

State of Immigrants in LA County

January 2020

USC
Dornsife
*Center for the Study of
Immigrant Integration*



USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII) would like to thank everyone involved in producing the first annual State of Immigrants in L.A. County (SOILA) report. The goal was to create a resource for community-based organizations, local governments, and businesses in their immigrant integration efforts. To that end, we sought the wisdom of a range of partners that have made this report what it is.

The work here—including data, charts, tables, writing, and analysis—was prepared by Dalia Gonzalez, Sabrina Kim, Cynthia Moreno, and Edward-Michael Muña at CSII. Graduate research assistants Thai Le, Sarah Balcha, Carlos Ibarra, and Blanca Ramirez heavily contributed to charts, writing, and analysis. Thank you to Manuel Pastor and Rhonda Ortiz at CSII, as well as Efrain Escobedo and Rosie Arroyo from the California Community Foundation (CCF) for their direction, feedback, and support that fundamentally shaped this report.

Sincere appreciations to Justin Scoggins (CSII) for his thoughtful and thorough data checks. Thank you to Vanessa Carter (CSII) and Joanna Lee (CSII) for their feedback and edits on both framing and writing. Many thanks to Sabrina Kim (CSII) and consultant Gretchen Goetz for their work on designing SOILA and related presentations, and to Eunice Velarde Flores (CSII) and Jamie Flores (CSII) for help with administration and finances. We also thank Gladys Malibiran (CSII) and Lauren Perez (CSII) for organizing communications, promotion,

and release of this report. Finally, thank you to CCF, the James Irvine Foundation, Bank of America, and Jonathan Woetzel for their support which made SOILA possible.

We would also like to extend deep appreciations to the members of the CCF Council on Immigrant Integration for commissioning this report and for their feedback and suggestions along the way. A special thank you to all organizations interviewed for case studies that donated their time and expertise to further bolster our analysis.

Acknowledgments

As a way to lift up the immigrant integration efforts of entities in L.A. County, we conducted a series of interviews that helped to document the life-changing work that various institutions are moving forward in L.A. County as well as inform the analysis of the report. Below is the list of interviewees:

- **Anthony Ng, Former Immigrant Rights Policy Manager, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles (AAAJ)**
- **Apolonio (Polo) Morales, Political Director, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)**
- **Araceli Campos, Executive Director, Miguel Contreras Foundation (MCF)**
- **Carolina Sheinfeld, Immigrant Relations Coordinator, Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)**
- **David Rattray, Executive Vice President, Center for the Education Excellence & Talent Development, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and UNITE-LA**
- **Diego Sepulveda, Former Director, UCLA Labor Center - Dream Resource Center (DRC)**
- **Hussam Ayloush, Chief Executive Officer, Council on American-Islamic Relations - Los Angeles (CAIR), CA**
- **Jorge Gutierrez, Executive Director, Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement (Familia: TQLM)**
- **Nana Gyamfi, Executive Director, and Ben**

Ndugga-Kabuye, Research and Advocacy Manager, Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)

Additionally, we created a case study for L.A. County's My Health LA as an overview of a county-wide program that aims to fill in the healthcare gap for immigrant communities in L.A. To see what interviewees shared with us, please read the full report here: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/state-of-immigrants-LA>.

Interviewees Overview

The nation is experiencing a demographic change; by 2045 the country is projected to be majority people of color.¹ This demographic shift has been long in the making and is, in part, driven by historic immigration into the country and the success and growth of immigrant communities.

Immigrants have become part of the very fabric of Los Angeles County in particular. Over a third of the County's population are foreign-born and, among them, around 80 percent have been in the country for longer than ten years. The majority of L.A. County's population, around three-quarters, identify as people of color. Immigrants are embedded in L.A. families: Around 20 percent of Angelenos are either undocumented themselves or live with a family member who is undocumented.

Foreign-born Angelenos make up nearly half (44 percent) of L.A. County's workforce but often represent the struggling end of the region's economic spectrum. Nearly half of the foreign-born population and over two thirds of the undocumented population are living below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (about \$51,000 for a family of four). In addition, even among those with similar education levels, lawful permanent residents (LPRs) and undocumented Angelenos have measurably lower wages.

Overcoming these inequities will likely be the key to prosperity not just for immigrants but for the entire region: Regions that make progress on closing

racial and income gaps are more economically sustainable over the long-term.

Immigrants in L.A. County whether migrating for economic opportunity or escaping political turmoil, are part of the economic and social fabric of the County. To build an L.A. County where we can all thrive together, government, business, and community leaders must commit to equity-focused strategies for all of our residents and policies to engage immigrant communities, reduce economic barriers, and safeguard the livelihoods of **all** Angelenos.

Terms:

Undocumented Immigrant: The term 'undocumented immigrant' refers to anyone residing in any given country without legal documentation. It includes people who entered the U.S. without inspection and proper permission from the government, and those who entered with a legal visa that is no longer valid.

Lawful Permanent Resident (LPRs): A lawful permanent resident is a non-citizen who has been granted authorization to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis. Please note that for the purposes of certain calculations in this report lawful permanent resident may also include those with non-permanent temporary visas.

Summary

Immigrants from all over the globe have created a home in L.A. County for generations. In that time, both immigration policies and immigrant communities themselves have evolved dramatically. Some immigrant groups are large and long-settled, while others are newer and growing. A subset of immigrants have accessed higher education, invested in homes, or started a business. In these groups of homeowners, entrepreneurs, workers, and college graduates, there are immigrants who have naturalized, who are lawful permanent residents, or who are undocumented.

The *State of Immigrants in Los Angeles County*(SOILA) report documents how immigrants are faring economically, if they are connected to and engaging in civic life, and how L.A. County creates a welcoming environment. It admirably attempts to cover many, if not, all facets of immigrant life and provides a base for further inquiry, action, and forthcoming work for L.A. County immigrant-serving institutions. SOILA is a project of the Council on Immigrant Integration, a body that pushes for a society fully inclusive of immigrant communities. As such, the council's hope is that SOILA represents both what immigrant communities currently look like and lifts up L.A. County's hard work to integrate immigrants who call this area home.

We hope this report can help move our County forward and push all of us to consider how improving outcomes for immigrants not only benefits their own families and communities, but

improves the lives of all residents. In addition, we cannot address the needs of immigrants without addressing systemic racism and centering equity at the forefront of our work.

For this report, we collaborated specifically with CSII, to challenge and provide nuances to common immigrant narratives by applying a racial justice lens; by promoting the mutual interests of immigrant and native-born communities in the United States; and by supporting interethnic, intersectoral, and cross-movement collaborations in this research. Their work is in line with California Community Foundation's mission to promote a future where all Angelenos thrive: this includes our immigrant community members for all that they bring to our region. With those values in mind, we are excited to produce SOILA this year and in the years to come.

Thank you for joining us in this effort



Antonia Hernández
President & Chief Executive Officer
California Community Foundation

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In 2010, 10 percent of California’s population was of retirement age, around 65 years or older; by 2060, 26 percent of the population will be of retirement age.² As a nationwide trend, aging will create new labor demands across all sectors of the economy, from technology to manufacturing. However, it will especially create demand in service and health care jobs that support our aging populace—a sector that we call the “Caring Economy.”

Simultaneously, our nation will be more diverse. By 2045, we will be a majority people of color nation driven in part by immigrants who are also creating families, developing communities, and starting businesses, and likely forming a large portion of the workforce in the “caring economy.”³

Whether we should create a welcoming environment for immigrants is not a question that we should debate. Rather, the question should be whether we are ready to pay the price for not being deeply committed to an integrated and inclusive L.A. County.

Understanding how a region’s immigrants are faring is a critical move to creating further inclusion in our county and our increasingly diverse state. The State of Immigrants in Los Angeles County (SOILA) is the first annual report of its kind. SOILA can be used as a tool to guide dialogue about issues and opportunities facing immigrant communities.

Immigrant integration can be difficult to assess. Many people have different definitions of integration. We define immigrant integration as economic mobility for, civic engagement by, and warmth of welcome for immigrants. Immigrants can be successfully integrated when:

- Immigrants have the ability to fully engage and thrive in the economy by obtaining quality jobs and starting businesses. This type of **economic mobility** can be measured in two ways. First by assessing the current economic wellbeing of immigrants and then assessing their economic wellbeing over time.
- Immigrants are able to engage and participate in their communities. This includes evaluating the connectedness of immigrant communities to their governments and schools through **civic engagement**, and the ability of immigrants to exercise of power over decisions that affect their lives.
- The receiving society welcomes immigrants. This criteria can be difficult to measure but largely examines social and systemic opportunities, including programs and services accessible to immigrants. This criteria evaluates the **warmth of welcome** or the degree to which immigrants are included in society.

Introduction

How can we assess Immigrant Integration?

Integration is an intentional process. It takes into consideration the needs of immigrants, their families, and their communities when developing government policies at the city, regional, state, and federal level. Immigrant integration is a dynamic, reciprocal relationship where newcomers and their receiving society both benefit as they work together to build safe, thriving, and connected communities.

This definition is important because it is strong, clear, and intuitive. It provides a clear framework that is not only easily quantifiable, but as the framework for our first report, it is also aspirational. Although this first report attempts to answer the question of how immigrants are faring, it by no means covers all the issues that immigrants face. SOILA 2020 provides a simple snapshot of the current immigrant population in L.A. County that will serve as a baseline for other topics that will be covered in subsequent reports.

The idea of this annual report came from the CCF Council on Immigrant Integration. This body was formed in 2009 to promote a multi-sector, forward looking immigrant rights agenda for L.A. County that builds a prosperous, civically vibrant, and welcoming L.A. County for all. The Council seeks to accomplish this by:

- Empowering immigrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking communities in L.A. County;
- Promoting consistent civic engagement among immigrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking

communities;

- Advancing a pro-immigrant narrative that lifts up racial equity for immigrant and refugee communities;
- Ensuring Council membership reflects diverse communities across sectors and their specific needs; and
- Serving as a model immigrant integration body for counties across the state and beyond.

Defining the Region

For the purposes of this report and data analysis, the Los Angeles region is defined as L.A. County. Unless otherwise noted, all data presented in the report use this regional boundary. Information on data sources and methodology can be found in the "Data and Methods" section beginning on page 68.

Introduction

SOILA and the Council on Immigrant Integration



Demographics

Immigrants are an essential part of our culture, making up 36 percent of the County's total population of over 10 million. Nearly 50 percent of L.A. County's population identifies as Latino while about 15 percent identify as Asian American or Pacific Islander (AAPI). Nearly 27 percent identify as white and about 3 percent of residents identify as Multiracial or Other. About 8 percent of L.A. County's population identify as Black. The origins of foreign-born Angelenos have shifted. Of the foreign-born Angelenos who migrated more than 30 years ago, 42 percent came from Mexico, 8 percent came from El Salvador, and 6 percent from the Philippines. Of those who migrated less than 10 years ago, only a quarter come from Mexico, 11 percent come from China, and 8 percent come from the Philippines.

Immigrants are long settled in L.A. County and have established families. Approximately 60 percent of children have at least one parent that is an immigrant. One in five people in the County is undocumented or lives with someone who is.

- **1 in 3 Angelenos are foreign born.**
- **Nearly 60 percent of children have at least one foreign-born parent.**
- **1 in 5 Angelenos are either undocumented themselves or live with someone who is.**

Demographics

Who are our county's immigrants?

The total population of L.A. County is over 10 million. Of that number, 36 percent are foreign born (3.6 million residents). Nearly half of foreign-born Angelenos are naturalized citizens, while 28 percent are LPRs and 24 percent are undocumented.

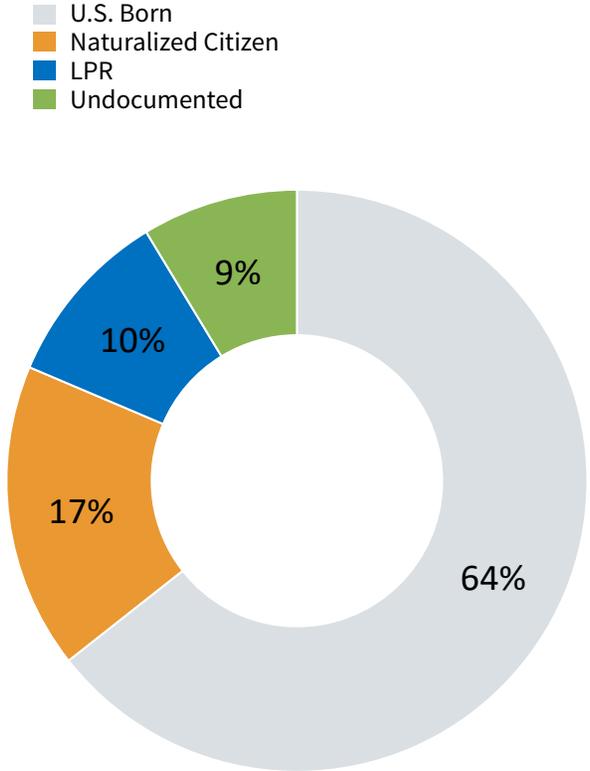
Nearly half of the total population is Latino, of which around 40 percent are foreign born. The AAPI population accounts for around 15 percent of the total population of L.A. County and about 67 percent

of AAPIs are foreign born. The Black population makes up 8 percent of the total population of which about 6 percent identify as foreign born. Although Black immigrants do not comprise a large portion of the foreign-born population, they do make up a sizable percentage of Black residents in L.A. County. For example, nearly 18 percent of Black Angelenos are either immigrants themselves or the U.S.-born child of immigrants.⁴

Demographics

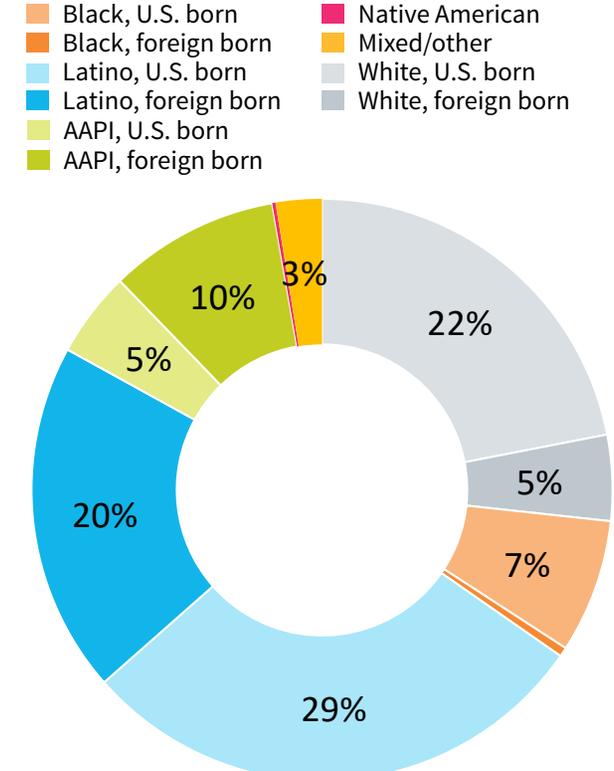
L.A. County has a large and diverse immigrant population

Figure 1. Population by Status, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: See “Data and Methods” section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Figure 2. Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

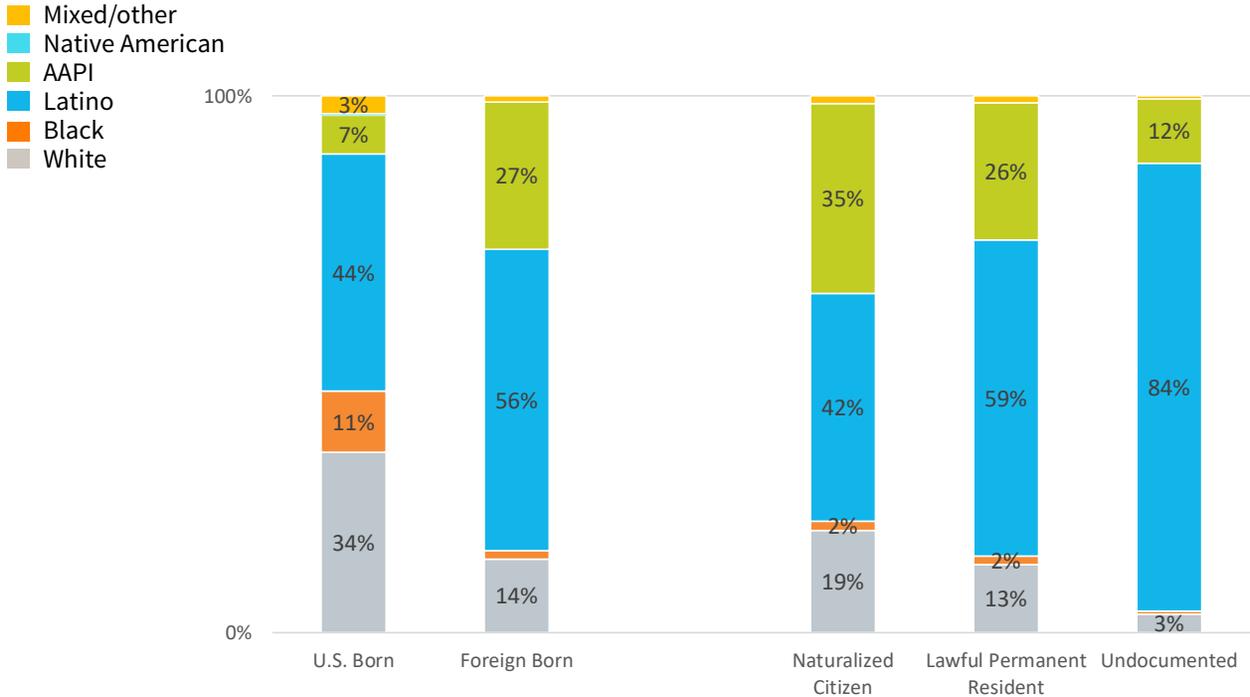
When looking at immigration status, there are racialized trends. Although AAPIs and Latinos make up the majority of immigrants across all status groups, the racial and ethnic proportions do differ depending on status. About 42 percent of naturalized citizens identify as Latino, 35 percent identify as AAPI, 19 percent identify as white, and around 2 percent identify as Black. For LPRs, a higher percentage (around 59) percent are Latino followed by AAPIs who compose about a quarter of the population. Whites are the third largest group at 13 percent. Black immigrants make up the smallest

percentage of LPRs at about 2 percent. Over 80 percent of undocumented Angelenos are Latino while 1 in 10 undocumented Angelenos are AAPI and about 3 percent are white.

Demographics

Over 80 percent of immigrants identify as Latino or AAPI

Figure 3. Immigration Status by Race/Ethnicity, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Note: Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Demographics

L.A. immigrants have diverse ancestry

While grouping immigrants into large umbrella categories like “Latino,” “AAPI,” “Black,” and “Middle Eastern/North African” (MENA) can provide insight into general demographic trends, these categories often gloss over distinctions within these groups. Disaggregating data can shed light on these distinctions and help tailor policies and initiatives to the unique needs of each community. Below we begin to disaggregate people of AAPI, Latino, Black, and MENA ancestry and identify both the number and percent of those in each ancestry category who are foreign born. The three largest groups (respectively)

for AAPI immigrants are Chinese followed closely by Filipinos and Koreans. For Latino immigrants, the top three groups are Mexicans, Salvadorans, and Guatemalans. There are also significant numbers of Black immigrants, with the largest groups being Nigerian, Ethiopian or Eritrean, Belizean, and Jamaican. For Middle Eastern/North African Immigrants, the top three groups are Armenians, Iranians, and Egyptians (the Census classifies Armenians as MENA although there are some differences as to how to classify this population; see the discussion in our Data and Methods section).

Figure 4. Populations by Ancestry, 2016

Asian American or Pacific Islander (API)		
Ancestry	Foreign-born Population	FB as a Share of Ancestry Group
Chinese	267,993	71%
Filipino	193,593	69%
Korean	149,308	73%
Vietnamese	58,679	68%
Indian	52,822	71%
Japanese	33,505	36%
Taiwanese	33,075	74%
Cambodian	19,666	59%
Thai	16,721	75%
Pakistani	7,094	71%
Indonesian	6,499	82%
Bengali	4,697	77%
Sri Lankan	4,627	77%
Burmese	2,958	79%
All other API	104,800	57%
Total	956,037	67%

Latino		
Ancestry	Foreign-born Population	FB as a Share of Ancestry Group
Mexican	1,174,680	38%
Salvadoran	218,626	62%
Guatemalan	144,493	62%
Honduran	30,439	65%
Nicaraguan	20,694	66%
Peruvian	20,289	65%
Colombian	12,627	60%
Cuban	12,561	45%
Ecuadorian	9,444	58%
Argentinean	5,196	57%
Chilean	3,427	64%
Costa Rican	2,916	49%
Bolivian	2,346	57%
All Other Latino	303,774	30%
Total	1,961,512	40%

Black		
Ancestry	Foreign-born Population	FB as a Share of Ancestry Group
Nigerian	6,697	59%
Ethiopian/Eritrean	6,595	74%
Belizean	4,848	57%
Jamaican	4,685	66%
All Other Black	29,030	4%
Total Black	51,855	6%

Middle Eastern/North African (MENA)		
Ancestry	Foreign-born population	FB as a Share of Ancestry Group
Armenian	130,487	72%
Iranian	56,520	75%
Egyptian	11,072	69%
Israeli	8,402	59%
Lebanese	7,597	49%
Arab	6,345	68%
Syrian	4,113	61%
Turkish	3,624	68%
All other MENA	13,031	61%
Total	241,191	70%

Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average. Data presented in these charts is based on ancestry, see “Data and Methods” section for definition. Please note that classifications of Middle Eastern/North African categories are derived from the American Community Survey.

Interconnected Struggles: Immigrants and Racial Justice

Working alongside and advocating with Black immigrants requires a lens that acknowledges the ways Black immigrants are double targeted. While many Black immigrants are citizens - in fact, they have a very high rate of naturalization, those that are not citizens are targeted due to their noncitizen status and persistent anti-Blackness in the U.S. Due to this unique lived experience, Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI) does not stop at immigration related programming and advocacy. The multi-location organization also produces research, organizes political education, and leads advocacy campaigns that consider Black immigrants and African Americans with generations of painful history.

Adequately Serving Black Immigrants

Given that Black people are disproportionately arrested by law enforcement, it is often through the criminal justice system that Black immigrants eventually find themselves in detention and deportation proceedings. As such, BAJI has put its weight behind the Reform L.A. Jails Initiative for its expected positive impact on L.A. County Black immigrants and African Americans, alike. The initiative pushed forward a county-wide ballot measure that would allow the Sheriff's Department Civilian Oversight Commission to investigate misconduct allegations and reduce jail populations in favor of funding alternatives to incarceration.⁵ The measure will appear on California's March 2020 Presidential Primary ballot.

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- **BAJI was founded in 2006 in response to growing anti-immigrant sentiment;**
 - **BAJI operates nationally with programs in Los Angeles, Atlanta, Oakland, New York; and**
 - **BAJI produces research reports on the unique experiences of Black immigrants across the nation.**

Case Study #1

Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)

Of the foreign-born Angelenos who arrived in the U.S. more than 30 years ago, about 450,000 came from Mexico. The three next largest groups are from El Salvador (82,000 people), the Philippines (63,000 people), and Korea (about 49,000 people). Among those who arrived in the last 10 years, those emigrating from Mexico are still the largest group; however, they account for a much smaller share (25 percent) compared to those who arrived more than 30 years ago (42 percent).

