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UPDATED SURVEY OF FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Montgomery County Planning Department
mcparkandplanning.org

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

In FY06, the Montgomery County Council requested that the Planning Department with updating the *1997 Survey of Places of Worship* (1997 Survey) and accompanying *Directory of Places of Worship and Congregations in Montgomery County* (1997 Inventory). More specifically, the County Council requested that the Planning Department survey faith-based organizations to understand their growing range of community functions and inform decision makers about their expansion needs given the County's emerging demographic trends. In addition to updating the information compiled a decade ago, the Department's survey took this opportunity to ask faith-based organizations about key issues that have emerged since 1997 associated with accommodating them within an urbanizing county. Tasks included in the approved Work Program included:

- Analysis of a mail-out and phone survey of the County's nearly 700 faith-based organizations, with emphasis on contacting new non-denominational organizations;

- Interviewing religious, civic leaders and government representatives;

- Creating a GIS layer of faith-based organizations, incorporating the survey information into the Department's growing data sets to support improved spatial analysis for use by County decision makers;

- Identifying the social services provided by faith-based organizations to County residents;

- Creating a policy impact matrix illustrating key land use laws, policies and ordinances affecting the expansion of faith-based organizations;

- Reviewing national practices to identify how other jurisdictions regulate and outreach to faith-based organizations; and

- Creating a new *Directory of Faith-Based Organizations in Montgomery County* that offers a comprehensive inventory that improves information coordination.

This report provides a detailed description of the County's faith-based organizations, and summarizes the planning and regulatory environment in which they operate. Understanding these issues can help inform the planning process and its ability to accommodate faith-based organizations in the future.

BACKGROUND

The *1997 Survey of Places of Worship* identified about 500 organizations within Montgomery County and the many community services they provided. Over the ensuing decade, the County experienced significant growth, and now contains nearly one million residents of increasing socioeconomic diversity. The County's population also includes a growing number of elderly as well as a higher percentage of children. County demographers estimate those trends will continue over the next 30 years, by which time over 200,000 new residents will call Montgomery County home. Within these population trends, faith-based organizations will continue to attract congregants, contribute to community identity and provide needed community services.

At the same time, faith-based organizations in Montgomery County function within an environment of changing land use policy and regulations. As the County shifts from suburban to increasingly urban land forms, planners are considering options to channeling growth into more appropriate

locations with existing infrastructure. The result is a more complex planning, regulatory and development process reflective of the more intense use of a finite land supply.

Within this context, faith-based organizations continue to provide vital social services that contribute to the underlying *civic infrastructure* necessary to sustain community livability and social well-being for County residents. But an important question is how the County adapts to these changes, and how this in turn affects the land uses and services provided by faith-based organizations.

REPORT OVERVIEW

This report contains four main sections:

- *Section 1 analyzes our mail-out survey (Appendix 1,) a supplemental phone survey of non-denominational institutions (Appendix 2), and interviews with faith-based organizations.* Much of the survey was designed to parallel the 1997 effort to facilitate comparison. The second aspect of our survey focuses on narrative questions more specific to faith-based organizations' experiences with the County's planning, regulatory and development process.

- Section 2 discusses the *role of faith-based organizations* in providing social services to the County's neediest residents, and how faith-based organizations are responding to service needs brought about by the County's changing demographics.

- Section 3 uses a *policy impact matrix* to illustrate the range of laws, policies and ordinances that faith-based organizations face when operating, expanding and relocating facilities. It also reviews how other jurisdictions across the country regulate and communicate planning policies with faith-based organizations.

A separate document provides an updated *Directory of Faith-Based Organizations in Montgomery County.* This current inventory of the County's faith-based organizations will help service providers coordinate efforts, allow County agencies to improve outreach, and offer an additional tool for those seeking services.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The survey, interviews and policy research for this report lead to the following findings:

The County now has nearly 700 faith-based organizations, representing a 37% increase from a decade ago, with a significant percentage of respondents noting that they have been at their current sites for five years or less. The presence of new faith-based organizations corresponds with the County's increasing ethnic diversity, in that 70% of these newer organizations conduct services in multiple languages.

In terms of location, the number of faith-based organizations within the Agricultural Reserve (primarily at the edge of the existing sewer envelope) grew by 30% since 1997. However, these facilities account for about 5% of the County's total faith-based organizations; the rest generally locate in proximity to the County's population centers.

Faith-based organizations generally locate in proximity to population centers to provide services and strengthen communities throughout Montgomery County. But organizations showed a wide variation in location patterns. For example, the Agricultural Reserve contains both faith-based organizations that have been in the County for less than five years, as well as older facilities that have been in Montgomery County for more than 100 years. The same is true for small-lot residential land use zones (e.g., R-60). Generally, faith-based organizations appear to locate in proximity to population centers and provide services throughout the County.

While survey analysis clearly reveals confusion about a complicated development process, it did not indicate that faith-based organizations are precluded from locating and providing services throughout the entire County. But as the County moves from greenfield development towards a greater emphasis on redevelopment and infill, and confronts a growing population, faith-based and other non-profit organizations may face greater challenges in obtaining suitably sized affordable parcels.

We can expect new residents to both continue forming new faith-based organizations and enlarge existing congregations in the years ahead. The survey found a 10 percentage point increase in small institutions, and a 7 percentage point increase in large institutions, defined as hosting 500 people or more at their largest weekly service. As the County grows, additional pressure will be placed on existing faith-based organizations to accommodate and serve the needs of a larger, more diverse population. The data further suggest that new residents form new faith-based organizations, which are more likely to be small, and offer services in a language other than English, and more likely to have plans to expand or relocate. As the County continues to add residents and urbanize, and the amount of available land decreases, this suggests a greater likelihood of conflicts between faith-based organizations and other surrounding land uses.

Faith-based organizations can be characterized as "once-in-a-lifetime developers" who decide to expand or relate without always recognizing the complexity of the planning development process. Survey responses, supplemented with in-person interviews, indicated confusion about the County's development process. Interviews with County staff revealed that faith-based organizations may begin the process before consulting appropriate government agencies or obtaining permits, and may have to change plans pay regulatory penalties. The resulting extra time and financial expenditures often catch faith-based organizations by surprise. Confusion also results from inconsistent regulatory interpretation of development regulations by County agencies. To address these difficulties, planning and development Steps need to provide greater clarity in the planning and development review process, improve communication among government agencies, and develop greater consistency in regulatory interpretation.

Faith-based organizations play a vital role in the provision of social services in the County; increased demand for services, coupled with population growth may require that faith-based organizations expand at their existing sites or elsewhere. Working directly or through umbrella organizations such as Community Ministries of Montgomery County, faith-based organizations provide food, clothing, shelter, money and counseling to the community. They often function as a stop-gap where government services do not exist, or are procedurally time-consuming to obtain. These institutions also address a growing need for family ministry; marriage counseling; after school services for children left at home by two working parents; and other support for families stressed by personal and financial pressures. Conversations with County social service agencies revealed that without faith-based organizations, these agencies would face greater difficulty providing needed services. Given emerging demographics and growing needs, it can be expected that faith-based organizations will continue to play vital roles in their respective communities.

Nationally, few jurisdictions significantly regulate faith-based organizations, nor do they use targeted outreach mechanisms for the master planning process. We also solicited feedback from the American Planning Association, the National Association of Counties, the Urban Land Institute, ICMA (formerly the International City/County Management Association), the Smart Growth Network, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Smart Growth Office. Some jurisdictions allow faith-based organizations in all zones, while other jurisdictions use a special exception process. Ancillary uses, ranging from day care to gymnasium facilities to schools,

generally comply with the regulations for the associated uses. Jurisdictions are reluctant to regulate faith-based organizations for three key reasons:

1) Land availability accommodates faith-based organizations;

2) Hesitancy to potentially intrude on religious freedoms; and

3) The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) discourages regulating faith-based organizations.

About ten years ago, Fairfax County, Virginia faced challenges similar to those in Montgomery County. There, attempts to apply stricter land use regulations to faith-based organizations led to a contentious debate about how to accommodate their functions in an urbanizing county. As a result, Fairfax County created an ombudsman to help guide religious and other non-profit institutions through the development process (Appendix 4). The program now successfully mitigates development conflict and has been well-received by the County Board of Supervisors and those using the ombudsman services. The Montgomery County Executive has funded a similar position for fiscal year 2008 to address many of the communication difficulties voiced by Montgomery County's faith-based organizations. Howard County, Maryland is also considering creation of an ombudsman position similar to that used in Fairfax County.

DEMOGRAPHICS AND CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE

A consistent message revealed in the survey and interviews is on the vital role that faith-based organizations play in supporting Montgomery County's *civic infrastructure*. This term refers to the myriad of facilities, organizations and services (such as hospitals and non-profit service organizations) that enhance the County's quality of life by providing vital social services to the County's residents. Our vision for the County's 2007 version of the Growth Policy strives for sustainability, expressed as the balance between environmental, economic and social equity concerns. Faith-based organizations function as a key component in addressing social equity. Their ministries, counseling, day care, and other services strengthen the social fabric of a healthy community. But the County's land use processes do not specifically address civic infrastructure, instead focusing on traditional infrastructure including roads, sewer and buildings (commercial and residential). The challenge will be how the County accommodates civic infrastructure and continues to maintain its high quality of life within the demographic challenges of:

- more people;

- more diversity;

- a growing elderly population; and

- more children.

The County's vision of sustainability implicitly encourages, in the face of increasing population and changing demographic needs, inclusive communities that maintain a high quality of life. To address this challenge, the County must maintain and in some cases enhance its civic infrastructure. This includes faith-based organizations as well as health care and youth organizations, and other non-governmental service providers.

NEXT STEPS

Analysis of the current survey and associated interviews leads to several findings. As compared to the 1997 Survey, the County appears to have a higher percentage of small organizations (with less than 100 people on average attending weekly services). There is a higher percentage of faith-

based organizations offering services in different languages, and a higher percentage of large institutions. Given the projected population increase for the County, it can reasonably be assumed that both trends will continue. In addition, the County's planning and development review process will remain vital for reconciling different land uses and policy priorities.

Interviews and survey responses from faith-based organizations express confusion about the development process, and a feeling that faith-based organizations are not considered within the broader master planning framework. As the County continues to grow in population and increase in density, the following measures could better communicate land use policy and regulatory process with faith-based and other non-profit organizations:

1) *Improve outreach approaches and tools*:

   a) *Strategically target resources to better inform faith-based organizations about the planning and development process. Specifically, the Department should create flow charts to summarize and estimate timeframes for the steps and key decision-making points for planning and development. More clarity should be provided on the roles of various government agencies. Other materials should include a periodic newsletter, and a DVD using the flow charts, presented in multiple languages, as well as information about the development process and applicable land use laws, policies and zoning ordinances.* The Department's existing communications efforts, revision to its website, and *Montgomery Plans* cable programs are significant and important positive steps.

   b) *Create a dedicated staff position to help non-profit organizations, including faith-based organizations, better navigate the planning and development review process.* The goal is to save time and resources for both the County and faith-based organizations by fostering a more informed process to yield better results for the entire community. While the County Executive received funding in FY08 for a liaison to assist faith-based and other non-profit organizations navigate the planning and development process, additional dedicated staff might be located in either:

      (i)   a non-profit organization, such as Community Ministries, serving as a liaison to County government (an option best suited for faith-based organizations); or

      (ii) the Planning Department, providing guidance on both the regulatory process and the broader master plan process at the Information Counter for faith-based as well as other non-profit organizations.

   c) *Use the Directory of Faith-Based Organizations, the Survey, and a newly created GIS layer to support the Department's evolving outreach technologies.* The collected information can now be included in the Department's growing databases of land uses to better identify those faith-based organizations that will be affected by new plans or developments. The data can also be used to identify demographic aspects of faith-based organizations, including attendance, parking, and other attributes to further the County's understanding of its civic infrastructure and corresponding land use needs and better inform decision makers about key planning issues. This also enhances outreach to faith-based organizations, and responds, in part, to their concerns that they are not fully considered in the planning process. The *Directory* should be updated on a semi-annual basis, by either the Planning Department or another County agency, to ensure that information remains up-to-date. Copies of the Directory should be distributed annually to faith-based organizations to enhance service coordination.

d) *Enhance content and expand distribution of existing information sources,* such as the *Desk Guides* published by the Department of Health and Human Services to provide contact and other information about non-profit social service organizations working in Montgomery County. To enhance the *Desk Guides* and expand the information base, the data collected for this survey and its supporting Directory has been and will continue to be shared with other County agencies. This should include making the information available electronically to enhance the opportunities for faith-based organizations to identify service needs and opportunities.

