

State of Immigrants in L.A. County 2024

5th Annual Immigration Summit | July 11th, 2024

Introduction

5th Annual Immigration Summit Presentation of Findings

Introduction

The forces at play at the state, national, and global levels create a challenging context that demands our attention as we carry on our fight for immigrant inclusion and racial equity. Situated in this context, L.A. County pushes forward and SOILA 2024 depicts where we have set ourselves apart and where we have work to do.

As home to 3.5 million immigrants, it will always be in the best interest of this region to address the issues that immigrants face **and** proactively honor their diverse experiences by ensuring they are represented in bold policies and programs.



Introduction



Immigrant Angelenos live all over our county, comprise a large share of our workforce, come from all racial and ethnic backgrounds, and have deep ties to our communities. In short, immigrant inclusion is everyone's business.

As we look to the future, L.A. has much work left on the table and much to be proud of—due in large part to local organizations that have won pivotal programs and policies for immigrant Angelenos. To push ourselves further as a leader on immigrant inclusion, we present the following data that investigates how immigrants are faring in our region.

Roadmap



SOILA 2024 Methods



Demographics



Civic Engagement



Economic Mobility



Warmth of Welcome



Looking Forward

SOILA 2024

Methods

Immigration Summit Presentation of Findings

Data Sources

American Community Survey (ACS)

Most data discussed are USC ERI's analysis of data from the 2012-2016 and 2017-2021 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) microdata datasets from IPUMS USA.

USC ERI California Immigrant Data Portal (CIDP)

CIDP presents data and case studies to better understand and promote the well-being of immigrants, their families, and their communities — visit immigrantdataca.org

Data and Analysis from Partners

- The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law
- Comunidades Indigenas en Liderazgo's (CIELO)
- Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC)
- L.A. County Commission on Human Relations (HRC)

ERI Survey of Immigrant Communities

Goal

Gather perceptions of immigrant communities about their lived experiences as they relate to each of the immigrant inclusion pillars – and provide us with more context as to how immigrant Angelenos are faring in our region.

Eligibility

- 18 years of age or older
- Resident of Los Angeles County
- Immigrants or the descendant of at least one immigrant parent

Survey Respondent Pool

- 830 “accepted” responses
- Survey highlights are embedded throughout the report

Survey Respondent Demographics

Table 1. Survey Respondents by Nativity (n=830)		%
Immigrant		61%
U.S.-born citizen of an immigrant parent		39%
Total		100%

Table 2. Survey Respondents by Race/Ethnicity (n=827)		%
Asian American		16.8%
Black or African American		38.9%
Latino or Hispanic		14.3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		0.8%
Native American or Alaska Native		2.9%
White		20.7%
Multiracial		1.3%
Other		4.2%
Total		100.0%

Table 3. Respondents by Age Group (n=825)		%
18-24		15.2%
25-34		43.9%
35-44		27.0%
45-54		8.8%
55-64		4.1%
Over 65 years		0.5%
Total		99%

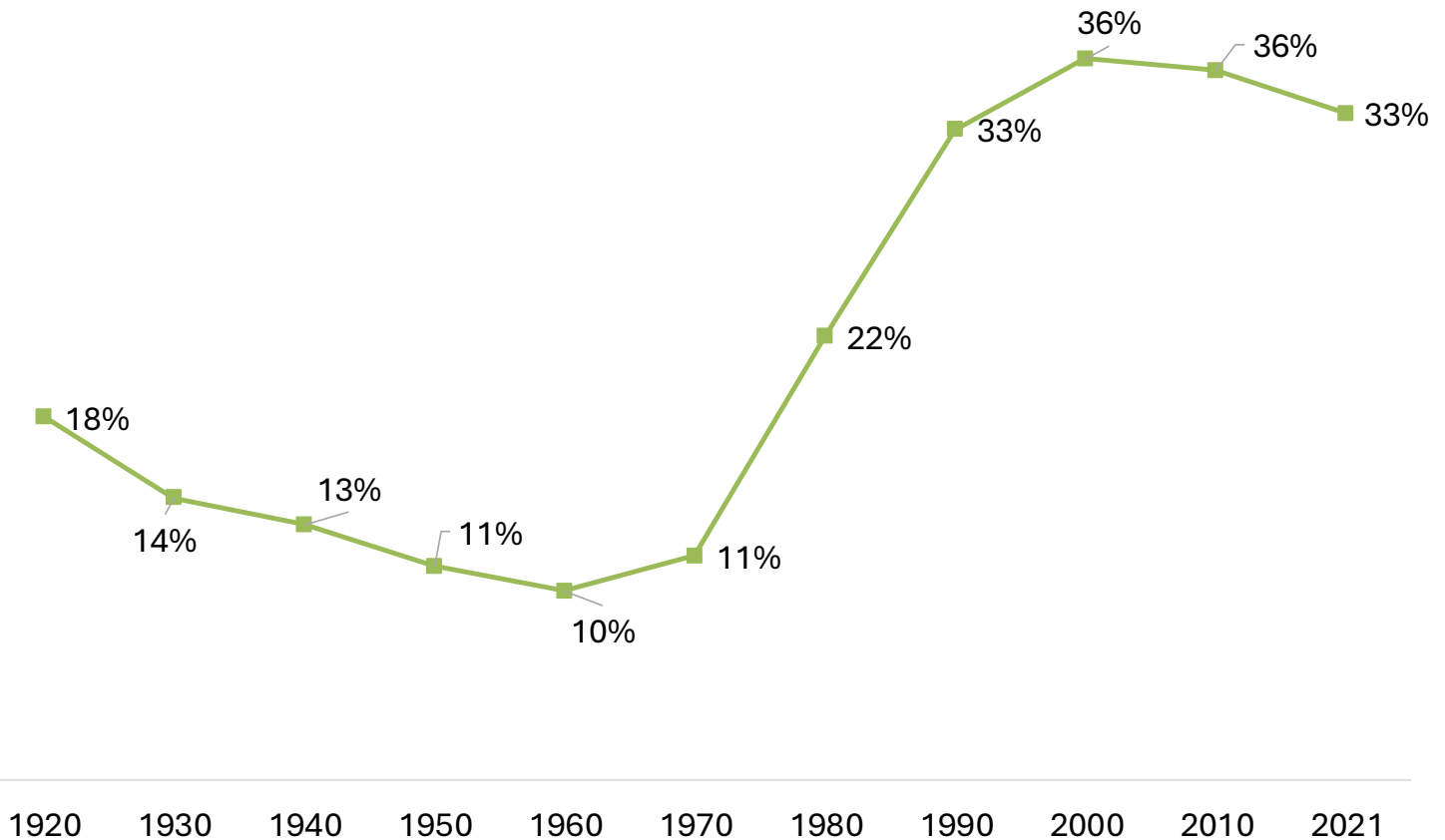
Table 4. Respondents by Gender (n=826)		%
Man		46.6%
Woman		51.6%
Transgender man		0.4%
Transgender woman		0.1%
Non-binary		0.5%
Other		0.1%
Prefer not to answer		0.2%
Total		99.5%

Immigrant Demographics

5th Annual Immigration Summit Presentation of Findings

Since 2000, the immigrant Angeleno population has stagnated and even dropped.

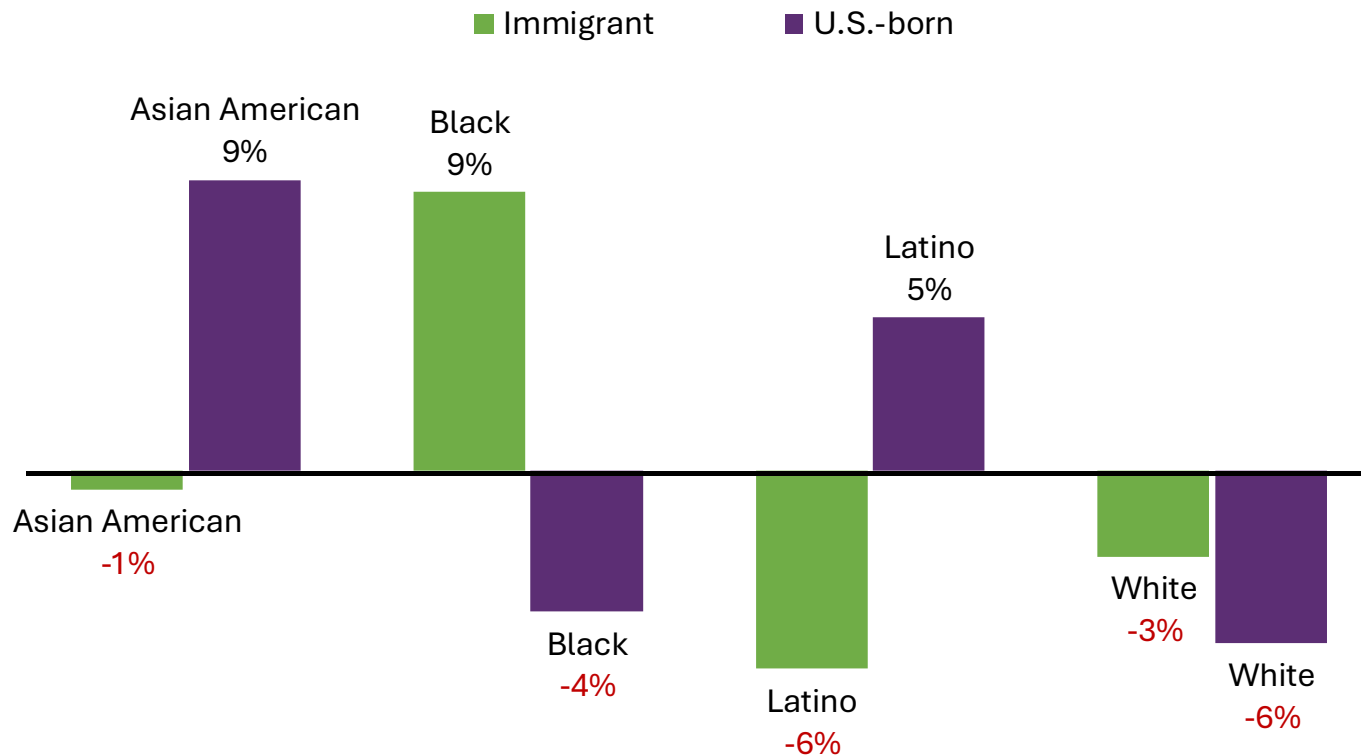
Share of Foreign Born Population, L.A County, 1920 - 2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of U.S. Census Bureau; IPUMS NHGIS; GeoLytics, Inc. data | California Immigrant Data Portal. For more, visit here: <https://immigrantdataca.org/indicators/foreign-born?geo=04000000000006037>

Over time, there has been significant growth in the Black immigrant population in the county.