Among more recent arrivals, the next three largest groups are from China, the Philippines and El Salvador. Foreign-born Angelenos from China increased to 11 percent among those who arrived in the last 10 years, compared with only 3 percent among those who arrived more than 30 years ago.

Demographics

The composition of recently arrived immigrants is different than thirty years ago

Figure 5. Top Birth Countries for those who Migrated More than 30 Years Ago, 2016

Country	Number	Percentage of Total
Mexico	451,587	42%
El Salvador	82,088	8%
Philippines	62,991	6%
Korea	49,049	5%
Vietnam	39,396	4%
Guatemala	34,829	3%
Iran	30,889	3%
China	29,313	3%
Taiwan	22,577	2%
All Other Countries	275,504	26%

Figure 6. Top Birth Countries for those who Migrated Less than 10 Years Ago, 2016

Country	Number	Percentage of Total
Mexico	169,495	25%
China	72,443	11%
Philippines	54,688	8%
El Salvador	47,874	7%
Guatemala	44,926	7%
Korea	32,806	5%
Iran	28,425	4%
India	24,717	4%
Vietnam	14,001	2%
All Other Countries	192,721	28%

Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA.
Note: Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Demographics

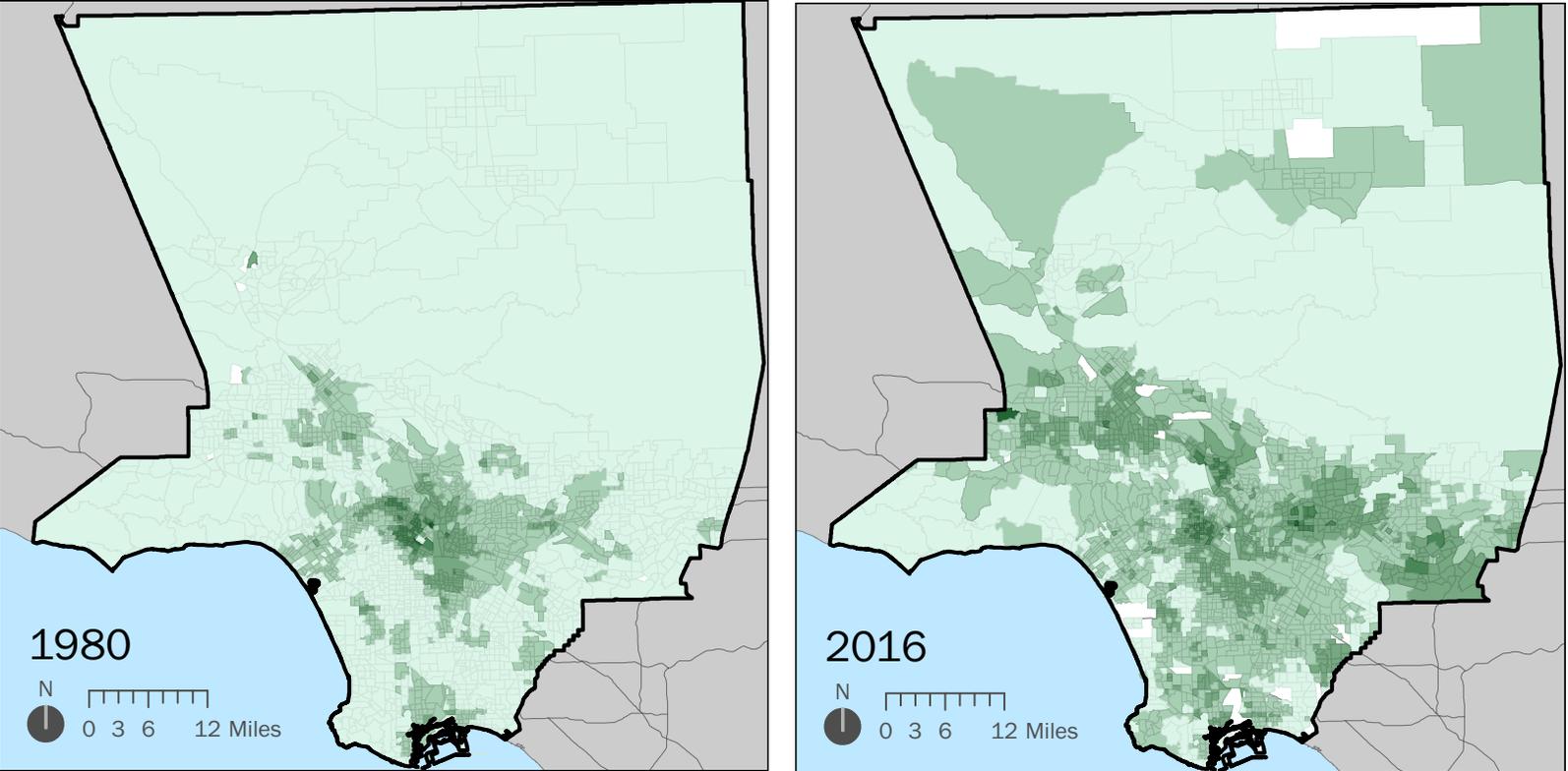
Immigrants have become more geographically dispersed over time

In the last 30 years, L.A. County has seen significant growth in its immigrant population. In 1980, the foreign-born population of L.A. County was around 1.7 million, or 22 percent of the total population. At that time, most census tracts in the County had a foreign-born population of under 20 percent and immigrants were primarily concentrated near the dense urban areas of the City of Los Angeles. In the last few decades, the immigrant population has dispersed throughout L.A. County.

Of the cities experiencing the largest increase in the foreign born share of the population since 1980 the top 10 are: Arcadia, Temple City, Walnut, Diamond Bar, San Gabriel, Glendale, Rosemead, San Marino, Bradbury, and Cerritos.

Figure 7. Percent Foreign Born by Census Tract, 1980 and 2016

- Missing Value
- Less than 20%
- 20% - 40%
- 40% - 60%
- 60% - 80%
- 80% - 100%



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of data from GeoLytics, Inc., 1980 Long Form in 2010 Boundaries, the 2016 5-year ACS summary file, TomTom, ESRI, HERE, Garmin, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community. Note: Data for 2016 represents a 2012 through 2016 average.

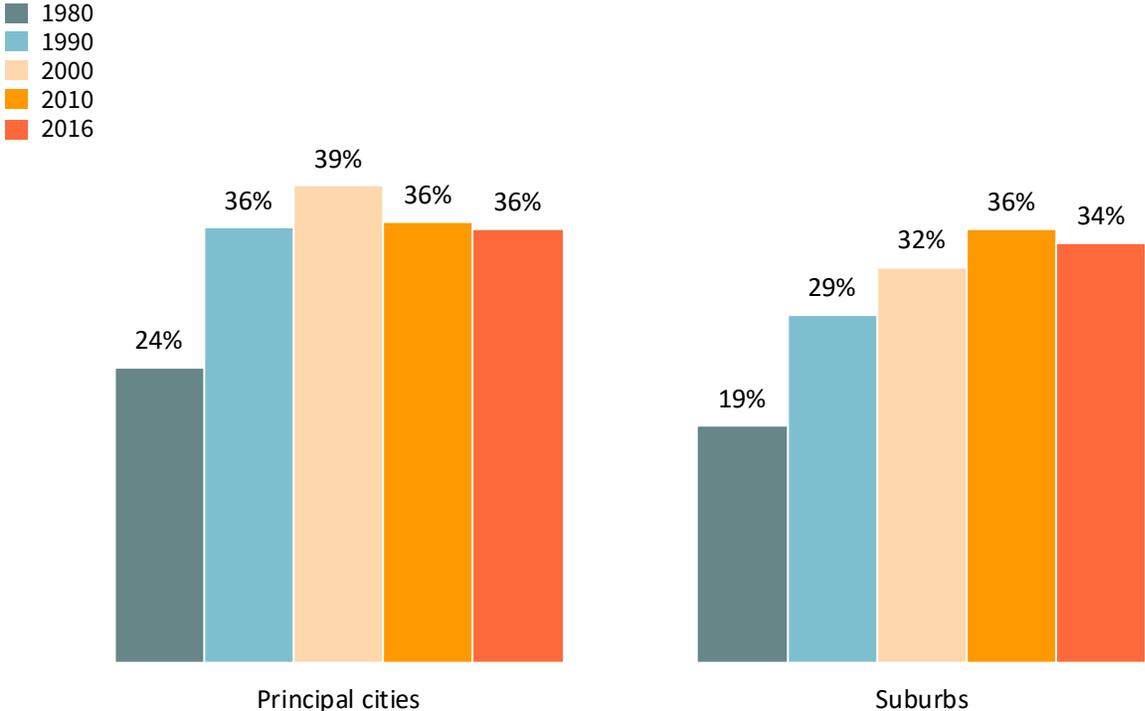
Another way of looking at the dispersion of the immigrant population is through suburbanization. According to the definition used, Principal Cities are the core cities of metropolitan areas. In L.A. County there are 16 principal cities. Some of the larger cities include Los Angeles and Long Beach as well as smaller cities such as Glendale, Pasadena, Torrance, and Pomona. In 1980, principal cities had a larger share of immigrants as compared to the surrounding suburbs. The immigrant share of the

population increased faster in principal cities than in suburbs, and reaching its peak in 2000 at 39 percent. The rise in the immigrant share of the population in suburban areas happened a bit later, peaking at 36 percent in 2010 and matching the share in principal cities. Overall, there is still a slightly larger concentration of immigrants in principal cities than in suburbs, but the difference is very small.

Demographics

The immigrant share of the population in suburbs is rising

Figure 8. Percent Foreign-born Population Living in Principal Cities/Suburbs, 1980-2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of data from GeoLytics, Inc. and the 2016 5-year ACS summary file. Note: Data for 2010 and 2016 represent 2006 through 2010 and 2012 through 2016 averages, respectively. Principal cities are based on December 2003 definitions from the Office of Management and Budget, available at: <https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-files/time-series/demo/metro-micro/historical-delineation-files.html>. Suburbs are defined as the remainder of Los Angeles County after removing principal cities. Consistent geographic city boundaries were used across all years.

Partnering with Communities

Advocacy with and on behalf of American Muslims entails engaging with a diverse community. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is a national organization that knows the diverse needs of this community well. American Muslims across the country and here in L.A. County can look to CAIR to organize lobbying efforts, monitor local and national media to challenge stereotypes, produce research that is relevant and useful for Muslim communities, and organize trainings for organizations or educators committed to welcoming Muslim Americans.

Combating Islamophobia through Civil Rights Education

American Muslims come from many walks of life. Many are immigrant, and many are U.S. born; many are Middle-Eastern, Southeast Asian, or African American. However, their experience of Islamophobia is a commonality across difference. CAIR empowers Muslims by spreading information about unlawful discrimination at schools, the workplace, and beyond. To do this, CAIR connects attorneys with mosques where they give talks to attendees. With the amount of mosques in L.A. County and the greater Southern California region, CAIR is able to access community in a space where Muslims already find connection with others in spite of federal policy and rhetoric that aim to disrupt that.

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- **CAIR is headquartered in Washington DC with offices all across the country in California, New Jersey, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, and more.**
 - **CAIR's mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.**

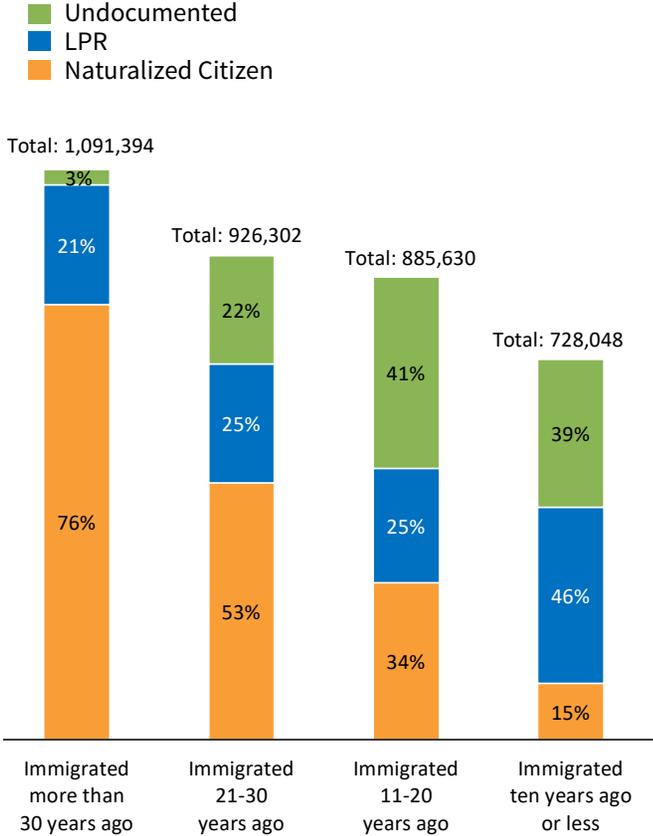
Case Study #2

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

Many immigrants are long-settled residents of L.A. County. Nearly 70 percent of LPR Angelenos and undocumented Angelenos have been in the U.S. for more than a decade. Of those who immigrated more than 30 years ago, 76 percent are naturalized citizens and 21 percent are LPRs. For those who arrived

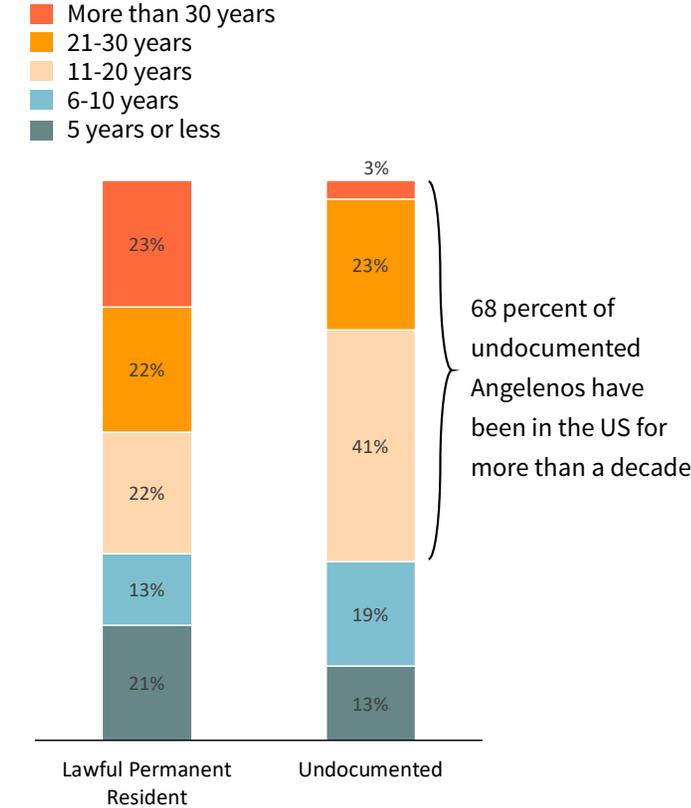
in the U.S. less than ten years ago, 15 percent are naturalized, nearly half are LPRs, and 39 percent are undocumented. Recency of arrival is an important indicator for immigrants as length of residency affects eligibility and the likelihood of naturalization.

Figure 9. Recency of Arrival by Status, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Figure 10. Recency of Arrival for LPRs and Undocumented Immigrants, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Demographics

Over two-thirds of undocumented residents have been in the U.S. longer than a decade

Immigrant Angelenos have established friendships, networks, and families and many Angelenos live in mixed-status households; or families with different immigration statuses. Many mixed-status families face barriers, such as fear of accessing public services, and risks of deportation. Many families often underutilize services that may be available to them and their children due to the fear of deportation.⁶

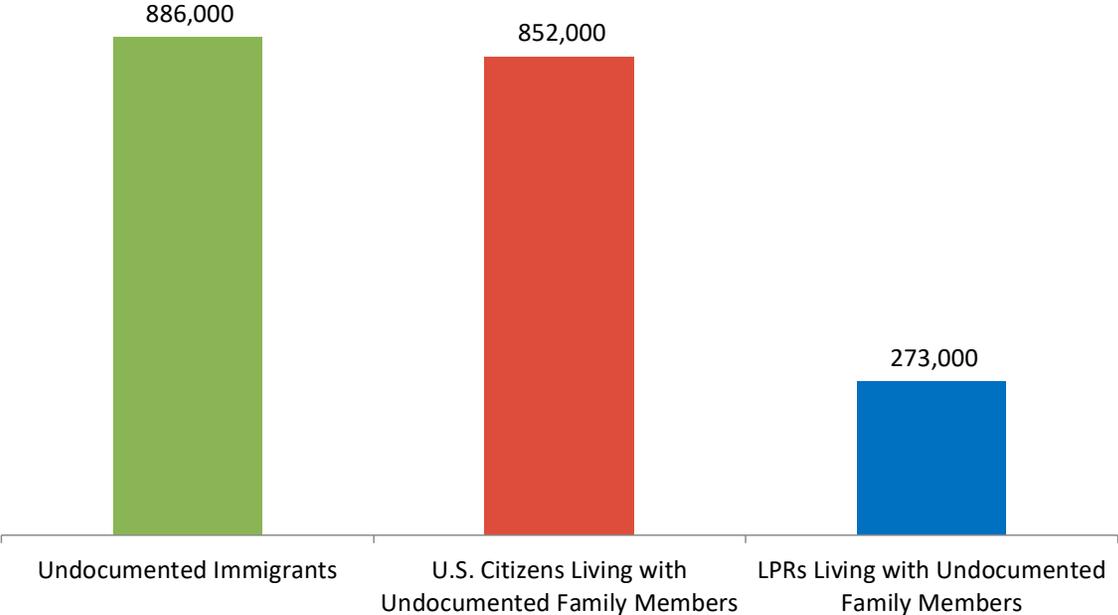
with undocumented family members and around 273,000 LPRs who also live with an undocumented family member. That means that about 20 percent of Angelenos are either undocumented themselves or live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

Close to 900,000 Angelenos are undocumented. In addition, there are 852,000 U.S. citizens living

Demographics

Mixed-status families are common in the region

Figure 11. Immigration Status and Family Ripple Effects, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe includes all households (no group quarters). See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Immigration rates began to stabilize, following a period of growth in the immigrant population between 1970 and 2000.⁶ The stabilization of the population is due in large part to shifts in the economy including declining labor demand in the U.S. as well as declining population growth and economic stabilization in Mexico.⁸

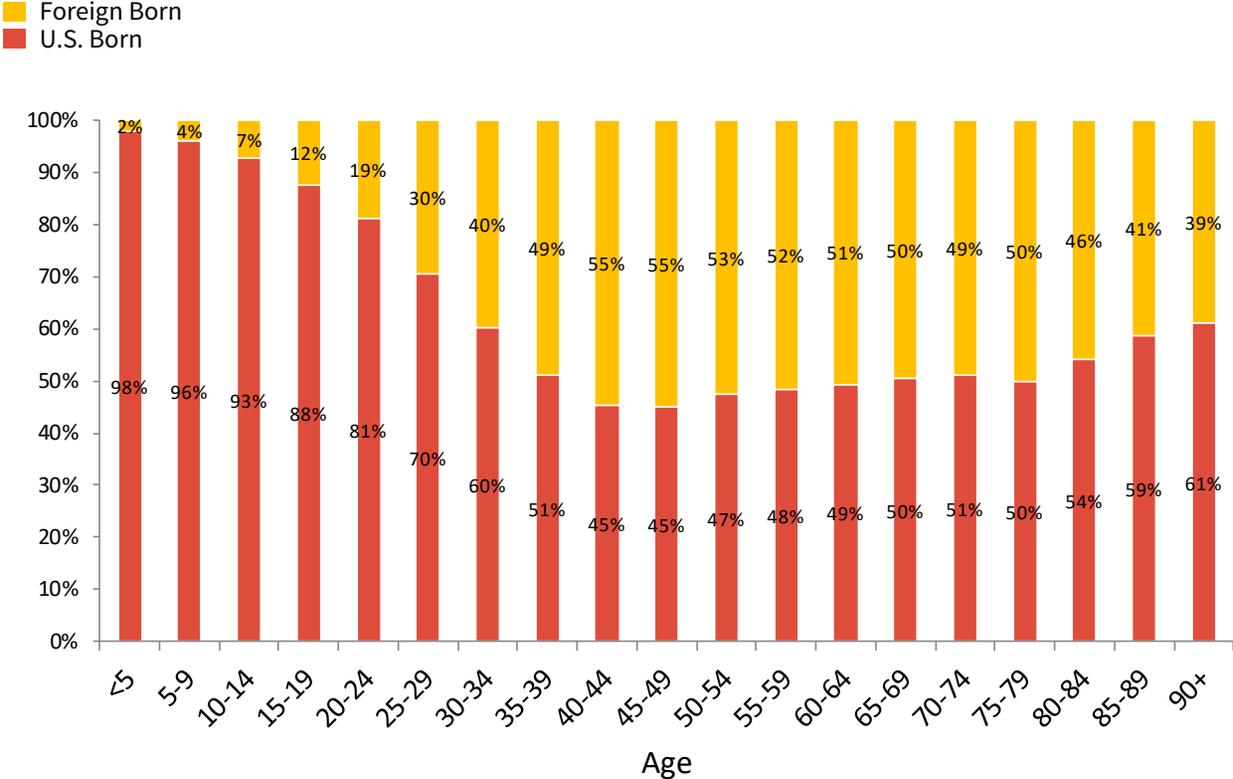
many of the County’s immigrants are older. Looking across age groups, the immigrant share of the population increases rapidly, approaching age 25 and is highest among people ages 40 through 49. Among the working age population ages 25 through 64, nearly half (47 percent) are immigrants.

Since the inflow of immigrants has declined overall,

Demographics

Many immigrants are in prime working age

Figure 12. Age by Nativity, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Immigrant Justice and Liberation

As a grassroots organization, Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement (Familia: TQLM) has become a political home for trans, queer, and gender non-conforming members of our immigrant communities. In addition to organizing its base, Familia: TQLM engages in political and cultural work to complicate the narrative around immigration and bring awareness to the unique experiences of trans and queer migrants. With growing awareness, Familia: TQLM already sees an increase in organizations serving trans and queer immigrants, which inspires hope that their unique burdens will finally be rightfully and adequately addressed.

As an example of others who shoulder the effort to bring these experiences to light, the UCLA Williams Institute reports an estimate of 904,000 immigrants in the U.S. who identify as LGBTQ—of which 267,000 are undocumented.⁹ Additionally, the Institute found that out of all immigrants eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Act (DACA), an estimated 75,000 are LGBTQ.¹⁰

-
- **Mission: to achieve the collective liberation of trans, queer, and gender nonconforming Latinxs through building community, organizing, advocacy, and education.**

Working to End Trans Detention

Despite Santa Ana, California being home to a large Latinxⁱ and immigrant population, up until 2016, the Santa Ana City Council kept an active contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) including a transgender unit. It was for this reason that Familia: TQLM engaged in the End Trans Detention campaign. The campaign successfully challenged and pushed for the termination of this contract. Additionally, this campaign brought newfound attention to the issues that LGBTQ migrants face while in detention to both the immigrant rights movement and the LGBTQ rights movement.

Case Study #3

Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement (Familia: TQLM)

i. The term Latinx is used by Familia:TQLM as an inclusive gender neutral or non-binary alternative to Latino or Latina.