2) *Heighten faith-based and other non-profit organizations' representation on master plan advisory groups and task forces.* Participation throughout the planning process will improve understanding of existing and emerging land use needs associated with faith-based organizations. Faith-based organizations play a key in role creating civic capital – the involvement of residents in County governance – particularly for new residents, by offering an entry point into the broader community. For example, the Department's outreach effort for the Germantown Master Plan used faith-based organizations as a conduit to reach citizens.

3) *Improve coordination and communication among County agencies to ensure clarity and consistency in the planning, permitting and regulatory process.* In surveys and interviews, faith-based organizations relayed a need for greater clarity and consistency in the development review process. Respondents claimed different agencies often presented different answers to similar questions and interpreted laws and regulations differently, lengthening the permitting approval process. The County might convene a yearly summit of agencies and departments involved in the planning and permitting process to discuss relevant issues, identify concerns, and work towards better communication and consistent solutions.

4) *Examine zoning policies in the upcoming Zoning Ordinance Revision* that reflects changes due to land constraints, population growth and the increasingly complex social service activities of faith-based organizations. Any changes in zoning policy should explicitly recognize the potential challenges to faith-based and non-profit organizations to find adequate space with compatible land use and design.

a) *Evaluate whether faith-based organizations, currently permitted in almost all zones, are appropriate for the entirety of zones in which they are now allowed.* As these organizations evolve and operate over longer hours all days of the week, the County must consider whether these more intense uses fit into all zones and are compatible with adjacent land uses (e.g., are store-front organizations reducing the parking supply for adjacent merchants, or are neighborhood organizations appropriate for providing extensive services?).

SECTION 1: ANALYSIS OF SURVEY AND INTERVIEWS

OVERVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

Between Fall 2006 and Winter 2007, the Planning Department conducted a mail-out survey of nearly 700 faith-based organizations in Montgomery County. The current survey largely paralleled the survey administered 10 years ago, with added questions seeking narrative responses regarding faith-based organizations' experiences with the planning and development process. We completed the survey in February of 2007. The mail-out survey was supplemented with a phone survey to ensure heightened outreach to a broad spectrum of religions, languages and ethnicities. The phone survey concluded in March 2007. These combined efforts achieved a 29% response rate. Table 1 provides a detailed breakdown of respondents and total identified faith-based organizations by religion, showing that the survey sample was generally representative of the County's faith-based organizations. During this time, we also conducted in-person interviews to obtain a more detailed understanding of land use laws, policies and zoning ordinances associated with development and growth of faith-based organizations. Further interviews regarding the planning and development process were conducted with Planning Department and County staff, civic representatives, and private land use attorneys. Lastly, we analyzed the data, including performing GIS analyses to better understand the location of faith-based organizations in the County.

Table 1: Respondents and Total Faith-Based Organizations by Religion

Religion	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents	Number of Total	% of Total	Difference Between Respondents & Total
AME	2	1%	2	<1%	1%
Baptist	18	9%	74	11%	-2%
Buddhist	3	2%	4	1%	1%
Catholic	21	11%	30	4%	6%
Episcopal	6	3%	25	4%	-1%
Evangelical	5	3%	13	2%	1%
Hindu	3	2%	4	1%	1%
Jewish	17	9%	18	3%	6%
Lutheran	10	5%	25	4%	1%
Methodist	20	10%	67	10%	0%
Mormon	2	1%	3	0%	1%
Non-denominational	14	7%	14	2%	5%
Orthodox Christian	5	3%	11	2%	1%
Other	35	18%	292	43%	-25%
Pentecostal	13	7%	21	3%	3%
Presbyterian	9	5%	48	7%	-2%
Protestant	6	3%	6	1%	2%
Seventh Day Adventist	9	5%	26	4%	1%
All	198	100%	683	100%	N/A

Source: 2007 Survey of Faith-Based Organizations, M-NCPPC.

KEY FINDINGS

Location and Size of Faith-Based Organizations

Faith-based organizations generally locate near population centers and along major roadways. As shown in Figure 1, faith-based organizations locate throughout the County. Location patterns indicate that they generally locate in proximity to population centers (i.e., in the southern portion of the County), and along major roadways (including New Hampshire Avenue and Rockville Pike). Nearly 10% of respondents noted that they have been in Montgomery County 100 years or more. Those organizations are primarily located in large lot or rural zones.

Religious Institutions
County Boundary
Interstates
Major Roads

Created by Research & Technology Center
Sources: MNCPPC (2007)
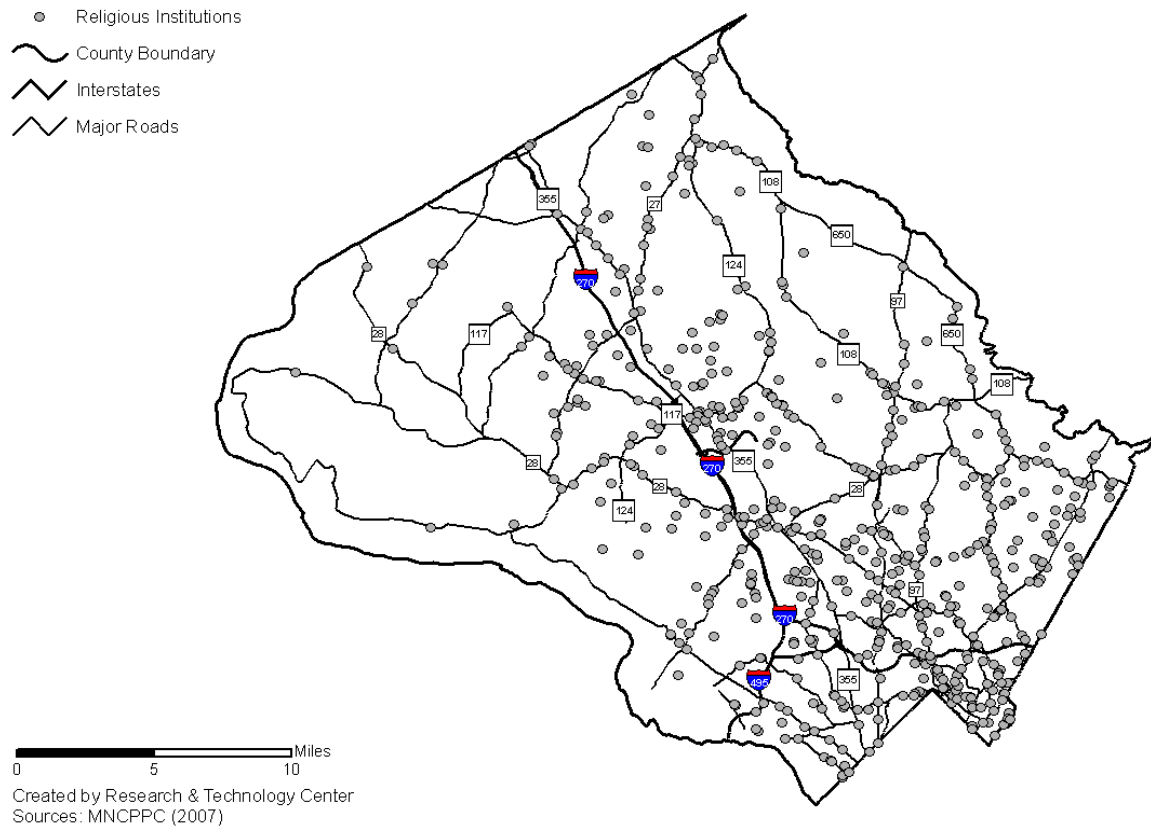
Figure 1: Location of the County's Faith-Based Organizations
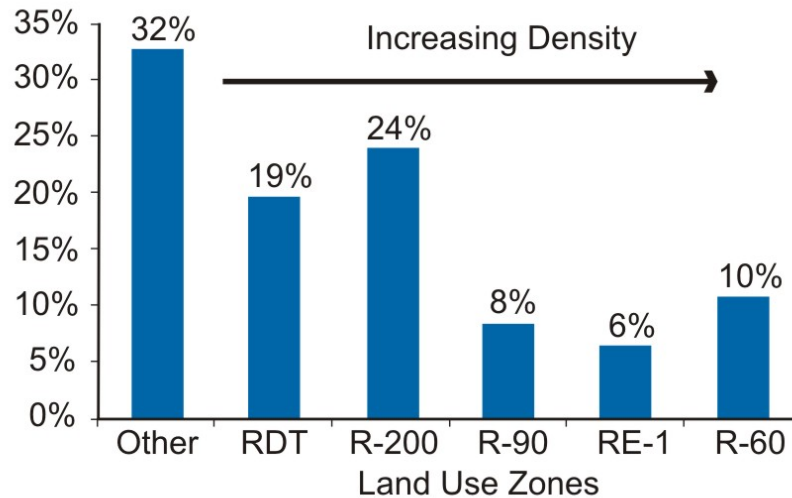
Figure 2: Location of Faith-Based Organizations by Land Use Zone

Respondents at their sites for less than five years locate in both small- and large-lot zones. Respondents at their sites for five years or less are frequently located in either the R-200 zone (30%) or R-60 zone (23%). About 30% of these new organizations are also small (i.e., have less than 100 people attending their largest weekly worship services). The zones with the greatest number of faith-based organizations include: RDT, R-200, R-90, RE-1, and R-60 (Figure 2).

Only about 5% of the County's total identified faith-based organizations are located in the Agricultural Reserve. The County has about 37 faith-based organizations located in the Agricultural Reserve. This represents about 5% of the 683 identified faith-based organizations in the County. About half of the faith-based organizations in the Agricultural Reserve responded to our survey, and of the respondents, about half arrived after 1997. Only one facility indicated a building of more than 50,000 square feet. Slightly less than a third of respondents indicated attendance at their largest weekly service of more than 100 people; one faith-based organization in the Agricultural Reserve had an average weekly attendance of more than 500 people.

