

**Preliminary Findings on Travel Characteristics for Minority and Disadvantaged Populations from the 2000 Census**

TPB Technical Committee  
September 3, 2004

## Overview

- How many minority, disabled, and low-income individuals live in the Washington Metropolitan Region?
- Where are these individuals located within the region?
- How do minority, disabled, and low-income individuals get to work?
- Where do these individuals live relative to transit stops?
- How accessible is employment by transit?



# Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area



## Terminology

- **Hispanic** is considered an ethnicity, not a race, and therefore a Hispanic person can be of any race and included in the counts for other categories
- **Asian** includes Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
- **Limited English Speakers** includes individuals who speak English “not well” or “not at all”
- **Disabled Persons** includes individuals with physical and/or sensory disabilities



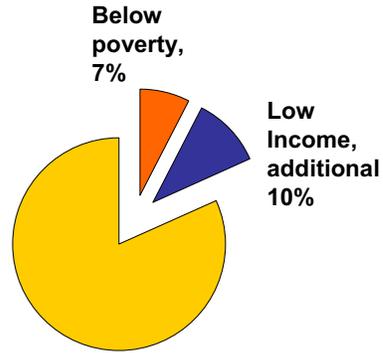
## Terminology

- **Disadvantaged** – population groups that lack the financial, physical, or language ability to provide their own transportation and/or have difficulty accessing public transportation
  - Low Income population
  - Population below the poverty line
  - Limited English speakers
  - Disabled persons



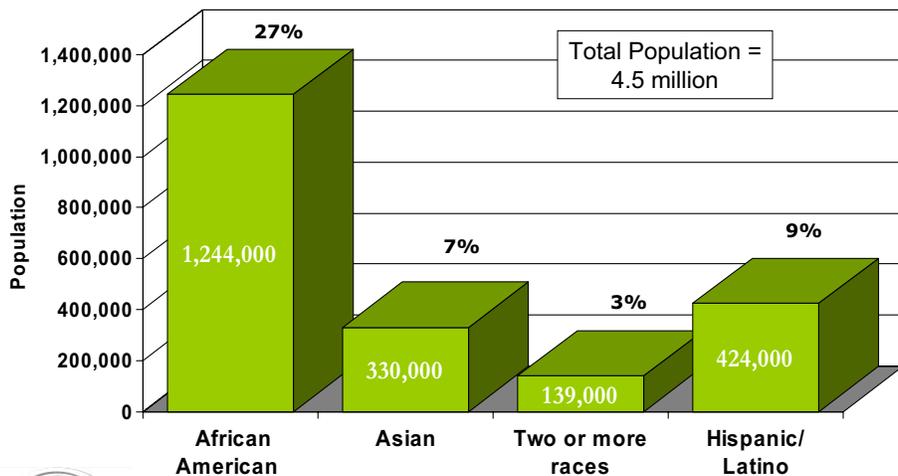
## Poverty and Low Income Definitions

- Official poverty line depends on family size
  - 1 person = \$8,500/year
  - 4 people = \$17,000/year
- “Low income” defined as twice the poverty line, e.g.
  - 1 person = \$17,000/year
  - 4 people = \$34,000/year
- Median household income in Washington region is \$68,565



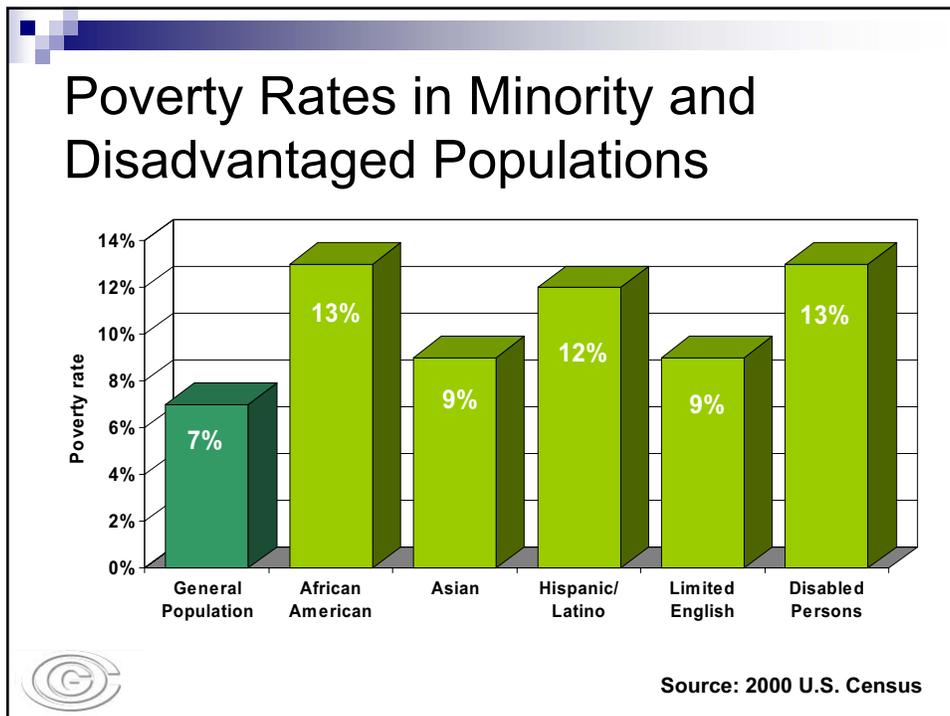
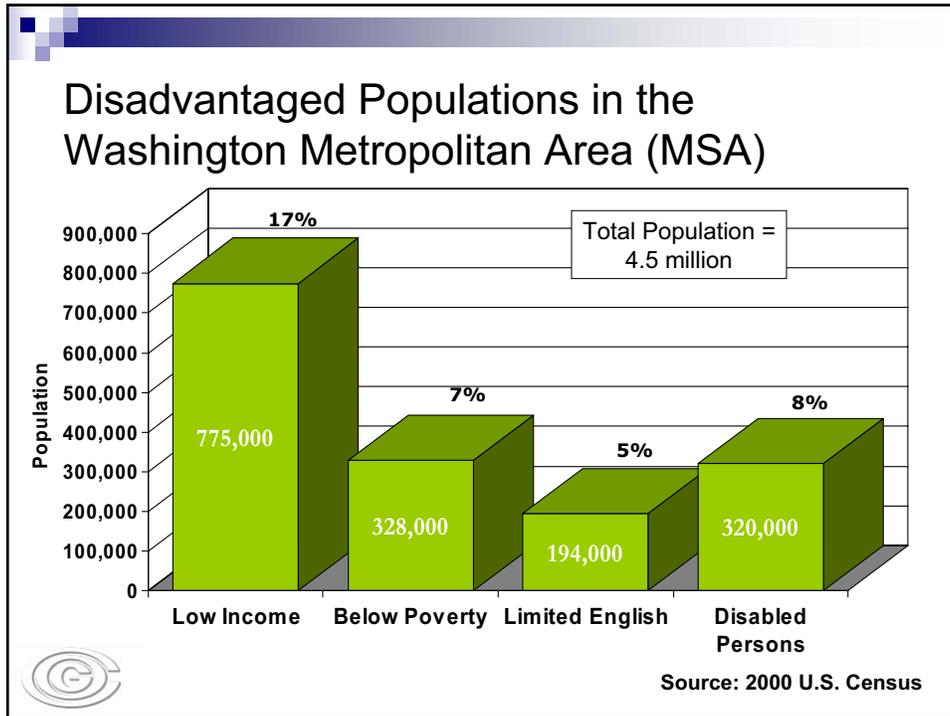
Source: 2000 U.S. Census