Civic Engagement

Civic engagement is a key way immigrants are woven into the fabric of our civil and electoral society, and reduce alienation. Local governments rarely collect and release data on immigrant participation in civic programs. Therefore, in this report we analyze language skills, a factor that can affect an immigrant's ability to participate in civic processes and naturalization, a factor important to voting as well as ensuring security in public programs. At a moment in time when naturalization could quell the anxiety of many, there is a considerable naturalization backlog that became more severe in 2016.¹¹ The naturalization rate, defined in this report as a ratio of the number of immigrants who were naturalized to the total number of people who might have naturalized - that is those who did naturalize and those who were eligible to naturalize (ETN) but had not taken that step, can be used to identify the success of integration efforts and potential inequities. Currently in L.A. County, out of those immigrants who were eligible to naturalize, 69 percent did. Although strides have been made to integrate our County's immigrant population, there is still a great deal that needs to be done civically to connect immigrants.

- **Around 60 percent of youth who will become eligible to vote in 2020 are children of immigrants.**
- **A vast majority of the ETN population identify as Latino or AAPI.**
- **L.A. County has a 69 percent naturalization rate.**

Civic Engagement

Are immigrants included both civically and politically?

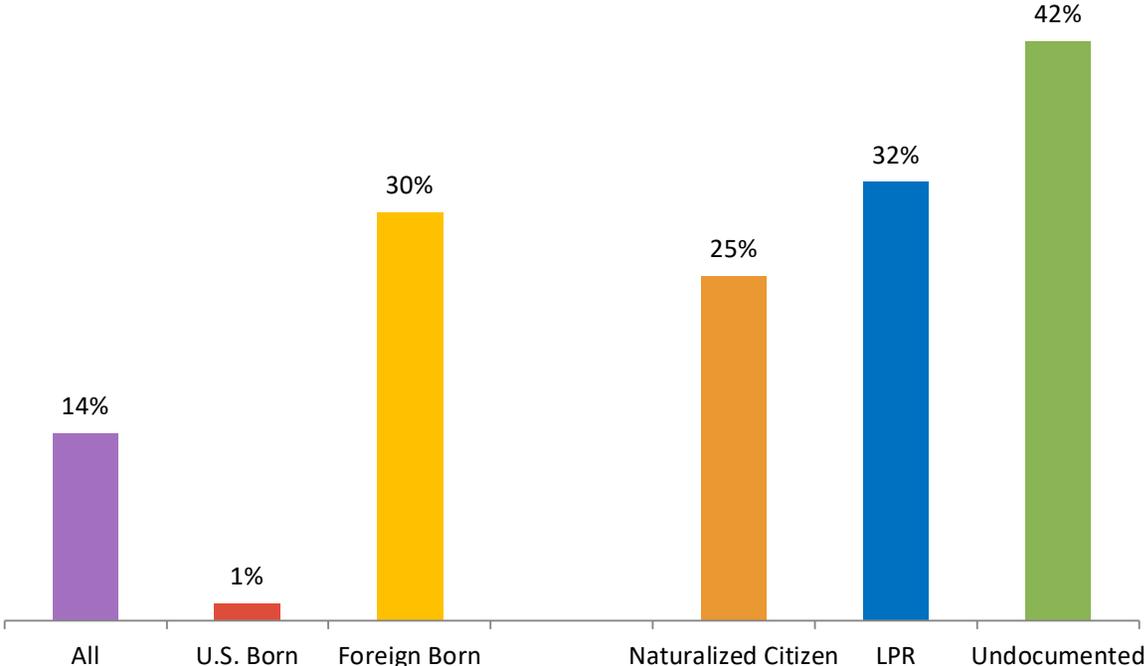
A linguistically isolated household is defined as one in which no member age 14 or older speaks English at least "very well." We use this as a measurement because of the barrier language can play in civic participation. About 30 percent of households with an immigrant as the head of household are linguistically isolated. When disaggregated by status, we see that linguistic isolation rises to 32 percent for households headed by a lawful permanent resident, and 42 percent for households headed by someone who is undocumented. Households headed by a naturalized citizen have a much lower rate of linguistic isolation.

Efforts and services to promote English learning and multilingual outreach and services is needed for immigrants of all statuses. However, the data reveals that concerted efforts may be needed to reach the undocumented community given the proportion of households that are currently linguistically isolated.

Civic Engagement

Almost a third of all immigrant-headed households are linguistically isolated

Figure 13. Percent Linguistically Isolated Households by Status, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe includes all households. See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Another metric of civic engagement is naturalization. The benefits of naturalization include increased wages, better employment opportunities, enhanced security, and greater civic engagement.¹² In addition, immigrants who naturalize can vote on policies that affect them at the local, state, and national levels.

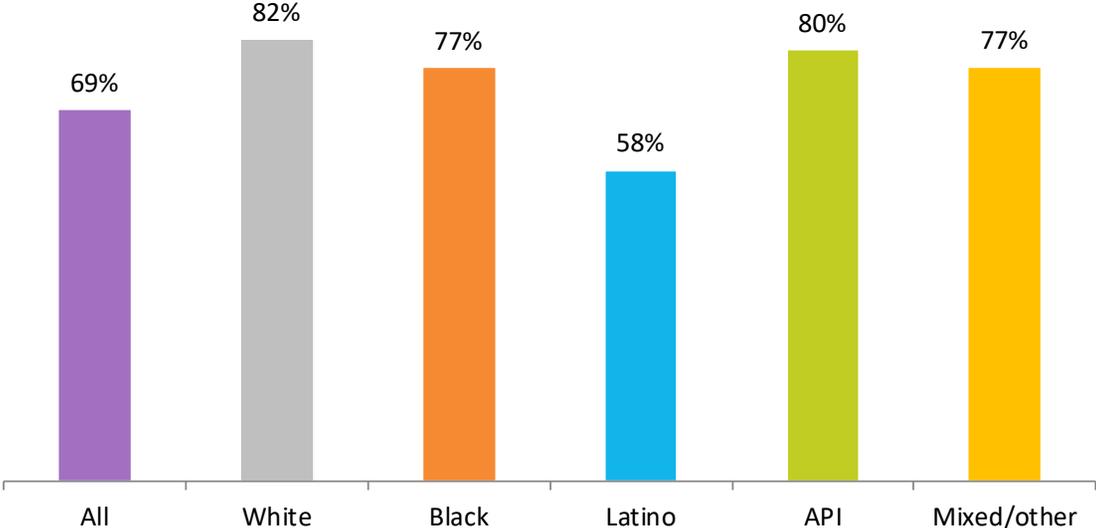
To determine the rate of naturalization, we divided the number of immigrants who were naturalized by the total number of people who might have

naturalized over the years - that is those who did naturalize and those who were eligible to naturalize but had not taken that step. Calculating naturalization rates in this way, we find that 69 percent of the eligible population was naturalized in 2016. There are sharp racial differences: we find rates of naturalization close to 80 percent for white, Black, AAPI and Mixed/other immigrants. Although Latinos have around a 60 percent naturalization rate, it is by far the lowest when compared to other racial/ethnic groups.

Civic Engagement

Naturalization rates are highest among white and AAPI eligible-to-naturalize immigrants

Figure 14. Naturalization Rates for Eligible-to-Naturalize Adults, 2016

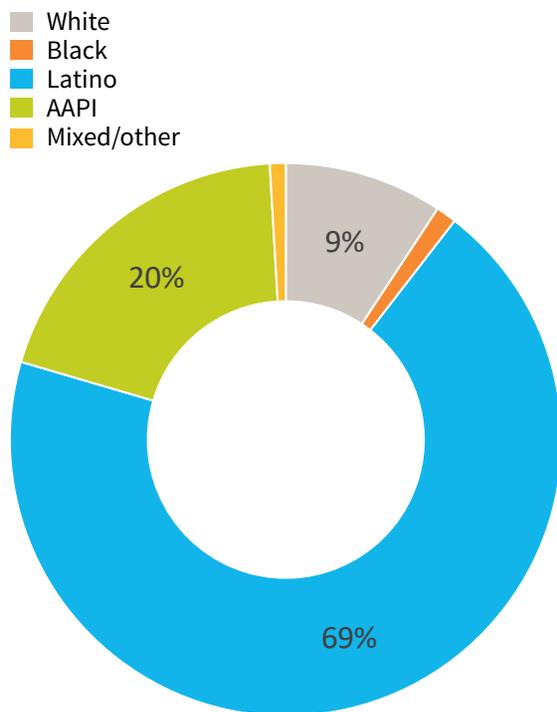


Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe includes all naturalized citizen and eligible-to-naturalize adults. The naturalization rate is calculated as the ratio of naturalized adults to the sum of naturalized and eligible-to-naturalize adults. See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the eligible-to-naturalize population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Understanding the dynamics of race and immigration status allows us to better tailor naturalization and outreach efforts. In L.A. County, there are about 768,000 immigrant adults eligible to naturalize who have not yet done so. A large proportion of these adults are Latino (nearly 70

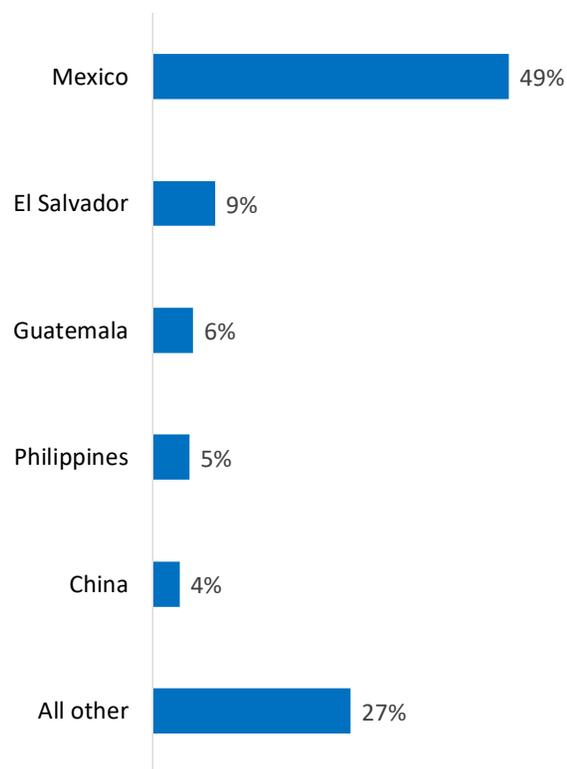
percent) and AAPI (one fifth). Nearly half of eligible-to-naturalize Angelenos are from Mexico and one tenth are from El Salvador. A smaller percentage are from Guatemala, the Philippines, China, Iran, Vietnam, Armenia, and other countries.

Figure 15. Eligible-to-Naturalize Adults by Race/Ethnicity, 2016



Total ETN Population: 767,500

Figure 16. Eligible-to-Naturalize Adults by Country of Origin, 2016



Civic Engagement

Most people who are eligible to naturalize identify as Latino or AAPI

Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe include all eligible-to-naturalize adults. See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the eligible-to-naturalize population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

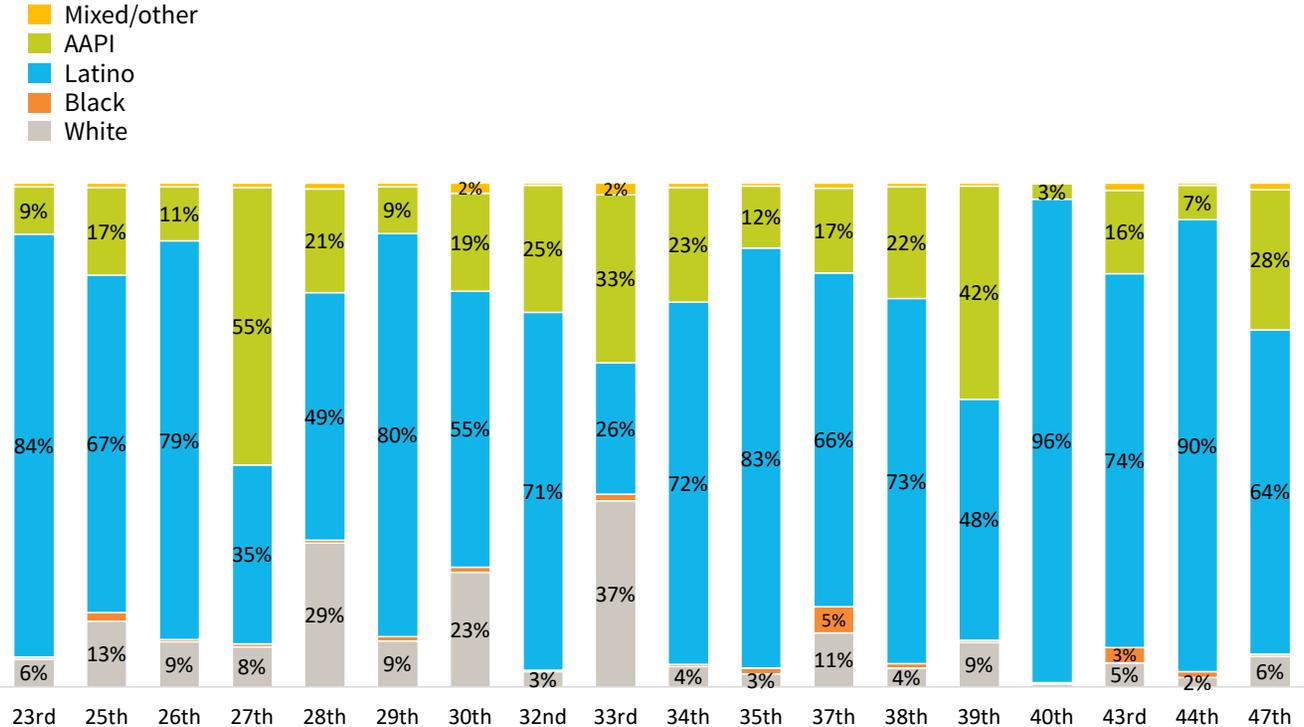
If L.A. County were to naturalize the entire ETN population, there would be an additional 700,000 or more potential votes cast in federal and other elections. Naturalization could have important implications in electing pro-immigrant candidates in districts such as Congressional District 25 (currently vacant) and Congressional District 39 (D-Cisneros) where the margin of victory in 2018 was around 22,000 votes for District 25 and 8,000 votes for District 39.¹³ Both districts have significant ETN populations. For example, District 25 had around

31,000 ETN individuals in 2016 while District 39 had around 40,000 ETN individuals. In 2016, Latinos comprised two-thirds of eligible-to-naturalize adults in the 25th Congressional District and nearly half in the 39th District. It is also notable that AAPIs make up 42 percent of ETN adults in the 39th District and a majority in the 27th District. District 39 also includes portions of Orange County and if our southern neighbor were to join the naturalization bandwagon, that would yield impacts as well.

Civic Engagement

**People of color
comprise the majority
of the ETN population
across all congressional
districts**

Figure 17. Eligible-to-Naturalize Adults by Race/Ethnicity, Los Angeles Congressional Districts, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe include all eligible-to-naturalize adults. See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the eligible-to-naturalize population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

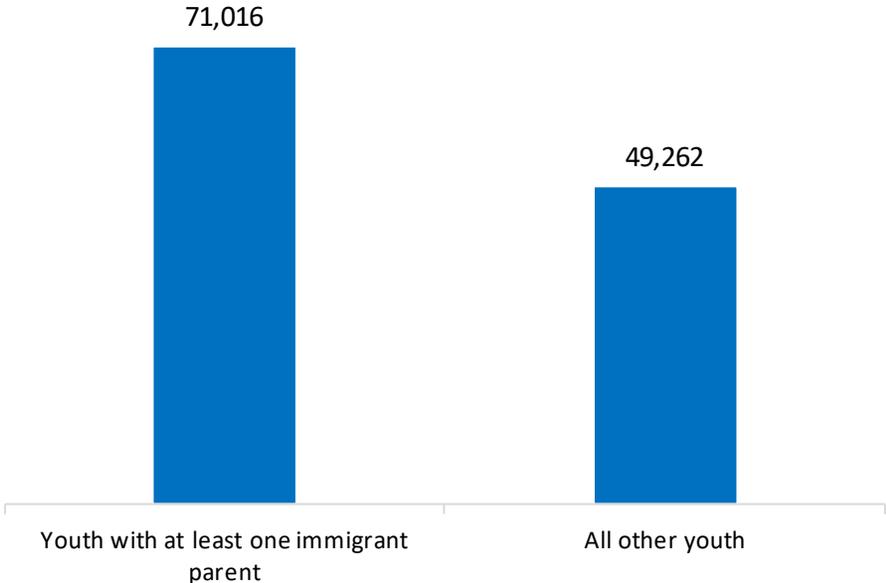
Activating young voters for elections is important for helping to create a more civically engaged population. Nearly 60 percent of youth ages 17 and below, have at least one foreign-born parent. Therefore, it is no surprise that a large portion of children who will become eligible to vote in the next presidential election have at least one immigrant parent.

In 2020, 120,000 youth in L.A. County will turn 18 years old and become eligible to vote for the first time. Around 71,000 or 60 percent of these new young voters have at least one foreign-born parent. Organizations like Power California have worked to activate young voters in partnership with the L.A. Unified School District. With their help, the School Board unanimously approved a resolution in August 2018 that established High School Voter Registration Day.¹⁴

Civic Engagement

Children of immigrants represent a large portion of newly-eligible voters in 2020

Figure 18. U.S.-born Youth who will Become Eligible to Vote in 2020, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average and reflect the number of U.S.-born children who will turn age 18 in 2020. The number of children with at least one immigrant parent only captures those whose parents live in the same household.

Centering Immigrant Young People

The U.S. Senate's failure to pass the DREAM Act in 2010 sparked conversations among immigrant youth leaders on how to effectively sustain the immigrant youth movement. Since its founding in 2011, the Dream Resource Center (DRC), a space by and for immigrant youth, has emerged as a national source for innovative research, education, leadership development and policy on immigration issues. The work of the DRC is critical to ensure immigrant youth continue to be at the forefront of the national conversations that directly impact their lives and families.

Immigrant Leadership in Action

In 2016, Donald Trump's victory sent shock waves throughout the country and triggered tremendous fear within immigrant communities. Immediately after, the DRC convened immigrant youth across the country for a national two-day convening to defend immigrant rights. The convening gave birth to the Immigrant Justice Fellowship, a California-wide rapid response fellowship that centers the voices and experiences of undocumented immigrant youth in the immigrant rights movement, empowers immigrant youth to protect and defend undocumented communities from mass detention and deportation, and creates a welcoming, healthy, and just society for immigrants.

-
- **DRC established in 2011**
 - **DRC centers immigrant youth leadership and power**

Case Study #4

Dream Resource Center (DRC) at the UCLA Labor Center

"Immigration is an issue that impacts us all. We must be intersectional, multi-racial, and intergenerational in our approach and organizing."

**-Diego Sepulveda,
Former DRC Director**



**Economic
Mobility**

A county where immigrants are able to integrate economically is one where immigrants can access good jobs, and resources to start businesses and generate economic activity. Immigrants are such a large part of L.A. County and it is imperative that they engage and thrive in the economy.

Economic mobility is measured in two ways: through an economic snapshot and over time. The economic snapshot assesses the economic wellbeing of immigrants right now, while the economic trajectory measures the economic welfare of immigrants over the last four decades. The data shows that foreign-born Angelenos comprise nearly half of the workforce in L.A. County. About 20 percent of immigrant workers, including over one third of working undocumented Angelenos, experience working poverty. In addition, many have measurably lower wages despite having similar education levels.

- **More than half of workers in construction, agriculture, other services (except public administration), manufacturing, and wholesale trade are foreign-born Angelenos.**
- **Although wages do increase with education, most of the foreign-born population is still paid less than their U.S.-born counterparts.**
- **The foreign-born population has higher rates of self-employment compared to their U.S.-born counterparts.**

Economic Mobility

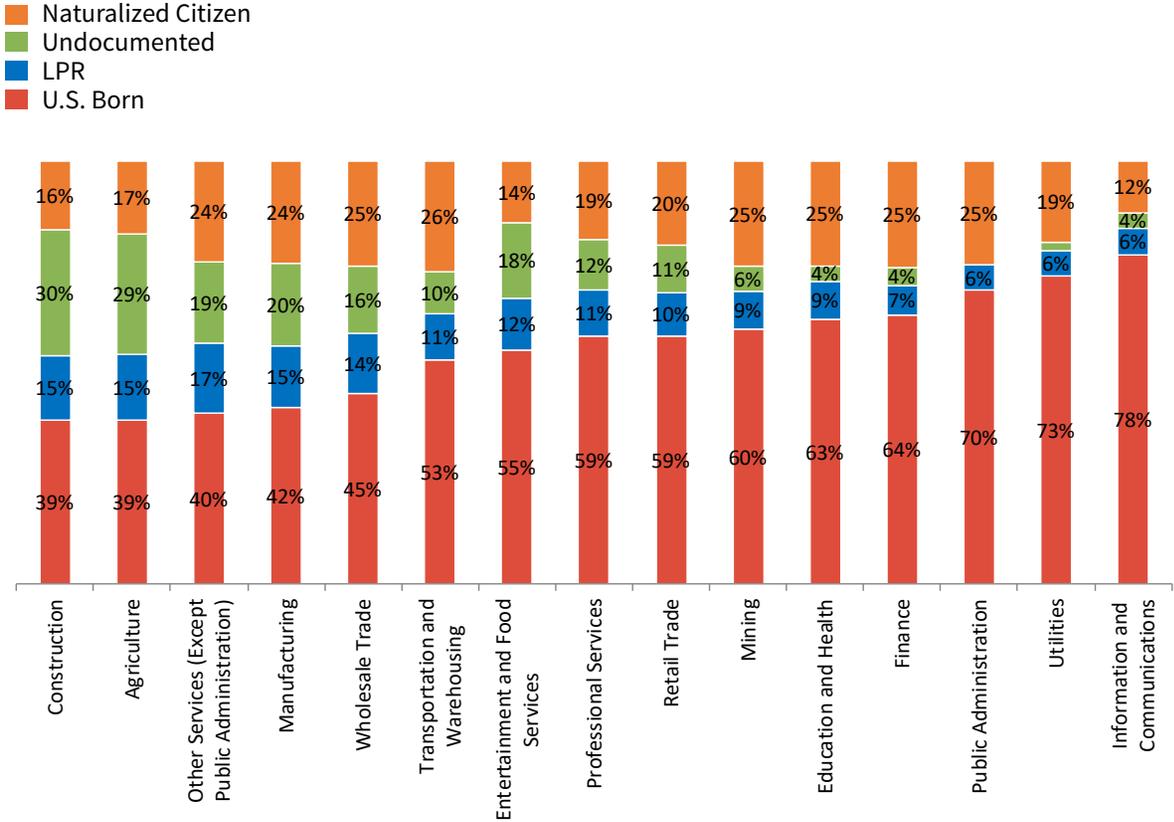
**How are immigrants
faring economically?**

Although foreign-born Angelenos comprise about one third of the total population, they compose nearly half (44 percent) of workers.

While the foreign born have a presence in all major industries, never comprising less than 20 percent of the sectoral workforce, they are concentrated in certain areas of the economy. The foreign-born population makes up more than a third of workers

in industries like finance, education and health, retail, and professional services, and nearly half of workers in transportation and entertainment. More than half of workers in construction, agriculture, other services (except public administration), manufacturing and wholesale trade are foreign-born.