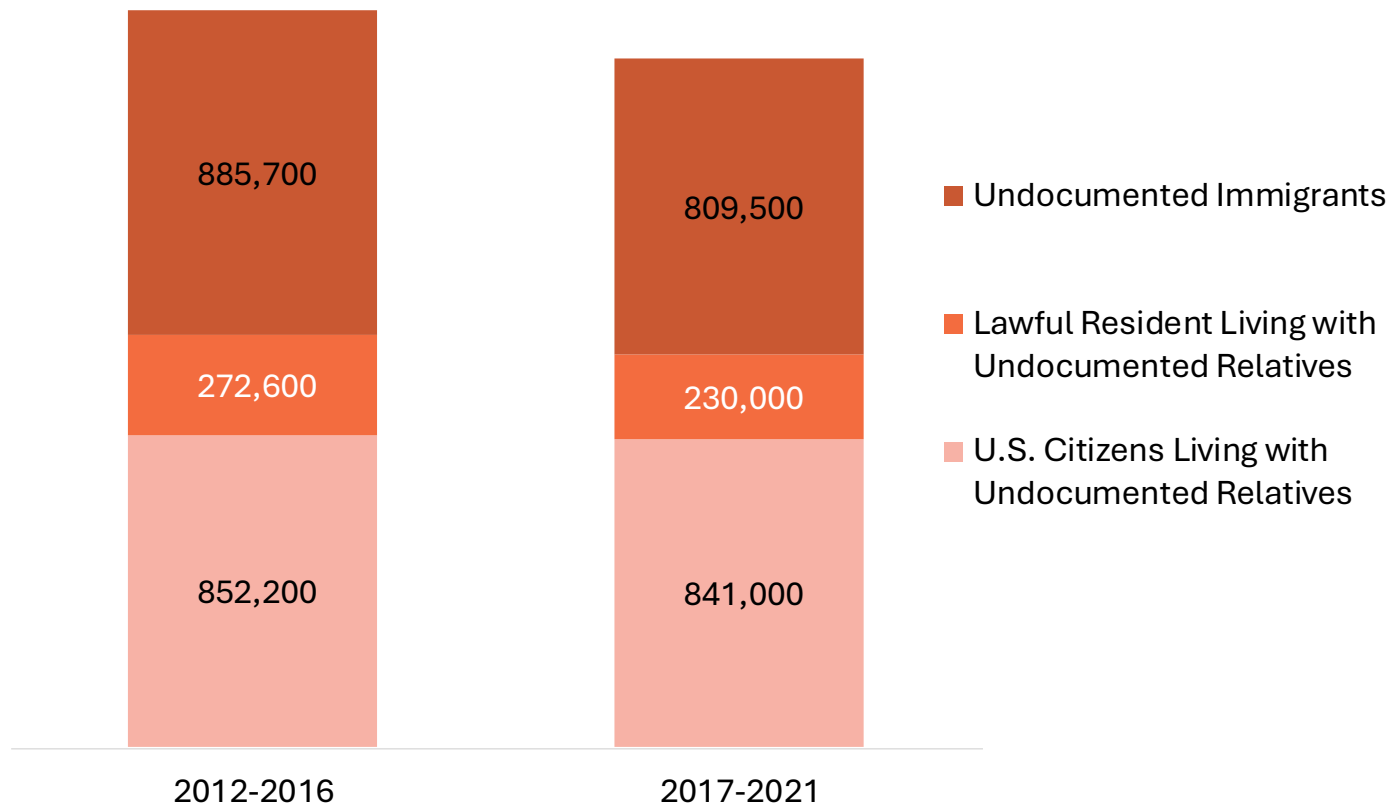
Population Change by Nativity and Race/Ethnicity,
L.A. County, 2012/2016 - 2017/2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA.
Note: 5-year pooled weights were used to estimate the change in population between the two datasets. Data represents 2012 through 2016 and 2017 through 2021 averages.

Many families in remain in mixed status homes showing the deep ties immigrants have to the region.

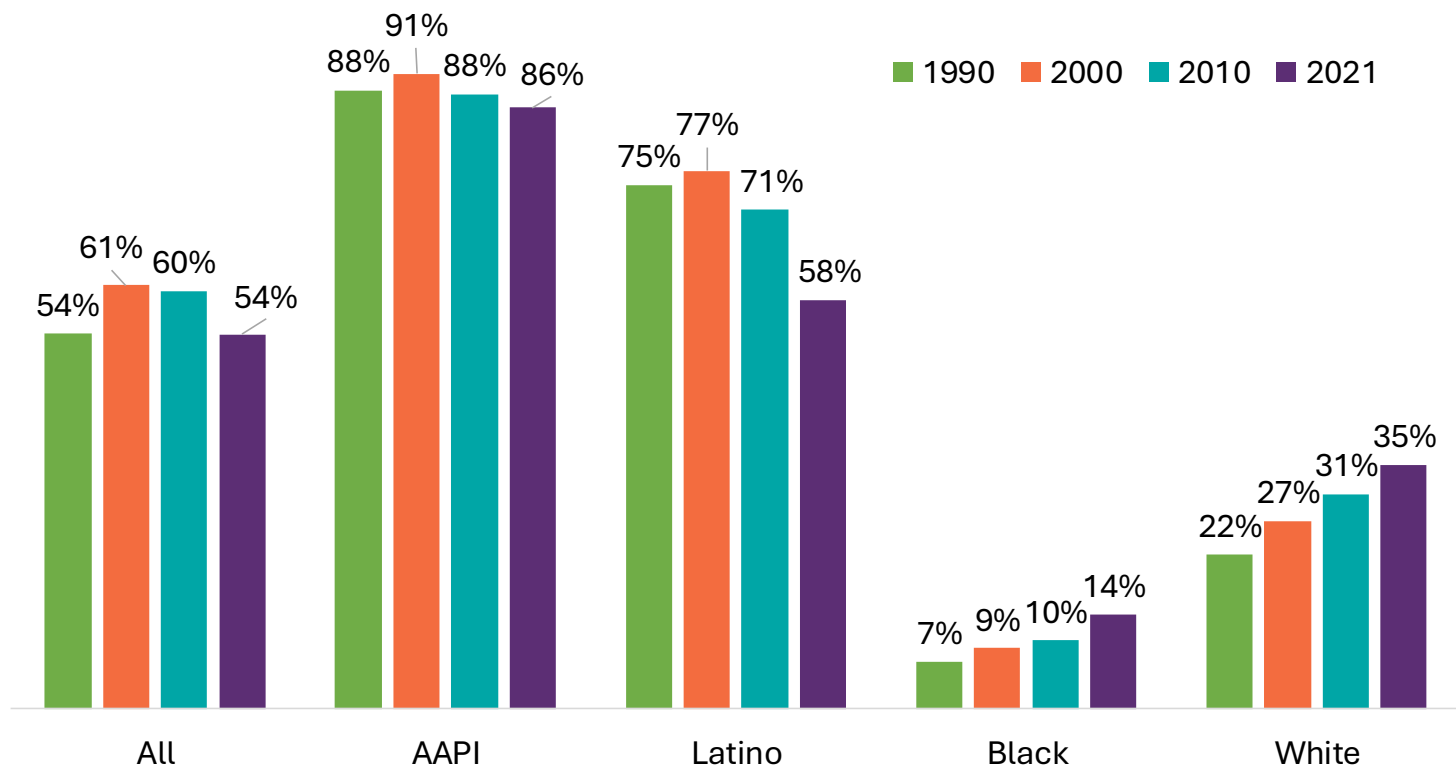
**Immigration Status and Family Ripple Effects,
L.A. County, 2012/2016 - 2017/2021**



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and documented population. Data represents a 2012 through 2016 and 2017 through 2021 averages.

Since 1990, over half of all children in L.A. County have at least one immigrant parent.

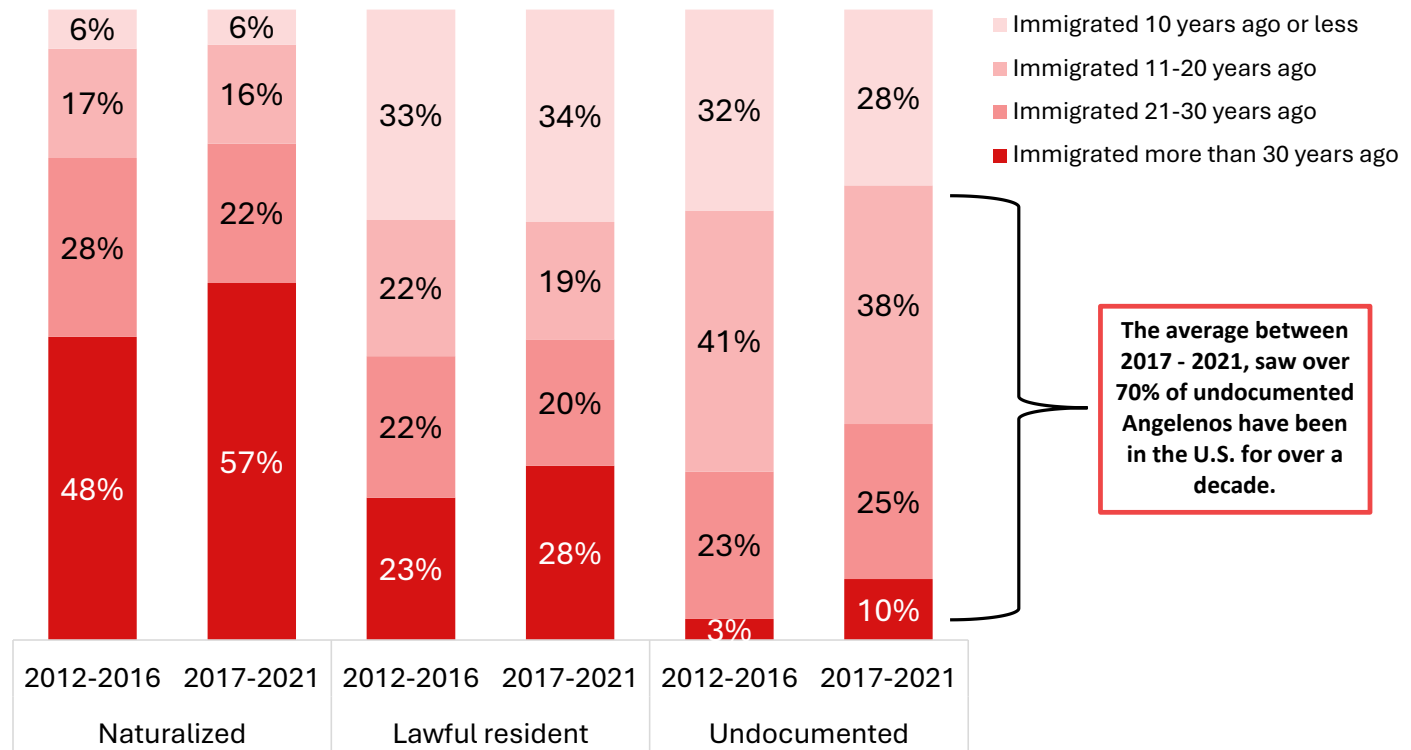
Share of Children with at least One Immigrant Parent Over Time, L.A. County, 1990 - 2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and 2014 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 2017 through 2021 average.