A higher percentage of responding faith-based organizations now sit on larger parcels. While slightly less than one-third of the 1997 respondents indicated that their properties were five acres or larger, about 42% of respondents to the current survey have properties that are five or more acres (Figure 3). Almost two-thirds (65%) of respondents have parcels larger than 2.5 acres, which is about the same as in 1997.
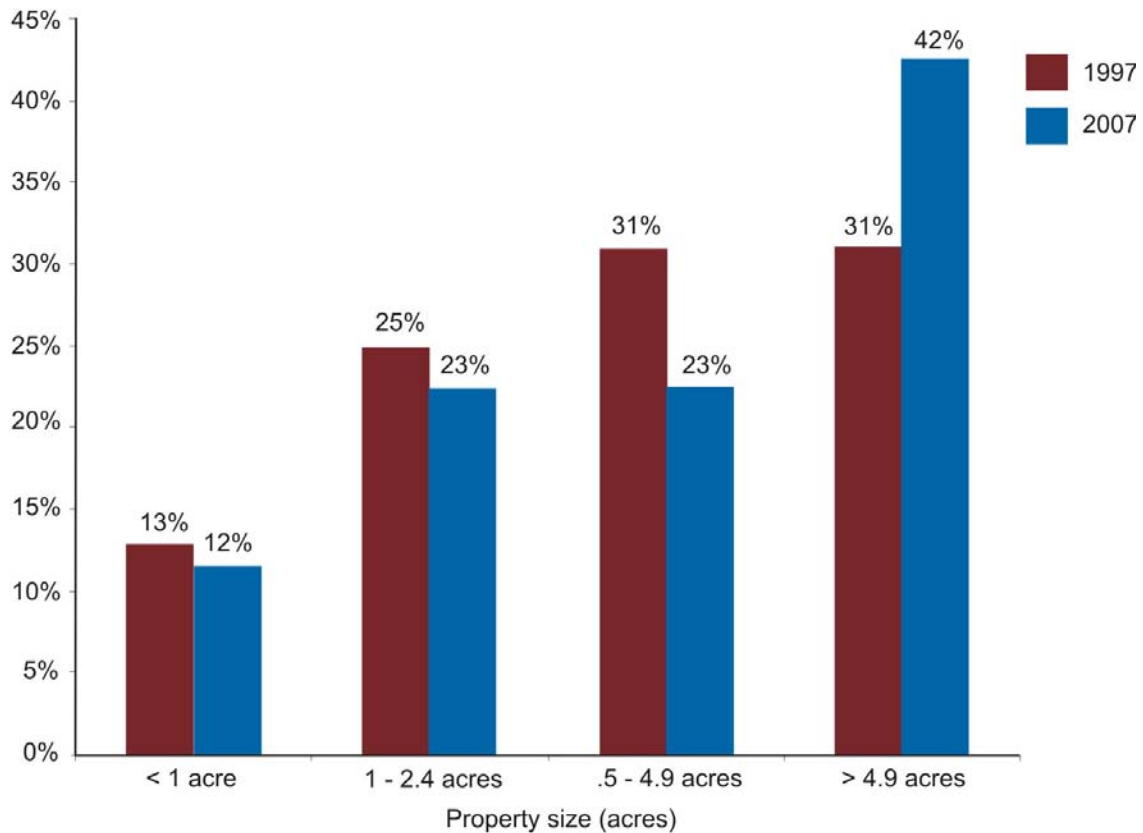
Figure 3: Faith-Based Organization Property Size (in acres)

The percentage of faith-based organizations with more than 50,000 square feet of space increased. In 1997, about 9% of survey respondents indicated that they had buildings of 50,000 square feet of space or more. In 2007, about 20% of respondents had buildings larger than 50,000 square feet (Figure 4). The number of respondents with buildings less than 10,000 square feet was about the same as in 1997. (Due to differences in the building size breakdowns, only 2007 data are provided.)
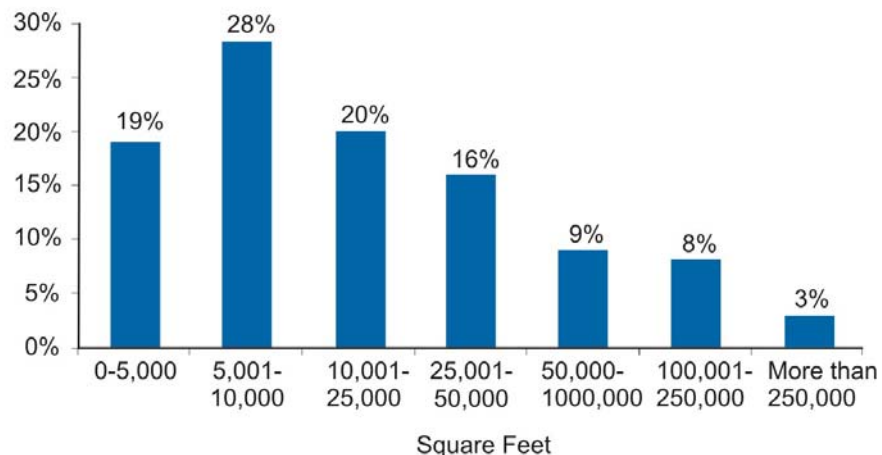
Figure 4: Faith-Based Organization Building Size (sq. ft.)

Tenure of Faith-Based Organizations

Newer congregations now account for a greater percentage of the County's faith-based organizations. While about one in 10 respondents to the 1997 survey had been at their current site for less than five years, nearly one in five respondents to the current survey are newcomers (Figure 5). In fact, new organizations now account for 18% of the County's faith-based organizations. About half of these newer organizations are located in large lot or rural zones. About 30% of new faith-based organizations are also small, almost exclusively locating in urbanized sections of the County. The percentage of respondents that have been in the County for 100 years or more now account for only 7% of faith-based organizations, compared to 13% in 1997.
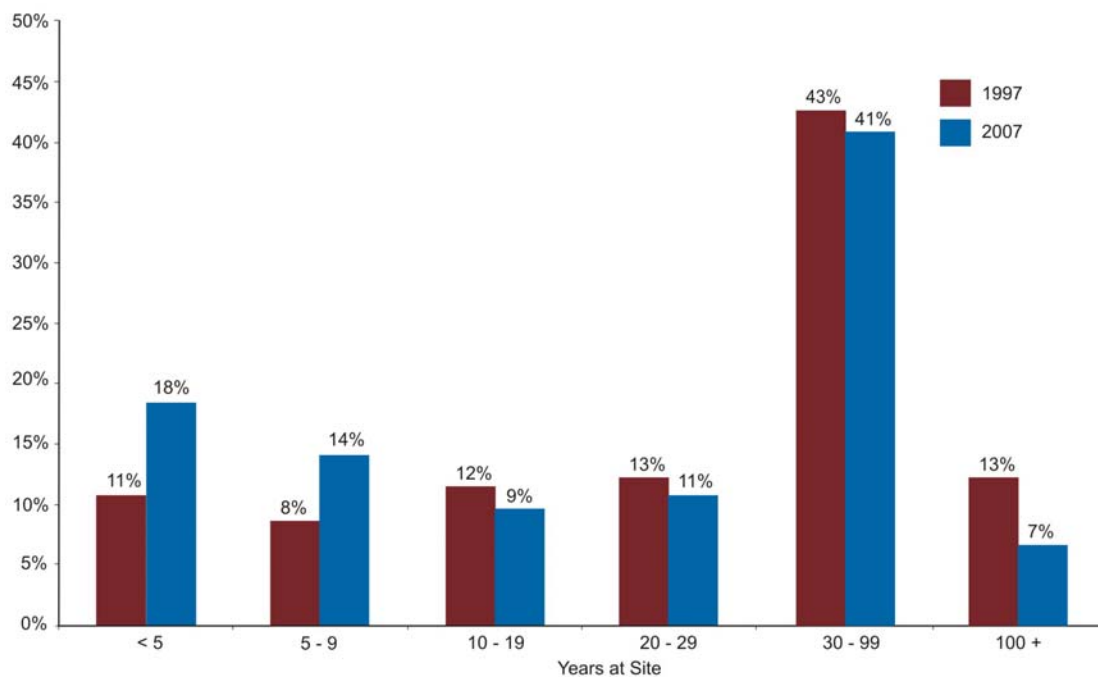
Figure 5: Faith-Based Organization Tenure at Current Location

Ownership rates are higher for faith-based organizations the longer they have been at their current site. The vast majority (84%) of respondents own their own facilities (Table 2). But the ownership rate for those at their current site for less than five years is only about 55%. For those at their current sites over 20 years, the ownership rate is about 92%.

Table 2: Respondent Ownership Rates

| Years at Location	Own	Rent
< 5	55%	45%
5 - 9	75%	25%
10 - 19	93%	7%
20 - 29	89%	11%
30 - 99	99%	1%
99+	88%	13%
All	84%	16%

Source: 2007 Survey of Faith-Based Organizations, M-NCPPC.

Characteristics of Worship Services

Compared to 1997, there are higher percentages of faith-based organizations holding both small and large weekly worship services. Compared to 1997, a higher percentage of responding faith-based organizations have an average attendance of 500 or

more. These large facilities represent about 16% of survey respondents (Figure 6). About 4% of respondents indicated an average weekly attendance of more than 1,000 people. Of those hosting large weekly services, about half conduct services in a single language. And of these, the vast majority (about 87%) conducts services only in English.

Compared with responses received in 1997, a higher percentage of respondents of faith-based organizations host less than 100 people, on average, at their largest weekly service. The percentage of respondents with fewer than 250 attendees has remained about the same (72% in 1997 versus 70% in 2007).
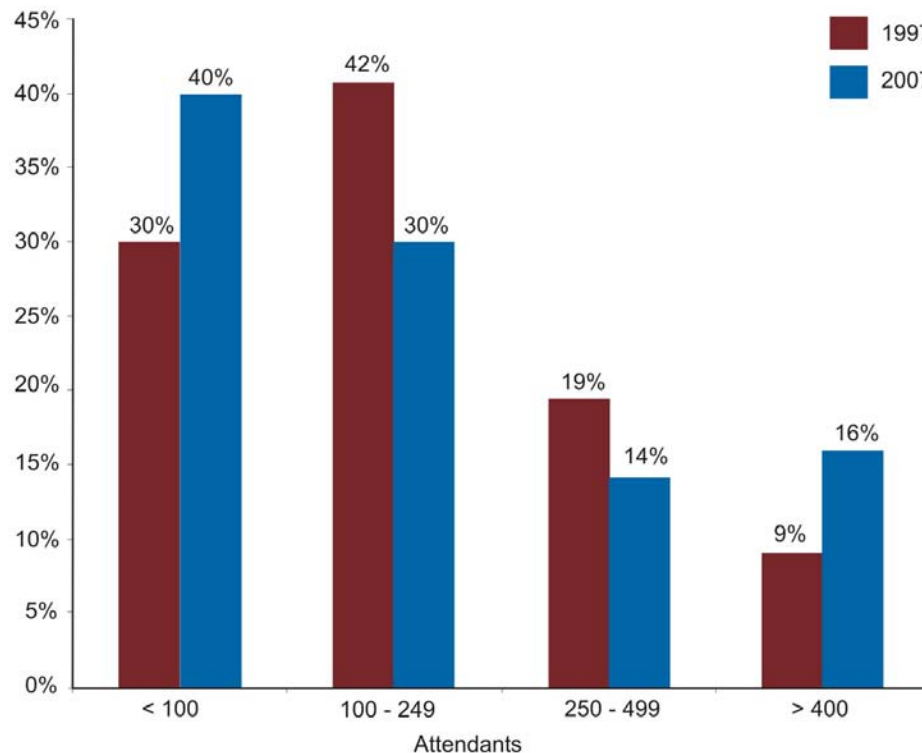
Figure 6: Average Attendance at Largest Weekly Service

The majority of services at new organizations (at their current sites for fewer than five years) providing services in a single language use something other than English. Only about 30% of these new organizations offering services in a single language are English-speaking. Languages for organizations at their current sites for less than five years include Spanish, Korean and Chinese. Of those respondents that provide services to less than 100 people per week, over 70% conduct services in a single language. Of these, three-fourths use English, but about 11% provide Spanish-only services. So while newer institutions are more likely to be non-English, this is not necessarily the case for small facilities.