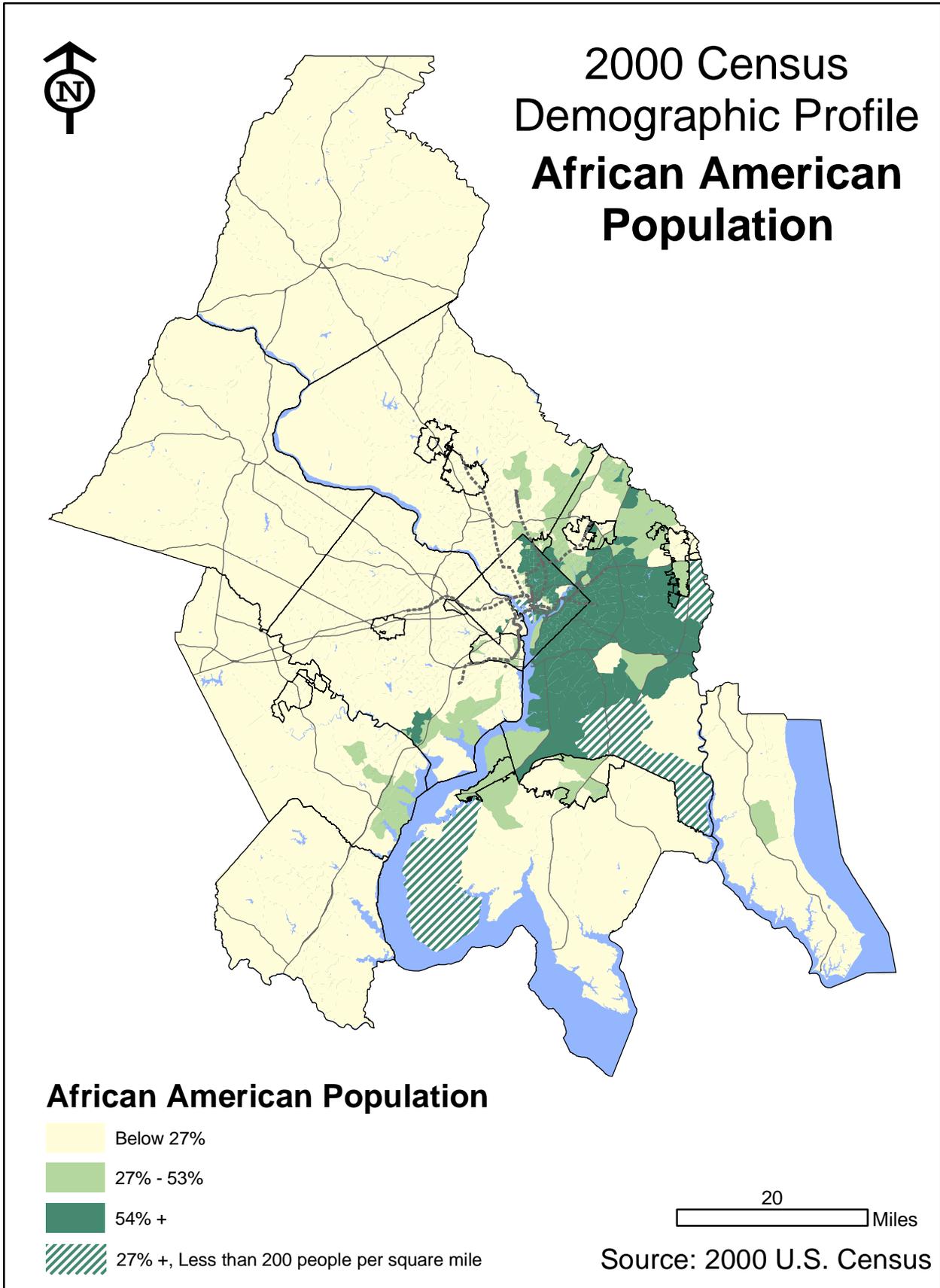
## Minority Populations in the Washington Metropolitan Area (MSA)