Undocumented immigrants that have lived here over a decade have increased from 68 to 72 percent.

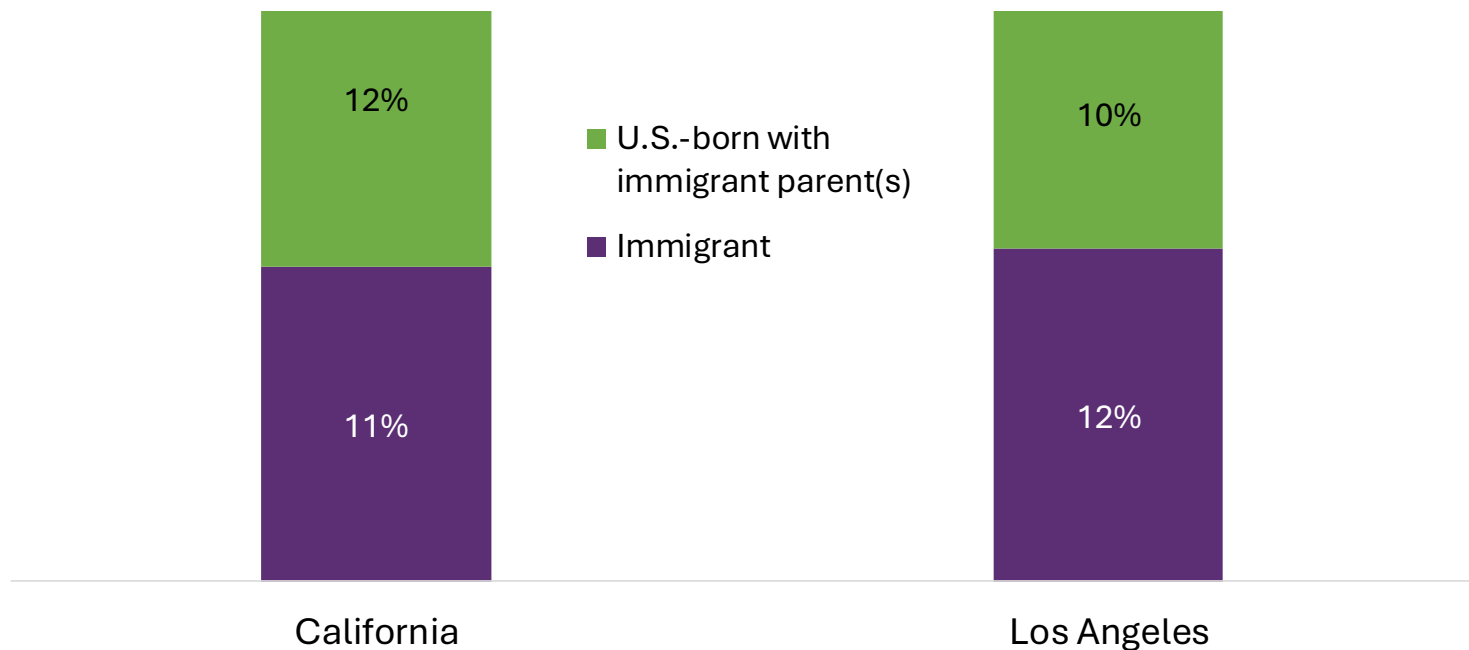
Recency of Arrival of Immigrant Population by Immigration Status, L.A. County, 2012/2016 - 2017/2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes foreign-born residents. See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and documented population. Data

1 in every 5 Black Angelenos is either an immigrant or the child of an immigrant.

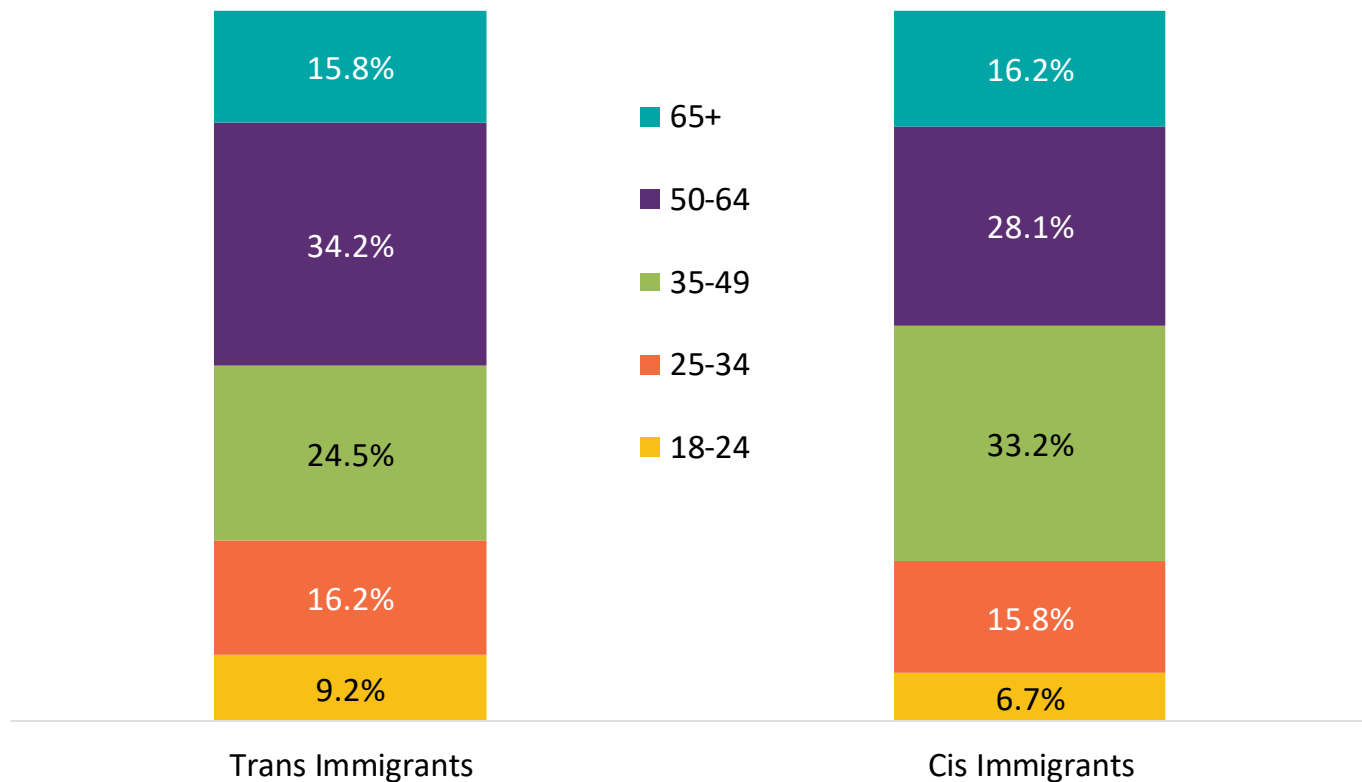
Share of Black Residents Who are Immigrant or Second-Generation U.S.-born Children of Immigrants, California and L.A. County, 2021-2023



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Note: Universe includes all households (no group quarters). Data represent a 2017 through 2021 average.

Trans immigrants in California tend to be older with 34 percent between 50-64 years old...

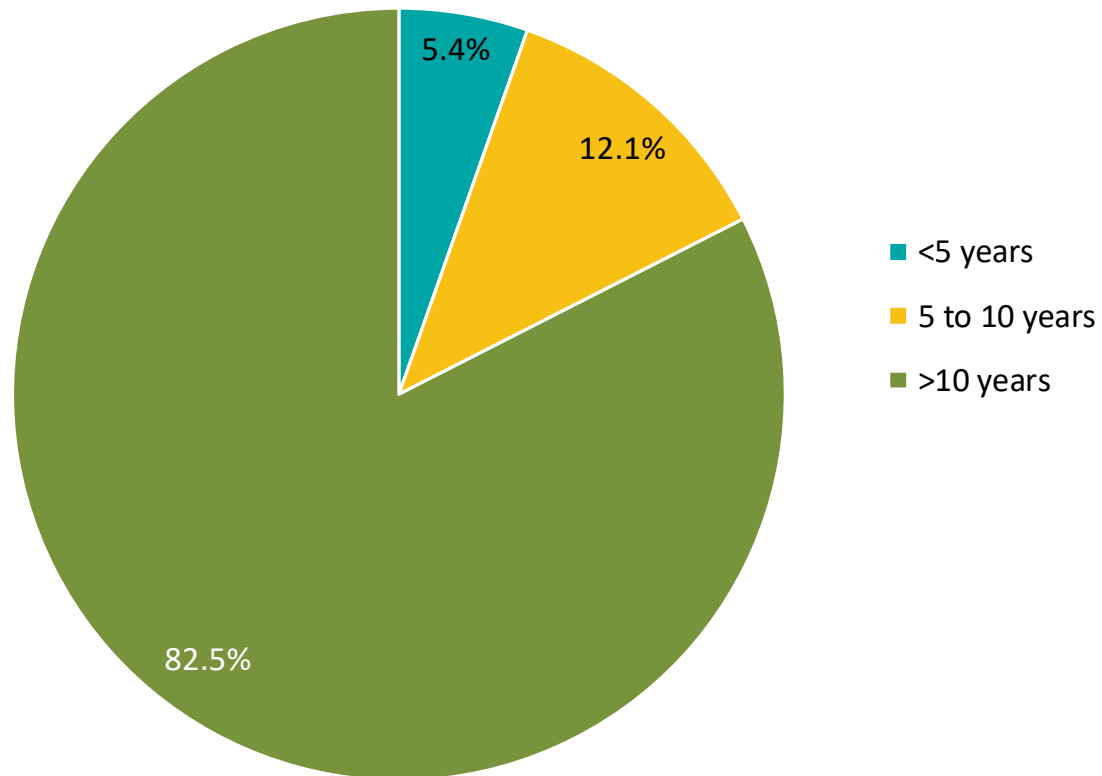
Age of Transgender and Cisgender Immigrant Adults by Nativity, California, 2015-2021



Source: UCLA Williams Institute analysis of pooled California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) data collected from 2015 to 2021. For more information, see *Transgender Immigrants in California* here: <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Trans-Immigrants-CA-Jan-2024.pdf>

...and a large majority have been in the U.S. for over a decade.