Faith-based organizations with higher attendance generally cluster along the I-270 Corridor and are more prevalent outside the Beltway. As shown in Figure 7, smaller institutions locate throughout the County. But large faith-based organizations (those with an average weekly

attendance at their largest weekly service of more than 500 people) are more narrowly located.
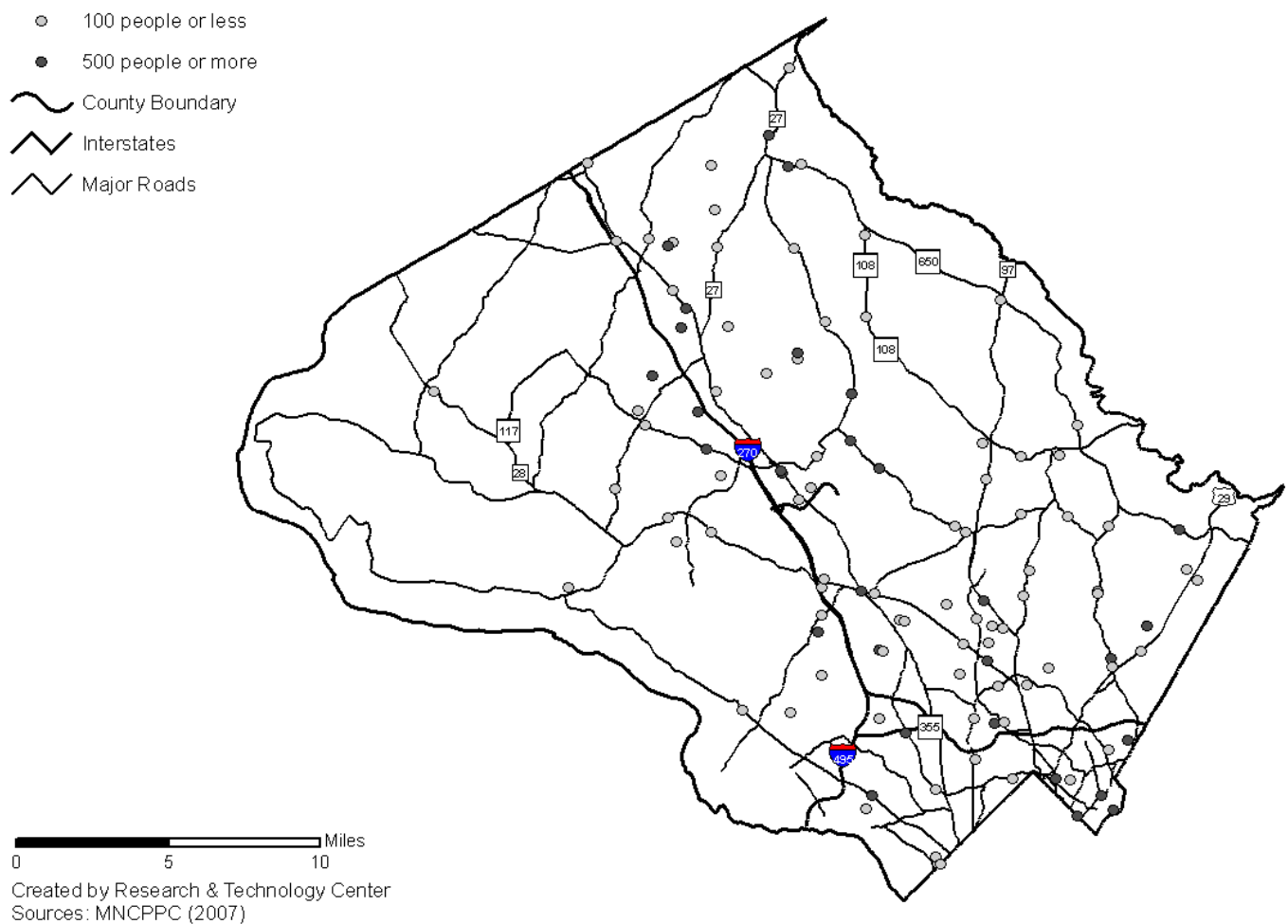
Figure 7: Responding Faith-Based Organizations with High and Low Attendance

Nearly all worship services held in the County occur on weekends. About 80% of worship services are held on Sunday mornings, with another 13% held on Saturdays (Table 3). Weekdays and weeknights account for only 7% of worship services.

Table 3: Day of Attendance for Worship Services

Weeknight	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
4%	3%	13%	80%

Source: 2007 Survey of Faith-Based Organizations, M-NCPPC.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The majority of the County's faith-based organizations now offer multiple community services. Rather than serving as only houses of worship, more than 70% of the County's faith-based organizations offer three or more services to the community (Figure 8). Just 14% serve solely as places or worship.
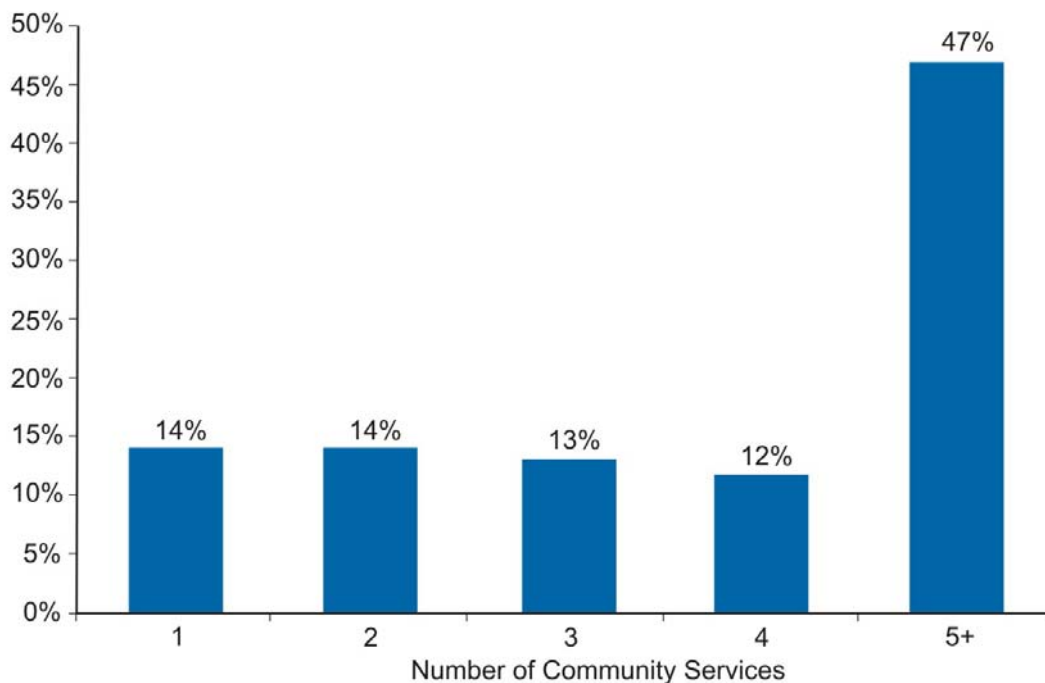
Figure 8: Community Services Provided by Faith-Based Organizations

Faith-based organizations' facilities accommodate a wide variety of community services. Faith-based organizations host a variety of community services (which do not include: worship, religious school, day school or day care/nursery services). The most common included: youth activities (other than school); community meetings; adult education; and fundraising (Figure 9).
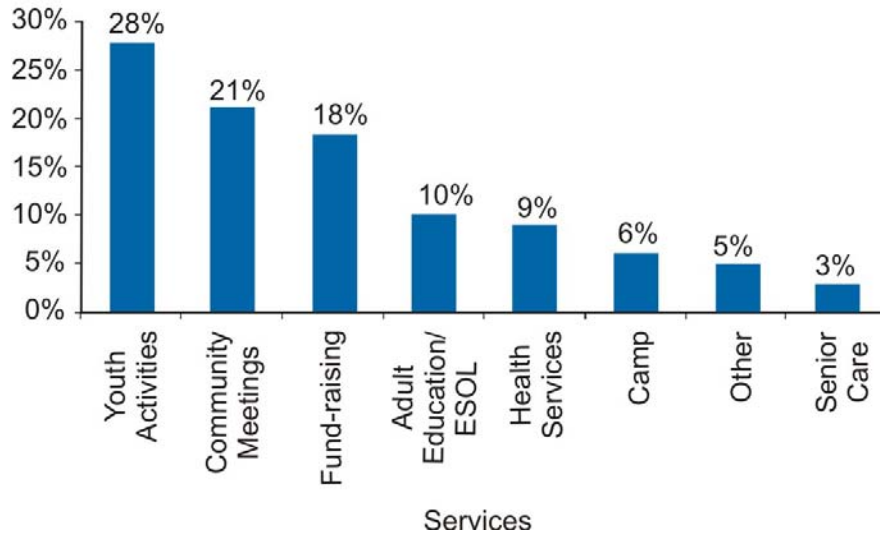
Figure 9: Types of Services Provided by Faith-Based Organizations

Few of the County's faith-based organizations have large school enrollment. About two-thirds of respondents offer more than just religious school. Of these, about half have a school enrollment of less than 25 students, and over 80% have fewer than 100 students. Only about 5% provide schooling to more than 250 students at all grade levels (Figure 10), and consist of Catholic primary schools.
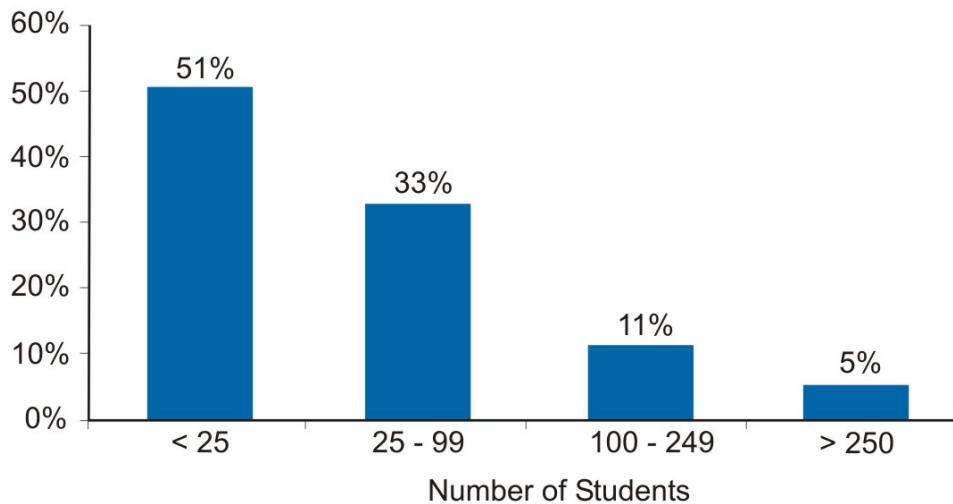
Figure 10: Average School Attendance at Faith-Based Organizations