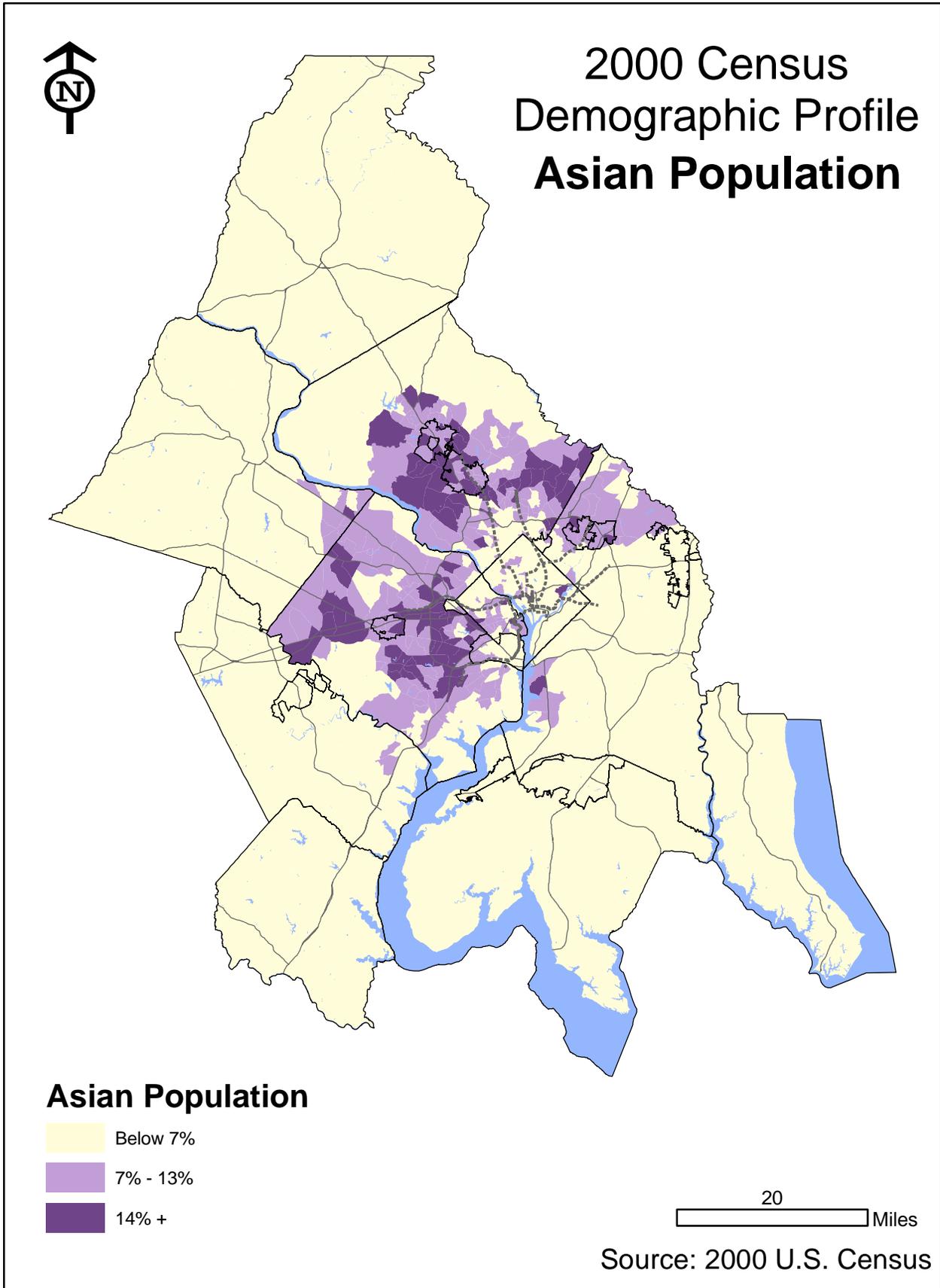


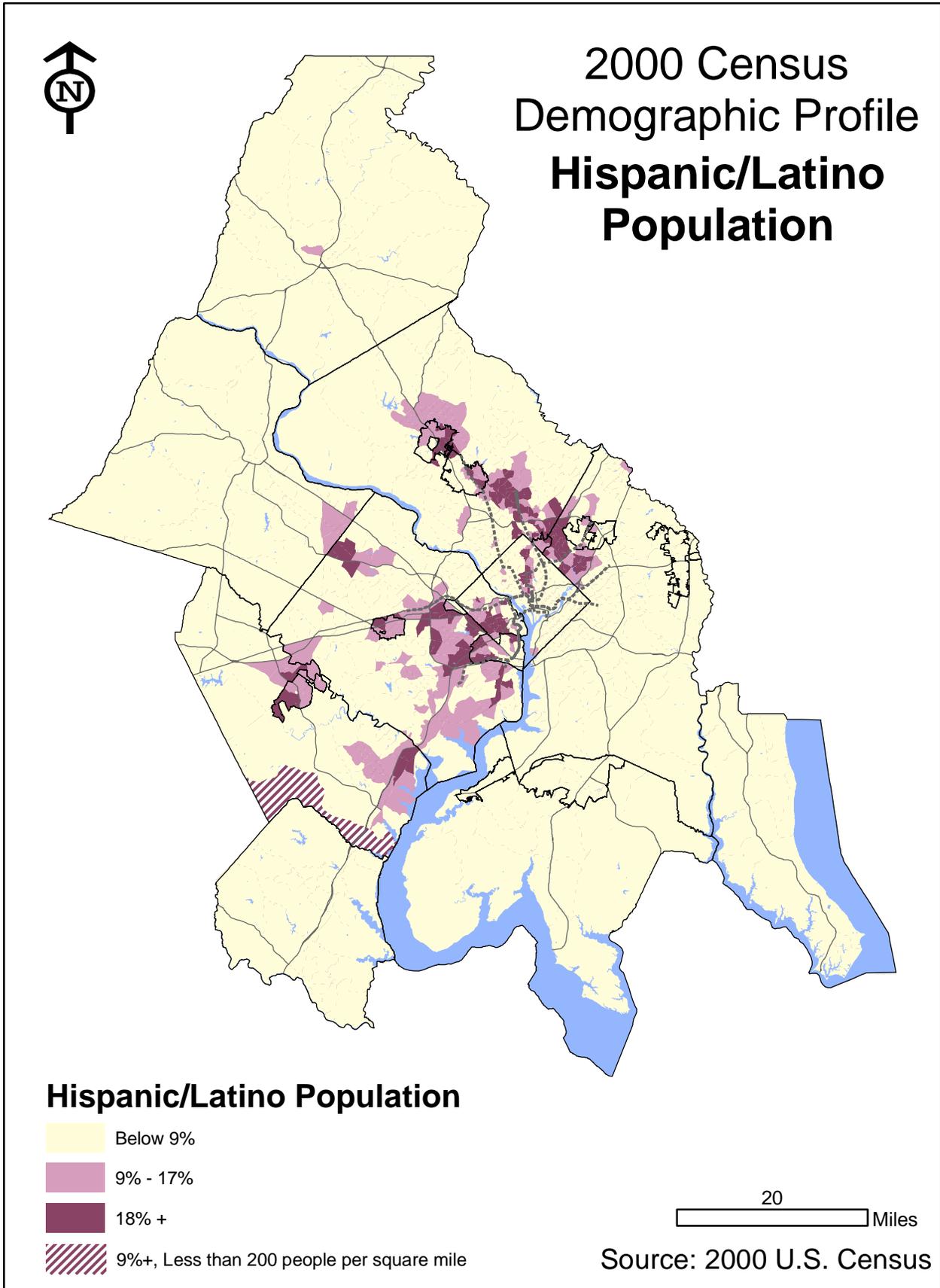
Source: 2000 U.S. Census

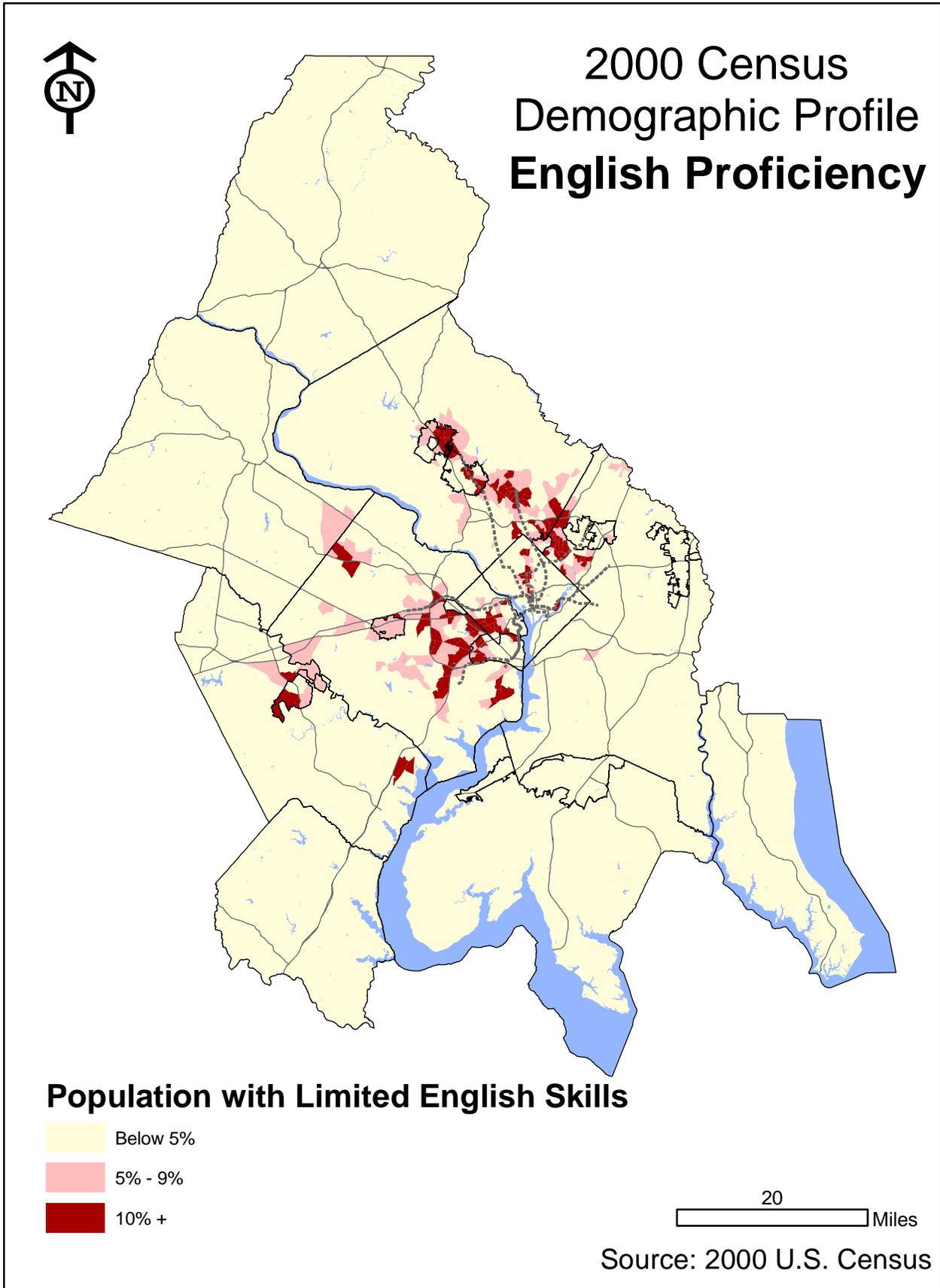
## Travel Characteristics for Minority and Disadvantaged Populations