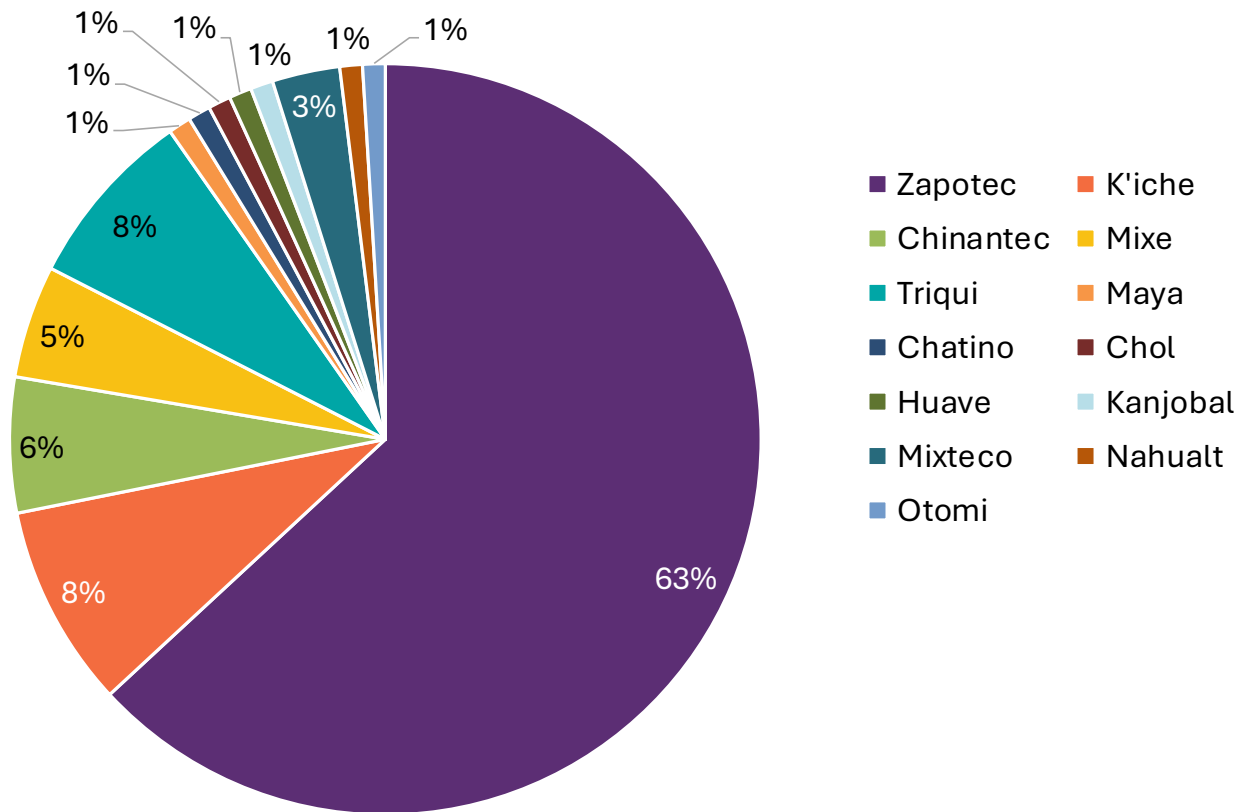
Time in the U.S. among Transgender Immigrant Adults, California, 2015-2021



Source: UCLA Williams Institute analysis of pooled California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) data collected from 2015 to 2021. For more information, see *Transgender Immigrants in California* here: <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Trans-Immigrants-CA-Jan-2024.pdf>

Indigenous migrants in L.A. County are vastly diverse and represent over a dozen nations at minimum.

Indigenous Nations Represented by Undocu-Indigenous Fund Recipients, 2021



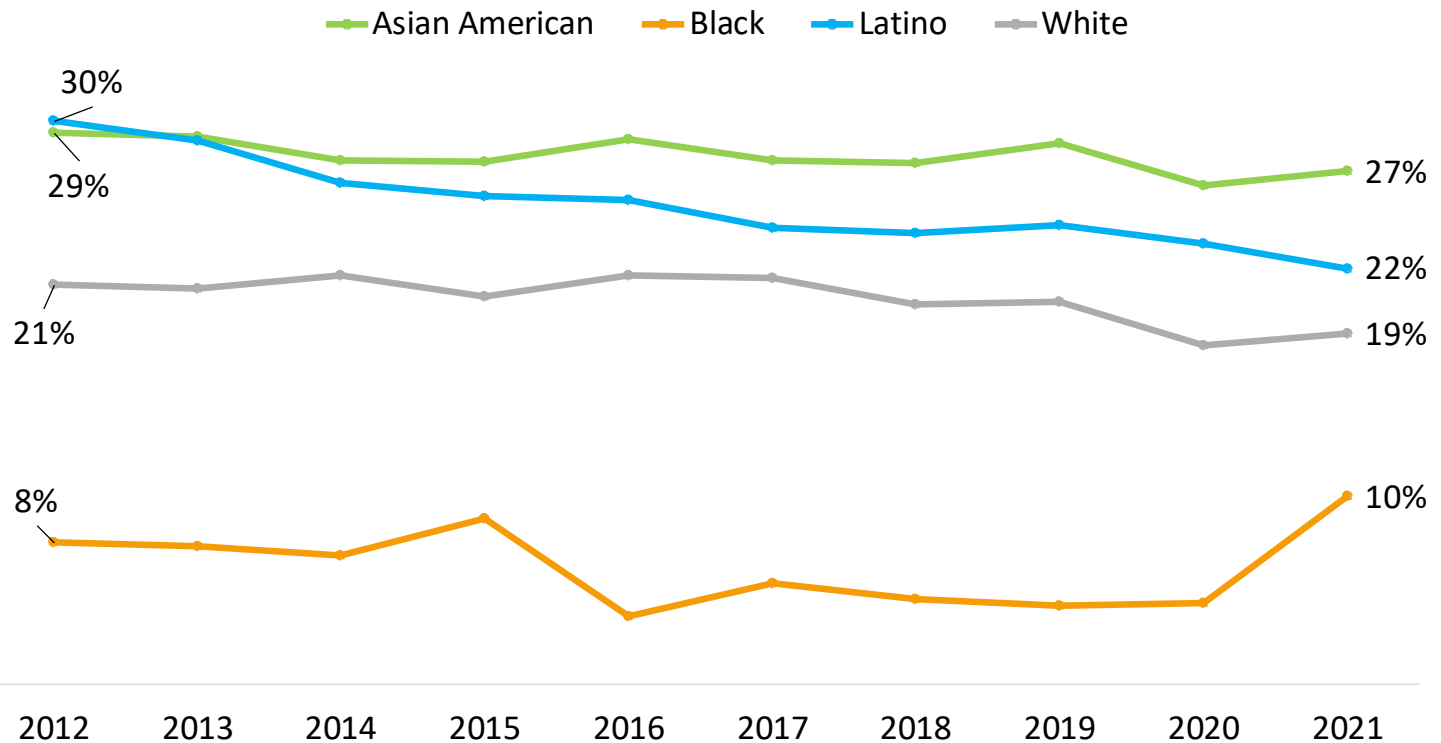
Source: Comunidades Indígenas en liderazgo (CIELO) 2021 report on *Undocu-Indigenous Fund*. For more information, read the full report here: <https://my.visme.co/view/epd0xody-undocufundreport>

Civic Engagement

5th Annual Immigration Summit Presentation of Findings

Linguistic isolation continues to be an issue for immigrants...

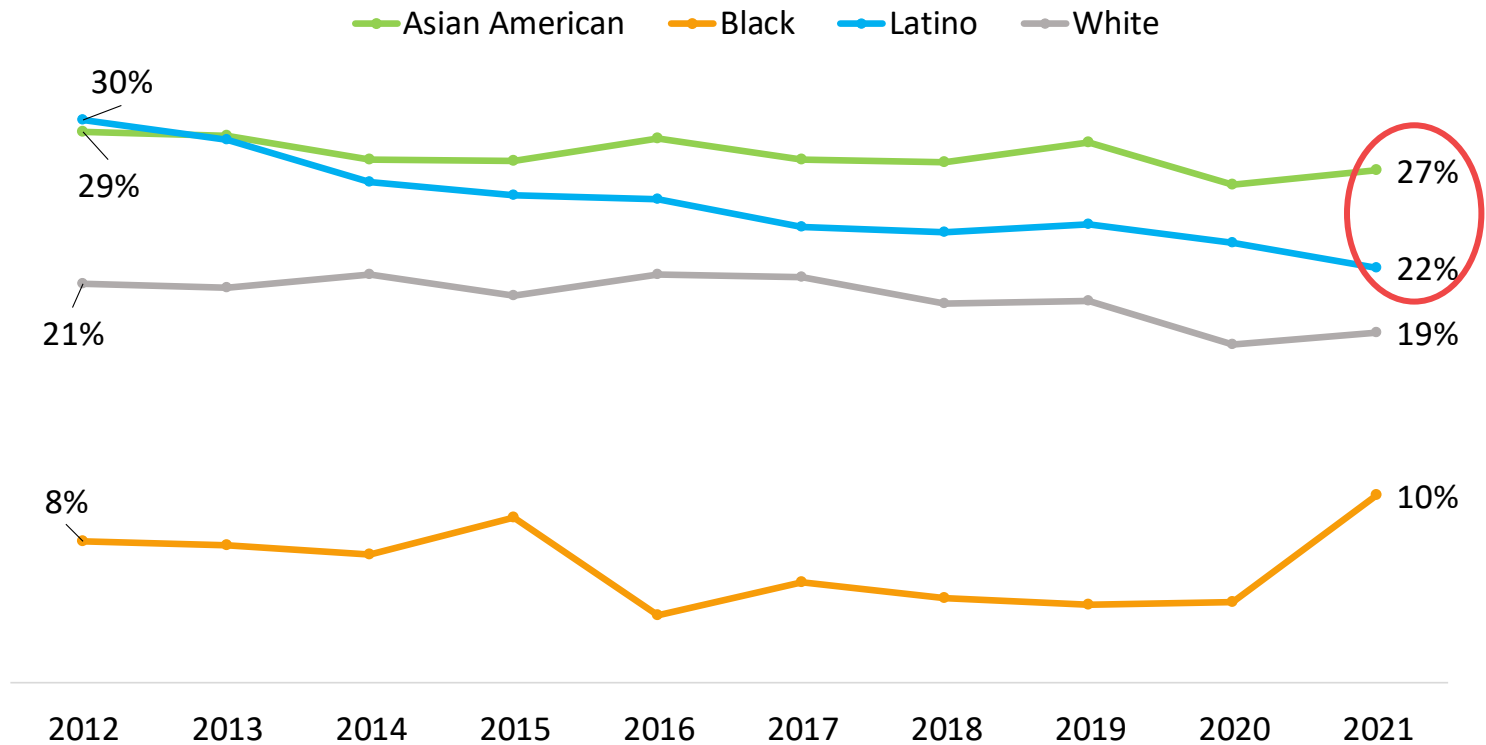
Share of Immigrant Population in Linguistically Isolated Households by Race/Ethnicity, L.A. County, 2012 - 2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes foreign-born residents in households (excludes group quarters). Single-year weights were estimated by multiplying the 5-year pooled and undercount weights by five.

...and this is especially true for Asian American and Latino immigrant households.

