

**Nonprofit Resources for Children and Youth in  
the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Region**

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Report prepared for  
*A Portrait of Nonprofits Serving Children in the  
Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area,*  
a research study by the Urban Institute

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# **Nonprofit Resources for Children and Youth in the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Region**

## **Report Summary**

The confluence of rising social service needs and the shaky economy in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region has heightened the need to critically examine the availability and capacity of nonprofit resources for children and youth in the D.C. metro area. A lack of systematic information, however, has limited our understanding of the impact of social and economic changes on local child and youth serving nonprofits in the region. As a first step to addressing this shortcoming, this report uses data from the National Center for Charitable Statistics and several local grantmakers to examine the characteristics and finances of these nonprofits in the D.C. area. The report provides information from the first of a series of analyses on child- and youth-related nonprofits in the region.

The report shows that local children and youth nonprofits are diverse, generally long-tenured, and distributed throughout the metropolitan area, although much geographic variation is evident. The report yields the following key findings:

- There are more than 1,100 local organizations in the region that are focused primarily on providing goods and services to children and youth. Another 211 local groups offer some level of programming.
- Of the roughly 1,110 groups with a primary focus on serving children and youth, the largest number are social welfare nonprofits (516), followed by youth development organizations (306), and education providers (292).
- Child and youth serving nonprofits have deep roots in the region. The average provider has been supplying services since the early 1980s.
- Comparing the location of local child and youth nonprofits to where children live, some localities appear to have many nonprofit resources, while others have relatively few. Communities that are relatively rich in nonprofit providers include Falls Church, the District, and Alexandria. Localities that are relatively weak in organizational resources include Prince George's and Prince William Counties.

- Comparing the location of these providers to residential patterns of child poverty, some communities appear to be better off than others. Falls Church, Loudoun County and Frederick County have the most providers per child in poverty, while Prince William and Prince George's County have the least.
- Local child- and youth-related nonprofits in the D.C. metro area raised more than \$1.5 billion in revenue and spent \$1.3 billion in 2000.
- Child- and youth-serving nonprofits have fewer financial resources than the rest of the nonprofit sector in the region, even when excluding colleges, universities and hospitals. Some program areas, such as delinquency prevention and youth sports, are particularly small financially, when compared with other types of child and youth nonprofit providers.

## **Nonprofit Resources for Children and Youth in the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Region**

The Washington, D.C., metropolitan area faces many challenges. The number of children and the rate of child poverty in the region have grown considerably during the past decade, placing new demands on schools and local nonprofits. As state budget deficits mount and local jurisdictions try to curb their spending, human service programs face considerable cuts (Atkins et al. 2004; Lazere 2003). Compounding these issues are concerns of terrorist threats and homeland security, which has shifted public attention away from domestic issues. Taken together, the confluence of these factors has heightened the need to critically examine the availability of nonprofit resources for children and youth in the D.C. region.<sup>1</sup>

A lack of systematic information has limited our understanding of the impact of social and economic changes on child and youth nonprofits in the D.C. area. These groups provide myriad services to preschoolers and school-aged children, including K-12 education, early childhood education and Head Start, afterschool programs, recreation and scouting opportunities, and child care and intervention programs. At a more basic level, limited data have hamstrung the ability of local leaders, advocates, and community residents to know which nonprofits serve children in the region, where these groups are located, and what programs they provide.

To address this shortcoming, the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy at the Urban Institute is conducting a study that explores the size, scope, and capacity of local child and youth serving nonprofits in the D.C. region and examines how they are coping

in a sluggish economy. As a first step in the study, this report provides an overview of the characteristics and finances of these nonprofits.

The data for this study were obtained from the National Center for Charitable Statistics at the Urban Institute and several grantmakers in the D.C. region. The dataset, which was constructed in the fall of 2003, and cleaned and verified during the winter of 2003–2004, contains fiscal year 2000 financial data from nonprofit organizations that filed the Form 990 with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The dataset contains information on the chief location or headquarters of each nonprofit organization, and represents the most reliable unduplicated count of nonprofit providers of child and youth services in the region. A detailed description of the dataset is provided in appendix A.

There are two important limitations to the data. First, they do not contain information on satellite programs and mobile services, even though some nonprofit providers operate in multiple communities or several neighborhoods within specific jurisdictions in the D.C. area. Therefore, this report does not address the connectivity or coverage of all nonprofit programs for children and youth in the region. Second, because the data are largely financial, rather than programmatic, the study also does not address the quality or efficacy of local services. Despite these limitations, the report uses descriptive statistics to provide the first systematic information on the availability and distribution of organizations serving children and youth in the region.

The study divides child- and youth-related nonprofit organizations into three broad categories, including education, youth development, and social welfare (See appendix B for additional information on these categories).

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<sup>1</sup> This study follows the definition of children and youth put forth by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Children are defined as those age 0 to 4. Youth are those age 5 to 17.

- Education providers include preschools and early childhood educational providers; K-12 private schools; charter schools in the District of Columbia; and other education providers, including libraries and groups that supply afterschool or tutoring programs.
- Youth development includes community facilities, youth centers, scouting and 4-H, and youth sports leagues, and camps.
- Social welfare includes nonprofits that focus on adoption, foster care, the prevention of abuse and neglect, child care, physical and mental health, crisis intervention and counseling, delinquency prevention, and groups that provide multiple services that directly impact children.

## **FINDINGS**

An examination of the data reveals many key findings about the characteristics and finances of child and youth nonprofits in the region. Each finding is presented below.

