

Characteristics of Places with Large Foreign Born Concentrations

The recent release of the 2009-2011 American Community Survey reveals hundreds of characteristics for places in Maryland with populations of 20,000 or greater. Maryland's a very socioeconomically diverse State and this data release reinforces that notion.

For instance, of the 62 places for which there is data from the 2009-2011 American Community Survey, the percent of the foreign born by place varies from a high of 69.4 percent in Langley Park (in Prince George's County) to a low of 1.2 percent in Cumberland (in Allegany County). Many of the places in Maryland with the highest foreign born share have similar characteristics. For instance, the top five are all in either Prince George's or Montgomery counties:

- Langley Park (Prince George's) 69.4%
- Chillum (Prince George's) 45.6%
- Wheaton (Montgomery) 44.0%
- Gaithersburg (Montgomery) 37.5%
- Silver Spring (Montgomery) 37.8%

- Maryland average 13.8%

Most of the places with a high proportion of the foreign born also have some of the highest shares of the population without health insurance, with Langley Park, Chillum, Wheaton and Silver Spring the four highest in the State:

- Langley Park 58.1%
- Chillum 31.6%
- Wheaton 24.4%
- Silver Spring 19.8%
- Gaithersburg 15.3%

- Maryland average 11.0%

Yet, it is not for lack of working. The following is the percent of households with earnings from work with Langley number one and the remaining four in the top 16:

- Langley Park 95.6%
- Chillum 89.2%
- Silver Spring 89.2%
- Gaithersburg 89.1%
- Wheaton 88.8%

- Maryland average 82.8%

A higher than average share of those employed in three of these places work in the construction industry, with Langley Park, Wheaton and Chillum having the three highest share among all places:

- Langley Park (35.6%)
- Wheaton (11.5%)
- Chillum (10.3%)
- Silver Spring (8.1%)
- Gaithersburg (6.2%)

- Maryland average (7.0%)

The foreign born population typically is younger than the native born population, and this difference in age structure is behind the fact that for several of these places with high concentrations of foreign born there is a very low percentage of households collecting social security, with Langley Park having the smallest share of any place in Maryland and Silver Spring, Gaithersburg and Chillum among the bottom 14.

- Langley Park (6.4%)
- Silver Spring (14.9%)
- Gaithersburg (15.8%)
- Chillum (16.6%)
- Wheaton (22.1%)

- Maryland average (25.0%)

In two of these places, the poverty rate is very high with Langley Park and Chillum ranked sixth and seventh respectively and Wheaton ranked 13th and Silver Spring 18th:

- Langley Park (20.3%)
- Chillum (18.0%)
- Wheaton (13.6%)
- Silver Spring (11.9%)
- Gaithersburg (10.1%)

- Maryland average (9.7%)

The percent of households which are renters are also very high in three of these places with Langley Park, Chillum and Silver Spring ranked first, third and fourth respectively:

- Langley Park (73.8%)
- Chillum (61.9%)
- Silver Spring (61.0%)
- Gaithersburg (42.7%)
- Wheaton (31.7%)

- Maryland average (32.2%)

Since four of the places with the highest foreign-born concentrations are within the Capital Beltway, use of public transit to commute to work is high, with Chillum and Silver Spring tied for second and Langley Park and Wheaton ranked sixth and eighth respectively:

- Chillum (28.9%)
- Silver Spring (28.9%)
- Langley Park (21.5%)
- Wheaton (20.9%)
- Gaithersburg (10.3%)

- Maryland average (8.9%)

Typically the users of public transit take longer to get to work and this is true for four of these five places, with Langley Park workers having the second longest commute (time wise), Wheaton the seventh longest and Chillum and Silver Spring within the top 16:

- Langley Park (41.3 minutes)
- Wheaton (35.8 minutes)
- Chillum (34.8 minutes)
- Silver Spring (34.7 minutes)
- Gaithersburg (30.6 minutes)

- Maryland average (31.8 minutes)