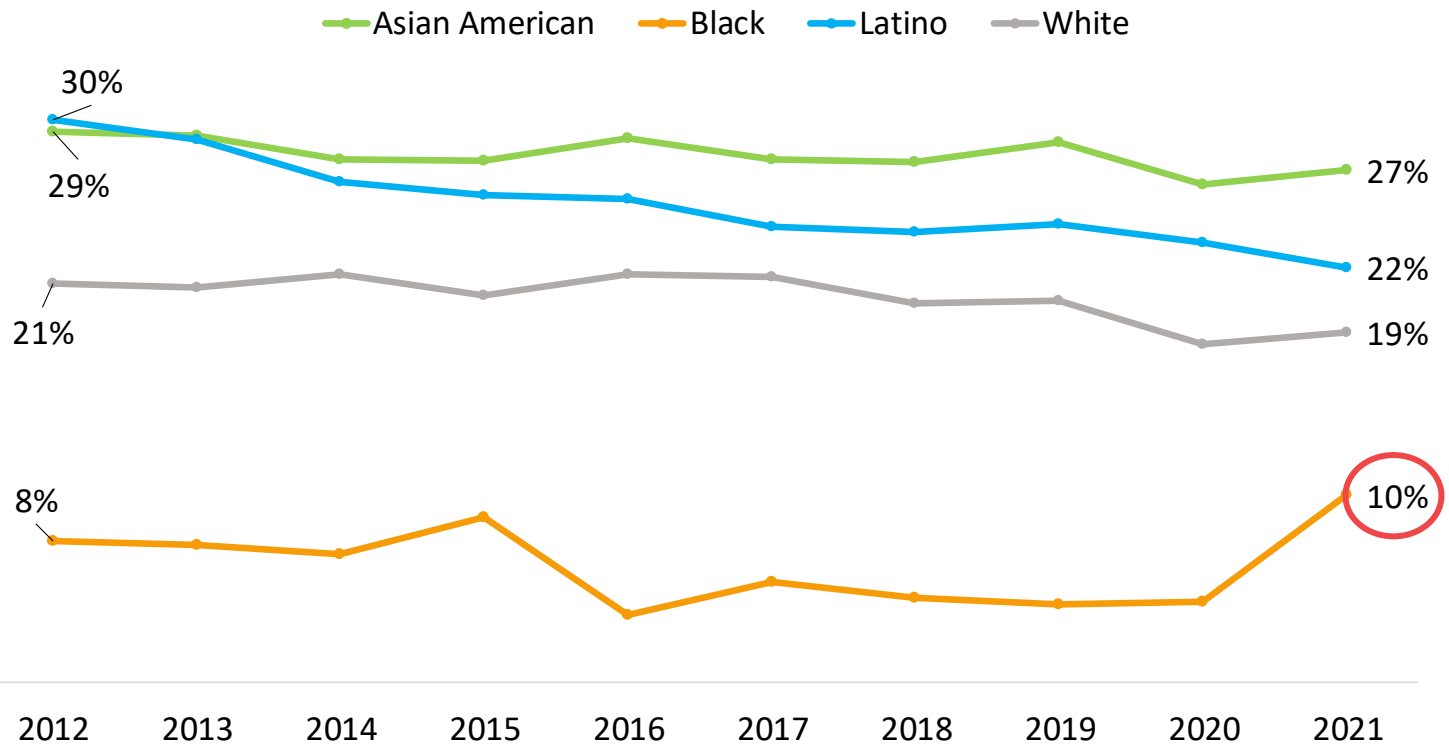
Share of Immigrant Population in Linguistically Isolated Households by Race/Ethnicity, L.A. County, 2012 - 2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes foreign-born residents in households (excludes group quarters). Single-year weights were estimated by multiplying the 5-year pooled and undercount weights by five.

Linguistic isolation jumped from 4 percent to 10 percent in one year for Black immigrant households.

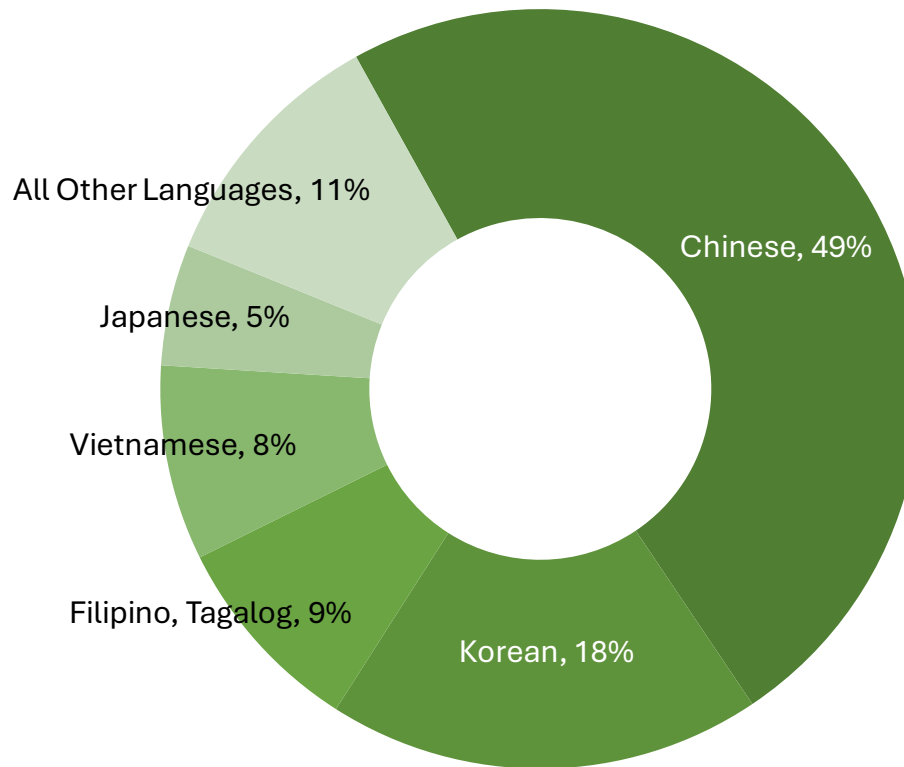
Share of Immigrant Population in Linguistically Isolated Households by Race/Ethnicity, L.A. County, 2012 - 2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes foreign-born residents in households (excludes group quarters). Single-year weights were estimated by multiplying the 5-year pooled and undercount weights by five.

For Asian American households, Chinese, Korean, and Tagalog are among the top languages spoken.

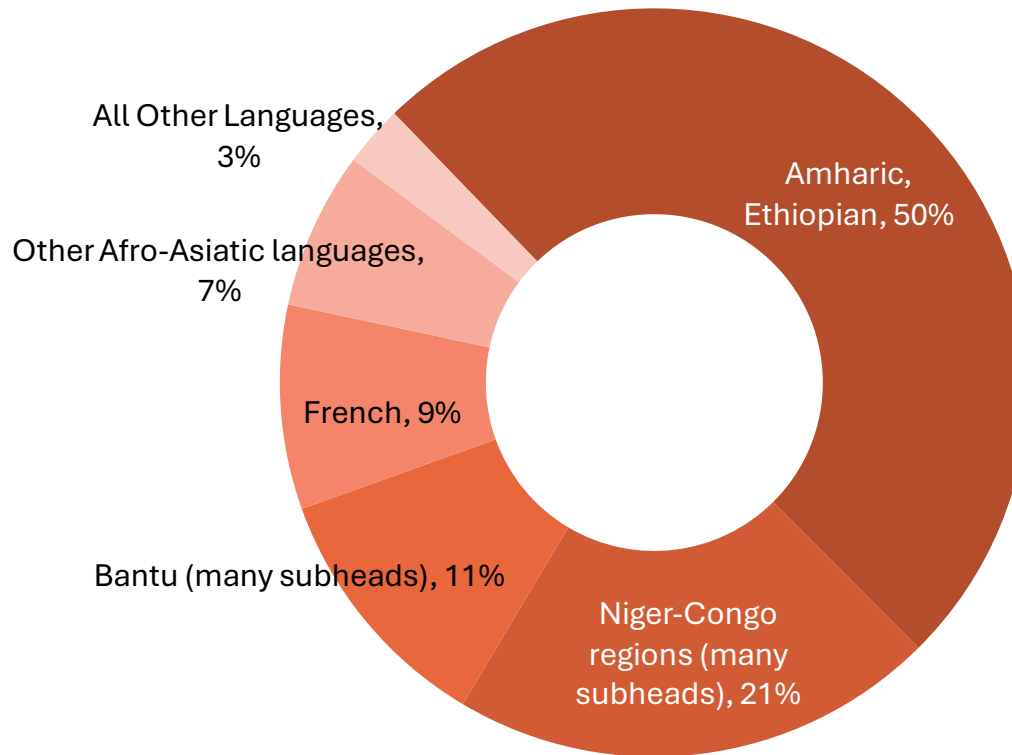
Share of Asian Immigrant Population in Linguistically Isolated Households by Top Languages, L.A County, 2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS. Note: Universe includes households (excludes group quarters). Single-year weights were estimated by multiplying the 5-year pooled and undercount weights by five.

For Black immigrant households, East African and West African languages were among the top.

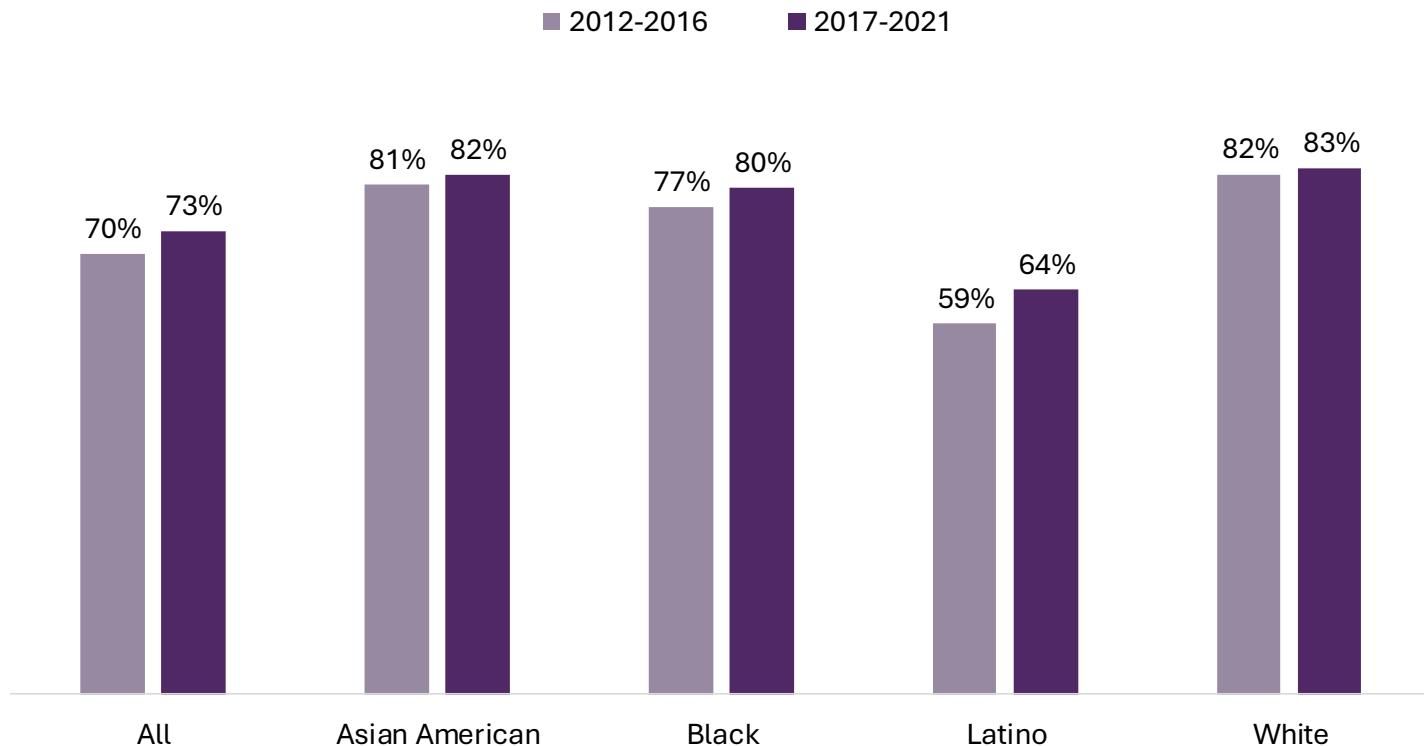
Share of Black Immigrant Population in Linguistically Isolated Households by Top Languages, L.A. County, 2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes households (excludes group quarters). Single-year weights were estimated by multiplying the 5-year pooled and undercount weights by five. Additionally, the label of "Amharic, Ethiopian" provided by ACS does not go into further detail.