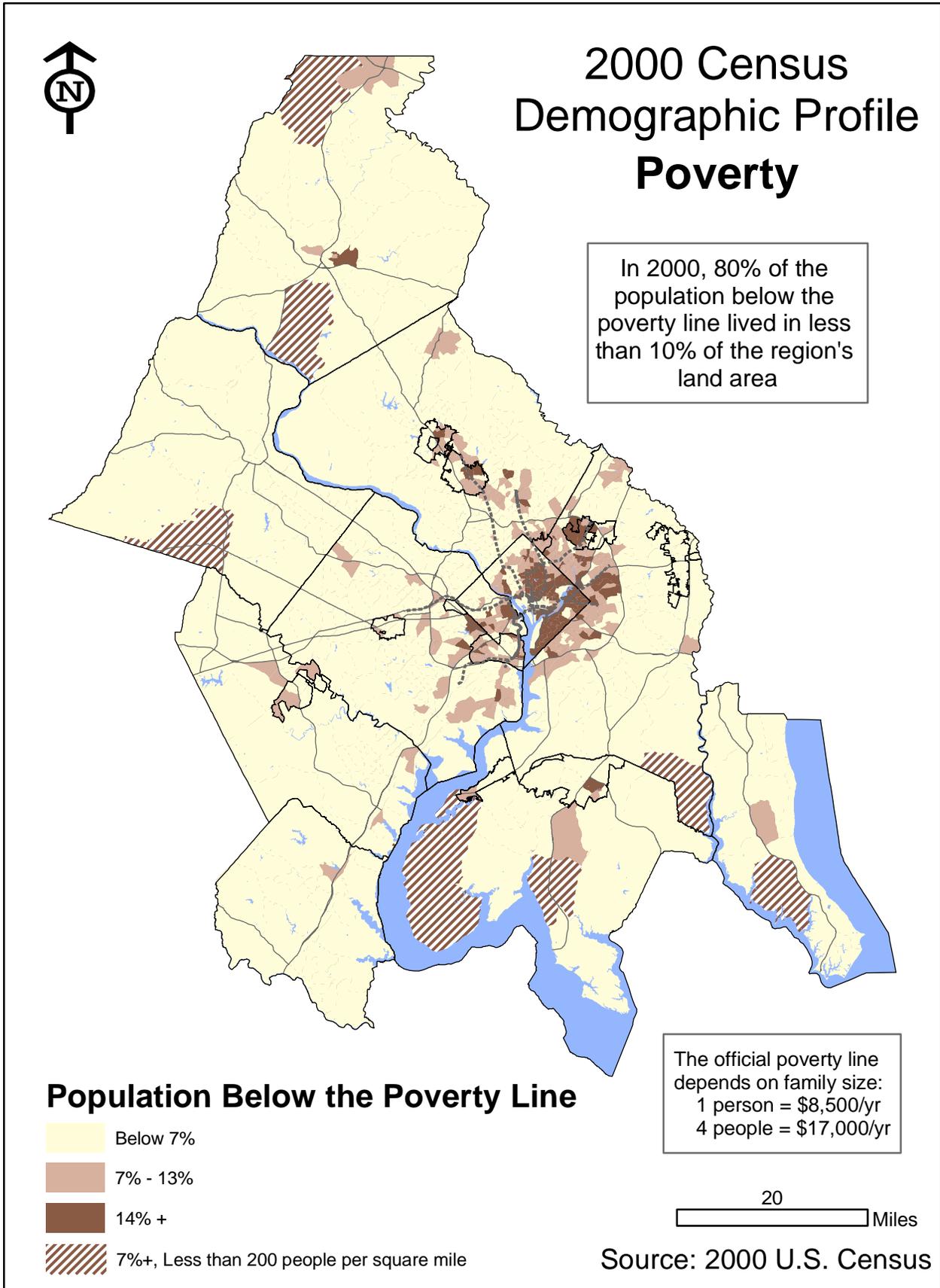


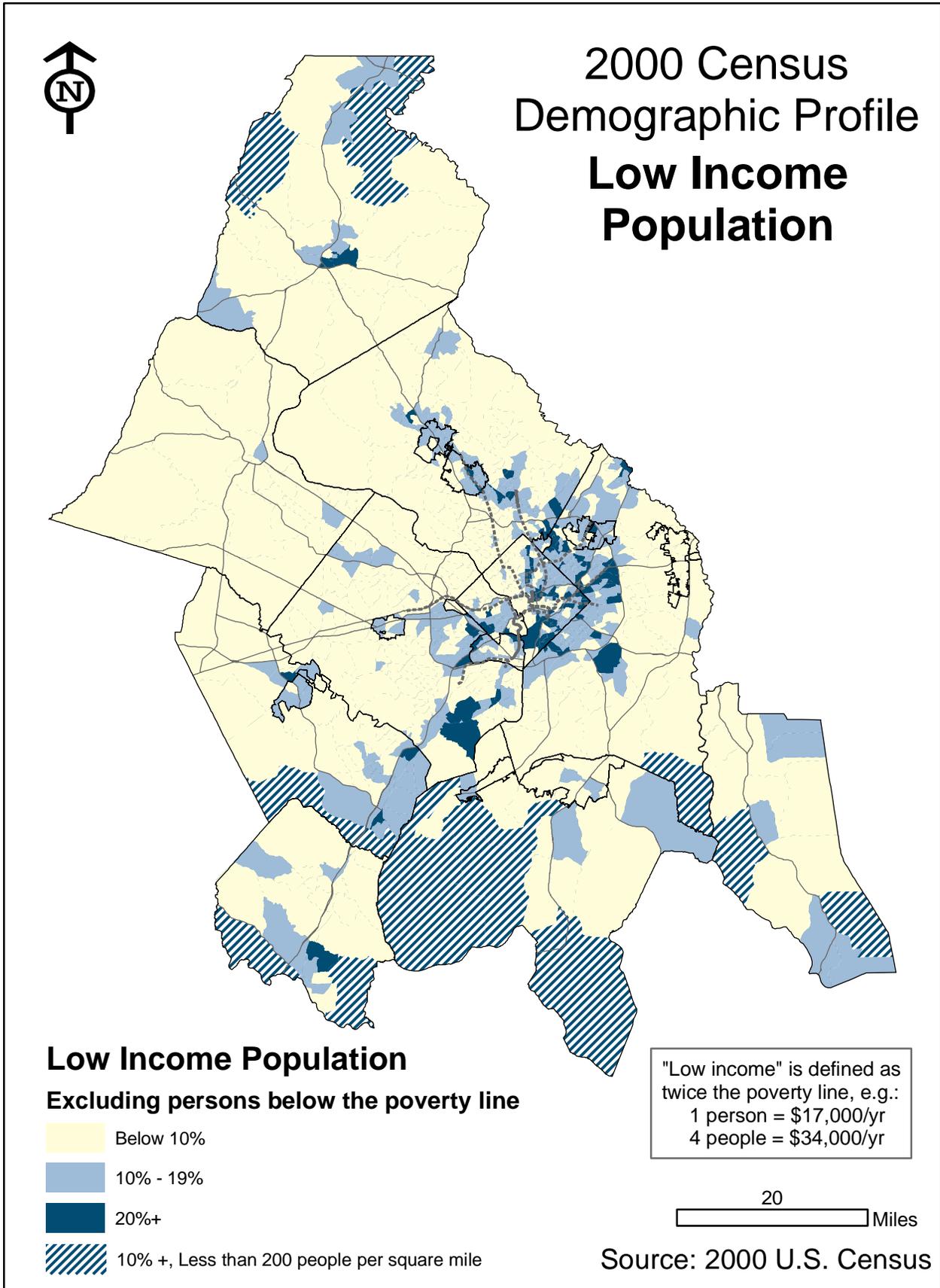


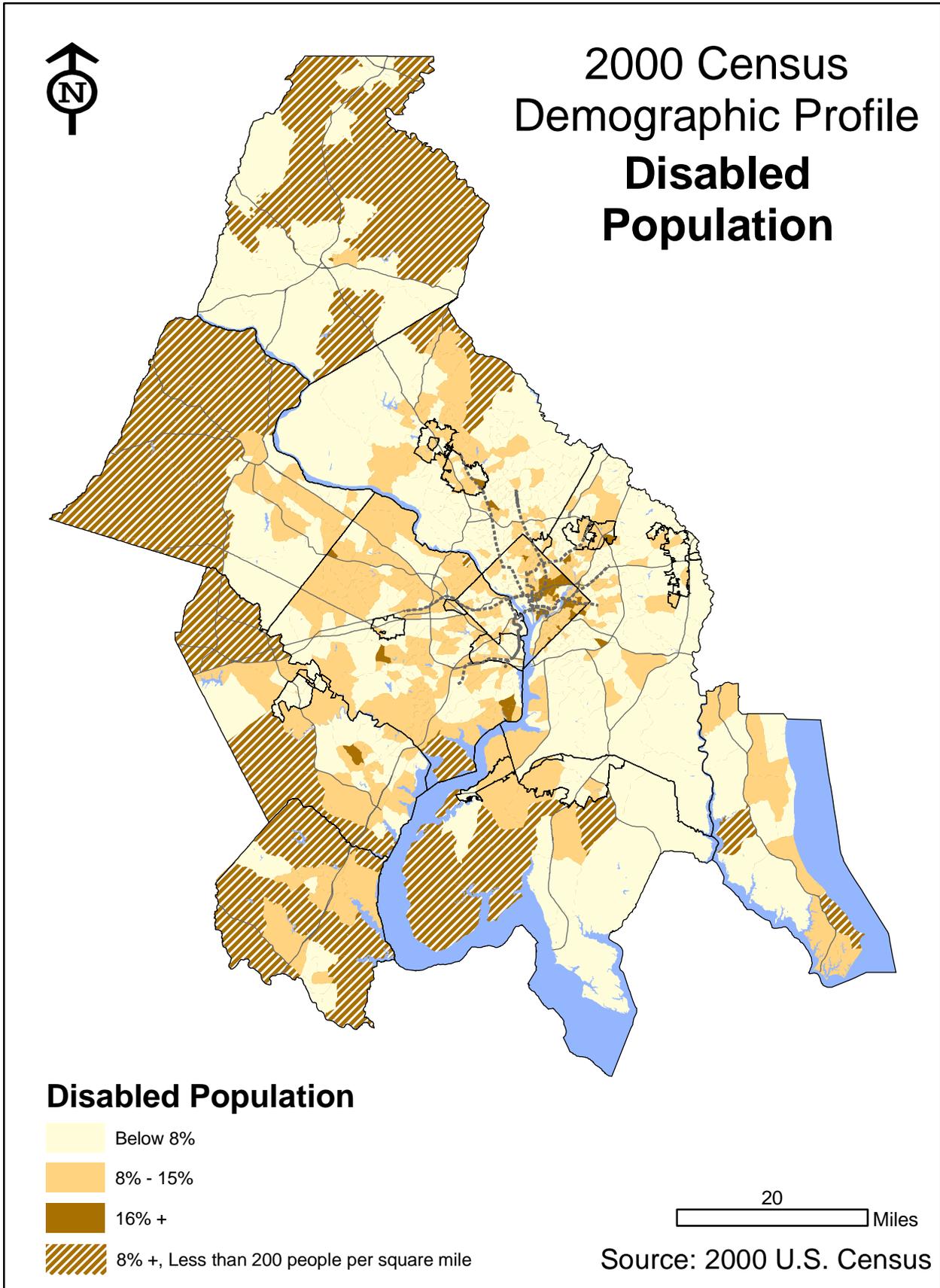