Figure 19. Nativity by Industry, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe includes the employed civilian non-institutional population age 16 or older. See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Economic Mobility: Snapshot

Immigrant workers significantly contribute to our industries

Disparities in educational attainment by immigration status are due to a variety of factors: recency of arrival, status concerns, language barriers, income, and more. The U.S.-born population reaches higher levels of educational attainment than the foreign-born population, though there are some exceptions when disaggregated by race/ethnicity.

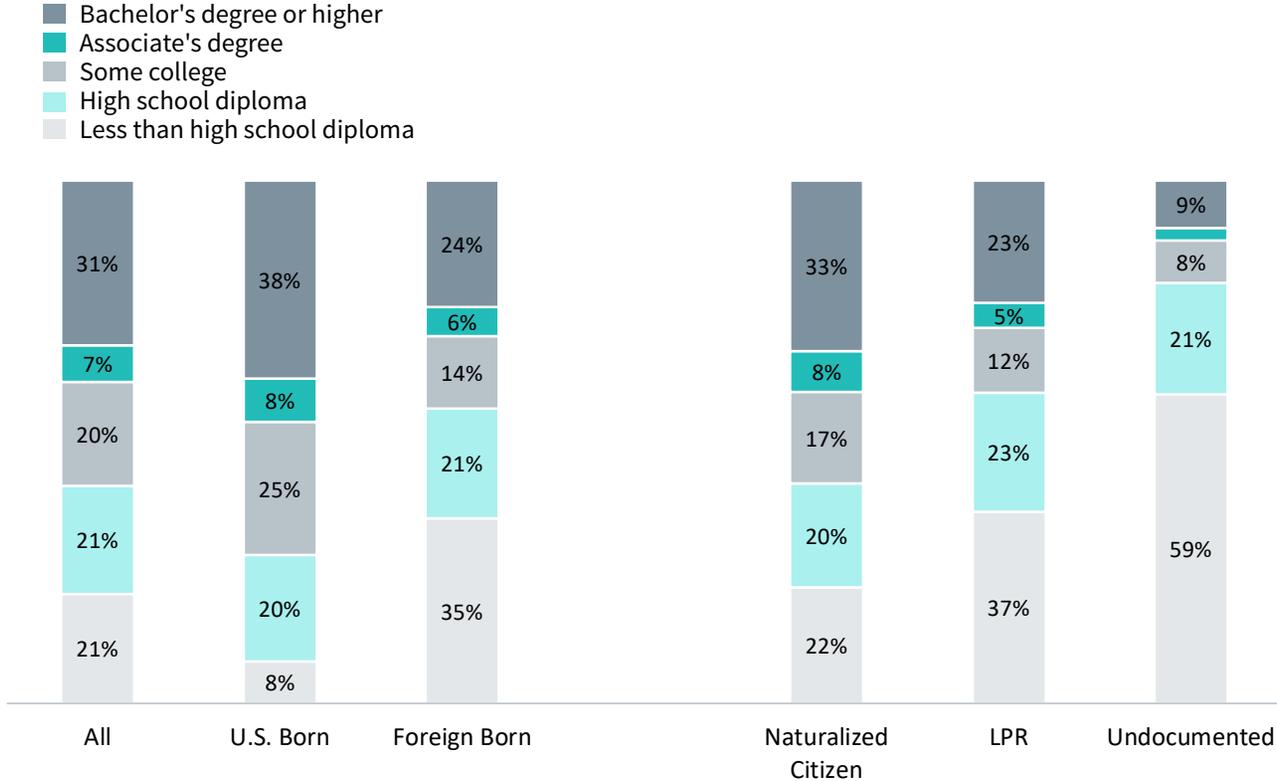
of immigrants appear wider. About one-third of naturalized citizens, nearly a quarter of LPRs, and less than 10 percent of undocumented Angelenos have a Bachelors (BA) degree or higher.

When disaggregated by immigration status, the educational disparities among different groups

Economic Snapshot

Educational attainment rates are higher among naturalized citizens

Figure 20. Educational Attainment by Status, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe includes all persons ages 25 through 64. See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

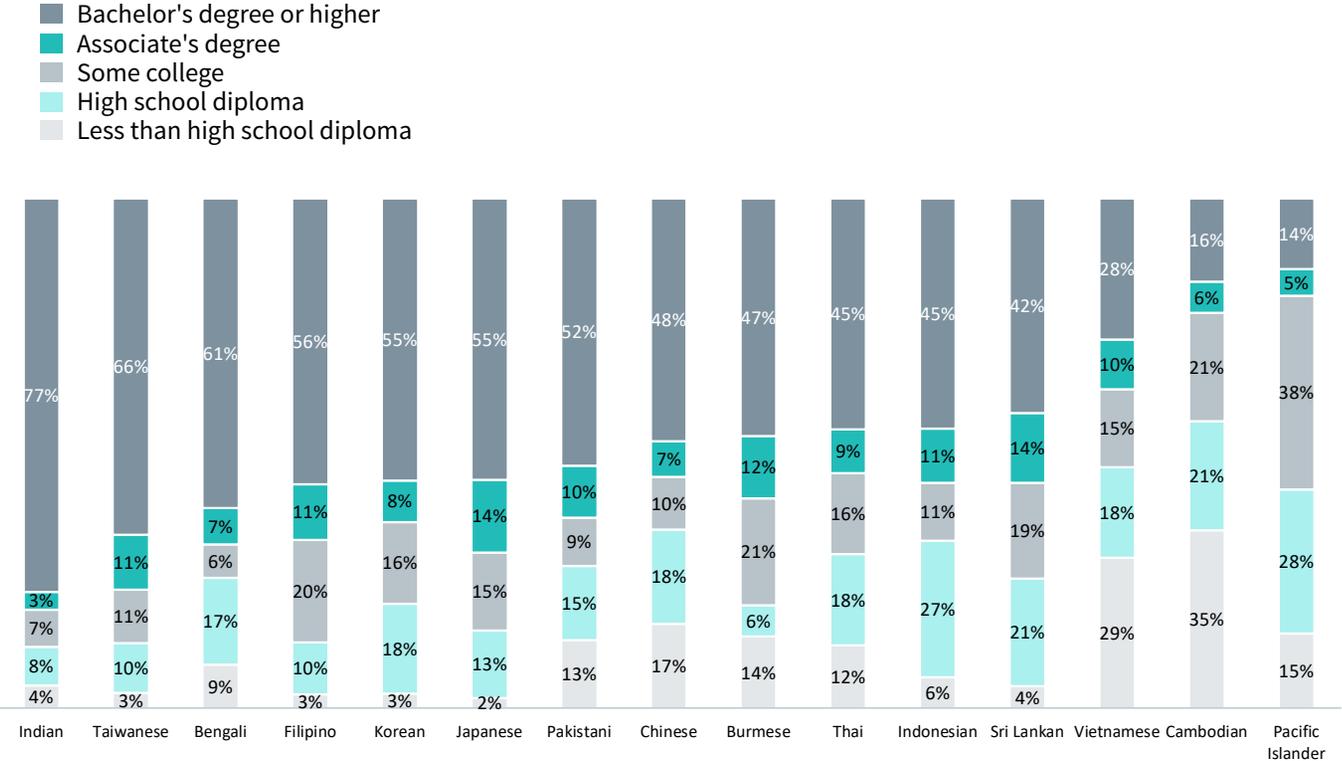
When aggregated, AAPI immigrants have some of the highest educational attainment rates. However, aggregation can often hide disparities, particularly the lower levels of education among Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders. For example, nearly 80 percent of Indian and 66 percent of Taiwanese immigrant Angelenos have a BA degree or higher. However, only 28 percent of Vietnamese, 16 percent

of Cambodian, and 14 percent of Pacific Islander immigrant Angelenos do. The variation within the AAPI community drives home the fact that certain communities face unique barriers and may need distinct resources like English language courses in different Asian and Pacific Islander languages.

Economic Snapshot

Education levels for AAPI immigrants varies by group

Figure 21. Educational Attainment for AAPI immigrants, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes Asian American or Pacific Islander immigrants ages 25 through 64. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Immigrant Integration through a Workforce Development Lens

Since 2009, the Miguel Contreras Foundation (MCF)'s primary mission has been to empower underserved workers. As a program partner of the Los Angeles labor movement, MCF brings a unique lens to immigrant integration. MCF believes in not only defending immigrants against workplace exploitation, but in creating economic opportunity pipelines for immigrants that prevent exploitation in the first place.

Through its workforce development program, and in partnership with local unions, MCF is scaling quality job / durable career opportunities accessible to immigrants of all skill levels who need those opportunities most.

-
- **MCF is a nonprofit partner of L.A. County Federation of Labor**
 - **MCF strategically serves immigrant workers through workforce development, worker education, and enagement**

Championing an "Immigrant-Powered" Economy

Through its workforce education and engagement programs, MCF helps unions and employers protect their immigrant workers through protective policies, rapid response plans, and a pledge to serve as an immigrant-friendly business. MCF's "We Proudly Don't E-Verify" campaign similarly asks employers to opt out of E-Verify as a way of taking a stand for L.A.'s immigrant-powered economy. The posting of the more-common "We Proudly E-Verify" stickers at business can make both immigrant workers and customers feel unwelcome. MCF employers post a competing sticker, sign a pledge to offer "know-your-rights" trainings, and commit to protecting their workers.

Case Study #5

Miguel Contreras Foundation (MCF)

"We champion L.A.'s immigrant-powered economy by bringing together labor and business to support immigrant workers, employers, and customers."

-Araceli Campos
MCF Executive Director

Economic Snapshot

Wages increase with education, but wage gaps for immigrants persist

Education plays an important role in lifting the wages of immigrants. Wages do increase for immigrants of all statuses as education increases; however, wage inequalities persist. Median hourly wages for foreign-born workers are about \$8 less than U.S.-born workers.

Naturalized immigrants make the highest median hourly wage at about \$20 compared with LPR Angelenos who make about \$15 and undocumented Angelenos who make \$11. On average, naturalized citizens with a BA or higher make an hourly rate of about \$33, equal to their U.S.-born counterparts,

while undocumented and LPR Angelenos with a BA or higher make between \$7 and \$11 less, respectively. Wage disparities among those with similar levels of educational attainment may signal the need to focus on better recognition of credentials that may have been acquired in another country, and discrimination in the job market based on race as well as immigration status—given the intersection of race and immigration status in L.A. County described.

Figure 22. Median Hourly Wage by Status, 2016

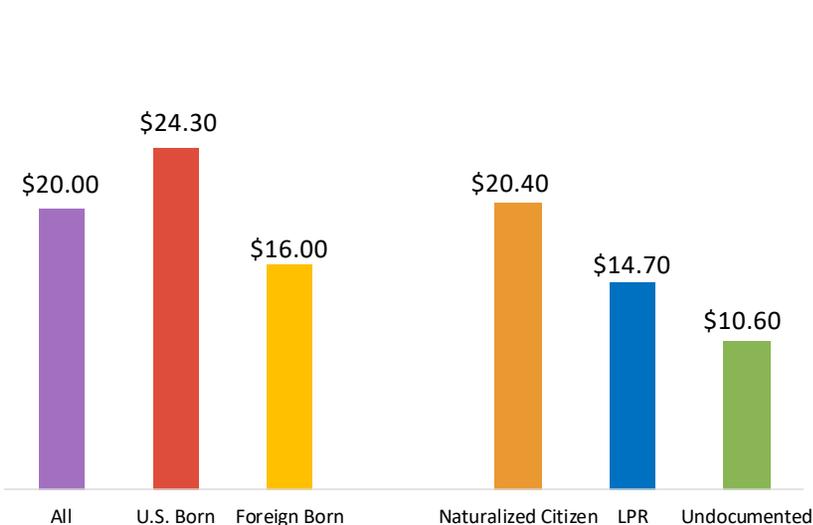
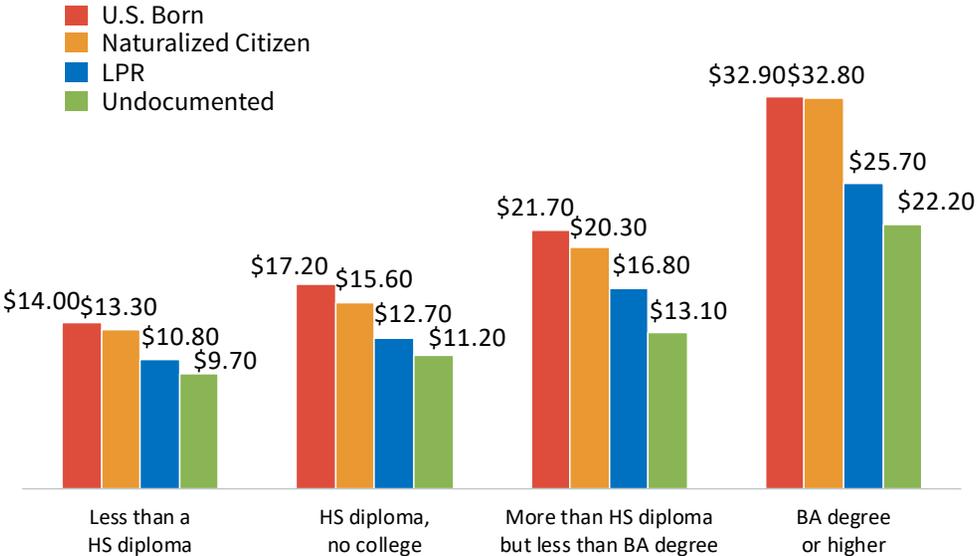


Figure 23. Median Hourly Wage by Status and Educational Attainment, 2016

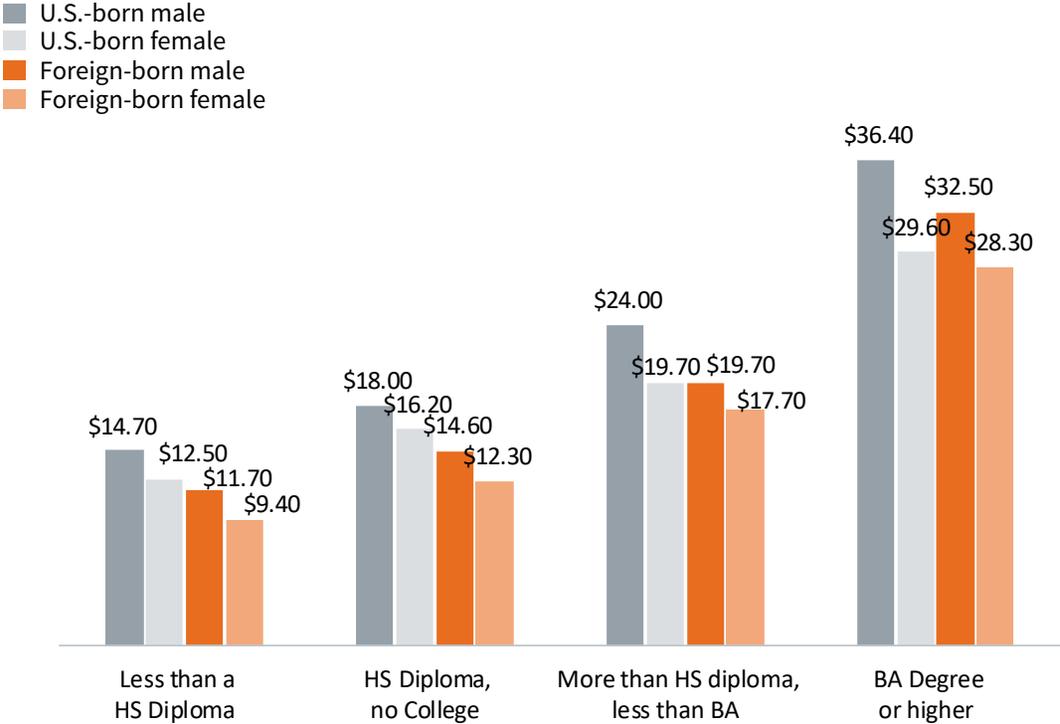


Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe includes civilian non-institutional full-time wage and salary workers ages 25 through 64. See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average. Values are in 2016 dollars.

Although education increases wages, the gender wage gap persists for immigrant women. Women, regardless of educational attainment and nativity, make less than their male counterparts.

Among those with a BA or higher, foreign-born women make about \$1 less per hour than U.S.-born women, \$4 less per hour than foreign-born men, and \$8 less per hour than U.S.-born men.

Figure 24. Median Hourly Wage by Educational Attainment, Nativity and Gender, 2016



Economic Snapshot

Immigrant women earn higher wages with higher levels of education, but gendered wage inequities persist

Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes civilian non-institutional full-time wage and salary workers ages 25 through 64. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average. Values are in 2016 dollars.

Education: A Pathway to Immigrant Children and Families

While the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) has long been serving L.A. youth and their families, teachers, and administrators, the results of the 2016 Presidential Election inspired the creation of its Immigrant Relations program. After the onset of anti-immigrant rhetoric across the country, immigrant students and families expressed worry about being able to access critical educational and social services due to the threat of immigration enforcement on school campuses. As a result, many school faculty as well as administrators were concerned with being able to meet the needs of their immigrant and refugee community members.

Addressing Vulnerability

As a state-funded agency, LACOE helps tackle the feelings of vulnerability felt by immigrants and educators by advocating for safe and welcoming learning environments, working to clarify policy, ensure compliance and accountability, and educate teachers and administrators across L.A. County about immigration policies and programs.

It conducts district-wide and individual school trainings that focus on essential tools for immigrant-serving campuses, such as “Know Your Rights” workshops and provides lesson plans for students and families facing immigration issues. They implement trauma-informed care as part of their services, in effort to provide safe resources for immigrant and refugee community members who often experience trauma in today’s political climate. In 2019, LACOE launched the Community Schools Initiative to provide communities with the best schools possible. This partnership model will build equity for students by leveraging community resources so that students are healthy, prepared for college and career, and civic ready.

- **LACOE Immigrant Relations program was established in 2016.**
- **LACOE serves 80 school districts.**
- **In 2018, of 1.5 million students:**
 - * **65 percent were Latino**
 - * **3,439 were migrant students**
 - * **305,310 were English learners**

Case Study #6

Los Angeles County

Office of Education (LACOE)

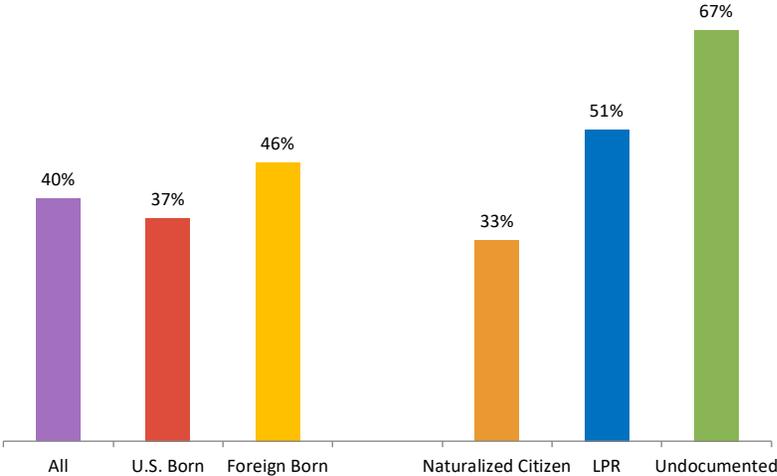
Economic Snapshot

Naturalized immigrants experience lower rates of economic insecurity than the U.S.-born

Economic insecurity, defined as having a family income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, captures those who are above the poverty line but still do not have enough money to cover basic needs like food, shelter, transportation costs, and child care. Overall, communities across the County have a high rate of economic insecurity at 40 percent. However, undocumented and LPR Angelenos have higher levels of economic security with more than half of undocumented Angelenos (about 67 percent) and about half of LPR Angelenos (51 percent) experiencing economic insecurity. Naturalized Angelenos experience lower rates of economic insecurity than U.S.-born Angelenos.

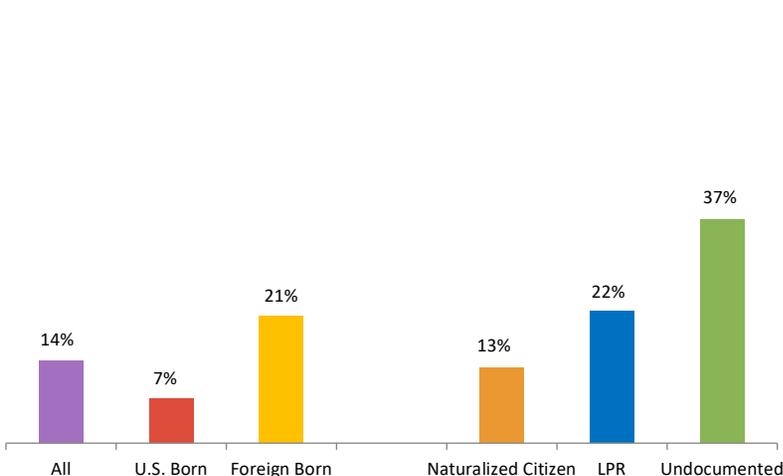
Another way to examine and understand poverty is to look at “working poverty” rates, or the percentage of workers that are both working full-time and have a family income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Over one third of undocumented workers fall in this category—a rate that is nearly three times the working poverty rate of the overall population and five times the rate of U.S.-born workers. Around 13 percent of naturalized workers experience working poverty.

Figure 25. Percent below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level by Status, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe includes all persons not in group quarters. See “Data and Methods” section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Figure 26. Working Poverty Rate by Status, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe includes the civilian noninstitutional population ages 25-64 not living in group quarters who worked at all during the year prior to the survey. See “Data and Methods” section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

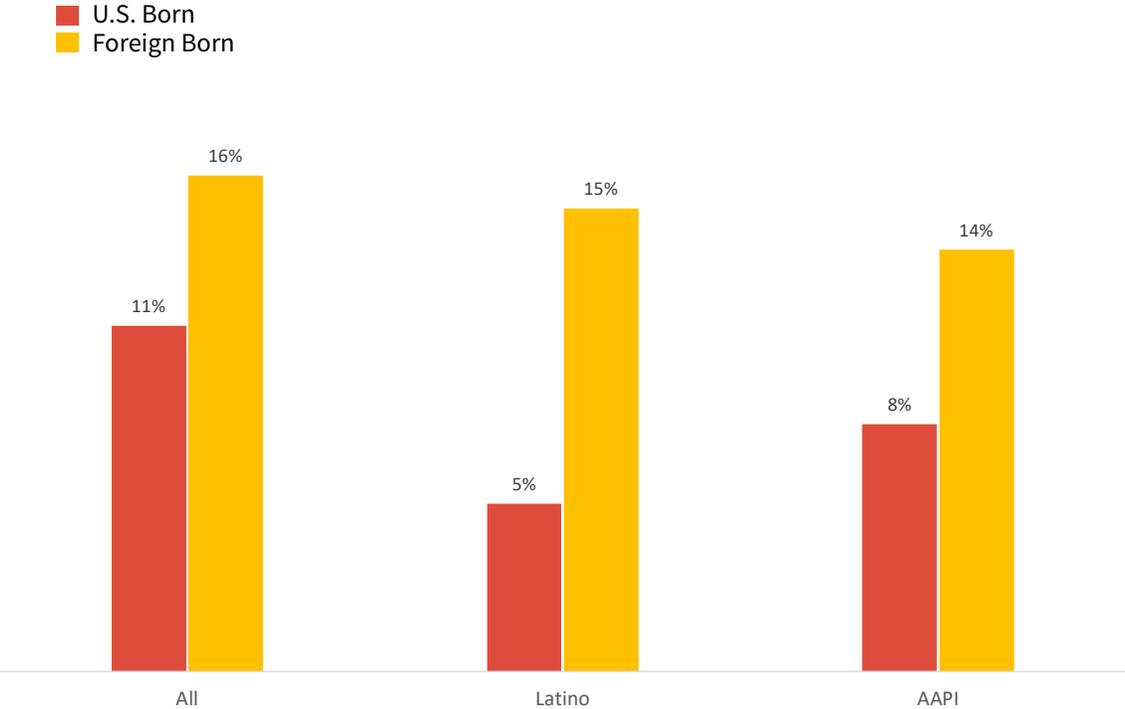
As noted previously, the foreign-born population constitutes nearly half of the workforce in L.A. County. Immigrants are also major contributors to entrepreneurship and small business. One measure of entrepreneurship is the rate of self-employment. Around 16 percent of foreign-born workers are self-employed compared to 11 percent of U.S.-born workers.