- **More than 1,100 nonprofits in the D.C. metro area have a primary purpose to serve children and youth, and most of these groups are locally oriented.**

Of the 8,137 nonprofits in the D.C. region, 1,198 (or 14.7 percent) have a primary purpose to serve children and youth. As shown in figure 1, child- and youth-related groups are the third most numerous type of nonprofit in the region, following public and societal benefit organizations (community/economic development, civil rights, etc.) and various human service providers. The vast majority of child- and youth-related nonprofits

are locally oriented or “grassroots” in nature.<sup>2</sup> That is, they are either local affiliates of national organizations, such as the Girl Scouts of the National Capital Region in Northwest D.C. and the ARC of Greater Prince William County in Woodbridge, Virginia, or they were formed by residents or community leaders as a response to local problems and needs. The Latin American Youth Center in Columbia Heights in the District and the Community Clinic in Rockville, Maryland, are examples of the latter type of locally oriented providers. Of the 1,198 groups that primarily focus on child and youth issues, 1,114 (or 93 percent) are locally oriented. These local providers have the explicit intent to supply goods and services to children and youth in the D.C. region.

In addition to local nonprofits, national and international nonprofits are prominent in the D.C. region, particularly those that focus on policy and regulatory issues. Many of these groups use the D.C. area as a base for national or international advocacy or service efforts.<sup>3</sup> But national and international child and youth nonprofits in the region are relatively rare. While more than 40 percent of the nonprofit sector in the D.C. region have a national or international orientation, only 7 percent of nonprofits (or 84 groups in total) that target services to children and youth have a national or international focus. While these national/international groups may serve children and youth in the region in some capacity, their primary focus is not local service provision.

Some specific fields in nonprofit child and youth services are entirely locally oriented. In fact, charter schools, preschool and early childhood education nonprofits, youth centers, and child care providers are all locally focused, and community-based

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<sup>2</sup> The methodology used in this study to distinguish among local, national, and international organizations was developed by De Vita and Twombly (2002) in their three-state study of nonprofits.

<sup>3</sup> The National Geographic Society in the District; the National Wildlife Federation in Reston, Virginia; and the American Kidney Fund are examples of national/international nonprofits.

health providers (98.7 percent) and private primary and secondary schools (97.9 percent) are overwhelmingly local. Basic descriptive statistics reveal that national and international providers have significantly larger average revenues, expenses and assets than local child- and youth-related nonprofits. But because these local providers form the foundation for the service delivery networks for children and youth in the D.C. region, the remainder of the report focuses specifically on their financials and geographic patterns.

- **Social welfare nonprofits are the most prominent type of child- and youth-serving organization in the D.C. region.**

The 516 local groups that focus on social welfare issues comprise the most common category of child- and youth-related nonprofits in the metro area (table 1). Among these social welfare organizations, multiservice providers, such as Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army, are the most numerous (225 nonprofits in total). Multiservice groups play key roles in the community by supplying a host of goods and services for those under age 18, including child care and family services, such as job training and emergency assistance. The delivery of multiple services by nonprofit organizations can help low-income parents remain employed and provide their children with a safe environment and enrichment opportunities.

Youth development is also a prominent component of the service delivery system for children and youth in the region. Of the 1,114 local child- and youth-related groups in the D.C. metro area, 306 (or 27.5 percent) primarily focus on youth development. Many of these nonprofits (260 in total) are sports related or provide scouting and 4-H

opportunities (table 1). Sports and scouting are important avenues for civic engagement and community participation for school-aged youth and for assisting their cognitive and physical development. The National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America in Bethesda, Maryland, is a prime example of a youth development nonprofit.

Local education-related nonprofits are less numerous than social welfare and youth development groups in the region. Roughly 26 percent (or 292 groups in total) of local nonprofits that target services to those under age 18 are education providers. Among these education groups, primary and secondary schools are the most common type, followed by preschool and early childhood education providers, and organizations that supply other educational services, such as tutoring and library services (table 1). Charter schools, which are a relatively new form of education provider in the District, constitute the smallest type of education nonprofit in the region.

- **An additional 211 local nonprofits in the arts, health, and other nonprofit fields offer programs to children and youth.**

Many different types of groups supply programs to children and youth in the D.C. area, not simply those that formed with the primary purpose of providing services to those under age 18. For example, if one examines program provision rather than primary purpose, the number of local nonprofits serving children and youth rises from 1,114 to 1,325. Put differently, there are 211 nontraditional, local child- and youth-related nonprofits that supply at least one direct program to those under age 18 in the region. For example, Playtime Productions, which runs the Classika Theater in Arlington, Virginia, operates an after-school program to improve the reading and comprehension of children

in Arlington County. These alternative providers come from a host of nonprofit fields, including the arts, higher education, health, religion, and community and economic development. For instance, the Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, which focuses primarily on community revitalization and family support services in Ward 7 of the District, runs the Youth Entrepreneurial Alliance, a program that teaches business and leadership skills to children who are 14 or older.

- **Local child and youth nonprofits are found in every jurisdiction in the region.**

Map 1 reveals that local child- and youth-related nonprofit organizations are located in every city and county in the D.C. metropolitan area. At the state level, the District, Maryland, and Virginia each have roughly one-third of all local nonprofits that serve children and youth (table 2). At the local level, the District has the most nonprofit providers (347), followed by Montgomery County (220 groups) and Fairfax County (179 organizations). With 14 groups in operation, Manassas has the fewest number of child and youth providers in the region (table 3).

But while all the localities in the region have locally-oriented nonprofits that serve children and youth, some jurisdictions have more groups, relative to their child population, than others. For example, with 6.1 nonprofit providers for every 1,000 persons under age 18, Falls Church has the densest local nonprofit sector for children and youth in the region (table 3). In contrast, Prince William County has 0.4 providers per 1,000 children and youth. Prince George's, Loudoun, and Fairfax counties also have less

than one nonprofit provider per 1,000 children under age 18. With 3.0 nonprofits per 1,000 children and youth, the District has a relatively high rate of nonprofit provision.