Faith-based organizations provide needed nursery and daycare services. Nearly 25% of respondents indicated that they offer either nursery or daycare services (Figure 11). Of

these, about half provide nursery or daycare to fewer than 25 children. About 14% provide nursery or day care to 100 or more children.
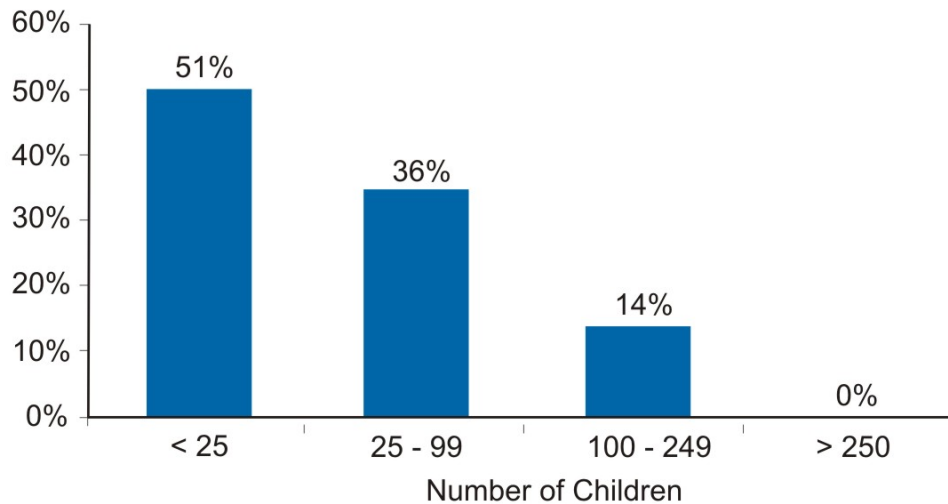
Figure 11: Nursery and Day Care Attendance

Shared use of facilities has increased since 1997 and now occurs for a greater percentage of faith-based organizations.   Shared usage accommodates a myriad of community services. About 42% of respondents to the current survey now share their facilities, compared with about 25% a decade ago (Figure 12). Focusing more closely on those faith-based organizations that own their own facilities, about of the faith-based organizations that own their own facilities also share their space.
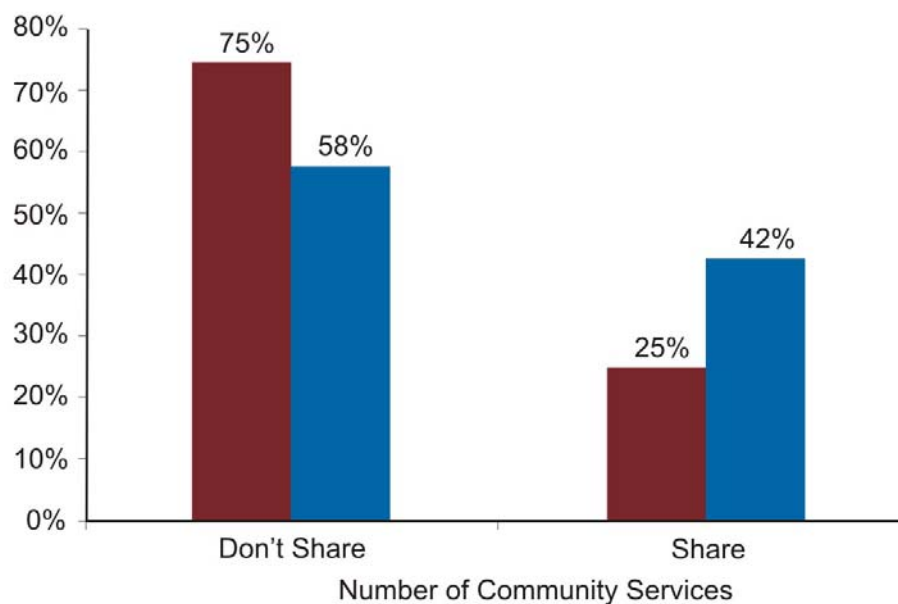
Figure 12: Respondent's Shared Facility Usage

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING

Private automobiles are the primary mode of access to the County's faith-based organizations. Use of alternative transportation modes were reported at only 4% of institutions (Figure 13). Though the question does not exactly parallel those asked in 1997, these data suggest that automobiles now account for an even larger share of transportation modes than they did a decade ago.
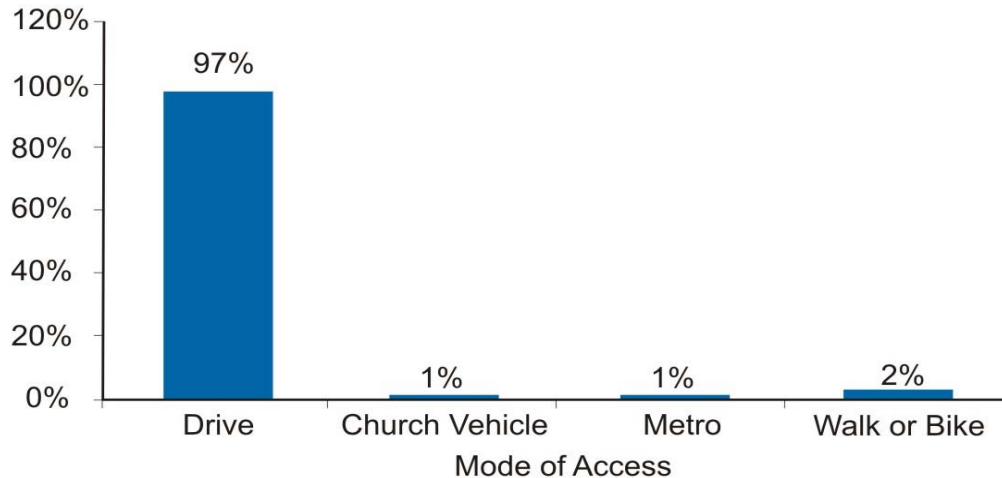
Figure 13: Primary Mode of Access

The vast majority of respondents comply with the land use zoning standard of providing one parking space per four seats in the main sanctuary. This finding parallels those of the 1997 survey, where 71% of respondents provided adequate parking (Figure 14). One-third of respondents to the current survey offer parking at levels below the zoning requirement.
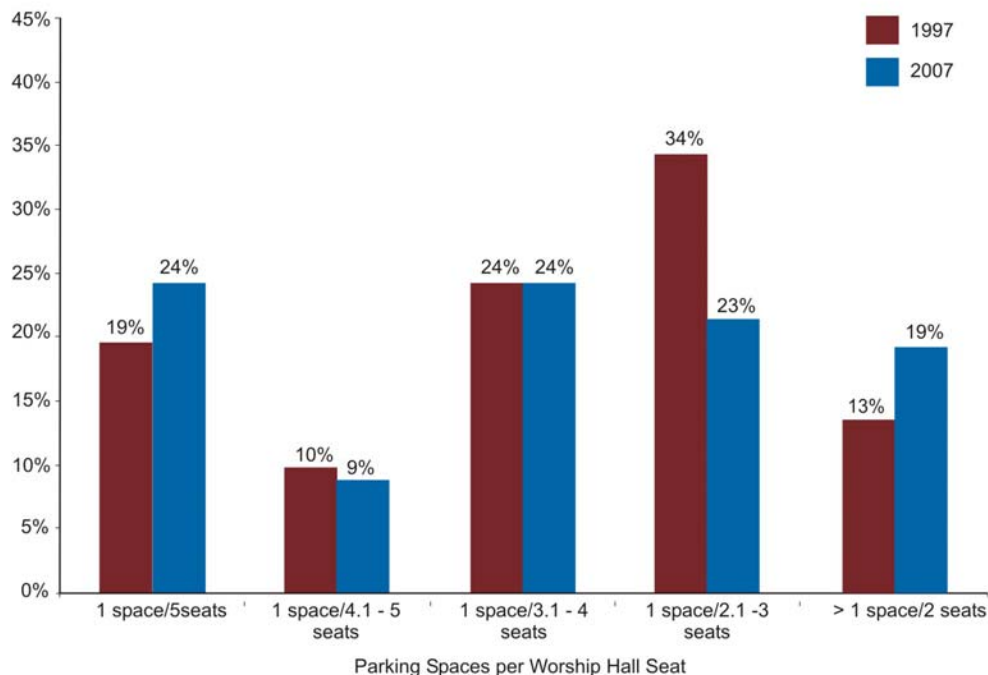
Figure 14: Parking Spaces per Worship Hall Seat

EXPANSION AND RELOCATION PLANS

Faith-based organizations planning to expand or relocate are more likely to have been at their current properties for less than 5 years. Of the 42 respondents noting that they plan to relocate, nearly half have been at their existing site for less than 5 years; nearly 80% of those with relocation plans have been in the county for less than 20 years. This compares to about 50% of respondents at their sites for less than 20 years noting relocation plans in the 1997 survey. Over half of all respondents have plans to either expand at their current site or relocate within the next five years.

Faith-based organizations planning to expand or relocate have smaller attendance. Approximately 45% of respondents noting plans to expand or relocate have an average weekly attendance below 100 people (Figure 16). A decade ago, smaller organizations represented only one-fourth of those with expansion or relocation plans. For organizations with more than 250 people in attendance, a similar percentage of respondents noted expansion or relocation plans in both the 1997 and 2007 surveys.
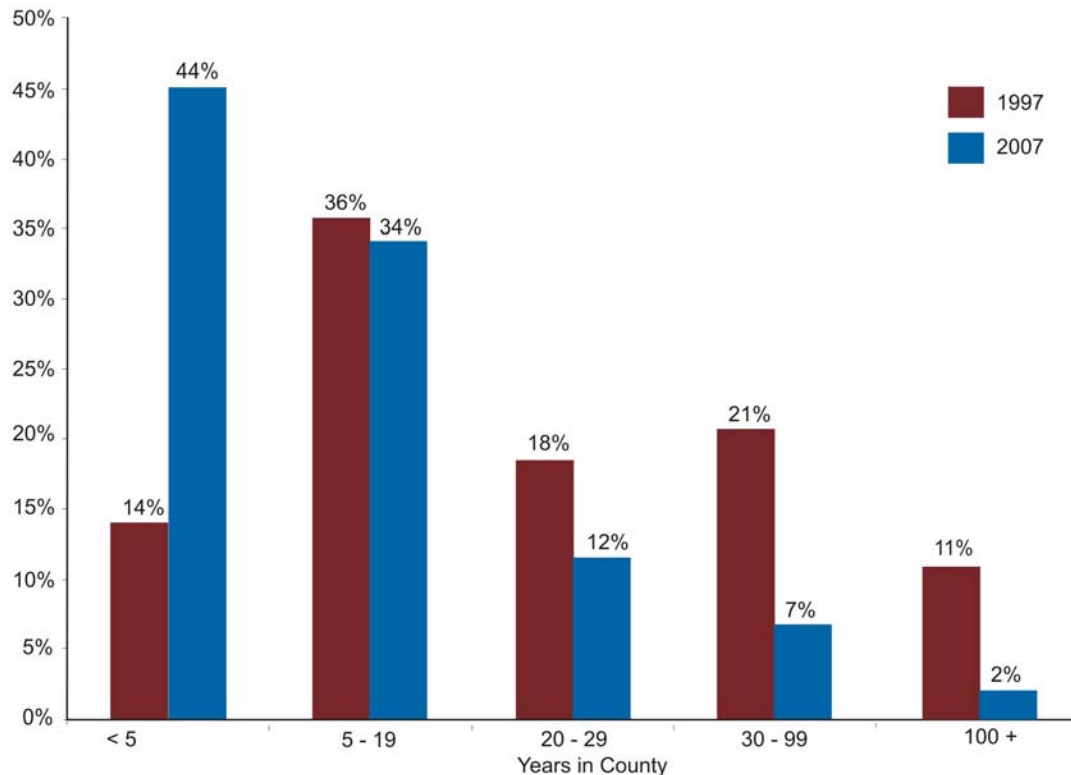
Figure 15: Tenure of Faith-Based Organizations Planning to Relocate or Expand
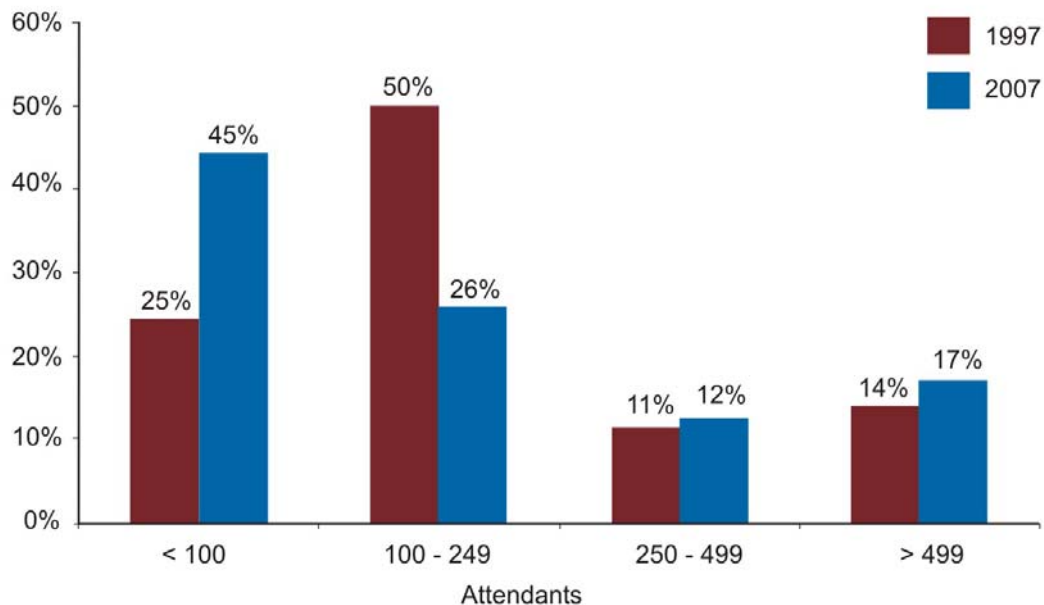
Figure 16: Average Largest Weekly Attendance for Faith-Based Organizations Planning to Relocate or Expand