Latino immigrants consistently have the lowest rate of naturalization...though rates for all have increased slightly.

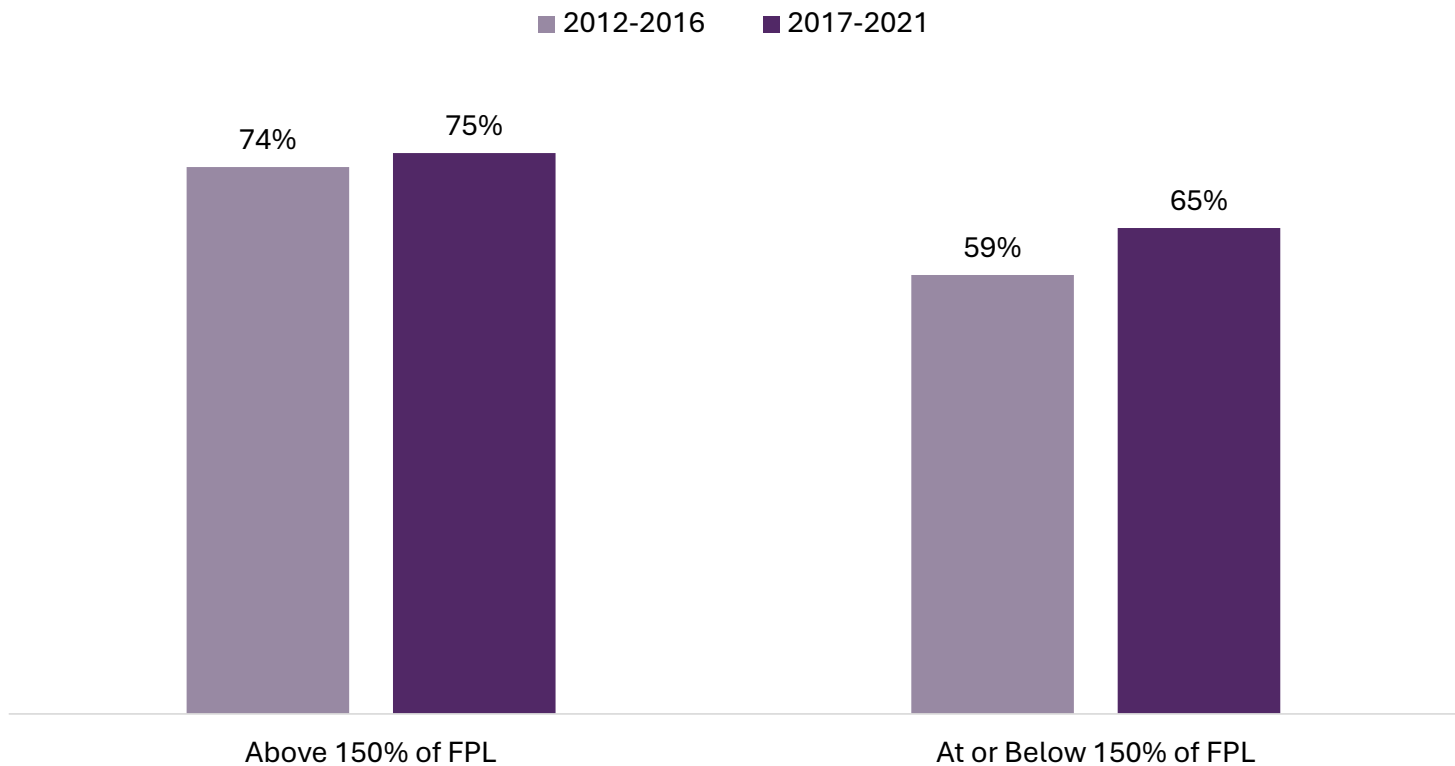
Naturalization Rate for Eligible-to-Naturalize Adults by Race/Ethnicity, L.A. County, 2012/2016 - 2017/2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Naturalization rate was estimated by dividing the number of naturalized citizens by the total of naturalized citizens and eligible-to-naturalize immigrants. See "Data and Methods" section for details on how the eligible-to-naturalize population is estimated. Data represent 2012 through 2016 and 2017 through 2021 averages.

...and low incomes are a clear barrier for immigrants who are eligible to naturalize.

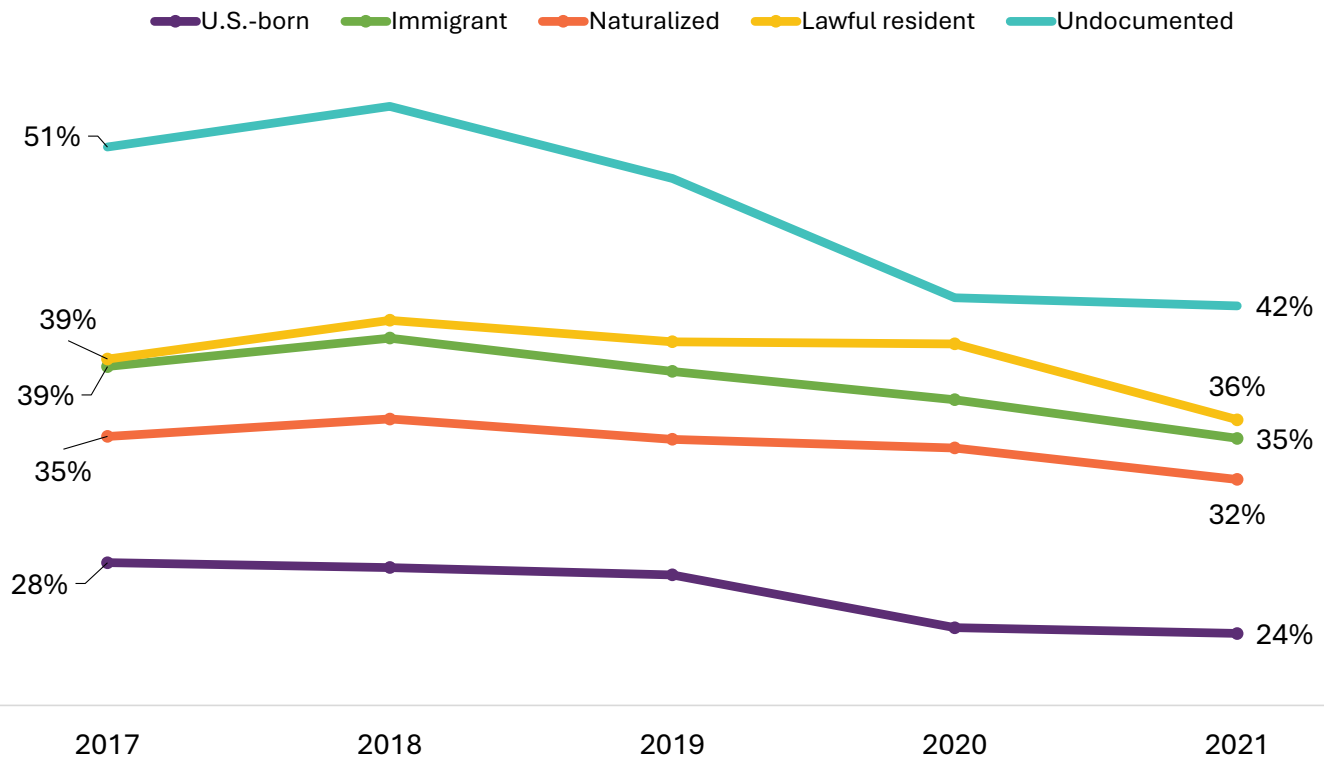
Naturalization Rate for Eligible-to-Naturalize Adults by Poverty Status, L.A. County, 2012/2016 - 2017/2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Naturalization rate was estimated by dividing the number of naturalized citizens by the total of naturalized citizens and eligible-to-naturalize immigrants. See "Data and Methods" section for details on how the eligible-to-naturalize population is estimated. Data represent 2012 through 2016 and 2017 through 2021 averages.

The digital divide has decreased, *and* more support is needed for undocumented immigrants...