The variation in organizational density in local communities is also evident when comparing the proportion of local child- and youth-related nonprofits with the number of children in poverty. For the D.C. region as a whole, there are more than 11 child- and youth-serving nonprofits for every 1,000 children in poverty (table 3). But Prince George’s County has less than six nonprofits for every 1,000 poor children. The relative sparseness of these providers compared with child poverty in Prince George’s County is visually depicted in map 2. Falls Church has the densest set of nonprofit providers relative to child poverty. Indeed, this small, independent city in Northern Virginia has 15 local child- and youth-related nonprofit organizations for its 133 children living in poverty.

- **On average, local child and youth nonprofits in the D.C. region have deep roots in the community.**

Local nonprofits that target services to children and youth have been in business, on average, for more than 20 years. A few groups, like Alive!—founded in 1969—have been in operation for several decades. The average age of these nonprofits suggests a deeply institutionalized structure of local service provision for children and youth in the region.

Examining different types of providers, education nonprofits (21.7 years), on the whole, have been in business longer than social welfare groups (20.2 years) and youth development organizations (19.3 years), although charter schools (3.3 years) are the youngest of the specific types of local nonprofits in the region. At the local level,

Alexandria has the oldest collection of local nonprofits for children and youth (figure 2). On average, groups in Alexandria have operated for nearly 25 years. Manassas, in contrast, has the youngest set of local nonprofits that target services to children and youth (16.6 years). Despite the tremendous population growth in the outer suburbs of the region during the past decade, there is no significant connection between suburban growth and the average of age of nonprofit providers.

- **Local child- and youth-related groups in the region have substantial financial resources, although they are generally smaller than other types of nonprofits.**

In the aggregate, local nonprofits that provide services to children and youth in the D.C. area had revenues of \$1.5 billion, expenses of \$1.3 billion, and assets of \$1.9 billion in 2000.<sup>4</sup> Although these resources are substantial in absolute terms, these providers are significantly smaller than other types of nonprofit organizations in the D.C. metro area. As shown in table 4, the average local child and youth nonprofit provider had revenues and expenses of roughly \$1.7 million and \$1.5 million, respectively, in 2000. In contrast, the average revenues and expenses for the entire nonprofit sector in the region were \$4.3 million and \$3.8 million, respectively. There were also significant differences in assets. The average local child and youth service provider held \$2.2 million in assets, compared with \$8.5 million for the region's nonprofit sector as a whole.

One explanation for the size differences between local child- and youth-related nonprofits and the broader nonprofit sector is the substantial financial resources of the region's hospitals and universities. With combined revenues of \$2.5 billion in 2000,

Georgetown University, Howard University, George Washington University, and American University had more revenues than all of the local nonprofit child and youth organizations taken together. But even looking at the typical (or median) level of financial resources, local groups that serve children and youth have lower revenues and smaller asset holdings than the entire nonprofit sector in the D.C. area.

Financial resources are not equally distributed among local nonprofit providers in the region. Indeed, some types of nonprofits that serve children and youth are significantly larger than others. For example, with average revenues of \$4.1 million and expenses of \$3.4 million, local private K-12 schools, excluding charter schools in the District, constitute the largest type of local child- and youth-related nonprofit in the D.C. area (table 4). Four of the ten largest local providers are private schools, including Protestant Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Sidwell Friends and Georgetown Day in the District, and The Holton-Arms School in Bethesda. Private schools play an important role for school-aged children, but they often do not reach the most vulnerable or at-risk students in the region.

While K-12 institutions in the metro area tend to operate with substantial financial resources, local scouting and sport leagues, which often serve school-aged youth from a mix of income and socioeconomic backgrounds, have significantly smaller budgets. In fact, with average revenues and expenses of \$437,000 and \$377,000, respectively, these local providers are the smallest type of child and youth nonprofit in the metro region.

Financial resources for local child- and youth-serving nonprofits also vary geographically in the region. With roughly \$550 million in revenue and \$503 million in

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<sup>4</sup> Financial information is restricted to organizations that filed Form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service in 2000. Of the 1,114 local child and youth nonprofits in the region, 882 (or roughly 80 percent) submitted

expenses, D.C.-based providers capture the lion's share of the revenue and expenses in the D.C. area. But while the District's providers have considerable aggregate resources, the largest collection of local child and youth nonprofits, on average, are in Alexandria. Groups in Alexandria that focus on children and youth have average revenues and expenses of \$2.6 million and \$2.0 million, respectively, as well as total assets that average \$9.8 million (table 5). Part of this finding relates to Protestant Episcopal High School, which reported more than \$32 million in revenue in 2000. One issue raised by this analysis, though, is whether local nonprofit providers are relocating from the District to the suburban jurisdictions, such as Alexandria, to take advantage of more affordable space and to address the needs of a growing and diversifying population in the region.

## **DISCUSSION**

The picture of nonprofits serving children and youth in the D.C. metropolitan area shows that they are diverse, generally long-tenured, and reasonably well-distributed throughout the region. Nearly 1,200 organizations are focused primarily on providing goods and services to local children and youth, and more than 90 percent of groups (or 1,114 in total) are locally oriented. Taken together, local providers had roughly \$1.5 billion in revenue and \$1.3 billion in expenses in 2000, and, on average, have served the community since the early 1980s. In addition to local groups that focus primarily on children and youth in the region, another 211 local nonprofit organizations offer programs to those under age 18 in relation to their primary activity, such as arts and culture, community development, and so forth. And while there is considerable variation

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a Form 990 that year.

in the density of service provision at the local level, every jurisdiction in the region has some nonprofit infrastructure to address the needs of children.