The rates of self-employment for both foreign-born Latinos and AAPIs are significantly higher than their U.S. born counterparts as well—Latino immigrant rates are three times as high and AAPI immigrant rates are nearly twice as high. While increased rates of self employment among immigrants can be the result of exclusion from certain parts of the labor market, it nonetheless generates economic opportunity, creates jobs and increases family incomes.

Economic Snapshot

Entrepreneurship is more prevalent in immigrant communities

Figure 27. Self-employment Rate by Race/Ethnicity and Nativity, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes the employed civilian population age 16 or older. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

On average households headed by U.S.-born individuals have higher median household incomes than their immigrant counterparts. For example U.S.-born households have a median household income of \$65,945, while immigrant households have a median household income of \$47,796.

These disparities are consistent even when disaggregated by race with the exception of Black immigrant households who have a higher median

household income than their U.S-born counterparts. For example, U.S. Born AAPI households have a median household income of \$82,431, while immigrant AAPI households have a median household income of \$63,000. One notable exception are U.S.-born Black households who have a median household income of \$40,526, which is lower than immigrant Black households who have a median household income of \$52,000.

Economic Snapshot

Black U.S. Born individuals and Latino immigrants have lower median household incomes

Figure 28. Median Household Income by Race, Status, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes all households (no group quarters). Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average. Values are in 2016 dollars.

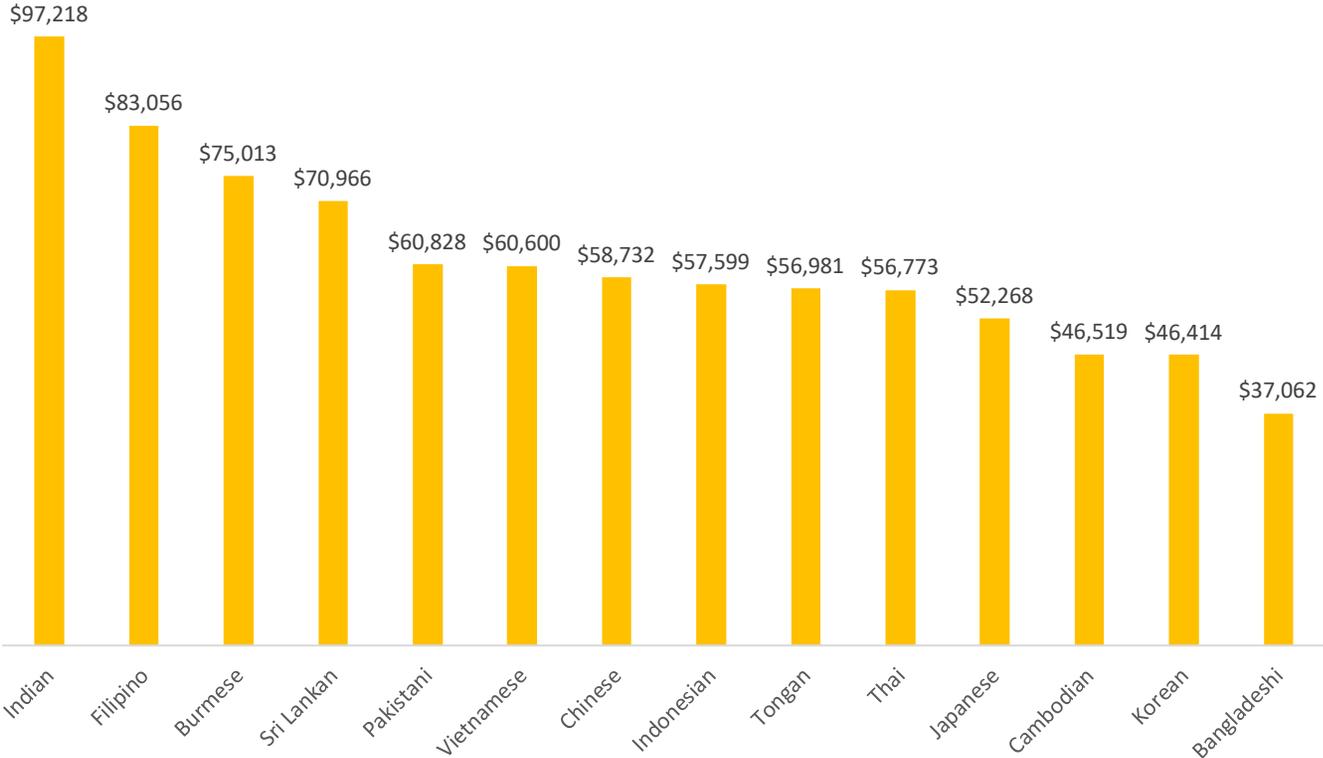
When aggregated, AAPI immigrants have the highest median household incomes. However, aggregation can create an incomplete picture of income for AAPI immigrants. For example, households headed by Indian immigrants have a median household income of \$97,218 and Filipino immigrant households have

a median household income of \$83,506. In contrast, Bangladeshi immigrant households have a median household income of \$37,062 and Korean immigrant households have a median household income of \$46,414.

Economic Snapshot

Median household incomes vary within the AAPI immigrant community

Figure 29. Median Household Income for AAPI Immigrants, Status, 2016

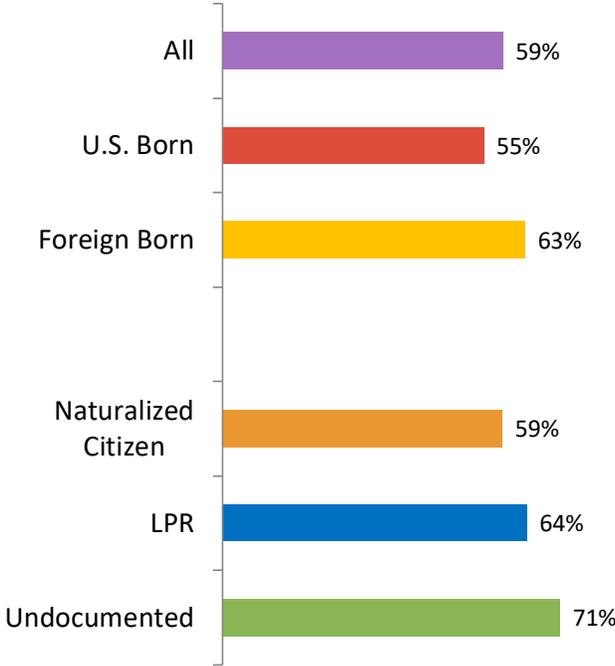


Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes all households (no group quarters). Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average. Values are in 2016 dollars.

Housing burden, or spending more than 30 percent of income on housing expenses, reduces a person’s ability to pay for vital needs, like healthcare and childcare, making it difficult for families to prepare for emergencies, let alone thrive. Given the rising cost of housing in L.A. County and stagnating wages, it is no surprise that more than half of all Angeleno renters experience housing burden.

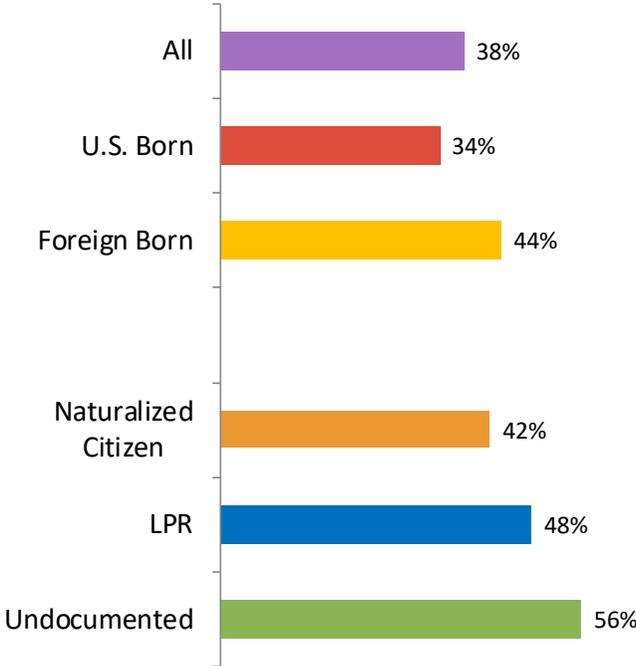
Nearly two thirds of foreign-born Angeleno renters face rent burden while nearly half of foreign-born homeowners face homeowner burden. When disaggregated by status, we find that nearly three-quarters of undocumented renters and over half of undocumented homeowners experience housing burden.

Figure 30. Rent Burden by Status, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe includes renter-occupied households with cash rent (excludes group quarters). Rent burden is defined as spending more than 30 percent of income on rent and utilities. See “Data and Methods” section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Figure 31. Homeowner Burden by Status, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe includes owner-occupied households with selected monthly owner costs. Homeowner burden is defined as spending more than 30 percent of income on selected monthly owner costs. See “Data and Methods” section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Economic Snapshot

Undocumented Angelenos experience the highest rates of housing burden

Economic Mobility Trajectory

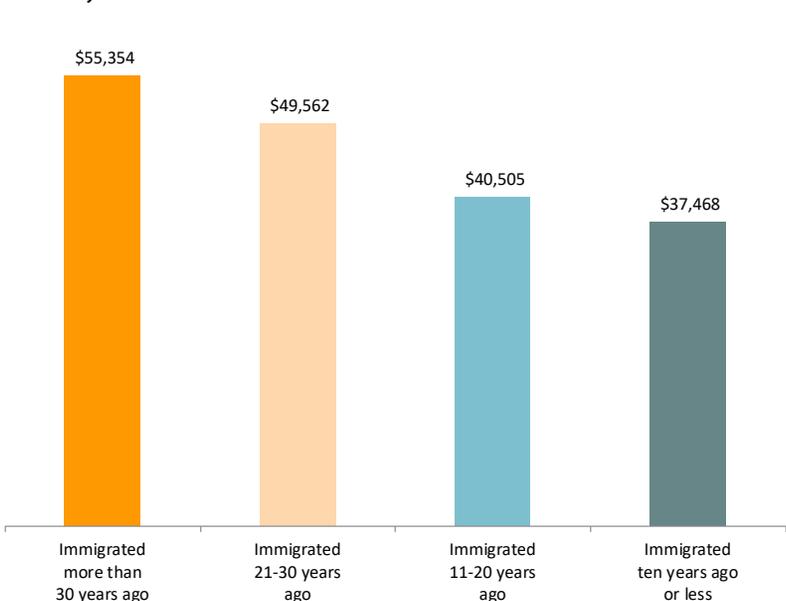
Immigrant household incomes increase over time but are still lower than the incomes of U.S.-born households

On average, long-settled immigrants have higher median household incomes than immigrants who have arrived recently. For example, Angelenos who immigrated more than 30 years ago have a median household income of about \$55,000, while Angelenos who immigrated 10 years ago or less have a median household income of about \$37,000.

The disparities in median household income also appear when disaggregating by status. Households headed by a naturalized citizen make around \$7,000 less than household headed by someone who is U.S. born. For households headed by an

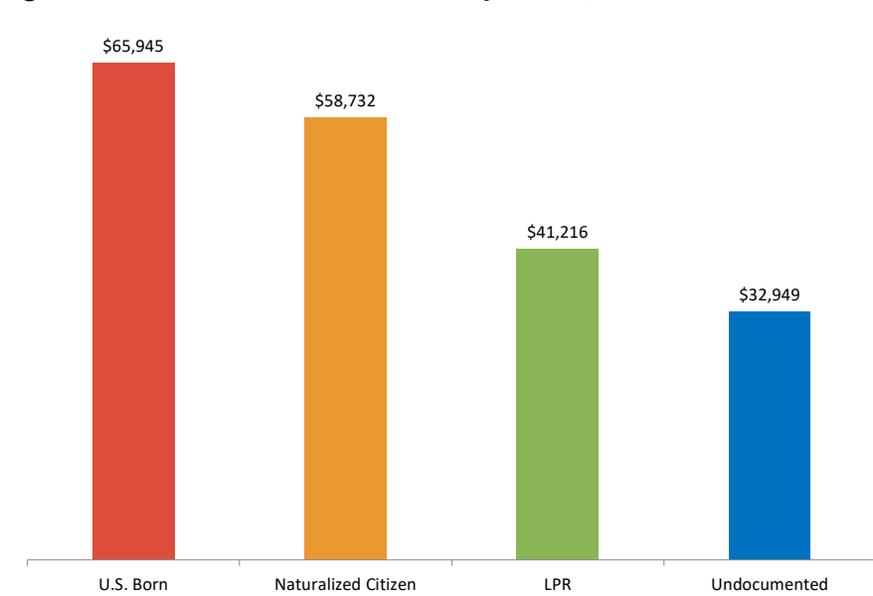
undocumented Angeleno, the disparities are wider, as their median household income is half of their U.S.-born counterparts. This is due in part to differences in economic opportunity associated with different statuses such as: access to business capital, differences in education, and employment discrimination. Investing in immigrant communities across different statuses is important in addressing these inequities and improving economic opportunity for all.

Figure 32. Median Household Income by Recency of Arrival, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes all households (no group quarters). Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average. Values are in 2016 dollars.

Figure 33. Median Household Income by Status, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe includes all households (no group quarters). See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average. Values are in 2016 dollars.

Pipelines for Educational and Economic Prosperity

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce promotes prosperity by being the voice of the diverse business community in L.A. County. Its work includes promoting small businesses, which our analysis (earlier in report) on self-employment and entrepreneurship identifies as an important issue for immigrants.

The Chamber also advocates for and educates its members about immigration-friendly laws and policies such as DACA, in-state tuition and financial aid for immigrants students, and drivers licenses for the undocumented Angelenos—in the name of a prosperous L.A. County for all.

L.A. Cash for College

In addition to their advocacy efforts, the Chamber and its educational arm, UNITE-LA, lead L.A. Cash for College. This program hosts an annual College and Career Convention and regular FAFSA workshops—both of which go a long way in aiding immigrant and first-generation students.

The goals of L.A. Cash for College are to inform, assist, and reward students through their various programming. Immigrant students and their families largely benefit from their help in completing FAFSA or applying for the California Dream Act, which allows immigrant students to apply for state financial aid.

-
- **The Chamber has over 1,650 members that represent small, medium, and large companies**
 - **The Chamber Delivers 10,000 jobs per year for internships for Los Angeles youth**
 - **L.A. Cash for College conventions have seen about 172,900 participants**

Case Study #7

Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Many longer-settled immigrants have higher incomes than more recent arrivals. Over half of households headed by a foreign-born Angeleno who arrived 20 years ago or less, experience economic insecurity.

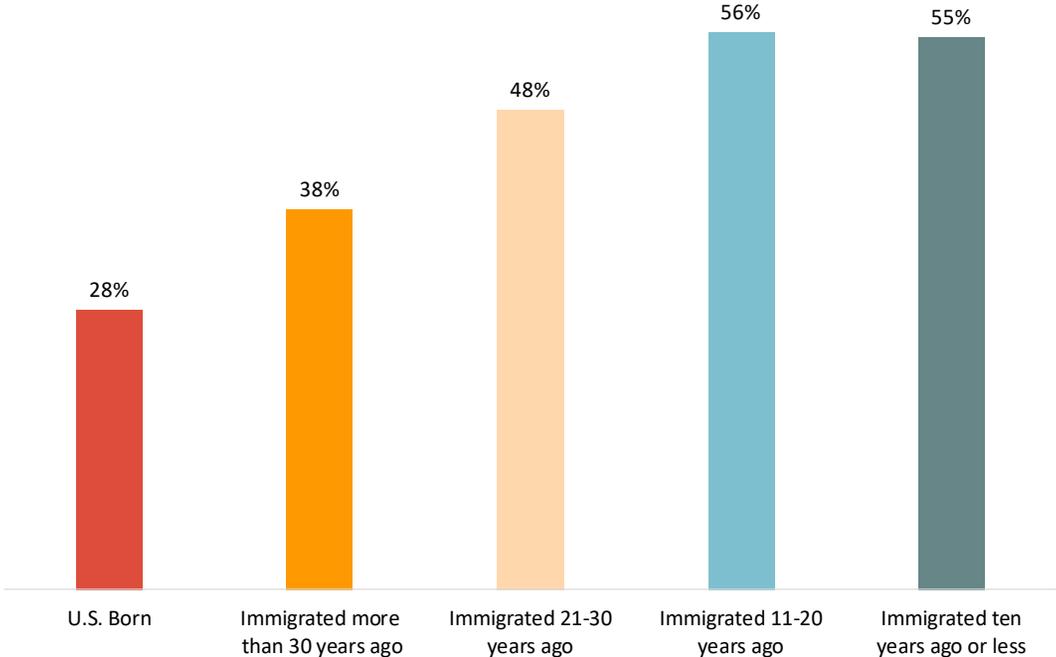
with a U.S.-born householder. Although economic security increases with time the disparities between immigrants and the U.S.- born population remain.

The rate of household-level economic insecurity drops to 38 percent among household headed by someone who arrives more than 30 years ago. This is still 10 percentage points higher than households

Economic Trajectory

The percent of immigrant households experiencing economic insecurity decreases with time

Figure 34. Percent of Households below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level by Recency of Arrival, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes all households (no group quarters). Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

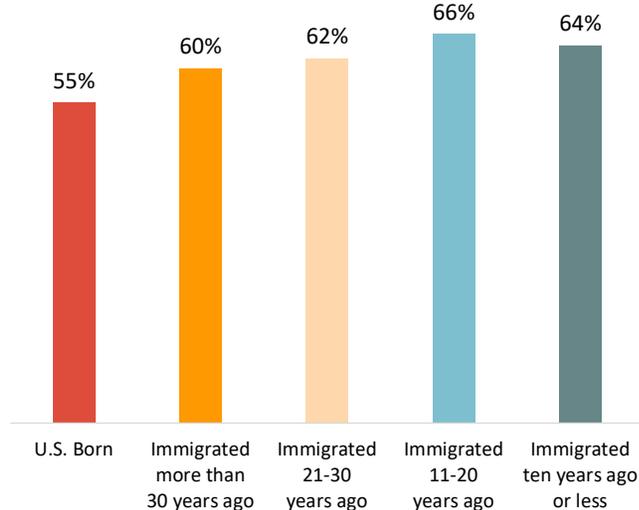
In recent years, housing costs have increased, driving up housing burden for more recently arrived groups. The percentage of renter households experiencing rent burden is lower for households headed by foreign-born individuals arriving more than 30 years ago. However, this rate is still about 5 percentage points higher than for households headed by a U.S.-born individual. Foreign-born Angelenos who arrived between 11 and 20 years ago experience the highest rent burden rate at about 66 percent.

There are similar but more dramatic trends for immigrant homeowners. Owner-occupied households headed by foreign-born Angelenos who arrived more than 30 years ago, experience the lowest rate of homeowner burden at 41 percent, but this is still 7 percentage points higher than the rate for U.S.-born households. Foreign-born Angeleno homeowners who arrived 30 years ago or less experience similarly high levels of homeowner burden at just under 50 percent. Although housing burden decreases for long-settled homeowners and renters, this decrease is not as large for renters. Nevertheless, housing support is needed for all renters.

Economic Trajectory

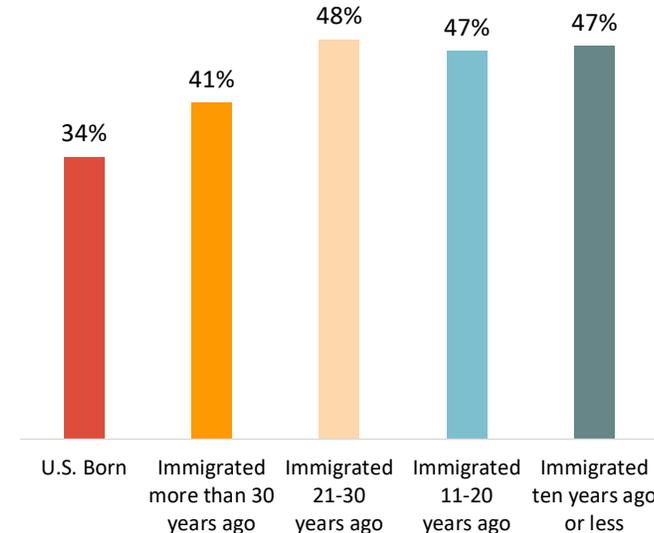
Immigrant renters experience high rates of housing burden over time

Figure 35. Rent Burden by Recency of Arrival, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes renter-occupied households with cash rent (excludes group quarters). Rent burden is defined as spending more than 30 percent of income on rent and utilities. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Figure 36. Homeowner Burden by Recency of Arrival, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes owner-occupied households with selected monthly owner costs. Homeowner burden is defined as spending more than 30 percent of income on selected monthly owner costs. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

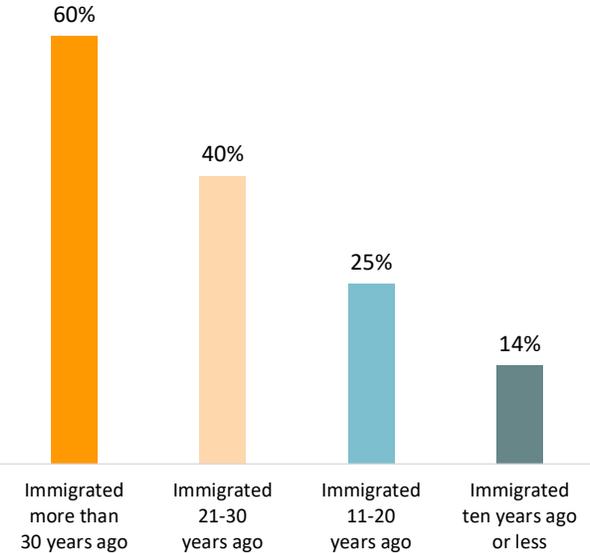
Long-settled immigrants are more likely to be homeowners. Around 60 percent of foreign-born Angeleno householders who migrated more than 30 years ago are homeowners, while only about 14 percent of those who migrated 10 years ago or less are homeowners. The homeownership rate does increase over time as 25 percent of those arriving between 11 and 20 years ago own homes, and 40 percent of those arriving between 21 and 30 years ago are homeowners. These homeownership rates illustrate the sinking roots of Angeleno immigrants and how they have formed families and community in L.A. County over time.

