic data by frequency of reporting. Most youth under age 25 identify with the following racial and ethnic groups: White, Black, Salvadorian, Asian Indian, and Multiracial or Multiethnic.

Figure 2. Detailed Race and Ethnicity Description of Northern Virginians, 2022



Source: Insight Region analysis of American Communities Survey data (2022), accessed through IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota www.ipums.org.

Interact with these data here: [NOVA_youth_racialgroups_ACS2022 | Tableau Public](#)

From 2012 to 2022, the largest demographic changes were in youth reporting two or more ethnicities followed by youth reporting two or more races. **Youth identifying as Multiracial and Hispanic (i.e., multiethnic) increased between 4 and 8 percentage points in all jurisdictions.** Youth identifying as Multiracial and not Hispanic increased 1 to 4 percentage points in all jurisdictions.

Immigrant Families. Nearly 50% of Northern Virginia’s youth live in immigrant families, either as foreign-born youth or children immigrant parents (i.e., first generation Americans). Over the past decade, the proportion of **children in immigrant families has increased and remains double that of the Commonwealth.**

Language proficiency. The need for Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) services has **grown by 20 percent** from 2011 to 2021.

Look forward to our Deep Dive Session, **January 29, 2025**, where we will explore preliminary data around feelings of safety at school and substance use trends, which will be a focus of Shape of the Region, 2025. Register here: [Register | The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia](#)

The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia continues to impact the youth in our region. Learn more about how The Community Foundation supports Northern Virginia's youth through grantmaking and scholarships here: <https://www.cfnova.org/grants-and-scholarships/grants/our-children-fund>