While these findings paint a relatively positive picture of local nonprofit services for children and youth in the region, many questions remain. What is the fiscal health of these providers? What are their sources of funding, have these sources changed over time, and are organizations thriving or struggling financially? Do child and youth nonprofits have the management and financial ability to meet the emerging economic and social challenges in the D.C. region? What is the quality of nonprofit services for children and youth in the region, and what steps are nonprofits taking to improve their service provision and address changing levels of demand? What are the implications of welfare reform, the recent economic downturn in the region, declining charitable contributions, and state and local budget deficits on these groups? Addressing these questions is the next important step to understanding the scope and capacity of providers, and providing effective services to children and youth in the region.

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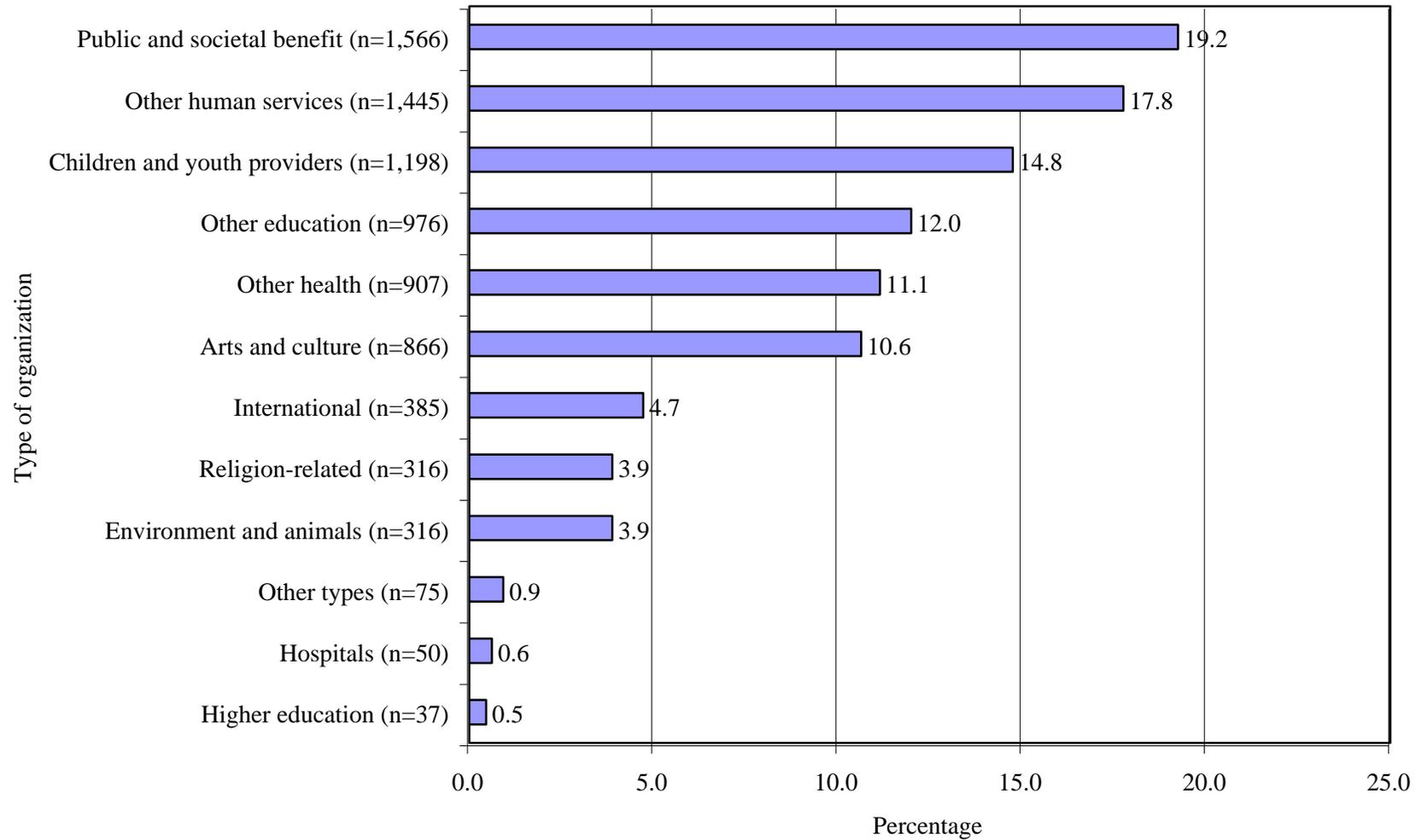
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Figure 1. Distribution of Nonprofit Organizations in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Region, 2004