FINDINGS FROM INTERVIEWS OF FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS'

The 2007 Survey provided an opportunity for respondents to offer written comments regarding the regulation of and outreach to faith-based organizations in the County. Strategic Planning staff also conducted interviews with a small number of faith-based organizations, Planning Department and County staff, County and private land use lawyers, and civic representatives. The comments and findings from the interviews are summarized below.

Faith-based organizations expressed strong interest in greater participation in the master plan preparation process. To ensure greater consideration of their current and future land use needs, faith-based organization representatives said they would like to participate on master plan advisory groups and task forces.

Respondents expressed a need for greater interagency communication, clarity and consistency in interpretation and application of laws, regulations and ordinances among County offices. They relayed a serious need for greater clarity and consistency interpreting the development review process, with different agencies often presenting different answers to similar questions. Respondents also noted a lack of understanding about which office has authority on a specific issue.

Several respondents suggested that the County improve, streamline and ease the permitting and development processes given the role faith-based organizations play in the community and the vital benefits they provide. Comments focused on the difficulty, time and cost associated with obtaining permit approvals. Faith-based organizations voiced concern that the County does

not fully understand their role in the community, and felt that development requirements impose a burden that does not reflect the critical services they provide to meet the social service needs of County residents. Instead, survey responses portray a desire for the County to develop special considerations for faith-based organizations, including a simplified and expedited regulatory process. Faith-based organizations also suggested that the County consider: case-by-case adjustments for faith-based organizations; reduced fees and regulations (especially when expanding on existing land); and land zoned especially for faith-based organizations.

Faith-based organizations highlighted the need for improved customer service. Many respondents indicated interest in a dedicated staff person who would act as a liaison to faith-based organizations. Understanding their special concerns and needs, this person would guide them through the development and permitting processes, convene religious institution leaders for meetings and seminars to share information, focus on issues and solve problems. Other suggestions included having a single point of information access and a dedicated customer service desk. Respondents also encouraged the addition to County agencies of staff with knowledge of faith-based organizations to improve customer service. They further requested tools and materials to better guide them through the County's development process. Specific ideas include step-by-step guidebooks, brochures and educational materials geared to assisting faith-based organizations. Other suggestions for improved outreach include:

- Regular meetings with government representatives;
- Newsletters;
- Email updates;
- Advisory group of local religious leaders; and
- Trainings and seminars on the planning and development process.

SECTION 2: THE ROLE OF FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES

This section details the vital role that faith-based organizations play in providing critical social services to all residents of Montgomery County. Services are provided both under the auspices of umbrella organizations and through initiatives sponsored by and hosted at individual faith-based institutions. The consistent message, received from both County social service organizations and umbrella groups, is that faith-based organizations play a vital role in the provision of social services; without them, County organizations would not be nearly as effective, and the County's residents most in need would lose crucial support.

ROLES & SERVICES

Faith-based organizations play an important, and growing role in the lives of County residents. County officials, religious leaders, and non-profit groups agree that faith-based organizations provide benefits and services vital to the well-being of the greater community. This study investigated what types of social services faith-based organizations provide in Montgomery County, as well as who receives the services. Research of relevant literature was conducted and supplemented with interviews of religious leaders, Montgomery County officials and non-profit service organizations (Appendix 5).

Faith-based organizations are critical in providing social services in Montgomery County. They provide emergency assistance for clothing, food, shelter, finances, health care, and legal services within and beyond their own congregations. Services or support are delivered in a variety of ways, including monetary donations, use of building facilities, volunteer time, or donation of goods. Government social service providers indicated that the County could not effectively provide social services without faith-based organizations. Research identified numerous County agencies, community organizations, and congregational social service programs that are filling critical needs by providing food, shelter, and transportation to the County's neediest populations, often without recognition. Such efforts necessitate a high degree of coordination and logistical support, which the County's faith-based organizations play a key role in supplying. For example, faith-based organizations provide volunteer coordinators for the County's annual holiday giving program, serving over 7,000 families in 113 zip codes.

Faith-based organizations also provide important family ministry and counseling directly to their congregations to support and strengthen family life. The well being of congregants represents a social service parallel to sponsoring a soup kitchen or homeless shelter. Families often require help to improve quality of life, strengthen marriages, and support children of busy families. Faith-based organizations play a key role in providing these services. For example, a church in Gaithersburg explained that its primary goal is to serve its congregational community and build relationships. The secondary goal is to focus on the immediately surrounding community, by offering tutoring to students from a nearby multi-family housing complex. A church in Damascus echoed this approach to social service. The pastor explained that while his congregants did not need food or shelter, they do require assistance maintaining family bonds in the face of personal and financial pressures. In providing these services, faith-based organizations prevent later demand for counseling, financial assistance or after-school care that can result from breakdowns in families.

Faith-based organizations work through a complex network of umbrella and non-profit service organizations. To provide social services efficiently, many faith-based organizations work with umbrella and non-profit service organizations. Many faith-based organizations

were active in forming these umbrella organizations to enhance services and prevent duplication. Montgomery County keeps track of some service organizations through its *Desk Guides*, which list services provided, contact information, and geographic area served in six different emergency service categories (health care, legal, financial, food, clothing, and transportation). Such organizations include Catholic Charities of Montgomery County and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington. Other groups like the Volunteer Center and Community Ministries also keep lists of services provided by faith-based organizations. Opportunities exist to consolidate and share information maintained by different County agencies to enhance service provision.

POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS AND FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Montgomery County's population is growing, diversifying and aging. County officials expect more than 200,000 new residents by 2030. Where new residents worship may change the number and types of faith-based organizations that need to be accommodated in the County. We can expect congregations to grow and expect the need for social services to expand and change to meet the needs of the County's changing composition. Interviews with social service providers and a review of demographic trends suggests a few key points:

An aging population will require specific services. Religious entities will likely see an increase in senior members, but also an increased need for senior services within and outside their congregations. The nation's elderly are "aging in place," and this demographic requires a distinct set of services, including in-home health care, personal assistance, meal delivery, shuttle transportation and home maintenance services. Faith-based organizations play a critical role in providing those services (Figure 17).

The County's youth will require key services. With higher living costs, many families find themselves needing two wage earners. As a result, an increasing number of families require day-care, pre-schooling, after school care, recreation, and tutoring. Social service providers noted that school-aged children require after school care while both parents are working, and that after-school activities serve as an alternative to gangs or criminal activity. Social service providers further noted that some children are not attending classes to contribute to the family income. Montgomery County's recent demographic analysis determined that approximately 240,000 (26%) of the population is 18 years of age or younger. By 2030, an additional 50,000 children will call the County home. County social service providers noted in interviews that faith-based organizations will continue to help meet these service needs for this age group.

The County will become increasingly diverse, impacting the types of services needed of faith-based organizations. By 2040, it is likely that one in four United States' residents will be an immigrant or a child of an immigrant. If this same ratio is applied to Montgomery County, in 2040 a minimum of 300,000 people will be immigrants or children of immigrants. The growing immigrant population will change worship patterns and services provided by faith-based organizations. Currently, more than 50% of the people served by Community Ministries, and their 130 member congregations, are immigrants. The Volunteer Center of Montgomery County predicts that future need for its language bank services will grow for Spanish, Korean and Vietnamese. According to umbrella organizations like Community Ministry, faith-based organizations will continue to provide services in a wider range of languages to serve this increasing ethnic diversity.

Religious Institutions

Juvenile and Elderly Population

1 Dot = 50

18 & Under

65 & Over

Interstates

County Boundary

Miles
0   5   10

Created by Research & Technology Center
Sources: MNCPPC (2007), U.S. Census (2000)

Figure 17: Elderly and Young Population Concentrations

Immigrants tend to locate where immigrants already are. The County (within the context of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region) now functions as an immigration center. As more people enter the County, it can reasonably be expected that they will both enlarge existing faith-based organizations and create new ones (Figure 18); these new structures and facilities must be accommodated within areas designated for development as the County becomes increasingly urbanized.

Cultural differences will require a different set of services. Ethnic populations vary in the services they might need, and accept, from providers. For example, only 5% of the population in shelters sponsored by Community Ministries are Hispanic, 60% are African American, and 35% are non-Hispanic white. Hispanic immigrants will often take care of friends and family in need of shelter.

Faith-based organizations will continue to functions as centers of cultural identity for the County's growing immigrant population. For immigrants to the United States, faith-based organizations have long offered community, fellowship and a needed cultural haven. This will likely continue for new immigrants and the ethnic community. But regardless of immigrant status, faith-based organizations function as important community focal points for their congregations.