With rising housing costs, homeownership is out of reach for many immigrants. Naturalized householders, many of whom have been in the U.S. for a longer period of time (a minimum of five years in order to apply for citizenship), have the highest rate of homeownership at 56 percent— 7 percentage points higher than the U.S.-born population.¹⁵ LPRs have a homeownership rate of 27 percent and undocumented Angelenos have a homeownership rate of 12 percent.

Economic Trajectory

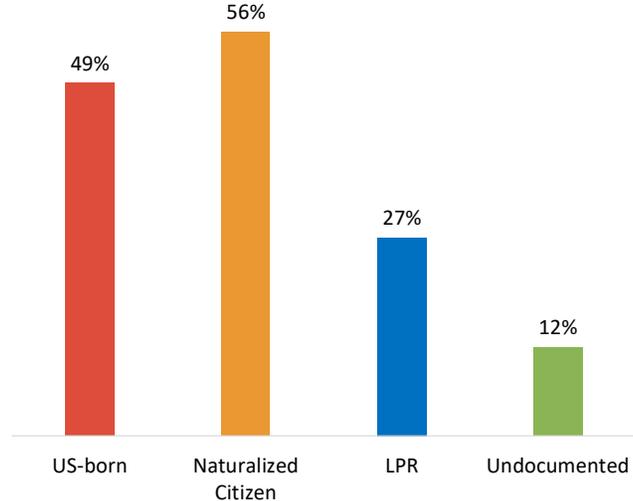
Homeownership rates are highest among naturalized Angelenos

Figure 37. Homeownership by Recency of Arrival, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes all occupied households (excludes group quarters). Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Figure 38. Homeownership by Status, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe includes all occupied households (no group quarters). See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.



**Warmth of
Welcome**

The Warmth of welcome section examines the polices and programs in place to ensure that immigrants are welcomed and respected. In

practice, measuring warmth of welcome can be very difficult because of the diversity of approaches and lack of uniform data collection (see "Data and Methods" on pg. 68). In addition, the growing anti-immigrant climate makes it more difficult for immigrants to feel safe and welcome. The number of racial/ethnic motivated hate crimes has increased, potentially as a result of growing anti-immigrant rhetoric. Although there is great work being done by immigrant-serving organizations throughout the county, not all cities have nearby immigrant serving organizations to increase the engagement of their immigrant populations or strong private-public partnerships. Nonetheless, localities have responded and shifted their capacity to integrate immigrants. For example, many cities are passing ordinances to limit cooperation between local law enforcement and immigration enforcement. Not to mention, the spike in Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) course enrollment during the 2016 academic year, illustrates the results of welcoming efforts. In addition, Cities in L.A. County with a larger presence of immigrants and immigrant-serving organizations are shaping their policies to become more welcoming.

- **Of 31 cities studied, 12 have either passed resolutions affirming SB 54ⁱ or provided stronger local protections for immigrants.**
- **ESL enrollment for both children and adults in L.A. County have declined in recent years.**
- **52 percent of reported hate crimes in L.A. County were motivated by race/ethnicity/national origin.**

Warmth of Welcome

Are we creating a welcoming environment for immigrants?

i. SB 54, also known as the California Values Act, often referred to as a "sanctuary law," SB 54 particularly bars state and local law enforcement agencies from utilizing their resources to aid federal immigration enforcement agencies like Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

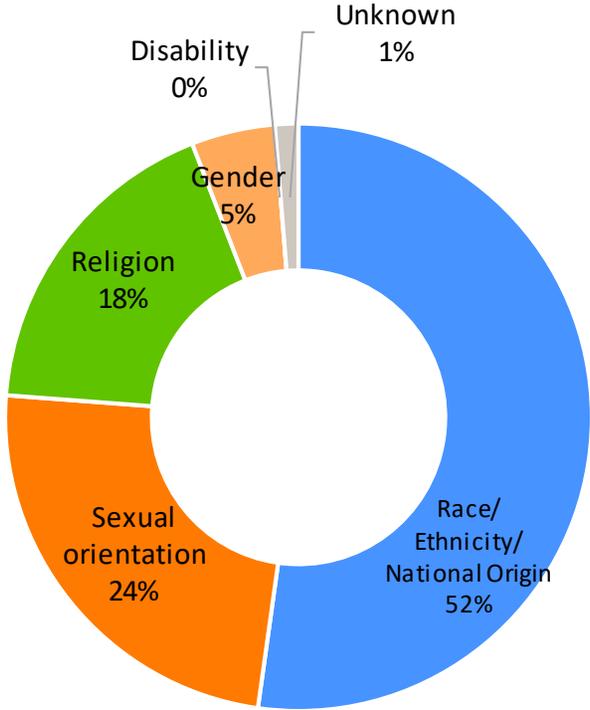
In 2018, there were 59 reported crimes in L.A. County that involved anti-immigrant language—an increase from the number reported in previous years. Over three quarters of the victims of these crimes were Latino. A majority of hate crimes involving anti-immigrant language were classified as violent (69 percent)—down from 76 percent in 2017. Of the reported crimes with anti-immigrant language and slurs, 51 percent were located in public places, 27 percent in businesses and 14 percent in residences.

Though these crimes with anti-immigrant language only made up about 11 percent of all reported hate crimes in L.A. County, the vast majority of such crimes go unreported, in part due to the victim’s own legal status. Additionally, even though hate crimes may omit anti-immigrant language, they may still be motivated by anti-immigrant sentiment and may thus be classified as “racial hate crimes.”

Warmth of Welcome

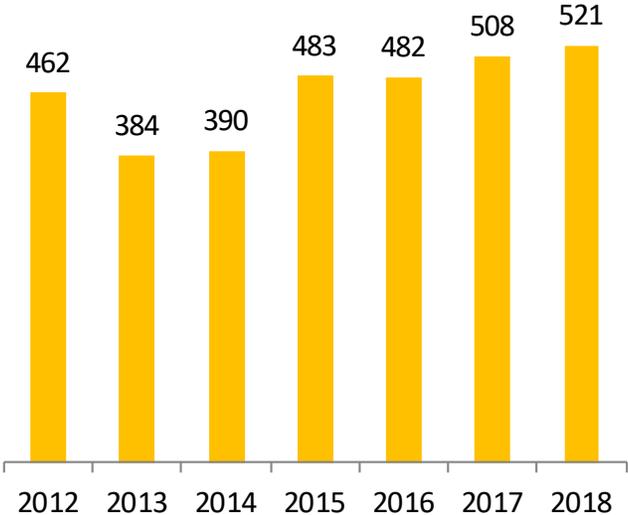
Hate crimes have slightly increased over the past six years

Figure 39. Hate Crimes by Motivation, 2018



Source: 2018 Hate Crime Report from the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, available at: <http://hrc.lacounty.gov/index.php/stop-violence-2/>.

Figure 40. Total Number of Reported Hate Crimes, 2012 - 2018



Source: 2018 Hate Crime Report from the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, available at: <http://hrc.lacounty.gov/index.php/stop-violence-2/>.

Fighting Immigration Enforcement

Under a federal government that targets immigrants for removal, how can L.A. County provide a better environment for immigrant residents? For over three decades, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) has answered that call by engaging, creating relationships with, and organizing immigrant community members across L.A. County and beyond.

The ways CHIRLA serves community looks different depending on the goal. From facilitating DACA enrollment and renewals to training young and adult immigrants to advocate directly to elected officials across the state, CHIRLA has made a mark in providing vital resources and leadership opportunities for people most affected by national immigration policies.

Responding to Threats of Detainment & Deportation

To take a stand against threats to remove immigrants from our communities, CHIRLA coordinates the LA Raids Response Network. Originally started in 2006 in response to largescale workplace raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)—recent threats and reoccurrences of these types of raids have revamped the response network.

The network connects organizations, removal defense attorneys, and community members to create an infrastructure that protects communities against heightened enforcement and increased deportations. Additionally, it aids in organizing actions like the July 2019 Lights for Liberty Rally that denounced ICE detention centers and detainment operations.

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- **CHIRLA's Mission: To achieve a just society fully inclusive of immigrants.**
 - **CHIRLA is a hub for immigrant-focused political advocacy, community organizing and education, legal services, and more since 1986.**

Case Study #8

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

In L.A. County, more than two million immigrant adults have limited English speaking ability, meaning they report speaking English less than “very well.” When disaggregated by status, naturalized immigrants comprise the largest number of those with limited English speaking ability (about 877,000), followed by LPRs, and then undocumented Angelenos.

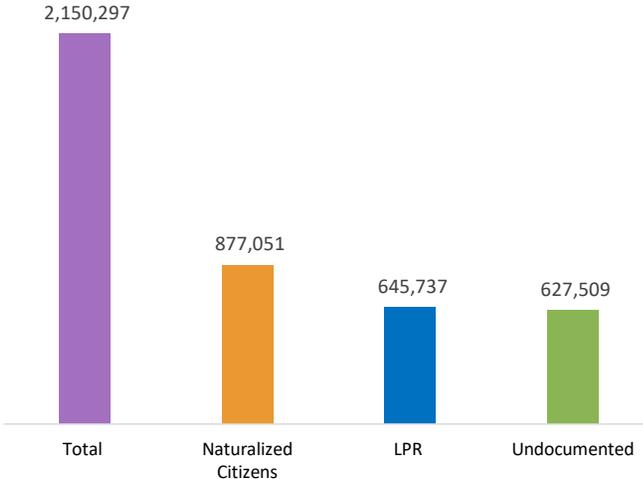
Looking at enrollment in ESL programs allows us to assess whether demand for English language services are being met and where there may be

opportunities to provide more resources. In L.A. County, the number of adults enrolled in ESL programs has ranged between 69,000 and 86,000 over the past few years. It increased during the 2016-2017 school year and slightly decreased the following year. The four years of data shown in the chart below suggest a slight upward trend in ESL enrollment, however, there is still significant unmet demand.

Warmth of Welcome

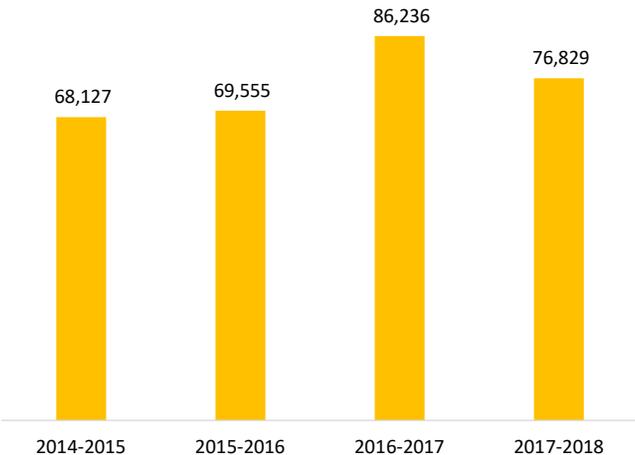
There is a higher number of adults enrolled in ESL programs than in previous years

Figure 41. Limited English Speaking Immigrant Adults, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe includes immigrant adults age 18 or older who speak English less than “very well.” See “Data and Methods” section for details on estimates of the undocumented and LPR population. Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Figure 42. Adult Enrollment in ESL Classes, 2014-15 through 2017-18

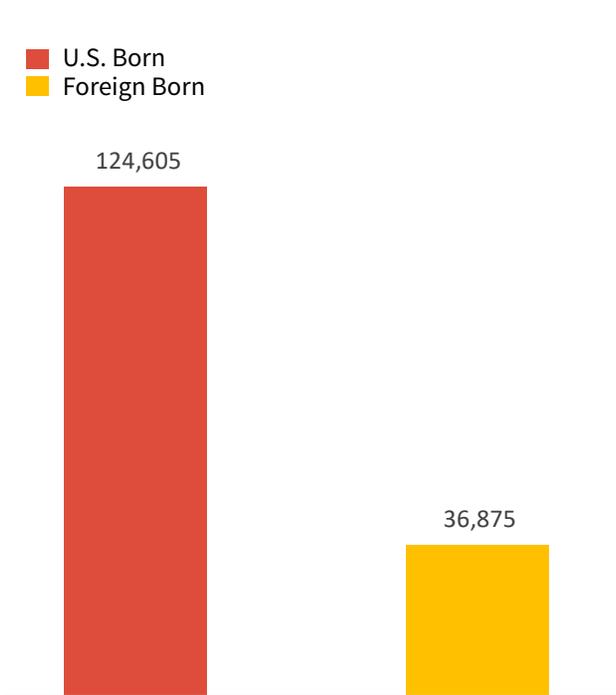


Source: CASAS Data Portal, adult enrollment in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, Los Angeles County, 2014-15 through 2017-18 school years. Data accessed on October 10, 2019. Available at: <https://www2.casas.org/dataPortal/index.cfm?fuseaction=dataPortal.fedTable4>.

English speaking proficiency is also a challenge for children. Given that most children under 18 with at least one immigrant parent in the household are U.S. born, it is not surprising to find that most children with limited English speaking ability are also U.S. born. Nearly 37,000 children with limited English speaking ability are immigrants, and about 125,000 are U.S. born. Combined these two figures give us an idea of potential number of English-speaking children and demand for English Language Learner services and the County's improvement over time

in ensuring all students thrive. In the 2017 school year, close to 273,000 K-12 students were enrolled as English Learners. When disaggregating those numbers by age, it is clear that more students are classified as English Learners earlier in their education. For example, about 14 percent of English Learners are in Kindergarten but only 4 percent of English Learners are in the 12th grade. This may be due to the concerted effort of many organizations and educators to increase language services for children.

Figure 43. Limited English Speaking Children, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes immigrant youth ages five through 17 that speak English less than "very well." Data represent a 2012 through 2016 average.

Figure 44. English Learner Enrollment by Grade, 2014 - 2015 through 2018 -2019



Source: California Department of Education Data Reporting Office, Enrollment by English Language Acquisition Status (ELAS) and Grade, 2014-15 through 2018-19 school years. Data accessed on October 10, 2019. Available at: <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>.

Warmth of Welcome

U.S.-born children make up the majority of linguistically-isolated children

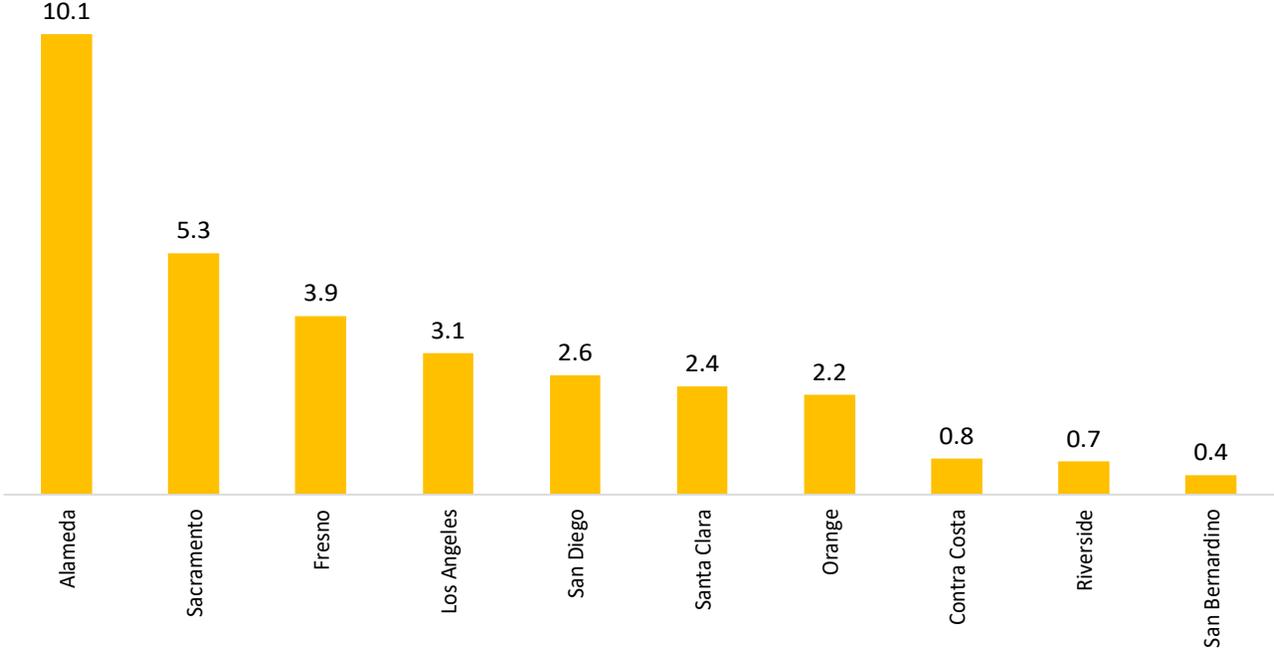
Some potential indicators of warmth of welcome include the capacity to provide social supports to immigrants, and particularly to those who have not yet obtained U.S. citizenship. L.A. County has by far the largest immigrant (and non-citizen immigrant) populations across all counties in California. However, coverage in terms of immigrant-serving organizations is less robust when compared to other counties. For L.A. County, there are around three immigrant-serving organizations per 100,000 non-citizen immigrant individuals as compared to 10 in Alameda County, five in Sacramento County,

and four in Fresno County. Much lower coverage of immigrant-serving organizations per 100,000 non-citizen immigrants is found in San Bernardino, Riverside, and Contra Costa counties—at least among the top 10 counties in terms of the size of the non-citizen immigrant population included in the basis of the chart below. Granted, this could also be due to other factors such as organizational consolidation and may not reflect the full coverage of immigrant serving organizations across the county.

Warmth of Welcome

While organizations are active in L.A. County, there is less coverage of immigrant-serving organizations than in other counties

Figure 45. Immigrant Serving Organizations per 100,000 Non-Citizen Immigrants by County, 2016



Source: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration analysis of data from Guidestar and the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year summary file. Note: Chart includes top 10 counties in California in terms of the number of non-citizen immigrants. Data on the number of non-citizen immigrants represents a 2012 through 2016 average. See “Data and Methods” section for details on the analysis.

Figure 46. Matrix of Implementation and Support for CA Senate Bill 54 (SB 54)

CITIES	Progressive Policies Strengthening SB 54	City Resolution(s) Aligning with SB 54	Other Resolution(s) Aligning with SB 54	No Action Aligning or Contradicting SB 54	Challenges or Contradicts SB 54
Alhambra				X	
Arcadia				X	
Artesia				X	
Baldwin Park		X			
Burbank			X		
Carson				X	
Cerritos			X		
Cudahy		X			
Downey				X	
El Monte		X			
Glendale					X
Hawthorne				X	
Huntington Park				X	
Irwindale					X
Lancaster					X
Long Beach	X	X			
Los Angeles	X	X			
Maywood				X	
Monterey Park		X			
Norwalk				X	
Palmdale			X		
Pasadena		X			
Pomona		X			
Rosemead				X	
San Gabriel		X			
Santa Clarita					X
South Gate				X	
Temple City				X	
Torrance				X	
Walnut				X	
West Covina				X	

The California Values Act, also known as Senate Bill (SB 54) was passed and implemented in 2017 in response to increasing discriminatory immigrant enforcement strategies under the Trump Administration. Often referred to as a “sanctuary law,” SB 54 bars state and local law enforcement agencies from utilizing their resources to aid federal immigration enforcement agencies like ICE.¹⁵ Though this bill was passed at the state level, many localities have passed resolutions at the city or school district level in alignment with the bill. Few other localities have challenged it.

Overall, the great majority either accepted the law or added additional support. In some cases, cities have even passed and implemented progressive policies that strengthen the core values of SB 54 in protecting immigrants and their safety. What was most common, however, was a neutral stance that did not further support nor challenge SB 54 indicating at least a passive acceptance of the state’s law. The matrix (left) explores the policy and political landscape of select cities in L.A. County in the context of SB 54. For more information on how each of these cities were categorized, see the "Data and Methods" section for details regarding each locality’s response to SB 54.

Warmth of Welcome

Many cities have passed resolutions in alignment or support of Senate Bill 54

Source: Original Analysis conducted by the USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration.
Note: See "Data and methods" section for details on the analysis.

Circumventing Barriers to Healthcare

Restricted access to adequate and preventive medical services are an ongoing threat to the health and wellbeing of immigrants across the country. Both the inability of undocumented immigrants to make use of federal insurance options, and the overall fear and confusion exacerbated by policies (e.g., public charge determination) make navigating healthcare particularly difficult for immigrant communities.

In an effort to address the needs of uninsured residents, Los Angeles County established My Health LA (MHLA) in 2014.¹⁶ While demographic reports do not include the immigration status of clients served, the program has become well-known for its low-barriers to participation for low-income and

immigrant communities.¹⁷ MHLA only requires that a patient is 19 years or older, meets a low-income threshold, and can provide proof of identification and residency in L.A. County. Once enrolled, community members have access to primary care doctors, health screenings, prescription medications, limited dental care, substance abuse treatment, and more.¹⁸

In November 2018, due to both the success of MHLA and the support of One LA-IAF (Industrial Areas Foundation), — a coalition of organizations, congregations, and schools across the county — the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the preservation and augmentation of MHLA to continue serving over 140,000 low-income and/or undocumented residents of L.A. County.¹⁹

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- **MHLA services are administered by over 200 non-profit Community Partner clinics.**
 - **MHLA has explicitly stated that its partners and services are not subject to public charge rule.**

Note: Unlike the rest of SOILA's case studies, the case study on My Health LA was created using the sources cited below instead of an interview.

Case Study #9

My Health LA (MHLA)



**Moving
Forward**

The state of immigrants in L.A. County is complex. Organizations that connect with and advocate alongside immigrant communities know this. However, in order to reach our goals of creating a society where immigrants from all backgrounds can thrive, we must intentionally and consistently promote integration in all sectors and at all levels. With that said, SOILA is a point of reference for when someone asks: “How are L.A. immigrants doing in education? Are there differences based on status? How about ethnicity? Are they becoming more diverse? How are L.A. County cities welcoming and integrating them?”

To accomplish this, our annual SOILA report will have a different focus each year. Given how critical immigration law is to our communities, one potential focus of this annual report is likely to be civic engagement or the impact of threatened and actual deportations. L.A. housing costs make topics like housing affordability, gentrification, and displacement another important focus. Federal changes to both health insurance and public charge determination also encourage us to look at access to, and use of, health care.

These topics and others necessitate a deeper dive into the state of immigrants. Even though there are further issues to explore, we are hopeful that the first SOILA Report provides a baseline for understanding the meaningful place that immigrants have in our county. L.A. County is a home where we break bread, work alongside, and build families with immigrant Angelenos. It is a

place where we empower ourselves when we create a safe, welcoming environment, community, and government that centers equity for all.

With equity and full inclusion in mind, we encourage L.A. County institutions, organizations, elected leaders, and constituents to consider the following recommendations in our movement toward immigrant integration and inclusion.

Moving Forward

Conclusion

1. Continue to integrate and protect immigrants in our community

Immigrants across L.A. County are being attacked on many levels through national policy, restricted movement, reduced access to crucial public services, and negative media coverage. Local governments have a responsibility to provide a sense of stability and step in where federal enforcement is increasingly making immigrant welfare more precarious. Los Angeles has come a long way. We now have a County Office of Immigrant Affairs, and L.A. County and many cities have implemented “sanctuary” policies to help shield immigrants. However, loopholes that allow for information sharing and cooperation still remain for many local jurisdictions. Some cities have taken steps to close loopholes and implemented local non-cooperation policies that are stronger than SB 54. Policy efforts such as these must continue and spread throughout L.A. County in this political climate and beyond.