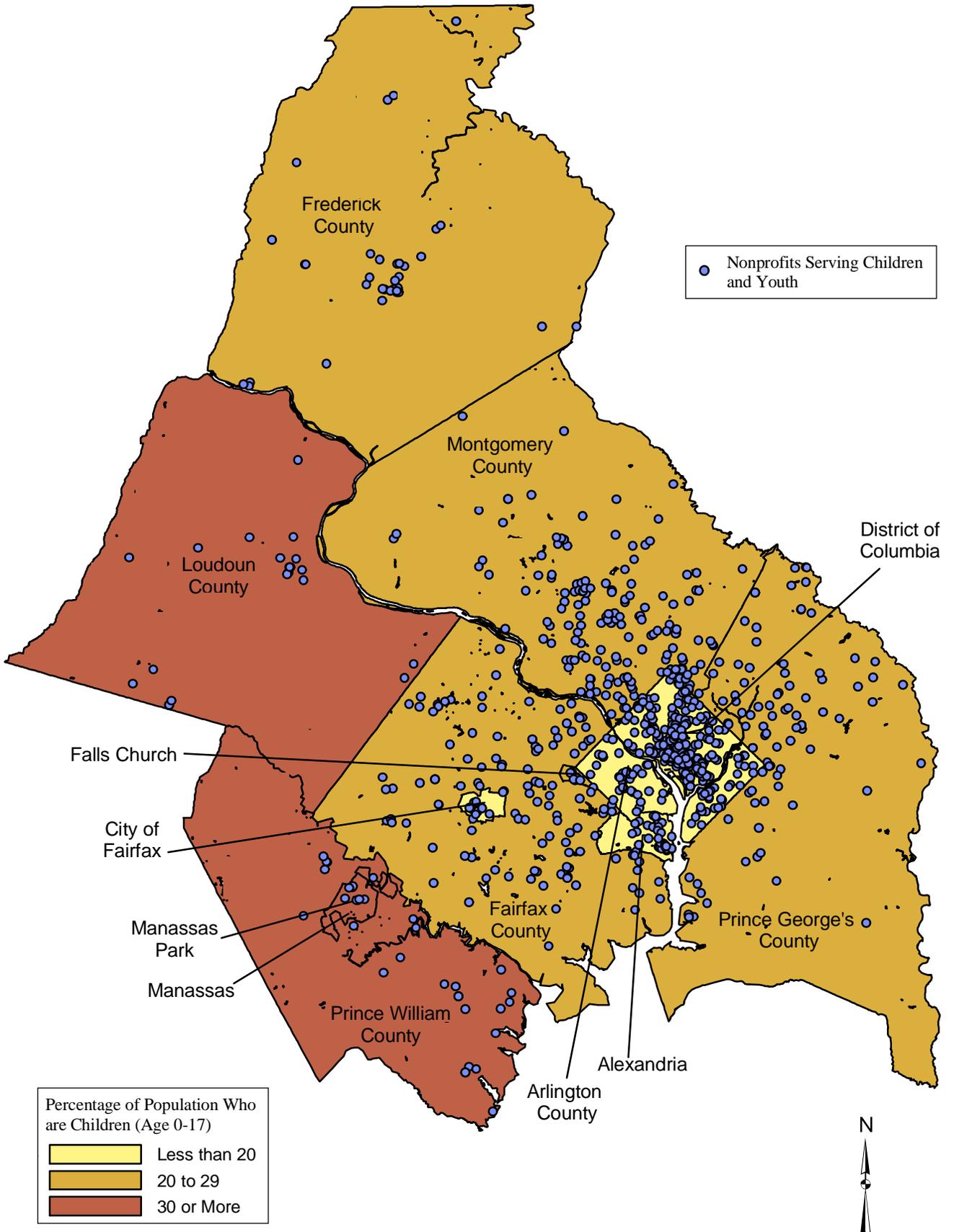


**Table 1. Distribution of Local Nonprofits Serving Children and Youth in the Washington, D.C., Metro Area, by Type of Provider, 2004**

Type of provider	N	%
<b>Education</b>		
Charter schools	32	2.9
Preschool, early childhood education	64	5.7
Other primary and secondary schools	139	12.5
Other education, including tutoring	57	5.1
Subtotal: Education	292	23.3
<b>Youth development</b>		
Community facilities/youth centers	46	4.1
Scouting, youth sports	260	23.3
Subtotal: Youth development	306	27.5
<b>Social welfare</b>		
Adoption, foster care, abuse and neglect	10	0.9
Child care	101	9.1
Community physical or mental health	76	6.8
Crisis intervention, counseling	85	7.6
Delinquency prevention	19	1.7
Multiservice providers	225	20.2
Subtotal: Social welfare	516	46.3
<b>All local child and youth nonprofits</b>	<b>1,114</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source:* D.C. Regional Nonprofit Database, The Urban Institute

**Map 1. Location of Nonprofits Serving Children and Youth and the Percentage of the Population Who are Children in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area, by Jurisdiction**



**Table 2. Location of Local Nonprofits Serving Children and Youth in the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area, 2004**

Type of provider	DC		Maryland		Virginia		All	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Education</b>								
Charter schools	32	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	32	100.0
Preschool, early childhood education	11	17.2	27	42.2	26	40.6	64	100.0
Other primary and secondary schools	26	18.7	64	46.0	49	35.3	139	100.0
Other education, including tutoring	26	45.6	18	31.6	13	22.8	57	100.0
<b>Youth development</b>								
Community facilities/youth centers	14	30.4	24	52.2	8	17.4	46	100.0
Scouting, youth sports	53	20.4	96	36.9	111	42.7	260	100.0
<b>Social welfare</b>								
Adoption, foster care, abuse and neglect	2	20.0	6	60.0	2	20.0	10	100.0
Child care	41	40.6	42	41.6	18	17.8	101	100.0
Community physical or mental health	29	38.2	25	32.9	22	28.9	76	100.0
Crisis intervention, counseling	25	29.4	25	29.4	35	41.2	85	100.0
Delinquency prevention	9	47.4	5	26.3	5	26.3	19	100.0
Multiservice providers	79	35.1	68	30.2	78	34.7	225	100.0
<b>All local child and youth nonprofits</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>1,114</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: D.C. Regional Nonprofit Database, The Urban Institute

**Table 3. Per Capita Measures of Local Nonprofits Serving Children and Youth in the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Region**