Religious Institutions

Minority Population

1 Dot = 50

● Non-Hispanic Asian

■ Non-Hispanic Black

· Hispanic

County Boundary

Interstates

Miles
0   5   10

Created by Research & Technology Center
Sources: MNCPPC (2007), U.S. Census (2000)
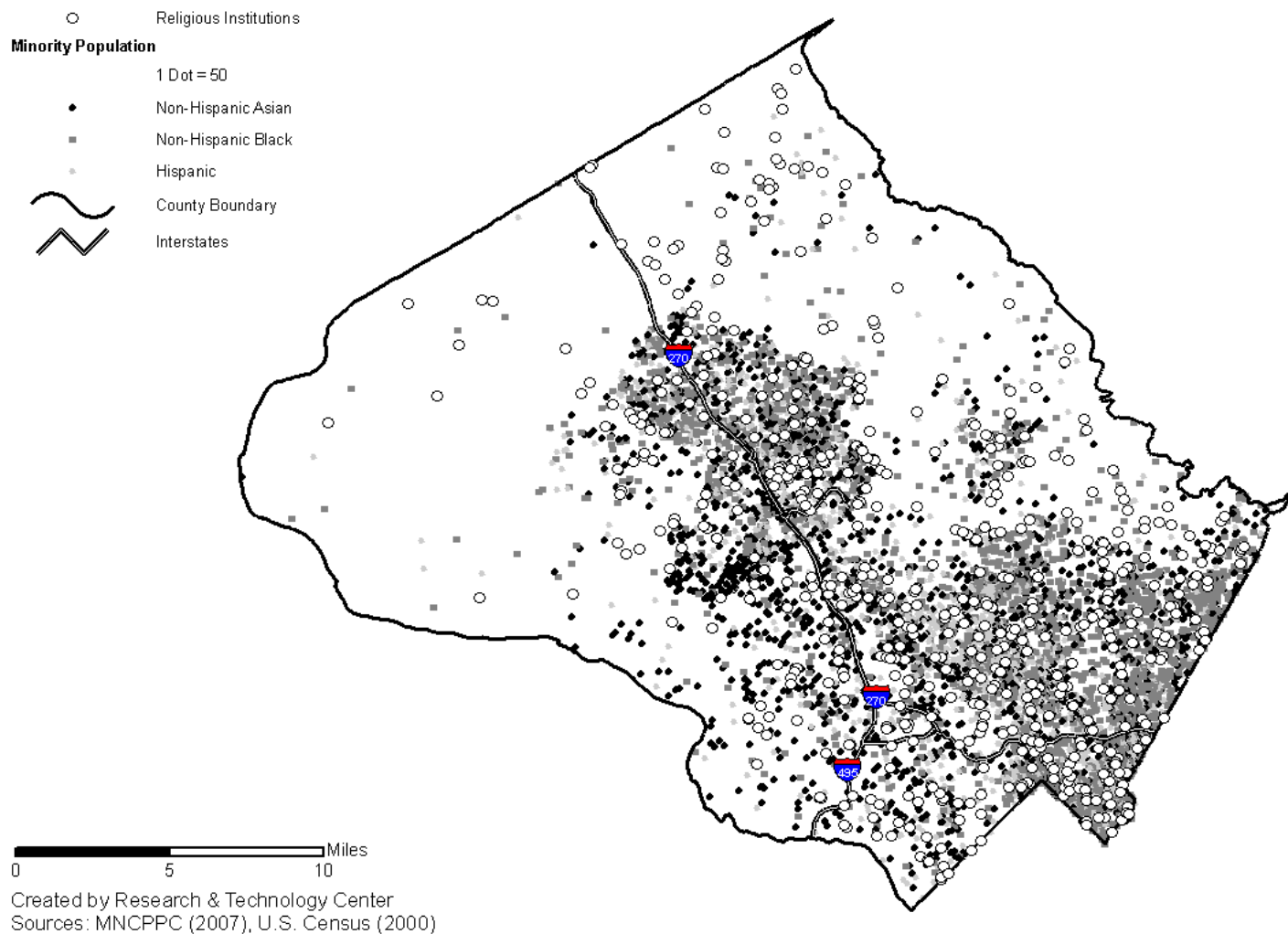
Figure 18: Faith-Based Organizations and Ethnicity

Page 19 – Section 2: The Role of Faith-based Organizations

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SECTION 3: POLICY IMPACT MATRIX – FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAND USE LAWS, POLICIES, PLANS AND ORDINANCES APPLICABLE TO FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Table 4: Policy Impact Matrix

Law or Policy Name	Key Objectives	Impact on Faith-Based Organizations
Federal Laws		
U.S. Constitution	Prohibits laws preventing the establishment of religion and its free exercise.	Guarantees religious freedom.
Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA)	Precludes local governments from imposing a substantial burden on religious exercise.	Protects religious institutions against discriminatory regulation by local government. But RLUIPA does not exempt religious institutions from regulation by local government.
Rivers and Harbors Act	Requires permits for any changes to navigable waterways.	Federal approval from the U.S. Corps of Engineers is required for any church development that would directly impact a navigable waterway.
State Laws and Policies		
Maryland Forest Conservation Law	Seeks to protect and preserve critical forest habitat adjacent to streams. Seeks to minimize the loss of forested land.	May preclude expansion that encroaches on sensitive habitats. May increase the cost of development by requiring reforestation plans.
Non-Tidal Wetlands Act	Seeks to preserve the state wetland resources.	Impacts religious institutions that will be developing near wetlands.
County Laws and Policies		
General Plan	Sets broad land use goals and objectives for the county, establishing a land use pattern of *Wedges* and *Corridors*.	Broadly establishes land use policy for the entire County, providing a vision for growth that includes urban centers, transportation and employment corridors, and open space. The General Plan guides land use zoning, which directly affects faith-based organizations.

Law or Policy Name	Key Objectives	Impact on Faith-Based Organizations
Growth Policy	Seeks to ensure that adequate infrastructure (particularly schools and roads) will be available to serve new development. It applies fees based on expected transportation and school infrastructure impacts.	Faith-based organizations may be limited to locations where adequate infrastructure already exists. Fees may also be applied, adding to the costs of development. Faith-based organizations are excluded from adequate public facilities review unless they have an associated school or day care center. The proposed Growth Policy advocates a goal of sustainability, which includes a social equity component, of which faith-based organizations are a primary element.
Master Plans	Offers more specific guidance for land uses within a defined area, consistent with the intent of the General Plan.	Land uses of faith-based organizations and non-profit institutions are not specifically considered in the master plan process, unless facilities already exist in the study area or they participate on advisory panels. Historically, faith-based organizations have not been actively involved in this process.
Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan	Seeks to ensure that development does not occur without adequate sewer or septic services. Establishes specific boundaries for sewer services to ensure the maintenance of rural character for areas beyond the sewer envelope.	May preclude sewer service extensions for public institutional facilities (PIFs), including faith-based organizations, beyond the sewer envelope. This limits the size of faith-based organizations beyond the sewer envelope.
Zoning	Permits land uses (including residential, commercial and industrial) and specifies the allowable level of density.	Faith-based organizations must comply with the underlying density, setback and other requirements established by the zone.
Special Exceptions (Ancillary Uses)	Permits specific activities, such as schools, gyms, day cares, shelters or other specific activities.	Faith-based organizations must adhere to zoning requirements, and any other laws, that may apply. For example, day cares must operate in specific hours, but also meet state safety regulations specific to those activities.
Signage	Regulates the size and location of signs.	Sets limits in the size and location of advertisements for their services.
Parking	Provides minimum parking space requirements to ensure adequate off street parking.	Limits the size and scale of operations without suitable parking supply.
Noise	Sets limits on how much noise a religious institution can generate, and at what times of day.	Different religions have different worship habits (e.g., outside chanting) that can conflict with noise requirements.

NATIONAL EXAMPLES OF COMMUNICATION AND LAND USE REGULATION OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

The laws, policies and regulations impacting faith-based organizations involve federal, state and County legal authority. But we wanted to know how other jurisdictions across the country were accommodating and communicating with faith-based organizations. To answer that question, we carried out an informal survey of other jurisdictions throughout the nation. These discussions identified both how urbanizing communities accommodate faith-based organizations within their respective development envelopes, and how they outreach to faith-based organizations on the planning and development process. While not an exhaustive survey, our effort offers a national sampling of practices used by diverse, urban jurisdictions throughout the country. In addition, we used the resources of national organizations to further identify jurisdictions facing challenges similar to those of Montgomery County. A summary of our findings is presented in the following table.

Table 5: Summary of National Jurisdictions' Zoning Treatment and Outreach Efforts for Faith-Based Organizations

JURISDICTION	ZONING TREATMENT	OUTREACH MECHANISM
Fairfax County, VA	Zoning ordinance requires that faith-based organizations have to go through a Special Permit Process.	The County has an ombudsman that assists faith-based and other non-profit organizations in navigating the building and development process in Fairfax County. Fairfax County also has an Interfaith Liaison that works directly with the faith based community. The goal is to keep religious leaders informed on the County's policies and programs, including land use. If the Interfaith Liaison hears of a potential building or development project, the project sponsor is referred immediately to the ombudsman. The Interfaith Liaison maintains an electronic, and circulates a web-based newsletter to approximately 950 faith-based organizations covering issues relevant to their activities. Each summer, a County intern updates a database of faith-based organizations.
Howard County, MD	By-right permission in all non-residential zones. Conditional use permit in residential zones. Ancillary uses are also permitted through the conditional use process. Requirements for residential zones: lot coverage < 25%; no	None; a proposal to create an ombudsman is currently under consideration by the County Council. Howard County has not had much challenge from megachurches. Most of their issues arose from smaller churches in residential zones that have 10 – 15 congregants.

JURISDICTION	ZONING TREATMENT	OUTREACH MECHANISM
	adverse impact on adjacent properties.	Howard County is considering creation of an ombudsman to help residents navigate the complicated development review process.
Orange County, CA	By-right permission in all zones; additional uses require a special exception.

Problems are now occurring with faith-based organizations locating in commercial zones, limiting the tax base. | No specific outreach efforts beyond the option to hold a pre-development meeting. |
| Arlington, VA | By-right permission in all zones.

Ancillary uses regulated through special exception process. | None. |
| Stamford, CT | Allowed in all zones. | Work with individual clergy members. |
| El Paso County, CO | "Hands off" approach due to concerns about RLUIPA challenges.

Permitted in every zone; no special exception process for faith-based organizations.

Noted difficulty with regulation of accessory uses. | None. |
| Austin, TX | By right permitted uses. | None. |

In addition to individual jurisdictions, the Department also contacted national organizations including:

- American Planning Association (APA);

- National Association of Counties (NACo);

- ICMA and the Smart Growth Network;

- Urban Land Institute (ULI); and

- U.S. EPA's Smart Growth Office.

These organizations could not provide examples of innovative planning, outreach or regulatory approaches to accommodate faith-based organizations in urbanizing areas.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The Planning Department prepared a mail-out survey to the County's faith-based organizations to update the *1997 Survey of Places of Worship in Montgomery County*. The institutions were identified using the 1997 Inventory, as well as addresses found through extensive Internet searches, traditional as well as ethnic and community phone directories, and community newspapers. Additional research was done for institutions that provided a post office box or a non-Montgomery County address. Of the 709 institutions identified, 683 were matched to County property files and sent surveys.

Staff designed the survey instrument (Appendix 2) beginning with modifications to the 1997 Survey, vetting it with a small group of clergy leaders. Further modifications were made based on their feedback, creating a more concise format to obtain a higher response rate. While this precluded direct comparison for all questions in the previous survey, we have made comparisons wherever possible. We mailed the revised survey in November 2006, and included narrative questions to solicit information about the County's land use and development process. The survey included a note indicating that it could be translated into Spanish, Korean, Chinese or French upon request. Following the initial mail-out, we sent a reminder to encourage further participation. We also conducted a multi-lingual phone survey (Appendix 3) to ensure heightened outreach to a broad spectrum of religions, languages and ethnicities. These combined efforts achieved a response rate of about 29%.

In addition to the mail and phone surveys, we also conducted in-person interviews to obtain a more detailed understanding of land use laws, policies and zoning ordinances associated with development and expansion of faith-based organizations. This included interviews with: members of the religious community; Planning Department staff; members of civic organizations; county land use attorneys; and private practice attorneys. We provide information from these interviews to supplement our survey.

Lastly, we performed GIS analysis of identified faith-based organizations, using both data collected through our mail-out and phone survey, as well as analysis of County property records. These spatial analyses illustrate the location of faith-based organizations throughout the County, and their relationship to planning areas, population centers and major roadways.