2. Invest in more data collection including a full count in Census 2020

Although expansive, the data used in this profile only provides a baseline of the issues that intersect with the lives of immigrants. Much more data on health access, service utilization, and social climate are needed to assess where immigrants stand in today's society. Through data we can identify crucial gaps and decide where to allocate

resources. In addition, redistricting—a vital process in maintaining the representativeness of the electorate—affects the political power of immigrants and their families. This is why the Census and efforts to have a complete count—like the “We Count Los Angeles” campaignⁱ—are so important. It is anticipated that many immigrants will be afraid to complete the census this year. County and city agencies must double down on efforts to provide support to organizations working to expand the participation of hard-to-count communities.

3. Invest in expanding civic engagement opportunities and promote naturalization

Registering voters and facilitating civic engagement are concrete steps to strengthen the voice and power of immigrants. Naturalization backlogs have always existed, but have worsened since 2016. The current federal administration has made the process of naturalization even stricterⁱⁱ and is seeking to make it even more expensive.ⁱⁱⁱ More resources and assistance should be provided to immigrants, especially to those without the financial resources to obtain assistance on their own. In the meantime, we should support opportunities for immigrants to serve on boards, commissions, and other decision-making bodies where their voices are needed. Last, we should explore avenues at the state level to create de-facto

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i. The “We Count Los Angeles” campaign is a collective effort of community-based organizations seeking to support community-based education and outreach efforts for hard-to-count communities across L.A. County in anticipation of the Census 2020. See, <https://www.calfund.org/nonprofits/open-grants/census2020outreachlacounty/>.

ii. The backlog in citizenship applications, increase in processing times, and proposed changes to the citizenship application are preventing eligible immigrants with voting rights from naturalization. See the National Partnership for New Americans full report, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t1oW06z9c97qBpeXq93f5ycjFJfdBAlo6/view>.

iii. In November of 2019, the Trump administration proposed new regulations to raise the fees for citizenship applications. The fee increase is proposed to rise from \$725 to \$1,170. See, <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2019-11-12/citizenship-immigration-costs-naturalization>.

state citizenship. This includes opening certain public elections to immigrants. For example, cities like New York and San Francisco allow non-citizens to vote in school board elections.²⁰ Given the number of immigrant families touched by the school districts throughout L.A. County, this is one area where we can enfranchise entire communities.

4. Support the physical and mental health of immigrants

Many immigrants in today's climate face insecurity. Feelings of hyper-alertness and trauma are commonplace. L.A. has made critical strides by including immigrants in My Health LA, a no-cost health care program available to residents of L.A. County who cannot afford health care.²¹ The provision of these services is a milestone that should be celebrated and continuously expanded to meet the evolving needs of Angeleno immigrants. For example, healthcare providers and community based organizations are providing mental health services for immigrants, but challenges still persist in fully meeting the mental health needs of immigrant communities, particularly for undocumented immigrants.²² For example, many immigrant communities may be afraid to access vital services for fear of jeopardizing their status. Now, more than ever, we need to grow our capacity to address both the physical and mental health of our community members. To do so, we must ensure that we reduce the barriers and fears immigrants

have in accessing these crucial services.

5. Get the business sector more firmly into the fight for immigrant integration

Integration is everyone's business—but it is especially business' business. Immigrants make up large sectors of our economy, and many of our industries would not operate if not for our immigrant communities. It is time for businesses to become more engaged. Some in the business community are stepping up and working to advocate for pro-immigrant programs and policies. For example, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce has focused on creating a cradle-to-career talent pipeline through their educational affiliate UNITE-LA and improving access to government contracts for small businesses, many of which are owned by immigrants and people of color. As a state, we have passed significant pieces of legislation to aid immigrant workers such as Senate Bill 1159, which allows immigrants to apply for state business licenses.²³ These programs are helpful but uptake is low. More should be done to support these types of partnerships, connect immigrants to these existing opportunities, and reduce barriers.

6. Implement economic strategies that are more inclusive of immigrants

Many of the economic development strategies employed throughout the County focus specifically on poverty alleviation and connecting populations

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Ten Lessons for our Immigrant Future

continued

to jobs or education. However, more work can be done to make these efforts inclusive of immigrant Angelenos. Social and legal barriers associated with their immigration status may make participating in formal economic settings difficult. This is part of the reason that self-employment and entrepreneurship are such important pillars for many immigrant communities. With that said, many immigrants are still unable to access financial capital to start businesses or make new investments and it was only recently that street-vending, a lifeline for many immigrants who are not able to participate in the formal economy, was legalized in the City of L.A. Key factors for economic development in a region with a large number of immigrants include providing resources to encourage naturalization, decreasing workplace discrimination, and connecting under-skilled workers to good jobs as key issues to address as part of economic development. In addition, understanding the impact of asset building and the barriers that immigrants face to accumulating wealth can help different entities in the County develop adequate services and programs. For example, the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation's (MAOF) asset-building program works to help individuals decrease debt, increase savings, and build credit through direct services and referrals in East and South L.A.²⁴ They also offer small-dollar lending with reasonable interest rates. This allows their clients to pay their loans, avoid taking new loans in the future, and build credit that

can enable them to purchase a home or further their education. Financial institutions should explore and implement creative and strategic solutions that engage existing immigrant financial strategies, like the MAOF program, lending circles, more holistic credit checks, and community-owned banking.

7. Launch a campaign to shift the tenor and tone of the media's conversation around immigrants

Media coverage across the political spectrum has not adequately depicted the humanity of our current immigrant population. There should be investment in messaging and communication of immigrant issues to the public. Organizations such as the Othering & Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley and the California Immigrant Policy Center are engaging in efforts to identify what types of messages resonate with those who might hold anti-immigrant views and may potentially build support for immigrants. Efforts to improve messaging and shape narratives can also include funding youth organizations and grassroots partners to invest in more dynamic messaging campaigns for efforts such as get-out-the-vote and Census 2020 campaigns. Furthermore, developing stronger relationships with residents through deep community engagement and canvassing can potentially create inroads into communities that have less favorable attitudes on immigration policy. Funders and local governments should support the

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Ten Lessons for our Immigrant Future

continued

type of research, programming, and organizing that gets to the heart of American values and helps to build unified communities.

8. Scale up from the County and scale out to smaller cities to adopt immigrant affirming policies

Much of what is in the news about immigration focuses specifically on the City of L.A. and the City of Long Beach. These are the two largest cities in our county and are also major immigrant centers. However, there are still significant immigrant populations in many of our County's smaller cities and unincorporated areas. While not every city government has the capacity to create an Office of Immigrant Affairs, the County Board of Supervisors and the L.A. County Office of Immigrant Affairs have the largest capacity to create consistency across all of these areas. They can, and should, encourage region-wide strategic thinking and policymaking on how to thoughtfully integrate our county's immigrants. This could include unique and novel programming that the County can initiate. The San Francisco Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs, for example, provides grants to non-profit and community-based organizations in areas like: Language Access, Citizenship and Naturalization, and Census 2020 community outreach and education grants. They also have worked to help employ undocumented youth through their DreamSF Fellows.²⁵ The County could replicate

these programs and help to provide education and naturalization assistance in areas that are not well-resourced by community-based organizations.

9. Adopt a racial justice lens for immigrant integration efforts

The work of immigrant integration should be intertwined with the fight for racial justice. Many in the immigrant rights field understand that the full integration of immigrants cannot happen without addressing racial inequalities and injustices that currently exist. Addressing racism is important for immigrant integration because: 1. Anti-immigrant sentiment is driven by racial anxiety (as shown by data on the number of hate crimes targeting people of color); 2. Systems of dehumanization are common for marginalized groups (e.g., immigrant detention and over-incarceration); and 3. Our vision of economic mobility for immigrants does not mean hopscotching other marginalized groups, but rather changing structures to promote justice and opportunity that lifts up everyone. Just as we are saying immigrant integration is everyone's business, we are saying that challenging racism—especially anti-Black racism—is immigrants' business. As noted earlier, hate crimes that target people based on race often include anti-immigrant language and vice versa. There is a joint interest in reducing barriers for people of color and immigrants. We have an opportunity to create a much broader

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continued

approach to racial and economic justice that supports Black immigrant coalition building, quality jobs, and wages and pushes back against harmful economic narratives that position immigrants as an economic threat and continue to entrench Black communities in poverty.

10. Lead the nation on immigrant integration

Although much of the power to provide deportation relief and create a path to naturalization is located at the federal level, L.A. County can distinguish itself as a world-class city that models how welcoming attitudes and an inclusive economy is the way for all of us to thrive. Legislation like SB 54 lays the groundwork for a type of state and municipal citizenship that allows immigrants to carry out their lives without fearing criminalization. The architects of this bill owe their success to many of the municipalities who took the first steps to reducing ICE cooperation for non-violence offenses. In the same manner, cities need to continue to push the envelope by adopting forward-thinking policies and programs that, for example, expand healthcare for all immigrants or push the state to expand tax credit programs and state cash/food assistance programs.

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continued



Data and Methods

Unless otherwise noted, all of the data and analyses presented in this report are the product of the USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, and reflect L.A. County. While all of the specific data sources used and relevant notes are included beneath each figure in the report, some of the more complex analyses require further explanation. In the following pages, we provide more detail on those analyses, and provide definitions of some key terms used in the report.

Data and Methods

Introduction

Broad Racial/Ethnic Origin Categories

Unless otherwise noted, the categorization of people by race/ethnicity and nativity is based on individual responses to various census surveys. All people included in our analysis were first assigned to one of six mutually exclusive racial/ethnic categories, depending on their response to two separate questions on race and Hispanic origin as follows:

- “white” is used to refer to all people who identify as white alone and do not identify as being of Hispanic origin.
- “Black” and “African American” are used to refer to all people who identify as Black or African American alone and do not identify as being of Hispanic origin.
- “Latino” refers to all people who identify as being of Hispanic origin, regardless of racial identification.
- “Asian or Pacific Islander,” “Asian American/Pacific Islander,” and “AAPI” are used to refer to all people who identify as Asian American or Pacific Islander alone and do not identify as being of Hispanic origin.
- In cases where “Pacific Islanders” are disaggregated, “Pacific Islanders” refers to anyone identifying as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander alone and do not identify as being of Hispanic origin.
- “Native American” and “Native American and Alaska Native” are used to refer to all people who identify as Native American or Alaskan Native alone and do not identify as being of Hispanic origin.
- “Mixed/other” and “other or mixed race” are used to refer to all people who identify with a single racial category not included above, or identify with multiple racial categories, and do not identify as being of Hispanic origin.
- “People of color” is used to refer to all people who do not identify as non-Hispanic white.

Nativity

The term “U.S.-born” refer to all people who identify as being born in the United States (including U.S. territories and outlying areas), or born abroad to American parents. The terms “immigrant” and “foreign-born” refer to all people who identify as being born abroad, outside of the United States, to non-American parents.

Immigration Status

The term “naturalized citizen” refers to immigrants who have become U.S. citizens through the process of naturalization, while “non-citizen” refers to immigrants who have not. The term “lawful permanent resident” (or “LPR”) refers to non-citizen immigrants who have lawful permanent resident status in the U.S. and those with temporary visas, while the term “undocumented” refers to those who do not.

Data and Methods

Selected terms and general notes

Detailed Racial/Ethnic Ancestry

Given the diversity of ethnic origin and large presence of immigrants, particularly among the Latino, Asian American, and Pacific Islander populations, we sometimes present data for more specific racial/ethnic subcategories within these groups. In order to maintain consistency with the broad racial/ethnic categories and to enable the examination of second-and-higher generation immigrants, these more detailed categories (referred to as “ancestry”) are drawn from the first response to the census question on ancestry, recorded in the PUMS USA variable “ANCESTR1.”

For example, while country-of-origin information could have been used to identify Filipinos among the Asian American population or Salvadorans among the Latino population, it could only do so for immigrants, leaving only the broad “Asian American” and “Latino” racial/ethnic categories for the U.S.-born population. While this methodological choice makes little difference in the numbers of immigrants by origin we report—i.e., the vast majority of immigrants from El Salvador mark “Salvadoran” for their ancestry—it is an important point of clarification and allows us to calculate, for example, the percentage of immigrants among people with Salvadoran ancestry.

To define the Middle East/North African (MENA) broad ancestral group, which is confined to people who identify racially as white, we included all ancestries classified under “North African and

Southwest Asia” in the IPUMS documentation for the ANCESTR1 variable. While there are a small number (about 1,000 after survey weights are applied or 50 actual unweighted observations) of people in the underlying survey data that are of Middle East/North African ancestry and identify racially as Black, they are not included in the Middle East/North African table. This is done both because the sample is too small to accurately identify the immigrant share of the population and to avoid double counting as they are already included in the table for Black immigrants. Finally, we should note that while some Armenians may consider themselves European rather than Middle Eastern, we included them in the MENA group based on their categorization in the ANCESTR1 variable.

Other Selected Terms and Notes

- The term “full-time” workers refers to all persons in the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) USA microdata who reported working at least 50 weeks per year and usually worked at least 35 hours per week during the year prior to the survey.
- The term “eligible to naturalize” refers to lawful permanent resident (LPR) adults age 18 or older who are eligible to naturalize and gain U.S. citizenship.

Data and Methods

Selected terms and general notes

continued

About IPUMS Microdata

Although a variety of data sources were used, much of our analysis is based on the 2016 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) microdata from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS USA). The sample includes data for the years 2012 through 2016 pooled together, with survey weights derived to reflect a five-year average that is representative of the overall population. Each year of the sample covers about 1 percent of the total U.S. population. The five-year sample was used to improve statistical reliability.

Compared with the more commonly used census “summary files,” which include a limited set of summary tabulations of population and housing characteristics, use of the microdata allows for the flexibility to create more illuminating metrics of immigrant integration, and provide a more nuanced view of immigrant groups defined by age, race/ethnicity, and ancestry.

A Note on Sample Size

While the IPUMS microdata allow for the tabulation of detailed population characteristics, it is important to keep in mind that because such tabulations are based on samples, they are subject to a margin of error and should be regarded as estimates—particularly in smaller geographies and for smaller demographic subgroups. In effort to avoid reporting highly unreliable estimates, we do not report any estimates that are based

on a universe of fewer than 100 individual survey respondents.

Geography of the IPUMS Microdata

A key limitation of the IPUMS microdata is geographic detail. The lowest level of geography associated with the individuals included in the samples used in this report is known as the Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA). PUMAs are generally drawn to contain a population of at least 100,000, and vary greatly in geographic size from being fairly small in densely populated urban areas, to very large in rural areas, often with one or more counties contained in a single PUMA.

While the geography of the IPUMS microdata generally poses a challenge for the creation of regional summary measures, this was not the case for L.A. County, as the geography of the county could be assembled perfectly by combining PUMAs.

Data and Methods

Summary measures from IPUMS microdata

Undocumented and Eligible-to-Naturalize Populations

Throughout the report we present estimates that stem from a dataset created by CSII using the 2016 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) microdata from IPUMS USA, covering the years 2012 through 2016, and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) from the U.S. Census Bureau. We chose the five-year ACS microdata sample because it contains a wide variety of individual and household characteristics and the sample size is large enough to make reasonably accurate estimates for sub-state geographies. One critical shortcoming of this dataset for our purposes, however, is that while it identifies non-citizen immigrants, it does not identify which non-citizens are documented and which are not.

In order to overcome this challenge, we generated estimates of which non-citizens in the sample were undocumented, and assumed the remainder had lawful status, labelling them lawful permanent residents (LPRs). Our estimation was based on a statistical model developed using the 2014 SIPP that was applied to the ACS microdata. For those interested in the details of our methodology, please refer to the document at: https://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/731/docs/Methodology_Final_updated_ETN_2017.pdf. For the current research, we applied the same methodology to the more recent aforementioned datasets.

With identifiers in place for who was an LPR among non-citizens in the ACS microdata, we applied some basic conditions to determine which of them were likely to be eligible-to-naturalize adults. We included all individuals at least 18 years old who had been in the United States for at least five years prior to the survey or three years if married to a U.S. citizen.

Hate Crimes

Page 54 of the report presents data on reported hate crimes in L.A. County. The data presented were sourced from the 2018 hate crimes report produced by the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission. The report provides a statistical snapshot of reported hate crimes in 2018, as well as hate crime counts for the previous several years. The Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission receives reports from the sheriff and city police agencies, educational institutions, and community-based organizations.

Data and Methods

Undocumented, eligible-to-naturalize, and hate crimes analysis

Warmth of Welcome

Integral to immigrant integration, warmth of welcome describes how immigrants are received and treated by their new community, society at large, and by the government.²⁶ Schwartz and colleagues (2014) find that in a positive and warm context of reception, immigrants feel welcomed and have better access to resources that aid upward mobility, employment, and the development of supportive and positive social relationships.²⁷ In contrast, immigrants in a negative and cold context of reception face more difficulties finding employment and establishing healthy social ties due to discrimination and a lack of resources which then can hinder integration.²⁸ In such contexts, immigrants are also often the target of exclusionary policies that deliberately thwart their political, social, and economic integration into communities and society.²⁹

Despite broad definitions and implications, the complexity of warmth of welcome makes it difficult to standardize an approach that measures the concept. For the purposes of this report, we aim to provide a snapshot of L.A. County's warmth of welcome by focusing on select cities and their more salient policies, politics, and programs related to immigration. Given the vast diversity of localities and contexts throughout the county, the breadth of this report cannot provide an in-depth analysis of each city and each policy and program that contributes to the warmth of welcome. By focusing on cities that have experienced distinct patterns in

their immigrant population, we hope to illustrate how immigrants are received differently across the county and in different types of cities.

SB 54 Analysis

To gauge a city's warmth of welcome, we first identified which cities to focus on to capture varying patterns of immigration growth. By calculating the change in the proportion of immigrants over time and determining the share of the county's immigrants living in a particular city, we are able to include in the analysis: 1) cities with large shares of the county's immigrant population; 2) cities seeing sharp growth in the proportion of immigrants to its total population; and 3) cities experiencing stagnant or negative growth in the share of immigrants relative to its total population.

Once we identified approximately 30 cities, we collected various digital newspaper articles and government documents to find evidence of policy-related actions in response to SB 54. To determine whether a city's particular response was either: 1) strengthening SB 54; 2) aligned with SB 54; 3) challenging SB 54; or 4) nonexistent, a team of researchers at CSII individually categorized each locality's response in relation to SB 54 in a matrix. Subsequently, this team validated the categorization among themselves to ensure the interpretation of the city's response were standardized.

Data and Methods

Warmth of Welcome and SB 54 Analysis

SB 54 City Profiles

Alhambra

In 2017, over 42,000 of the City of Alhambra's estimated 85,000 residents were immigrants—almost 50 percent. Despite this large proportion, Alhambra has yet to pass any official resolution or ordinance that are in alignment with or contradicts SB 54. However, a resolution declaring the city as a “Sanctuary City” had been put forth by local highschool students to only be denied by the City Council. According to the city's police chief, Alhambra Police Department's policies have been aligned with SB 54 as it bars local law enforcement agencies from using resources to aid ICE. After denying the resolution, however, the City Council verbally expressed support for the tenets of SB 54—though this is still not officially a resolution or local ordinance.³⁰

Arcadia

As of 2017, Arcadia's immigrant population was just under 30,000—representing nearly 50 percent of the City's total population. There is no evidence that any action, including any formal resolutions, have been taken that either align or contradict with SB 54.³¹

Artesia

In 2017, approximately 48 percent of the City of Artesia's population were immigrants—about 8,000 of the nearly 17,000 residents. Artesia's immigrant population has remained relatively stable given that the city experienced a 1 percent decrease in the population since 2010. Although the city is home to “Little India” and a prominent Portuguese immigrant community, Artesia has yet to take an official stance in support or against SB 54.³²

Baldwin Park

In 2017, more than 33,000 immigrants resided in the City of Baldwin Park—making up approximately 43 percent of the City's total population. Though a significant proportion of the population, this number has been declining since 2000 when immigrants made up about 46 percent of the population. In 2017, the Baldwin Park's City Council unanimously voted to adopt a resolution declaring the city a sanctuary for residents regardless of immigration status. Specifically, this resolution bars public employees including the police from disclosing a residents' immigration status while also prohibiting use of city resources to detain residents only on the basis of a

suspected violation of federal immigration law.³³

Burbank

The City of Burbank was home to almost 35,000 immigrants in 2017—nearly 33 percent of the City's total population. Though the City has yet to pass an official ordinance or resolution in response to SB 54, the local school district has passed its own resolution stating that schools are safe zones. More specifically, this resolution bars district officials and employees from inquiring about a student's immigration status. However, any request by federal immigration officials to access a school site or students' information can be approved by the superintendent after review.³⁴

Carson

The City of Carson has been experiencing a subtle growth of immigrants in absolute and relative numbers. In 2017, Carson was home to over 32,000 immigrants which made up over 35 percent of the City's total population. Beyond the political battles on voting rights for the Latino community, there has been no official resolution or ordinance that directly align with or contradict the tenets of SB 54.³⁵

Cerritos

Of the more than 50,000 residents in the City of Cerritos, almost 23,000 (45 percent of total population) were immigrants as of 2017. The proportion of immigrants in Cerritos has been relatively static and only experienced an approximate 1 percentage point decrease since 2010. Although the City of Cerritos has yet to take official action in support or opposition of SB 54, there are local education policies that signal a safe environment for immigrants within academic institutions. The Cerritos College's school policy states that the college will act in alignment with SB 54, prohibiting cooperation with ICE. Similarly, the local school district signed a resolution in 2017 affirming that schools are safe places despite the presence of immigration officials on campus. The resolution asserts that by state law, educational institutions cannot release student-related information, including demands for social security numbers, to federal immigration officers. Additionally, the District's resolution allows students to have access to free and reduced lunch and breakfast regardless of immigration status.³⁶

Data and Methods

SB 54 Analysis

continued

Cudahy

Approximately 11,000 immigrants reside in the City of Cudahy, composing 44 percent of Cudahy's more than 24,000 person population in 2017. Between 2010 and 2017, Cudahy has experienced an approximate 5 percentage point decrease in total immigrants residing within the city. In 2015, prior to the implementation of SB 54, the City of Cudahy enacted policies similar with SB 54 which declared itself a sanctuary city. In response to the declaration, there have been significant anti-immigrant protests evidenced by the need to hold city council meetings on the topic at a local park, rather than at City Hall, to accommodate the sheer number of protestors.³⁷

Downey

The City of Downey has experienced an increase in the number and proportion of immigrants until around 2010 where immigrants made up about 36 percent of the total population. Since then, the City has seen a slight decline. In 2017, the immigrant population was less than 34 percent of the City's total population with just over 38,000 people. Aside from disputes between anti-immigrant and pro-immigrant opinion pieces in the local newspaper, there is minimal dispute recorded. There is no evidence of action, including official resolutions, taken by the city that either align with or contradict SB 54.³⁸

El Monte

The City of El Monte is situated in the San Gabriel Valley in L.A. County, and is home to about 2 percent of the County's immigrant population. Though small on the county scale, this makes up just over 50 percent of the city's almost 116,000 person population in 2017—giving immigrants a slight majority. Like some cities, El Monte adopted a resolution in 2017 “declaring its commitment to the values of dignity, inclusivity and respect for all individuals, regardless of ethnic or national origin, gender, race, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, or immigration status” without the actual sanctuary city title. Mayor Andre Quintero's proposal of this resolution was deliberate in omitting the “sanctuary city” term, arguing that the term has been used to “demonize” immigrant rights. More specifically, the resolution bans the use of city funds in aiding federal immigration agencies in any capacity if objective is to retain

community members who are allegedly in violation of immigration law. Additionally, the resolution direct city agencies to partner with pro-immigrant organizations and agencies such as the City of Los Angeles' Office of Immigrant Affairs to work towards more pro-immigrant policies and programs. Despite omitting sanctuary title, these rules under the resolution align with the tenants of SB 54.³⁹

Glendale

In 2017, 54 percent of the city's population—approximately 107,000—were foreign-born which makes up about 3 percent of the county's immigrant population. The recent growth and high concentration of immigrants that the City of Glendale is experiencing is occurring across the county, particularly in the suburbs. Studies (e.g., Ebert & Ovink 2014; Garni & Miller 2008) have found localities seeing such rapid and recent growth in their immigrant concentration to differ from traditional gateways—cities that have a long-established immigrant community—in their context of reception because they tend to lack the immigrant network and social resources that can counter often-politicized and negative reactions from the once majority U.S.-born population.