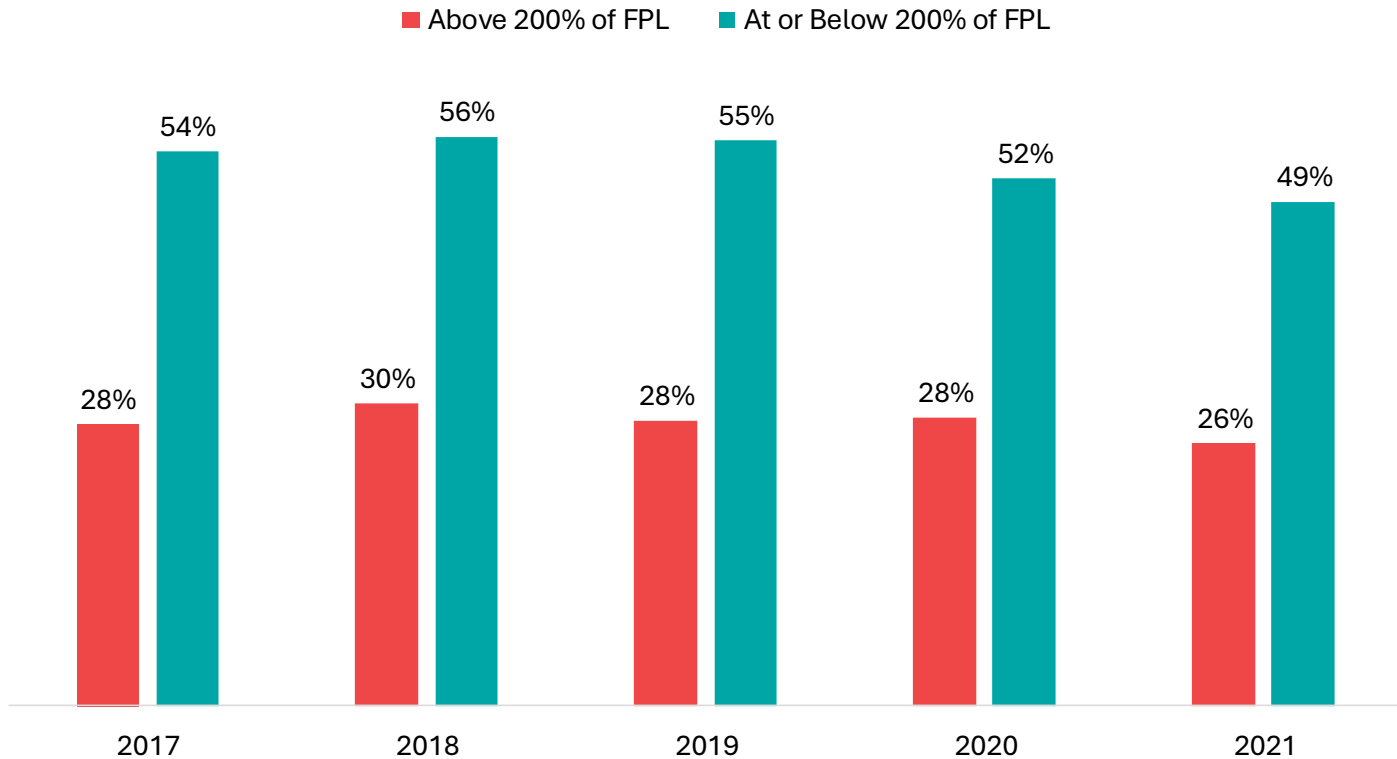
Digitally Divided Households by Nativity and Immigration Status, L.A. County, 2017 - 2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Households are considered to be digitally divided if they report not having both a computing device (e.g., computer, laptop) *and* a broadband connection. See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and documented population. Single-year weights were estimated by multiplying the 5-year pooled weights by five.

...as well as immigrants living at or below the 200% of the federal poverty level.

Digitally Divided Immigrant-Headed Households by Poverty Status, L.A. County, 2017 - 2021



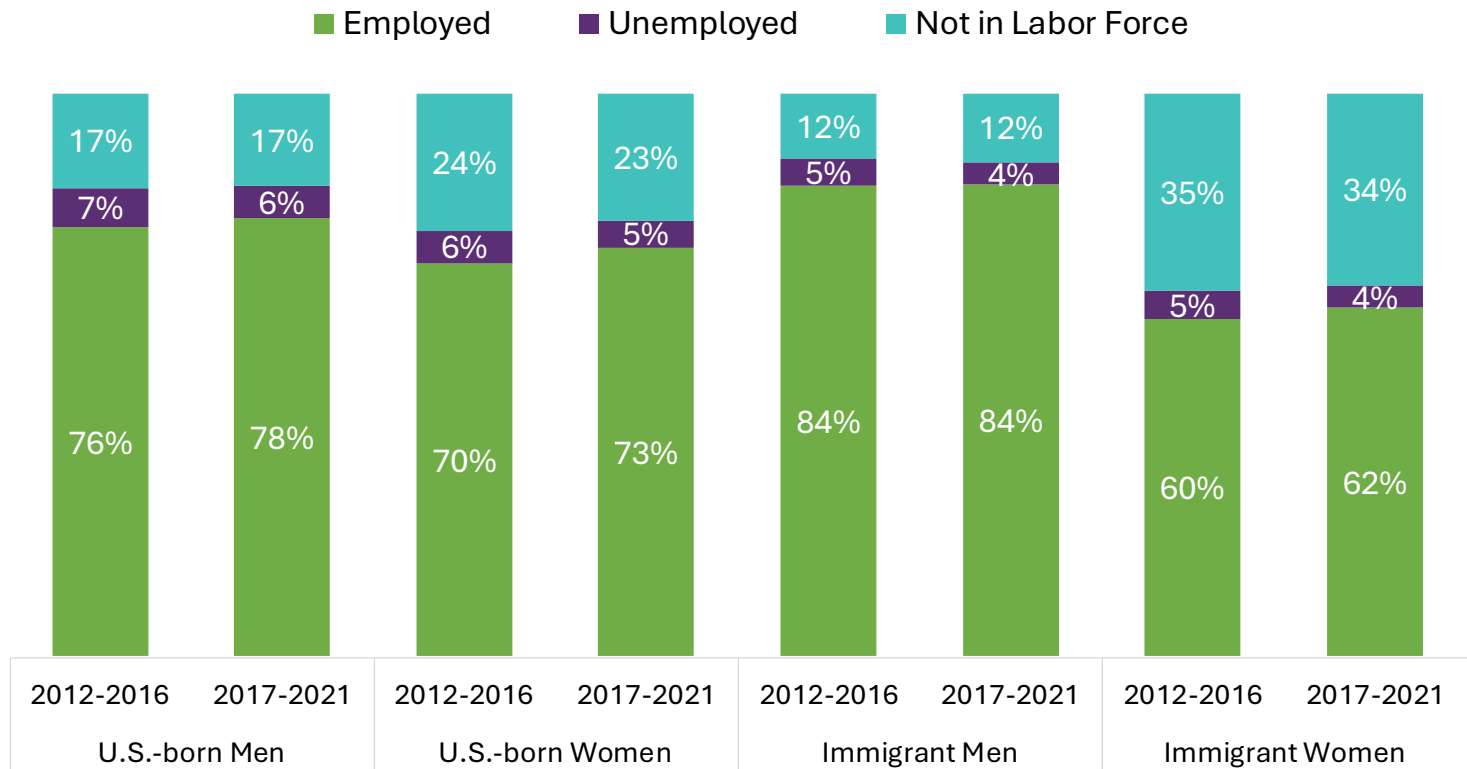
Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Households are considered to be digitally divided if they report not having both a computing device (e.g., computer, laptop) *and* a broadband connection. Single-year weights were estimated by multiplying the 5-year pooled weights by five.

Economic Mobility

5th Annual Immigration Summit Presentation of Findings

Immigrant women have the lowest rate of employment while immigrant men have the highest.

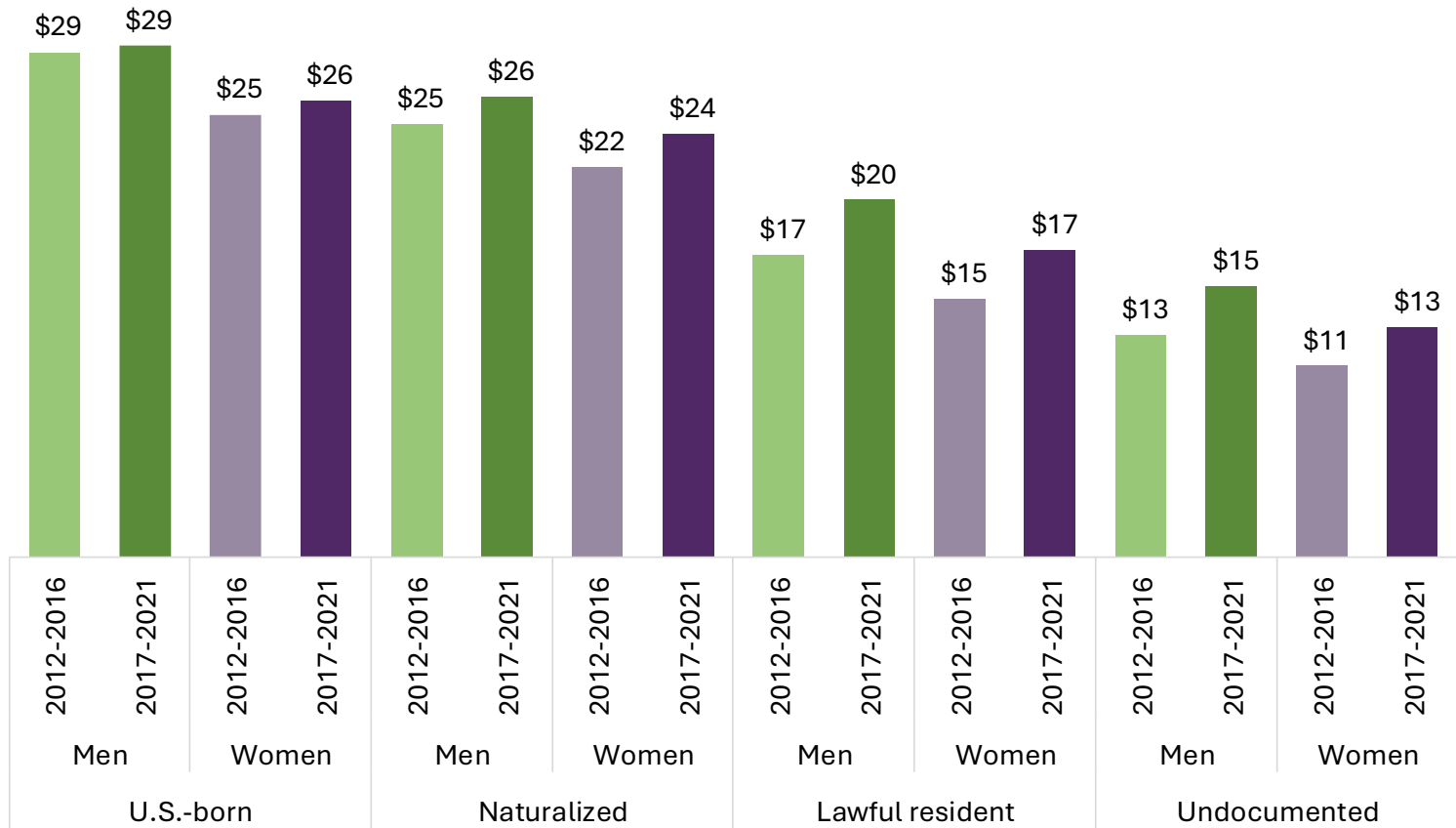
Employment Status for Population by Nativity and Gender, Ages 25 to 64, L.A. County, 2012/2016 - 2017/2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes full-time civilian noninstitutionalized wage and salary workers ages 25 to 64. Data represent 2012 through 2016 and 2017 through 2021 averages.

Gender wage disparities persist, *and* wages have somewhat improved for immigrants with lower wages.