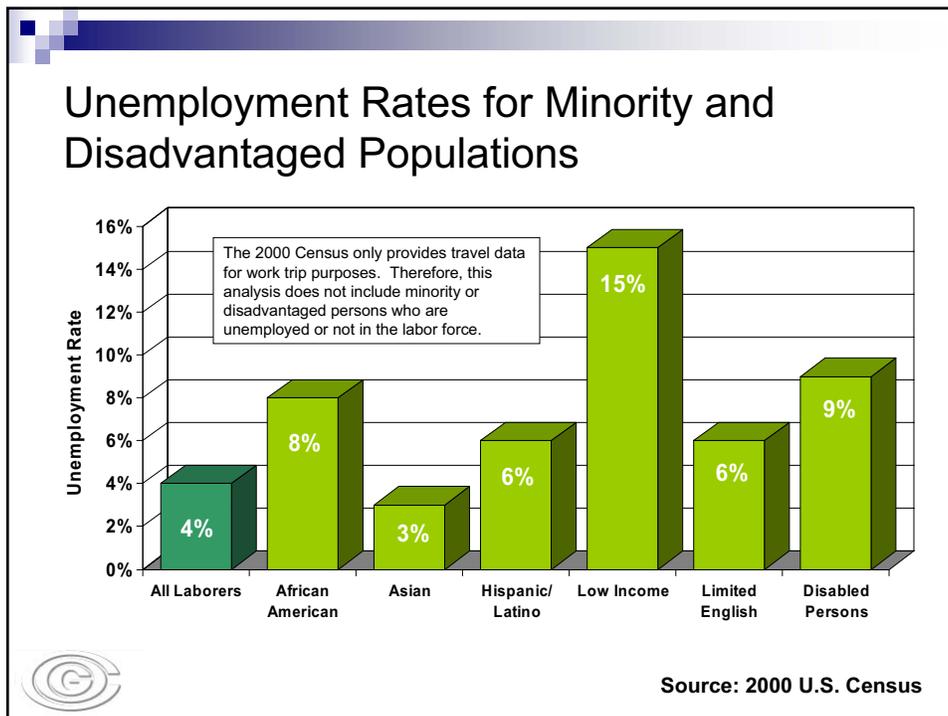
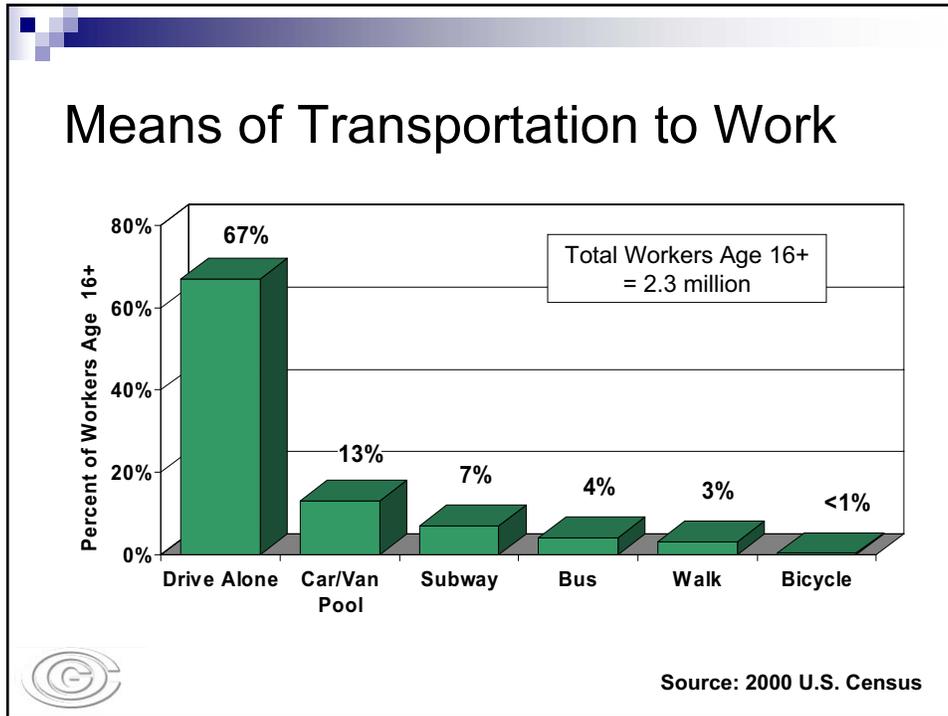