Within a 20 year span, the City of Glendale went from U.S.-born majority to immigrant majority. Despite this high concentration of immigrants, however, there have been concerns on how immigrants are treated and racialized within this locality. As increased federal immigration threats have been made to the undocumented community, the Glendale Police Department released a statement in 2017 stating it is not within their authority to arrest or detain people based on their immigration status. Glendale City Council released a resolution affirming Glendale Police Department's sentiment of supporting their community. However, Glendale is still in a 2007 agreement with ICE which allows ICE to rent space in Glendale City Jail to hold detainees. Glendale Police have released statements indicating that ending the contract could provide barriers in other instances where federal support is needed. Yet, by staying in this contract with ICE, the city is contradicting the basic premise of SB 54 in not aiding federal enforcement of immigrants.⁴⁰

Data and Methods

SB 54 Analysis

continued

Hawthorne

The City of Hawthorne has been experiencing a slight growth in the number and proportion of immigrants in recent decades. In 2017, Hawthorne's immigrant population made up 36 percent of the city's more than 87,000 person population. Despite this growth, the City has yet to pass any resolution or ordinance in response to SB 54.⁴¹

Huntington Park

As of 2017, the immigrant population in the City of Huntington Park accounted for 47 percent of the total population of which 98 percent identified as Latino. This racial majority is also reflected in the general population as 97 percent of the City of Huntington Park identifies as Latino in 2017. With a predominantly Latino population, it provides an example of the potential influence the racial demographics of a city has on policies and programs in place.

The City of Huntington Park serves as an important example in examining immigrants' access to civic opportunities as parameters for a locality's warmth of welcome. In 2015, the City of Huntington Park appointed two people who are undocumented to its city commissions—something unfounded in other localities in L.A. County.

Persons who are undocumented are systematically barred from voting, but by allowing the undocumented community to have institutionalized representation and a voice in how the City of Huntington Park governs demonstrates their commitment to serving everyone in their jurisdiction. In regards to SB 54, however, the city has yet to make any official resolution or policy that align or contradict the goals of the bill. Despite the large presence of Latino households, this inaction can be in part due to the growing intergenerational tension as evident at the city's council meetings.⁴²

Irwindale

With its relatively small size, the City of Irwindale experienced one of the sharpest increases in the proportions of immigrants to their total population in recent years. In 1980, the total population was a little over 1,000 with 24 percent immigrants. By the year

2000, the peak of the city's population growth, the total population grew to about 1,500 with an immigrant population of 27 percent. Though the U.S.-born population continued to grow from 2000 to 2010, the foreign-born population shrank to its 1990 numbers. This pattern, however, became inverted after 2010 when the U.S.-born population began to shrink as the foreign-born population rate grew again. In 2017, 21 percent of the city's total population were immigrants—a 5 percentage-point increase from 2010. Irwindale, known for its sand and mining industry, is a small city with a population only larger than three other cities (Bradbury, Vernon, and Industry City) and three unincorporated areas (Hasley Canyon, Green Valley, and Lake Hughes) in L.A. County. Despite its small size, however, the City plays an important role in how it can impact the lives of its immigrant residents.

In particular, the City of Irwindale's police department has been under intense scrutiny by advocacy groups like the American Civil Liberties Union for their continued use of the Lexipol Policing Protocol. With this protocol, the Police Department manual classifies entering the U.S. without paperwork as a federal and deportable crime, also allowing local officials to assist federal immigrant enforcement agencies. The protocol allows police officers to detain anyone suspected of being undocumented, but also instructing officers to rely on how well a person speaks English as reasonable suspicion. This has brought up concern from immigrant rights groups and community members in particular because how this could lead to increased racial profiling of the majority-Latino population where 93 percent of the city's total population and approximately 99 percent of the city's immigrant population are Latino, respectively. It is also estimated that 72 percent of households in Irwindale speaks Spanish at home and 13 percent of these households are linguistically isolated where they only speak Spanish at home. Such policing protocols are not only dangerous for immigrants and contradicting the tenets of SB 54, it could also lead to racially-motivated policing tactics.⁴³

Lancaster

The City of Lancaster has experienced decreases in the proportion of immigrants to its total population as the U.S.-born population growth substantially outpaced the

Data and Methods

SB 54 Analysis

continued

growth of the foreign-born population. In 1980, Lancaster had a total population of just under 50,000 with only 5 percent of the population being immigrants. By 2000, that percentage grew to 13 percent of the population. However, by 2017, the total population grew to more than 150,000—12 percent of who were immigrants. Lancaster’s relatively low and recently decreasing proportion of immigrants presents a different typology of cities experiencing stagnant or negative immigrant growth.

In 2009, the City of Lancaster required e-verification via the federal system for new employers. Failure to cooperate placed local businesses at risk of losing their licenses. The e-verify system has been used throughout the country as a mechanism barring undocumented community members from employment. This, however, contradicts California’s Assembly Bill 622 which was passed in 2011 and prohibits localities from requiring businesses to use e-verify. Throughout the last ten years, the rhetoric that city officials have made include coded language targeting undocumented individuals, such as referring to e-verify as assisting “law-abiding citizens” on the City’s website, or discussing the desire to attract Chinese immigrants because “crime rates go down, [and] education levels go up (Sheehan 2017).” This kind of anti-immigrant rhetoric is particularly problematic and pits immigrant groups against each other.

Long Beach City

As of 2017, the City of Long Beach is estimated to be home to 4 percent of the county’s immigrant population—more than 120,000 and about 26 percent of the city’s population. Among the immigrant population, approximately 30,000 people are undocumented. This significant number, though less than the City of Los Angeles, has prompted many public and community actors to collaborate locally to ensure the safety of their foreign-born residents.

In 2018, the City of Long Beach worked with the Sanctuary Long Beach Coalition, Centro CHA, California State University Long Beach, Long Beach City College, and Long Beach Unified School District to design and implement policies that protect immigrant children and families beyond the specifications of SB 54. The

meetings between the different organizations became a space for community members and activists to meet with government stakeholders to discuss their concerns and - to explain what they need to ensure the safety of their immigrant community members. The policies outlined became known as the Long Beach Values Act and sought to extend the protections of Senate Bill 54 by prohibiting the disclosure of sensitive information that can increase the risk of deportation for immigrants. By adopting the Long Beach Values Act, Long Beach City Council demonstrated their commitment to their residents by creating avenues for them to be heard and by implementing changes based on community response so that all those who choose to make the City of Long Beach home remain safe. The City of Long Beach was able to work towards more welcoming policies with the involvement of different organizations and community members—including affected immigrants themselves—in spaces where policy development was happening. This scenario shows the importance of transparent and inclusive local-level policymaking in pushing for more welcoming and immigrant-friendly policies. Such open policy arenas are not always available, however, and may often require grassroots advocacy and community organizing to ensure immigrant voices are represented in the policy process.⁴⁵

City of Los Angeles

In 2017, 43 percent (i.e., approximately 1.5 million) of the county’s foreign-born population resided in the City of Los Angeles—making up 38 percent of the city’s total population of 4 million. With more than 1.5 million immigrants, 29 percent of who are undocumented, the City of Los Angeles has implemented multiple policies and programs designed to protect and support the integral foreign-born population. As a response to the increased threats of deportation from the current administration, the City of Los Angeles serves as an example of the ways in which local government agencies and advocacy groups have collaborated to develop and implement strategies that strengthen protection for immigrants beyond the framework of SB 54. For example, due to low barriers to entry, street vending has become a popular avenue for marginalized groups to earn income—many of whom are low-income and immigrants—and has become an integral part of the city and its culture

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with more than 50,000 vendors in business. In 2017, the City of Los Angeles passed a resolution decriminalizing street vending with the intent to protect immigrants participating in the informal food economy and who are at a higher risk of deportation if charged with a criminal misdemeanor. The resolution passed with the work of the LA Street Vendor Campaign which had the support of over 400 brick and mortar businesses and 60 organizations including East LA Community Corporation, Leadership for Urban Renewal, Coalition for Human Immigration and Rights, Central American Resource Center, Community Coalition, and PolicyLink. In 2018, with the passing of Senate Bill 946 which legalized street vending, Los Angeles City Council passed a resolution creating a permit system that allows street vendors a legal avenue to the informal economy without the fear of arrest.

In addition to finding ways to increase the economic mobility of the most vulnerable immigrant populations in the City of Los Angeles, the City has also adopted policies that provide added protection against discriminatory deportation practices. Due to increased federal enforcement threatening undocumented immigrant communities, Mayor Eric Garcetti released Executive Order 20 in 2017 which prohibits the detention of any person without a warrant or judicial determination while also denying city resources and assistance in certain federal immigration enforcement activities.

The City of Los Angeles further demonstrates their commitment to protecting the immigrants. The re-establishment of the city's Office of Immigrant Affairs with brought programs aimed at increasing citizenship, providing legal assistance, and informing immigrants of their rights. The significant presence of immigrants, including those who are undocumented, continues to shape immigrant policies and programs with many of the City's recent and salient policies directly impacting the immigrant communities who shape the landscape and culture of Los Angeles. In particular, city-level progressive policies are working to keep these integral communities and crucial members of the city safe from federal-level discriminatory policies designed to unjustly target vulnerable immigrant groups. The City of Los Angeles serves as an example of how local-level policies can help

to mitigate the negative impacts of federal policies on the warmth of welcome while strengthening pro-immigrant state-level policies. However, although accounting for significant portions of the county, the City of Los Angeles is 1 of 88 cities in the county and does not include the approximately 120 unincorporated areas. Immigrants, especially those who are undocumented, living in these unincorporated areas will continue to be at-risk until county-level policies reflect more welcoming changes such as added protection from federal enforcement policies.⁴⁶

Maywood

In 2017, the City of Maywood was home to nearly 13,000 immigrants—more than 45 percent of the city's total population of approximately 28,000. Though a significant proportion of the City's residents, the immigrant population has experienced a 3 percent decrease since 2010. The city has yet to take any official action in support or opposition of SB 54.⁴⁷

Monterey Park

The City of Monterey Park has been famously studied by many sociologist and ethnographers as one of the first "ethnoburbs", defined a suburban ethnic clusters of people and businesses, in the country. Post World War II and pre-1970, the city was predominantly white and started seeing large influxes of Chinese immigrants starting in the 1980s which some have believed led to a large exodus of the white residents. In 1980, the total population of the city was just over 50,000 with 31 percent who were immigrants. By 1990, immigrants made up the majority of the population with over 30,000 (52 percent) of the city's approximate 60,000 total population. The foreign-born population continued to slowly grow as the U.S.-born population growth became stagnant. In 2017, 55 percent of the total population were immigrants—86 percent of who identified as AAPI. This contrasts with the 67 percent of the city's total population that identifies as AAPI.

In 2013, the City of Monterey Park saw a resurgence of controversy over whether or not the city should require businesses to have "Modern Latin letter" on storefront signs (Shyong 2013). This campaign began in the 1980's when there was a drastic growth in the foreign-born

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population. During this period, ordinances requiring English words on storefront signs were passed despite city official's failed attempt to declare English as the City's official language. Since then, the ordinance was removed by City officials during routine code updates suspecting its unconstitutionality. A revised version of the ordinance with different requirements was reintroduced in 2013 which required "Modern Latin letters." This was still met with public pushback. With pressure from the public and organizations including Asian Americans Advancing Justice, the Monterey Park City Council decided to take no action thus tabling the proposal. Despite this stalemate, the City Council unanimously passed a resolution in 2017 upholding SB 54's rule that bars local law enforcement from aiding federal immigration enforcement agents unless legally obligated. Though not officially labeling the city as a "sanctuary city," the minority group vocally pushed back against the resolution in fear of losing federal funding.⁴⁸

Norwalk

The City of Norwalk, located near the southeastern border of L.A. County, is only a couple miles away from Orange County—a county that has legally challenged SB 54. In 2017, Norwalk was home to over 37,000 immigrants which made up about 35 percent of the city's total population. Despite having a publically pro-immigrant representative, Representative Linda Sanchez, the city has yet to take any action in response to SB 54.⁴⁹

Palmdale

Located in northern L.A. County, just south of Lancaster, the City of Palmdale was home to nearly 40,000 immigrants—over 25 percent of the city's total population—in 2017. Palmdale experienced a growth in the number and proportion of immigrants for decades. However, this growth is slowing down. Though there has been no official ordinance or resolution passed in response to SB 54, Palmdale School District passed a resolution claiming the school district as a sanctuary entity in 2017. In this resolution, there is no explicit language related to aiding federal immigration enforcement agencies, but rather broader language that indicate the District's responsibility to "provide a public education, regardless of a child's or family's immigration status." Part of this resolution also calls on the

Superintendent to increase and enhance partnerships with community-based organizations and legal services organizations who provide resources for families facing deportation.⁵⁰

Pasadena

Pasadena is home to just over 1 percent of L.A. County's immigrant population, an estimated 43,000 in 2017—approximately 30 percent of the city's total population. In 2017, the city council unanimously passed a resolution declaring that "The City of Pasadena will not enforce federal immigration laws and the City Manager will ensure that all city policies are consistent with this declaration" while also ensuring that the City's police department will not investigate and prosecution violations of federal immigration laws. This also means that City funds, employees, and resources will not be used to assist federal immigration law enforcement or to disseminate information regarding residents' immigration status with the exception of assistance required by court decisions, or federal or state statute regulation. Like many other cities passing ordinances aligning with SB 54, the resolution did not adopt the term "Sanctuary City."⁵¹

Pomona

The City of Pomona is situated near the eastern border of L.A. County, adjacent to San Bernardino County. With over 2 percent of L.A. County's immigrant population, the city is home to just over 52,000 foreign-born individuals—approximately 34 percent of the city's total population. In 2017, Pomona's City Council approved a local ordinance in support of SB 54, ensuring that the legislation is implemented within the city. Though the local ordinance is in alignment with SB 54, many immigrant rights advocates and nonprofit organizations have called on the city to adopt ordinances that would complement the state legislation and further protection for the immigrant community. This includes following the steps of the City of Los Angeles' by providing protection to street vendors rather than increasing policing.⁵²

Rosemead

As of 2017, Rosemead's population was at approximately 55,000 with roughly 56 percent of the city's population being immigrants. Between 1980 and 2000, the City

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of Rosemead experienced an exponential increase in the population of immigrants. Recently, the number of immigrants has increased at a slower rate. However, while the City of Rosemead is made up of majority of immigrants, there has been no formal resolution or action by the City Council to support or challenge SB 54.⁵³

San Gabriel

The City of San Gabriel is another locality in L.A. County that experienced a rapid and recent growth in the foreign-born population which resulted in an immigrant-majority city right before the turn of the century. Since 2000, the sharp growth of immigrants has slowed where in 2017 approximately 55 percent of the city's total population were immigrants. Unlike the City of Glendale, however, the City of San Gabriel's immigrant-related policies are seen as more welcoming and deliberate. In 2018, in alignment with SB 54, the City of San Gabriel Council passed a resolution stating their commitment in creating a safe and welcoming environment for all current and future immigrants. Specifically, the resolution highlighted the importance of immigrants not only for the economy, but also for the culture of the city. The resolution informs the undocumented community within the City of San Gabriel that they are protected and can come forward with information about any crimes without fear of deportation while also pushing for public officials and government workers to become more educated on how to support immigrant communities, including being made aware of resources available. The resolution also stated that the San Gabriel Police Department will not arrest, detain, or assist in the voluntary gathering of information for ICE.⁵⁴

Santa Clarita

Situated in the northern part of L.A. County, Santa Clarita is home to nearly 45,000 immigrants in 2017. This is over 20 percent of the city's total population, but just over 1 percent of the county's immigrant population. The City of Santa Clarita has been a fierce battleground between pro and anti-immigrant activists—with tensions particularly escalating during the Trump administration. Such tensions were evident in 2018 when Santa Clarita's City Council unanimously voted to oppose SB 54—making it the first city in L.A. County to do so. This resolution

additionally had the city attorney file a brief supporting the Trump administration's lawsuit against California in regards to SB 54.⁵⁵

South Gate

In 2017, South Gate was home to over 41,000 immigrant which made up over 43 percent of the city's total population. The presence of immigrants has declined since 2000 when immigrants made up over 49 percent of the city's residents. Though the South Gate Police Department has expressed online through the City's website that it has never and will not start to enforce or assist with immigration law enforcement, the City has yet to pass any official ordinance or resolution that are in alignment with or contradicts SB 54.⁵⁶

Temple City

In 1980, Temple City had an immigrant population of about 3,000—accounting for 12 percent of the city's population. Over time, the number of immigrants has been steadily increasing. In 2017, Temple City had a total population of just over 36,000. The number of residents who are immigrants was approximately 18,000, representing 48 percent of the city's total population. No action by the City has been taken that either align or contradict with SB 54.⁵⁷

Torrance

The City of Torrance is experiencing a slow decline in the number of immigrants in absolute and relative terms. In 2010, it is estimated that over 44,000 of the city's more than 145,000 person population were immigrants—over 30 percent. In 2017, however, less than 44,000 of the city's population were immigrants—less than 30 percent. Aside from the de facto argument of sanctuary policies (e.g., not allowing local jails to hold immigrants for ICE) posted on the City's website, the City of Torrance have yet to pass any official resolution that align with or contradict SB 54.⁵⁸

Walnut

In 1980, the City of Walnut's immigrant population comprised of 14 percent of the city's total population. By 2017, that percentage grew to 50 percent of the city's total population. The City of Walnut's Mayor, Eric Ching, held an event along with officials from other cities to

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oppose SB 54. The reasoning for the Mayor’s opposition was due to a local news story of a Lebanese man accused of attacking a jogger. City officials feared that SB 54 would give immigrants who commit crimes protection from deportation. While the City’s Mayor publicly opposed SB 54, no action by City Council was found that aligned or contradicted SB 54.⁵⁹

West Covina

In 2017, West Covina’s immigrant population neared 40,000—making up over 35 percent of the city’s total population. During the legislation process of SB 54, many of the city and community leaders including Mayor Pro Tem Mike Spence publically expressed opposition to the bill with the primary concern that the bill would protect “violent undocumented criminals.” Fast forward to 2018, there is a different sentiment from City Council members who expressed the City’s commitment to immigrants as integral members of the community by choosing to abide the rules of SB 54. However, no official ordinance or resolution were passed in alignment with or contradicting SB 54 at this time as tensions from both sides continue to permeate City Council meetings.⁶⁰

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Adult ESL

Page 56 of the report presents data on adult enrollment in ESL classes across L.A. County from 2014 to 2018. The data presented were sourced from CASAS Data Portal, a database with information on California's WIOA Title II Programs, including English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Basic Education (ABE), and Adult Secondary Education (ASE). The data presents California state goals, performance, performance of local agencies, counties, geographical regions, provider types, and enrollment size. Data for ESL lists the number of individuals enrolled in different levels of ESL (including Beg. Lit, Beg. Low/High, Int. Low, Int. High, Low Adv, and High Adv) and the completion rates. For the purposes of this report we looked at the California WIOA Title II Learners for L.A. County for the 2014 to 2018 school years. In the report, we aggregated the number of adults enrolled in different ESL levels from the 2014-2018 school years to present the total number of adults enrolled in ESL classes.

K-12 ESL Enrollment

Page 57 of the report presents data on K-12 students enrolled as English Learners (EL) from 2014 to 2019. The data presented were sourced from the California Department of Education's (CDE) Data Reporting Office. The English Learners Report includes the enrollment by English language acquisition status and grade for the state and counties from the 2014-2019 school years. For the purposes of this report, we looked at the number

of K-12 English Learners for 2014-2019. According to the CDE's glossary of terms, an EL is defined as: a student in kindergarten through grade 12 for whom there is a report of a language other than English on the Home Language Survey (HLS) and who, upon initial assessment in California using an appropriate state assessment (currently the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)), is determined to lack the clearly defined English language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and/or writing necessary to succeed in the school's regular instructional programs. In this report, we aggregated the number of ELs for each school year (2014-2019) by grade categories. The categories include Kindergarten, 1-5th grade, 6-8th grade, and 9-12th grade.

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Adult ESL and K-12 ESL Data

Immigrant-Serving Organizations

Page 58 of the report presents an analysis of the number of immigrant-serving organizations per 100,000 non-citizen immigrant residents. To create this measure, we used data on all non-profits in California from Guidestar for fiscal year 2016 (the Research Fundamentals PLUS Data Set of 501(c)(3) Public Charities dataset). We initially selected all organizations with the terms "IMMIG" or "REFUGEE" in their name or mission statement, or that had the National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities (NTEE) code P84 for ethnic/immigrant centers.

Because P84 code also includes organizations that are not accurately characterized as immigrant-serving organizations (e.g. organization focused on the Native American population), we examined the list of organizations and dropped those for which immigrant services did not seem to be a particular focus.

To be sure we were not missing organizations that use the term "migrant" instead of "immigrant" in the data collected by GuideStar, we did another key word search, among organizations not already included in our list, for those with the term "MIGR" their name or mission statements. Many of those found were not immigrant serving (for example, there were several organizations focused on migratory birds) but a handful were and we added them to the list.

Finally, to exclude organizations focused on international work (e.g. religion-based missions organizations), we dropped all organizations reporting foreign activities. In the end, we identified 179 "immigrant-serving" organizations across the state based on this approach. Finally, We then summed up the number of organizations by county, and matched in data from the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year summary file on the number of non-citizen immigrant to calculate the number of immigrant-serving organizations per 100,000 non-citizen immigrants.

One major shortcoming of this analysis is that the Guidestar data only includes one record (with one location/address) for each organization even if it has multiple offices in different locations. This would tend to understate the number of organizations in smaller, less urbanized counties that may have offices of larger organizations for which the headquarters is located in a larger, more urbanized county.

While we considered using revenues of organizations to adjust our analysis for organizational capacity and reach, we avoided that because it would likely further exacerbate the problems caused by large organizations being assigned to only one county even if they have multiple offices in different counties.

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Immigrant-Serving Organizations Data

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Endnotes

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State of Immigrants in LA County

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