Jurisdiction	Local child and youth nonprofits	Number of children		Nonprofits/1,000 children
		All	In poverty	
District of Columbia	347	114,332	35,367	3.0
Maryland				
Frederick	63	53,764	2,735	1.2
Montgomery	220	220,580	13,516	1.0
Prince George's	117	214,522	20,108	0.5
Subtotal: Maryland	400	488,866	36,359	0.8
Virginia				
Alexandria	40	21,532	3,027	1.9
Arlington	45	30,944	2,899	1.5
Fairfax <sup>a</sup>	179	250,043	13,452	0.7
Falls Church	15	2,444	133	6.1
Loudoun	37	50,436	1,417	0.7
Manassas <sup>b</sup>	14	13,604	1,041	1.0
Prince William	37	85,432	5,031	0.4
Subtotal: Virginia	367	454,435	27,000	0.8
D.C. metro region	1,114	1,057,633	98,726	1.1

Sources : D.C. Regional Nonprofit Database and Neighborhood Change Database, The Urban Institute; 2000 Decennial Census, U.S. Bureau of the Census

a. Fairfax includes Fairfax County and Fairfax City.

b. Manassas includes Manassas City and Manassas Park.

**Map 2. Location of Nonprofits Serving Children and Youth and the Percentage of Children Living in Poverty in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area, by Jurisdiction**

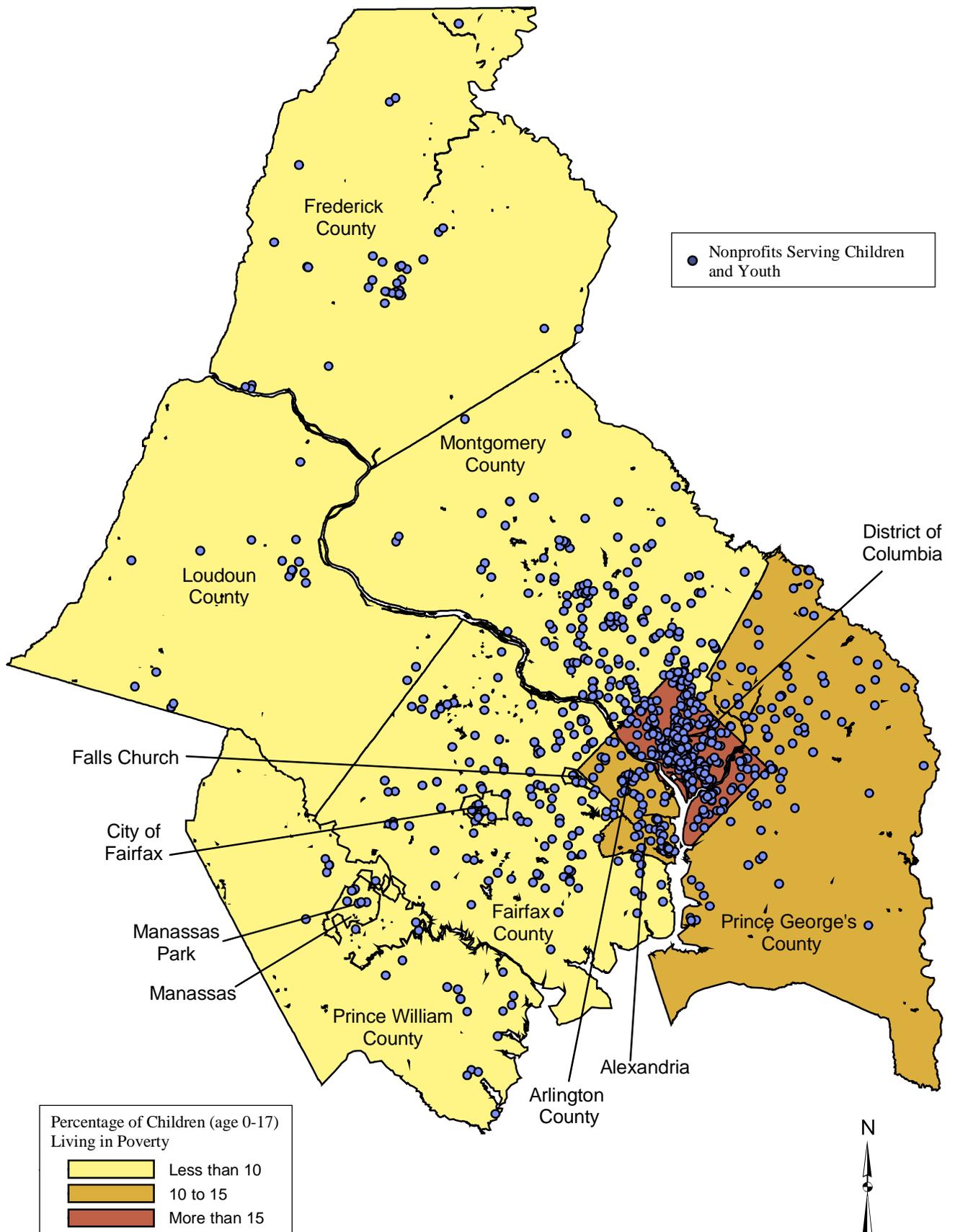
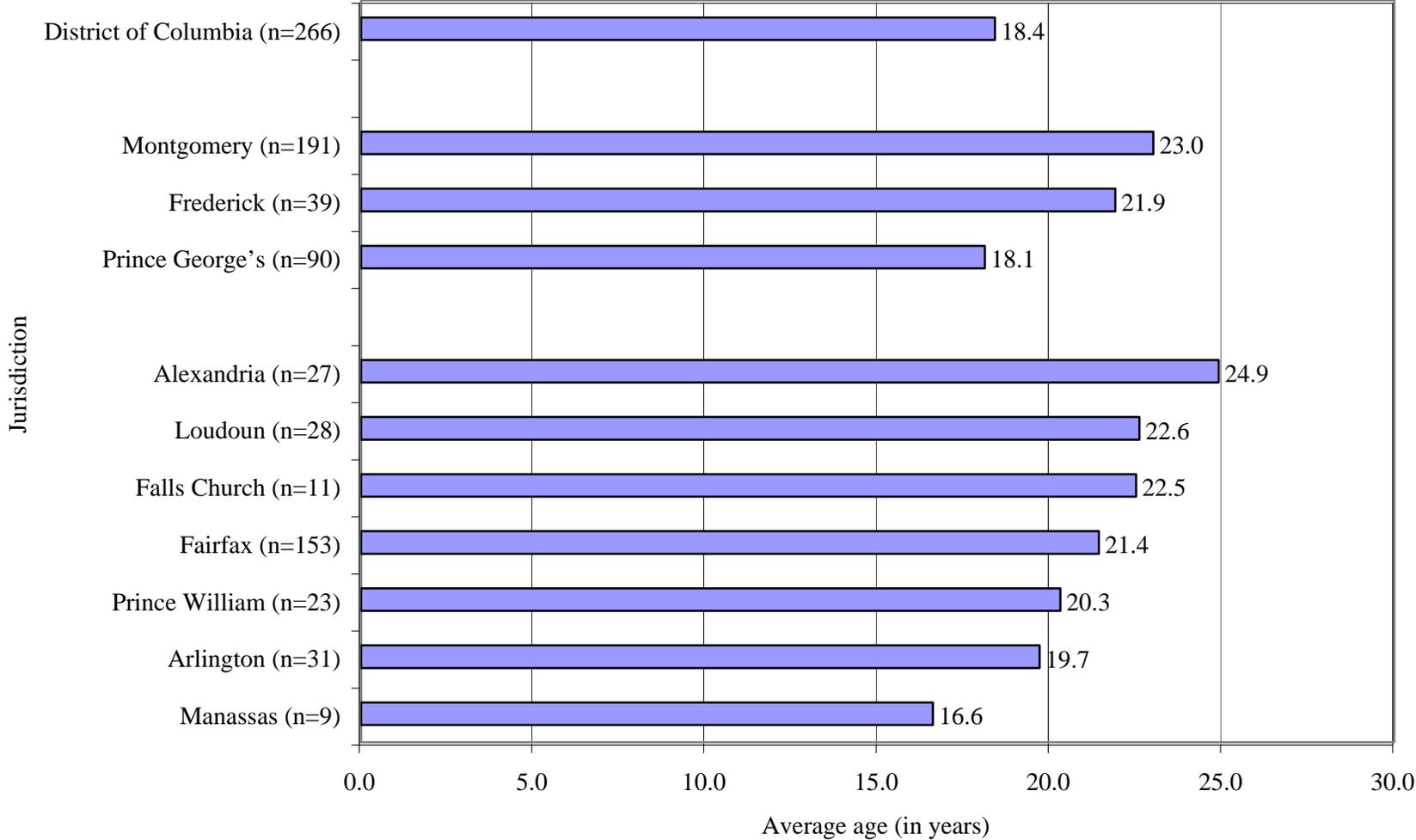