## Observations

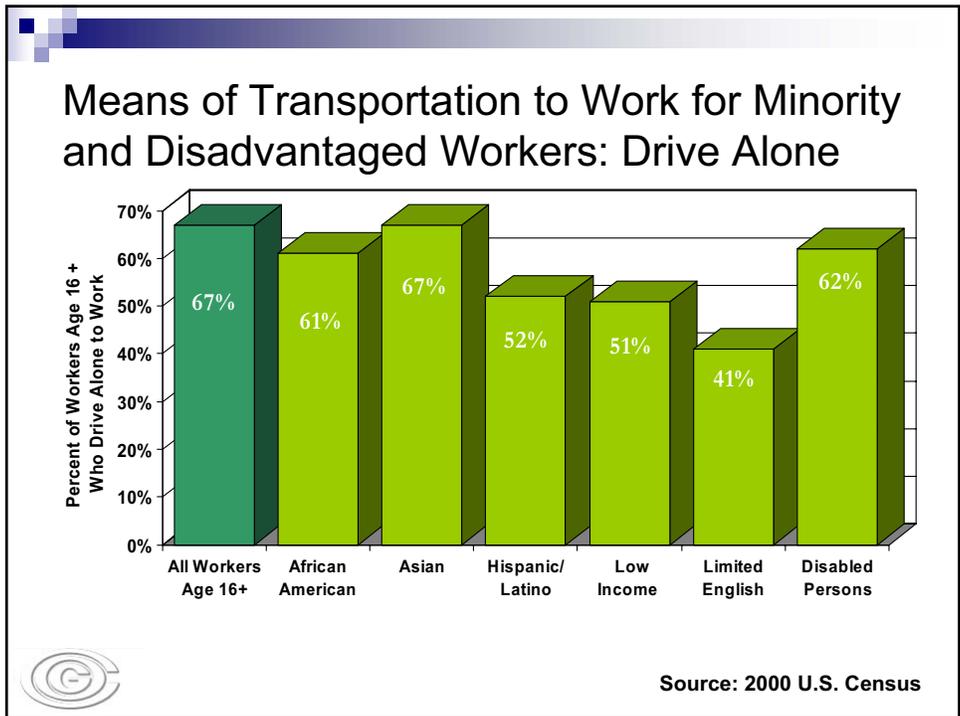
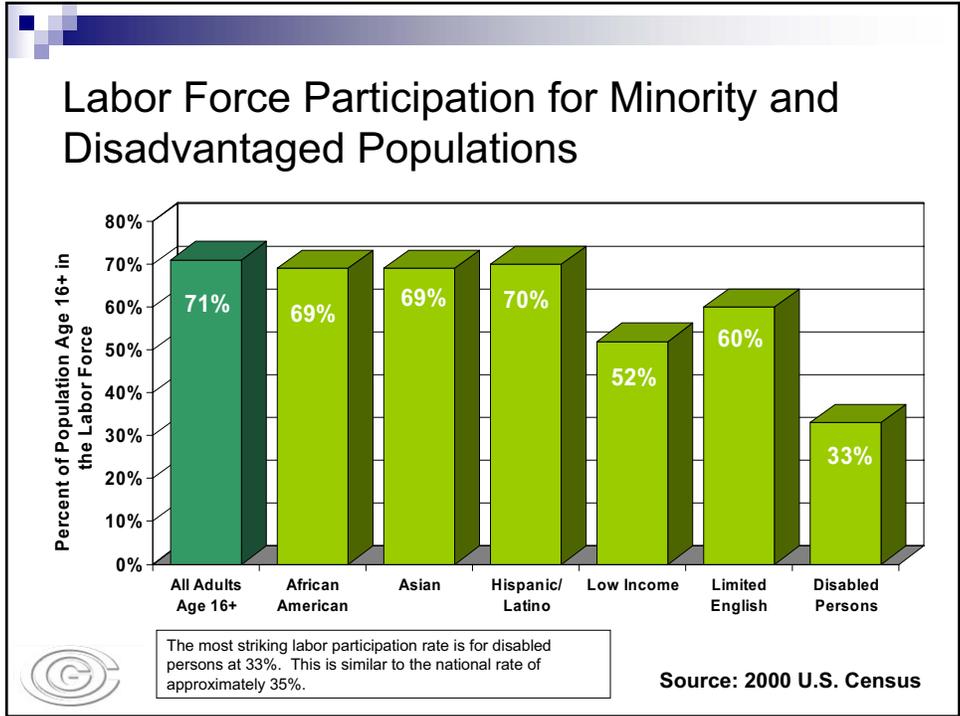
- Asian and Hispanic communities almost doubled in size between 1990 and 2000
- Asian population predominantly located in Fairfax and Montgomery Counties
- African-American population predominantly located in the eastern half of the District of Columbia and Prince George's County
- Hispanic/Latino and limited English speakers predominantly located along high density transportation corridors, such as 16<sup>th</sup> Street in the District of Columbia, Route 1 and I-95 in Virginia, and I-270 and Rockville Pike in Maryland
  - 58% of limited English speakers are Hispanic/Latino
- Disabled population dispersed throughout the region
- Low-income population more widely dispersed than the population below the poverty line