Survey of Religious Institutions

Montgomery County Planning Department

The Montgomery County Planning Department is updating its 1997 Inventory of Religious Institutions. This survey is being sent to all religious institutions in the County. By participating, you are helping the Planning Department to: 1) better understand the County's religious institutions and the services they provide; and 2) explore how it can improve outreach to religious institutions and support their provision of services to County residents. More specifically, the Planning Department hopes to use this information to better your experience with land use and development regulations.

We expect the following questions to take about 10 – 15 minutes to complete. Please return the completed form in the envelope provided by December 8, 2006. **If you have any questions, please call Matt Zisman at 301.495.2118.**

Section I: The following questions will help the Planning Department better understand what services your institution provides.

Name of Institution: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Name of Executive Director/Administrative Head:_____
Telephone Number: _____
E-Mail Address: _____

Please enclose any brochure describing your institution, and if possible, a photograph. If you need more space, attach extra sheets.

1.   Please check <u>one</u> of the following boxes that best describes your institution:

☐   A place of worship only.

☐   A religious institution (including a place of worship, convent, monastery, etc.) or a religiously affiliated organization that provides other services such as school, administration, day care, senior services, health services, or other functions.

☐   Property is <u>not</u> a religious institution and it is <u>not</u> used for religious purposes.

If you chose the third box in Question #1, please skip the remaining questions and return the form in the enclosed, postage paid envelope. We will remove your property from our list.

2.   What religion and denomination does your institution represent?_____
_____

3.   What is the primary language in which you provide worship
and/or other services? (check all that apply)

          ☐ English   ☐ Spanish

          ☐ Chinese   ☐ Korean

          ☐ Vietnamese   ☐ French

          ☐ Amharic   ☐ Other_____

4.   How long has your institution been in Montgomery County? _____years

5.   About how many people attend your <u>largest regular weekly</u>
worship service? _____

6.   On what day of the week and time of day (morning, afternoon,
evening) is the largest weekly worship service? Day of the
week_____:
Time of day: ☐ morning   ☐ afternoon   ☐ evening

7.   About how many people attend your largest *annual* worship
services (please indicate the total attendance for all services
offered that day)? _____

8.   How do people get to your worship services?
___% drive
___% church vehicle
___% Metrorail/Metrobus
___% walk or bike
___% other
Total: ___% (Total must equal 100%)

9.   Does your institution provide services at more than one
location? If so, please list addresses of other locations:

_____
_____
_____

10. What functions does your institution host (for education activities, please indicate annual enrollment)? Check **all** that apply.

☐ worship   ☐ camp

☐ nursery (ages 0-4)_____ (attend)   ☐ youth activities

☐ kindergarten (age 5)_____   ☐ senior care

☐ elementary school_____   ☐ monastery/convent

☐ junior high school_____   ☐ health services

☐ high school_____   ☐ meal services

☐ college_____   ☐ fundraising

☐ adult education_____   ☐ community meetings/events

☐ shelter housing   ☐ other_____

11. Are any other organizations using your facilities to provide worship or other services?   ☐ Yes   ☐ No

If yes, please give the name(s) of these organization(s):

_____

_____

_____

Section II: The following questions will help the Planning Department better understand any plans for expansion that your institution might have.

12. Does your institution own or rent its property? ☐ Own   ☐ Rent
If rent, what is the address:_____

_____

13. What is the approximate cumulative size of the space you use (in gross square feet)?

☐ Under 5,000   ☐ 25,001 – 50,000   ☐ 100,001 – 250,000

☐ 5,001 – 10,000   ☐ 50,001 – 100,000   ☐ more than 250,000

☐ 10,001– 25,000

14. What is the approximate size of the property in acres? _____acres

15. Does your institution provide on-site parking? ☐ Yes   ☐ No
If yes, how many cars can be accommodated? _____

16. Do you provide overflow parking for weekly services? ☐ Yes   ☐ No
If yes, how many cars can be accommodated? _____

17.   What is the capacity of your sanctuary/worship hall?_____persons

18.   How long has your institution been at its current location? _____years

19.   Does your institution have any expansion plans in the next 5 years?

      ☐ Yes   ☐ No

    If yes, what kind of expansion has been planned?

        ☐   Expansion at current location

        ☐   Expansion at a different site currently owned

        ☐   Expansion at a different site yet to be acquired

        ☐   Relocation to a different existing facility

        ☐   Other (Describe) _____

        _____
        _____

20.   Which of the following situations if any, does your institution face?
        (Check **all** that apply)

        ☐   Lack of land for expansion

        ☐   Inadequate parking

        ☐   Distance from members and users of facility

        ☐   Lack of conveniently located transit facilities

        ☐   Lack of pedestrian access

        ☐   Traffic congestion

        ☐   Need to improve security

        ☐   Inadequate signage

        ☐   Other (Describe) _____

        _____
        _____
        _____

Section III: Please use this space to provide additional insight regarding your experience with land use issues (including expansion, relocation, signage or the provision of new services) and suggestions for improvement.

21.   What have been your best experiences dealing with the County's land use and development processes? What have been your worst experiences?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

22.   Please list your suggestions for how the County can improve its development processes.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

23. Please list your suggestions for how the County can improve outreach to religious institutions.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

*Thank you for taking the time to answer this survey. **Please return this form in the envelope provided by December 8, 2006.***

The Strategic Planning Division worked with a third party to conduct a phone survey of the religious institutions that did not submit a completed survey. After verifying that the location was still an active religious facility, the vendor was asked to verify contact information and segway into the questions below, adapted from the original survey shown in Appendix 2.

Introduction

The Montgomery County Planning Department is updating its 1997 Inventory of Religious Institutions. This survey is being sent to all religious institutions in the County. By participating, you are helping the Planning Department to: 1) better understand the County's religious institutions and the services they provide; and 2) explore how it can improve outreach to religious institutions and support their provision of services to County residents. More specifically, the Planning Department hopes to use this information to better your experience with land use and development regulations. We expect this survey to take no more than 5 minutes.

Questions

1. Please check <u>one</u> of the following boxes that best describes your institution:
   - ❑ A place of worship only.
   - ❑ A religious institution (including a place of worship, convent, monastery, etc.) or a religiously affiliated organization that provides other services such as school, administration, day care, senior services, health services, or other functions.
   - ❑ Property is <u>not</u> a religious institution and it is <u>not</u> used for religious purposes.

If you chose the third box in Question #1, please skip the remaining questions. We will remove the property from our list.

2. What religion and denomination does your institution represent?_____
   _____

3. What is the primary language in which you provide worship and/or other services? (check all that apply)English
   - ❑ Spanish
   - ❑ Chinese
   - ❑ Korean
   - ❑ Vietnamese
   - ❑ French
   - ❑ Amharic
   - ❑ Other
     (Specify)_____

4. About how many people attend your <u>largest regular weekly</u> worship service?

5. What functions does your institution host (for education activities, please indicate annual enrollment)? Check **all** that apply
   - ❑ worship
   - ❑ nursery (ages 0-4)_____ (attend)
   - ❑ kindergarten (age 5)___ (attend)
   - ❑ elementary school____(attend)
   - ❑ junior high school____(attend)
   - ❑ high school____(attend)
   - ❑ college_____(attend)
   - ❑ adult education_____(attend)
   - ❑ shelter housing
   - ❑ camp
   - ❑ youth activities
   - ❑ senior care
   - ❑ monastery/convent
   - ❑ health services
   - ❑ meal services
   - ❑ fundraising
   - ❑ community meetings/events
   - ❑ other

On October 11, 1999, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted criteria for establishment of a County Ombudsman for religious institutions and other not for profit community groups. The criteria proposed by the County Executive and adopted by the Board included the following:

- The Ombudsman position shall be staffed by the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.

- The Ombudsman shall have a professional background that enables him/her to become fully familiar with the County's development process.

- The Ombudsman shall be positioned at the Branch Chief level (Engineer IV or equivalent) and shall become available in July 2000.

- The Ombudsman shall facilitate meetings between County staff and applicants as necessary.

- The Ombudsman shall be an educational resource for the religious and non-profit community, capable of explaining the County's development process and the steps required to complete the process.

- The Ombudsman shall maintain a database of applications for religious and non-profit community groups.

- The Ombudsman shall participate in staff efforts regarding the development of Ordinances, policies and practices that directly affect religious and non-profit community groups.

- The Ombudsman shall have a professional background that enables him/her to solve/mediate problems on a professional level even when they are strongly divergent positions.

The duties of the Ombudsman shall also include the following:

- Consults with all levels of government officials, citizens, development industry professionals, attorneys and County staff.

- Coordinates plan review with Board of Supervisors' offices and other review agencies both within and outside the County for religious and not for profit developments.

- Counsels and consults with citizens, engineers, and non-profit groups on problems and issues associated with land development.

- Counsels and consults with Department staff on land development issues.

- Provides timely decisions on proper applications of the County Code and Public Facilities Manual requirements.

- Educated engineers and non-profit groups of design measures which are required and must be used to meet Code requirements.

- Oversees the processing of plans through the various review agencies for religious and not for profit developments. As an agent of the Director, approves plans when they have met current code requirements.

- Prepares responses to queries from the Board, development industry professionals and citizens regarding County Code requirements, engineering policies and standards as related to land development activities.

- Effectively communicates department policies, procedures and responses to citizens, industry professionals and other government agencies.

- Participates in Engineers and Surveyors Institute committees.

APPENDIX 5: CONTACTED COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES AND NON-PROFIT GROUPS

Name	Organization	Contact Date
Luis Martinez	Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services	March 9, 2007
Andrea Jolly	Volunteer Center of Montgomery County	March 14, 2007
Maureen Herndon	Gaithersburg Coalition of Providers	March 23, 2007
Rebecca Wagner	Community Ministries of Montgomery County	March 26, 2007

Zoning Category	Tenure in County							Percent of Total
	0 - 5 Years	5 - 9 Years	10 - 19 Years	20 - 29 Years	30 - 99 Years	100+ Years	Grand Total	
C1					119,400	42,146	161,546	0.4%
C2					44,578		44,578	0.1%
CBD-1			33,016		81,088		114,104	0.3%
CBD-2			22,424		104,789		127,213	0.3%
CINN				44,877			44,877	0.1%
I-1			88,225				88,225	0.2%
MXN					333,904		333,904	0.8%
PD-2					242,668		242,668	0.6%
R-10					38,167		38,167	0.1%
R-200	557,031	3,361	1,768,018	3,408,599	2,278,389	1,874,674	9,890,070	23.6%
R-200/TDR				206,046	662,143	39,539	907,727	2.2%
R-60	113,812		85,262	389,081	3,699,706	90,415	4,378,277	10.5%
R-90	90,398		446,426		2,849,406		3,386,230	8.1%
R-90/TDR					294,391		294,391	0.7%
RC			315,693		713,386	614,230	1,643,308	3.9%
RDT	430,552	38,143	4,293,655	1,013,025	328,358	2,014,295	8,118,029	19.4%
RE-1			121,317	1,209,166	444,494	755,297	2,530,275	6.0%
RE-2		179,656	207,939	323,625	936,656	358,645	2,006,520	4.8%
RE-2C		123,809	1,838,792		380,337		2,342,937	5.6%
RMH				589,013			589,013	1.4%
RM-X2					105,787		105,787	0.3%
RNC						309,908	309,908	0.7%
TS				180,248	1,612,880		1,793,128	4.3%
N/A	38,389		77,220		1,595,149	662,763	2,373,521	5.7%
Grand Total	1,230,182	344,968	9,297,987	7,363,681	16,865,676	6,761,911	41,864,405	100.0%

Source: MNCPPC Research & Technology Division, 2007.