Figure 2. Average Age of Local Nonprofits Serving Children and Youth in the D.C. region, by Jurisdiction



**Table 4. Financial Resources by Type of Local Nonprofit Serving Children and Youth in the D.C. Metro Region, 2000**

Type of provider	N	Revenues		Expenses		Assets	
		Average	Median	Average	Median	Average	Median
<b>Education</b>							
Charter schools	22	2,310	1,297	2,138	1,133	1,471	448
Preschool, early childhood education	64	987	134	986	131	365	63
Other primary and secondary schools	131	4,096	1,550	3,371	1,411	9,249	1,571
Other education, including tutoring	42	994	134	819	127	1,564	54
<b>Youth development</b>							
Community facilities/youth centers	32	816	186	771	206	1,025	246
Scouting, youth sports	191	437	116	377	105	424	44
<b>Social welfare</b>							
Adoption, foster care, abuse and neglect	8	795	457	744	435	481	137
Child care	99	750	535	737	541	271	129
Community physical or mental health	65	1,619	177	1,519	176	973	147
Crisis intervention, counseling	54	992	214	935	208	633	104
Delinquency prevention	15	535	321	496	373	284	167
Multiservice providers	159	2,574	690	2,378	630	2,450	360
All local child and youth nonprofits	882	1,654	322	1,470	303	2,235	144
All nonprofits	7,636	4,336	276	3,788	246	8,547	228

*Source:* D.C. Regional Nonprofit Database, The Urban Institute

*Note:* Dollars in Thousands

**Table 5. Financial Resources of Local Nonprofits Serving Children and Youth in the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Region, by Jurisdiction, 2000**

Jurisdiction	N	Revenues		Expenses		Assets	
		Average	Median	Average	Median	Average	Median
District of Columbia	262	2,110	514	1,929	491	2,457	224
Maryland							
Frederick	39	747	152	698	150	746	42
Montgomery	195	2,156	488	1,879	404	2,804	176
Prince George's	92	798	187	752	199	802	82
Virginia							
Alexandria	27	2,594	306	2,008	280	9,768	389
Arlington	32	1,745	168	1,750	159	323	67
Fairfax <sup>a</sup>	158	1,250	272	1,069	226	1,927	138
Falls Church	11	1,258	226	1,231	198	513	107
Loudoun	30	899	128	671	124	2,691	70
Manassas <sup>b</sup>	11	586	208	516	176	399	84
Prince William	25	481	133	450	136	400	76
D.C. metro region	882	1,654	322	1,470	303	2,235	144

*Source:* D.C. Regional Nonprofit Database, The Urban Institute

*Note:* Dollars in Thousands

a. Fairfax includes Fairfax County and Fairfax City.

b. Manassas includes Manassas City and Manassas Park.