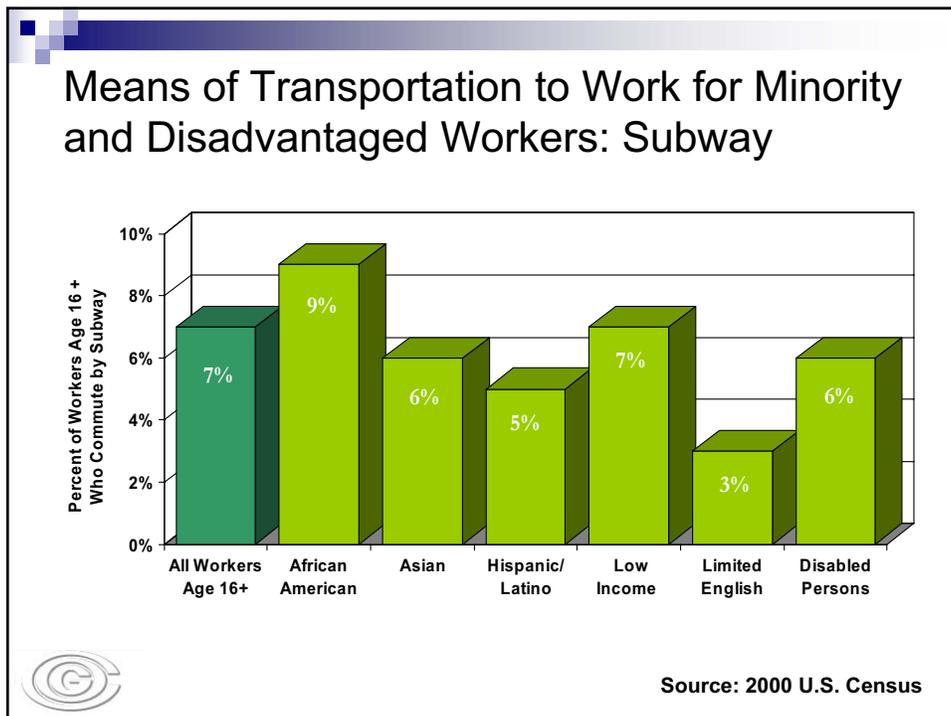
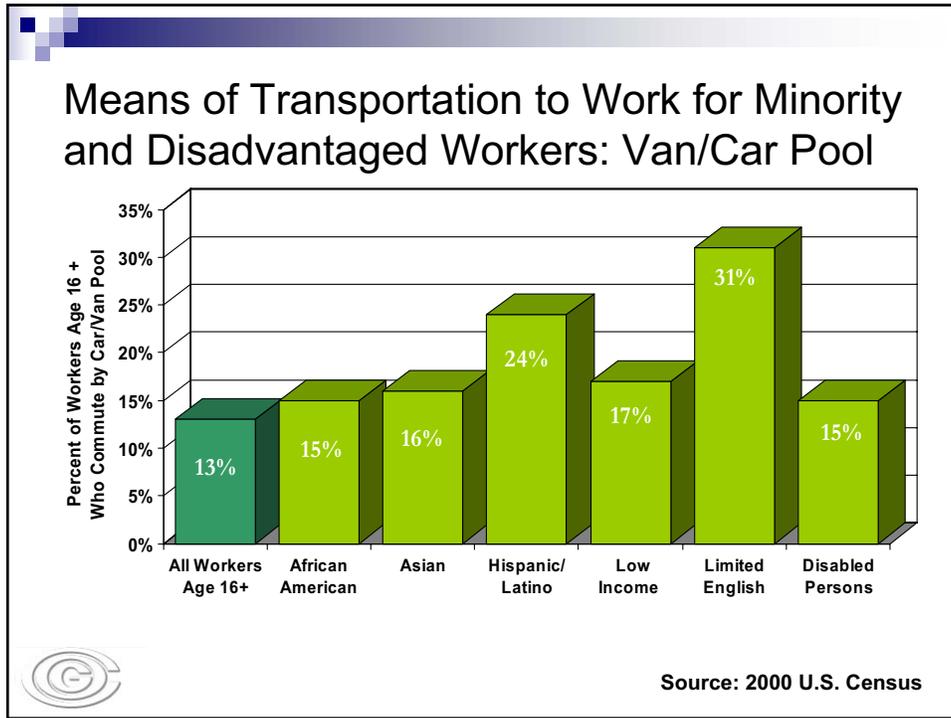
## Travel Characteristics for Minority and Disadvantaged Populations



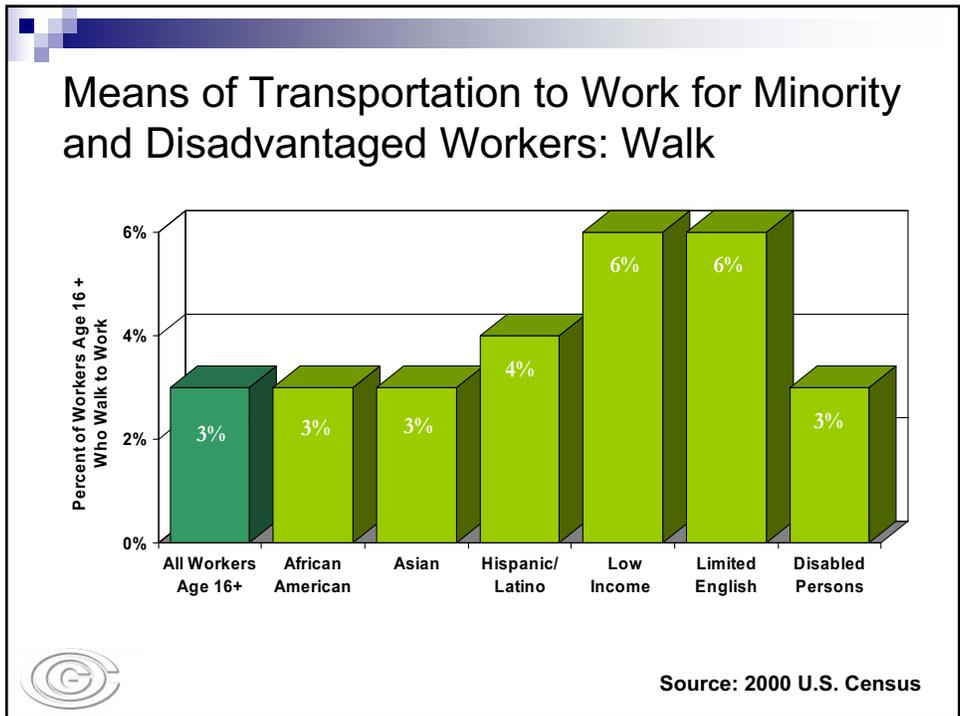
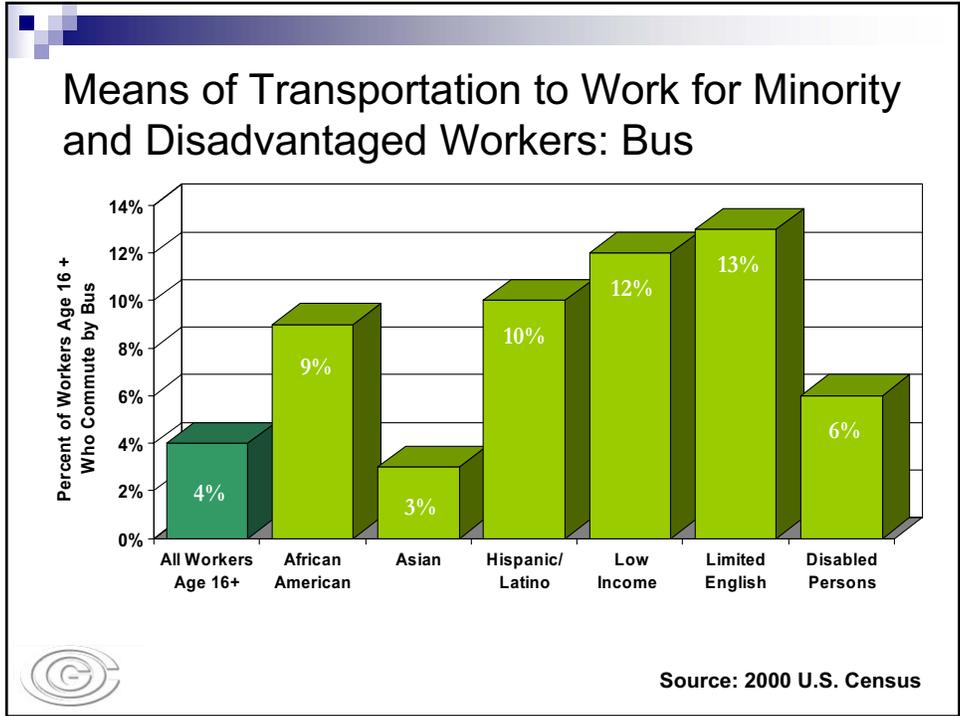
Travel Characteristics for Minority and Disadvantaged Populations



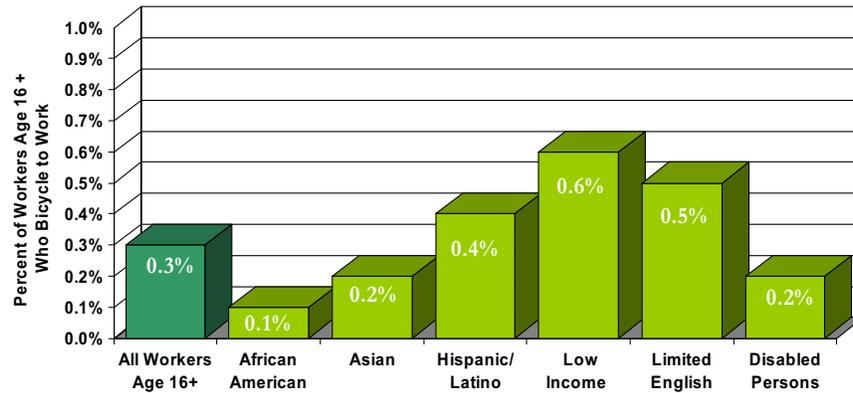
## Travel Characteristics for Minority and Disadvantaged Populations



Travel Characteristics for Minority and Disadvantaged Populations



## Means of Transportation to Work for Minority and Disadvantaged Workers: Bicycle



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

## Means of Transportation to Work

### Compared to all workers age 16+:

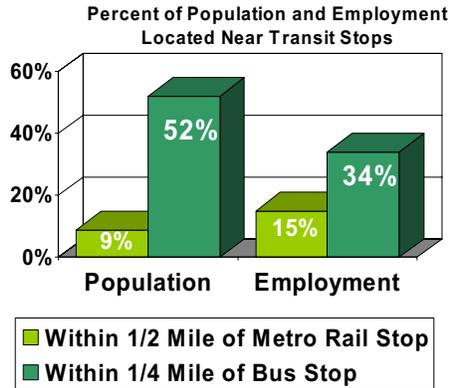
- All minority and disadvantaged workers, except Asian workers, are less likely to drive and more likely to take public transit
- Hispanic/Latino workers and limited English speakers are twice as likely to car/van pool
- Limited English speakers are half as likely to commute by subway
- All minority and disadvantaged workers, except Asian and disabled workers, are two to three times more likely to take the bus
- Low income workers and limited English speakers are twice as likely to walk and bicycle



Source: 2000 U.S. Census Public-Use Microdata Samples (PUMS)

## Access to Transit Stops

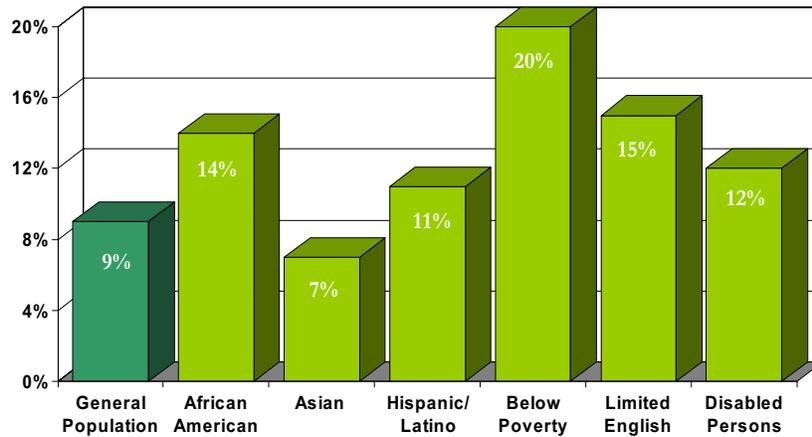
- 83 Metro rail stops and approximately 8,800 bus stops located in regional core and inner suburbs



Source: 2000 U.S. Census, COG Cooperative Forecasts

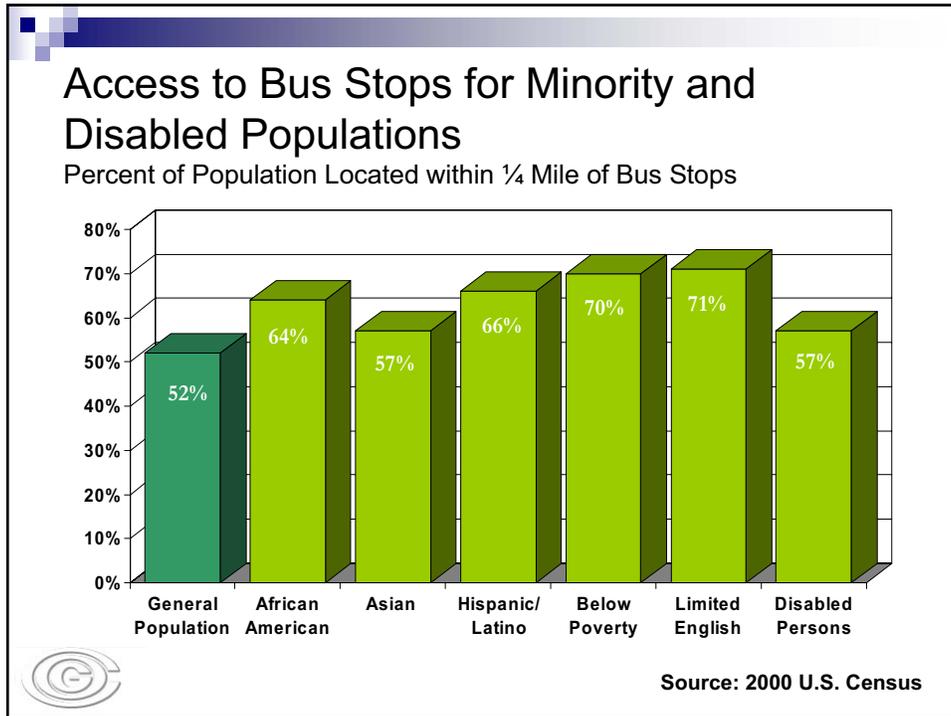
## Access to Metro Rail Stops for Minority and Disabled Populations

Percent of Population Located within 1/2 Mile of Metro Rail Stops



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

## Travel Characteristics for Minority and Disadvantaged Populations



## Findings

- The 7% of the population that lives in poverty is concentrated in a small portion of the region
- All minority and disadvantaged population groups are more likely to live in poverty than the general population
- Minority and disadvantaged workers are more likely to take public transit, especially bus, compared to all workers



## Findings

- Certain minority and disadvantaged workers are more likely to van/car pool, walk, and bicycle to work, compared to all workers
- Minority and disadvantaged population groups are more likely to live near transit stops, compared to the general population
- Although minority and disadvantaged groups are more likely to commute by bus than the general population, less than one third of retail jobs and less than half of office jobs are accessible by bus