## **Appendix A: Methodology**

The primary data source of the study is the National Nonprofit Organizational Database (NNOD), which is a multiyear data file produced by the National Center for Charitable Statistics (NCCS) at the Urban Institute. The NNOD contains roughly 650,000 observations of public charities that filed Forms 990 with the IRS from 1998 to 2000. It has detailed financial and program information that is missing from other nonprofit files.

This study examines nonprofits that filed in fiscal year 2000, which was latest and most complete set of records available in the NNOD when this study's dataset was constructed during the fall of 2003. The initial step to construct the dataset was to extract information from the NNOD about groups that filed in fiscal year 2000 and were located in the D.C. region. Because some nonprofits fail to file with the IRS every year, even if they remain in operation, unique cases found in fiscal years 1998 and 1999 of the NNOD, but not in the 2000, were added to the extract. This technique ensures that a nonprofit was not missed because it failed to file a Form 990 in a particular year. Phone directories, web searches and GuideStar, an online database of Form 990 images, were used to verify that groups from the 1998 and 1999 NNOD were still operating in 2003. Taken together, this process revealed 7,628 nonprofits from the NNOD that are sited in the D.C. area.

Because nonprofits with less than \$25,000 in gross receipts and religious congregations are not required to file Forms 990, the NNOD underrepresents small organizations and religious groups (Smith 1997). To address this limitation of the NNOD, several lists were collected from foundations and grantmakers in the region. The external lists were verified and merged with the NNOD extract, a process that uncovered 509 additional nonprofits in the region. Combining the NNOD extract and external directories created a final dataset of 8,137 nonprofit organizations.

The study explores the distribution, location, age, and the finances of local child- and youth-related nonprofits. The distribution of these groups is examined by their service type, as discussed in appendix B, and by their local or national/international orientation. To determine an organization's local or national/international focus, a computer program was applied to the data file to search for and code common terms, such as "national," "international," and so forth. The results of the program were manually reviewed for accuracy and reliability. Of the 8,137 groups in the file, roughly 4,900 were classified as local, national or international by the computer program. Codes for the remaining 3,200 nonprofits were manually applied from information obtained through web searches, reviews of Form 990s, and phone calls to the organizations.

The study examines the location of nonprofit providers at the state and local levels. The states include the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. To define location at the local level, we follow the geographic definition by the Metropolitan Council of Governments, which includes the District; Montgomery, Prince George's, and Frederick counties in Maryland; Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties in Virginia; and the independent cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park in Virginia. To ensure robustness and statistical validity of

the analysis, we combine Fairfax County and Fairfax City data, as well as Manassas and Manassas Park data.

The study calculates the age of an organization as the number of years since it received tax-exempt status from the IRS. In this report, finances include total revenues, expenses, and assets. In most cases, the age and financial information could not be obtained for organizations from the external directories. Therefore, the analysis of the age and finances of child- and youth-related groups in the region is largely limited to those that filed Forms 990 with the IRS.

## **Appendix B: Defining Nonprofits that Serve Children and Youth in the D.C. Region**

The units of analysis in the study are nonprofits in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area that serve children and youth. The study defines children and youth as newborns to those who are 17 years of age. More specifically, children are defined as those age 0 to 4. Youth are those aged 5 to 17. This definition allows for an analysis of a wide array of services for children in the region.

Nonprofits with a primary purpose to serve child and youth were identified through the National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities (NTEE), a hierarchical classification system that categorizes organizations according to their stated purpose on the Form 990. Nonprofits that supply direct services and programs to children were located through the Nonprofit Program Classification (NPC), developed by NCCS. NPC is an effective method to identify youth programs offered by nonprofits whose primary purpose is not child or youth related. An example includes a painting and drawing program for children at a local arts nonprofit. NTEE and NPC codes are assigned to all observations in the National Nonprofit Organizational Database and were reviewed to reduce classification errors and delete duplicate records. The NTEE codes were manually applied to observations from the external data sources. The NTEE codes found more than 1,100 nonprofits with a primary child- or youth-related purpose. The NPC codes revealed an additional 211 local groups that provide direct programs for children in the region.

The study categorizes child and youth nonprofits along three broad dimensions: education, youth development and recreation, and social welfare. The education dimension includes pre-kindergarten and Head Start providers; primary and secondary private schools; charter schools in the District; nonprofit libraries, and other education providers, such as groups that focus on tutoring and afterschool activities. Youth development and recreation includes community facilities, youth centers, such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, scouting troops, and youth sports.

The social welfare dimension consists of six types of providers, including adoption, foster care, and groups that focus on the prevention of abuse and neglect; child care; community physical and mental health organizations; crisis intervention and counseling; delinquency prevention; and multiservice organizations, such as Catholic Charities and the Jewish Social Service Agency. Although multiservice nonprofits may supply services to community residents of all ages, their crucial role in the delivery of services to children and youth in the D.C. region warrant their inclusion in the study.

Some types of nonprofits that may provide programs for children and youth were excluded from this analysis. Their exclusion was based on two factors. First, large organizations, such as local hospitals, were excluded, because the extent of their program activity directed toward children could not be ascertained. Second, large nonprofits, such as local universities that provide some youth development and mentoring programs, were excluded because the majority of their services were not targeted specifically to children and youth. In general, only direct providers are included in the study. That is, nonprofits that provide financial or management support for organizations that serve children and youth in the region were excluded from the study.