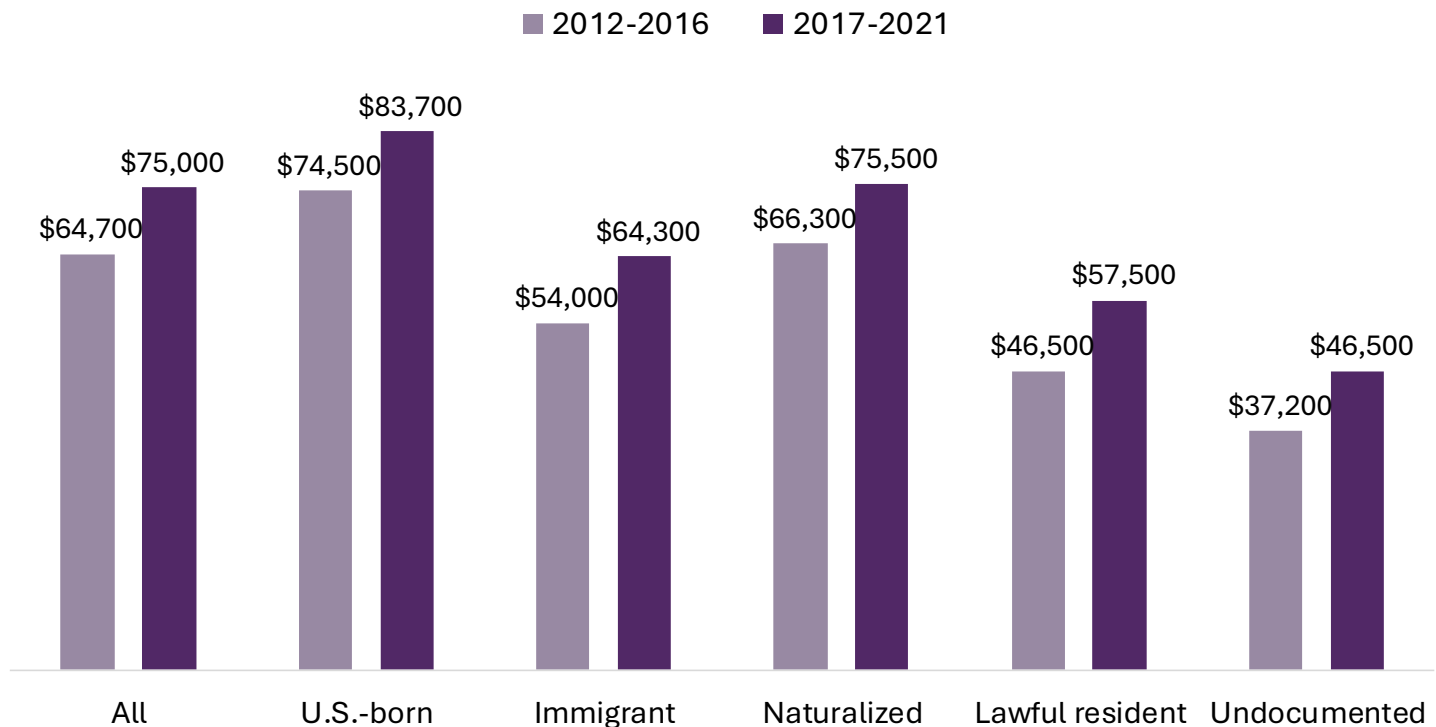
Median Wage (2021\$) for Full-Time Workers by Immigration Status and Gender, Los Angeles County, 2012/2016 - 2017/2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes full-time civilian noninstitutionalized wage and salary workers ages 25 to 64. See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and documented population. Data represent 2012 through 2016 and 2017 through 2021 averages.

Undocumented immigrants earn the least, but median incomes have increased over time for all.

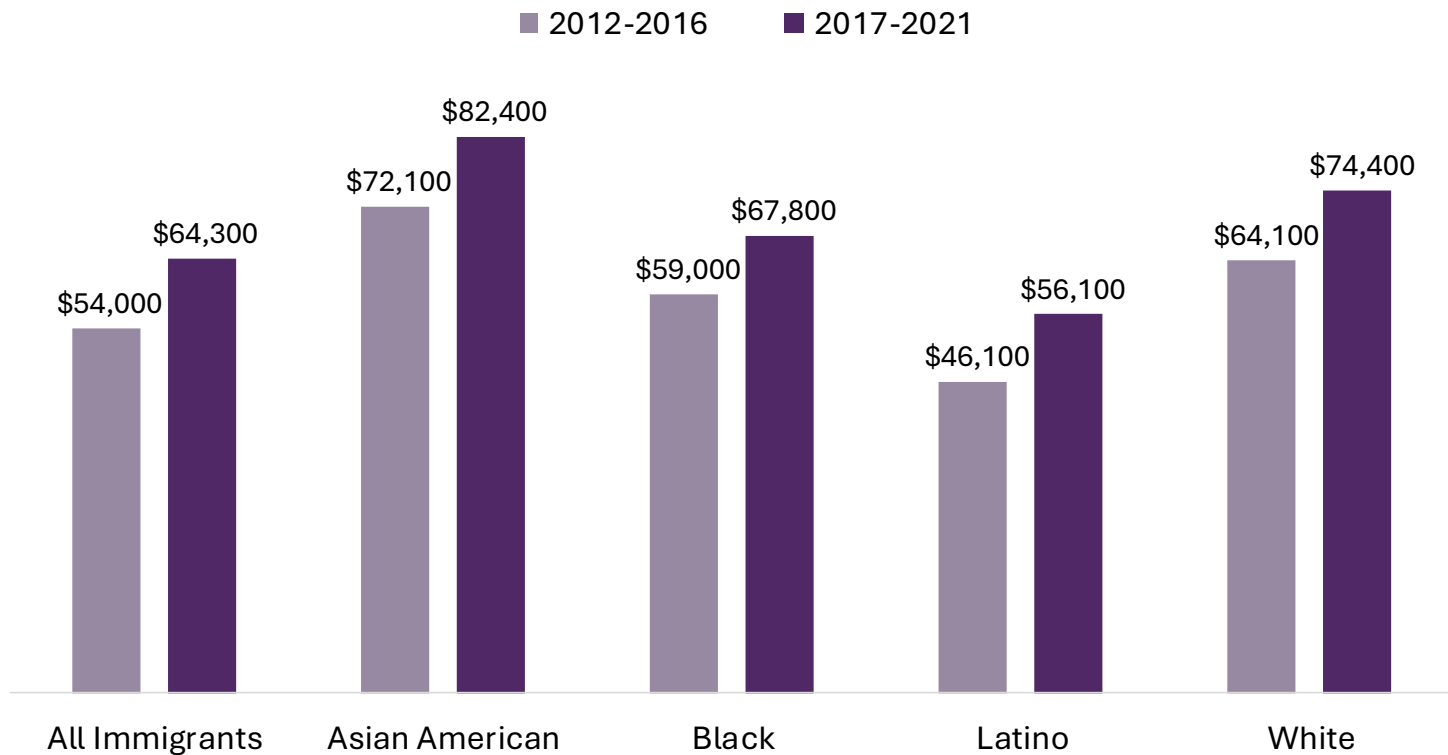
Median Household Income (2021\$) by Householder Nativity and Immigration Status, L.A. County, 2012/2016 - 2017/2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes heads of households (excludes group quarters). See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and documented population. All estimates are adjusted to 2021 dollars using the consumer price index. Data represent 2012 through 2016 and 2017 through 2021 averages.

Increases appear for all immigrants, yet Latino immigrant households continue to earn the least...

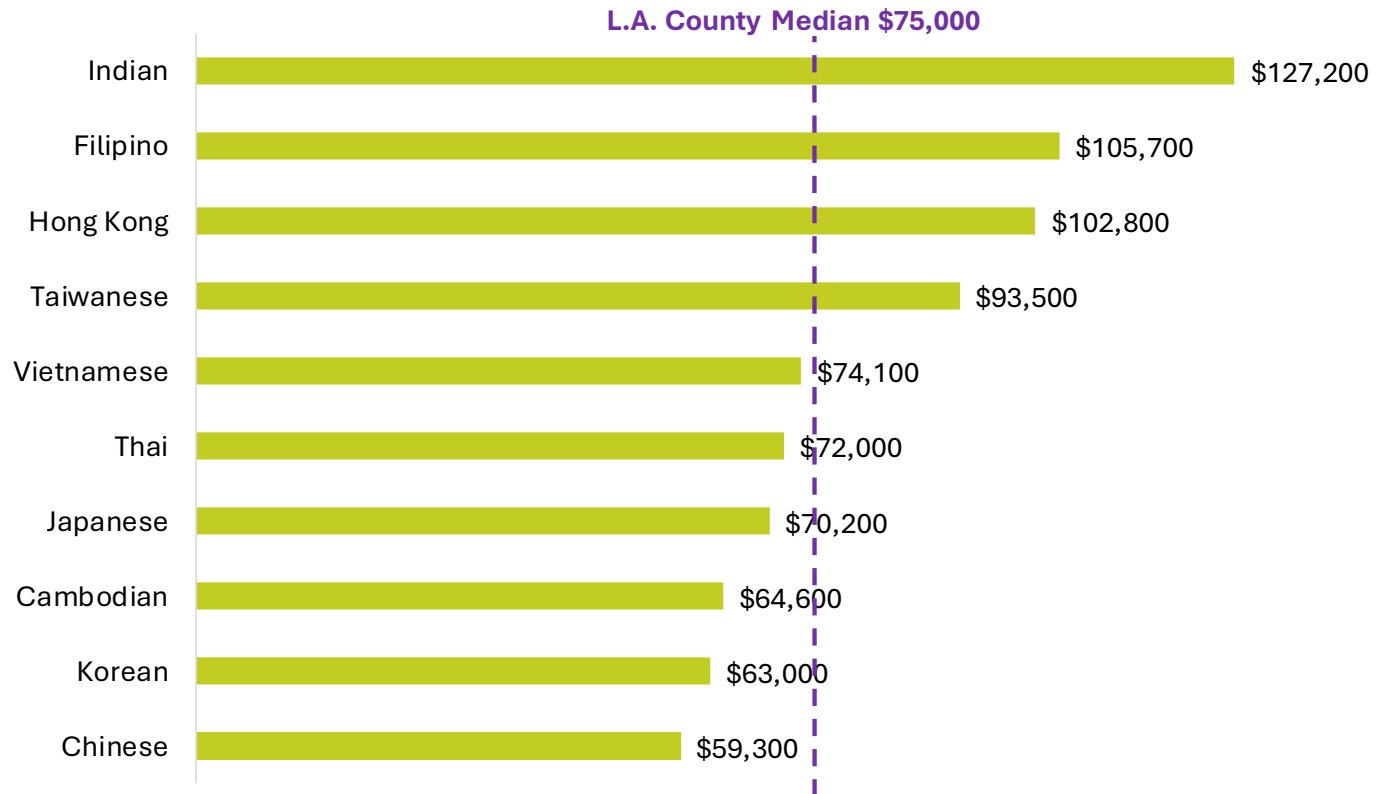
Median Household Income (2021\$) by Immigrant Householder Race/Ethnicity, L.A. County, 2012/2016 - 2017/2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes foreign-born heads of households (excludes group quarters). All estimates are adjusted to 2021 dollars using the consumer price index. Data represent 2012 through 2016 and 2017 through 2021 averages.

Disaggregation of Asian American household income reveals a deeper story.

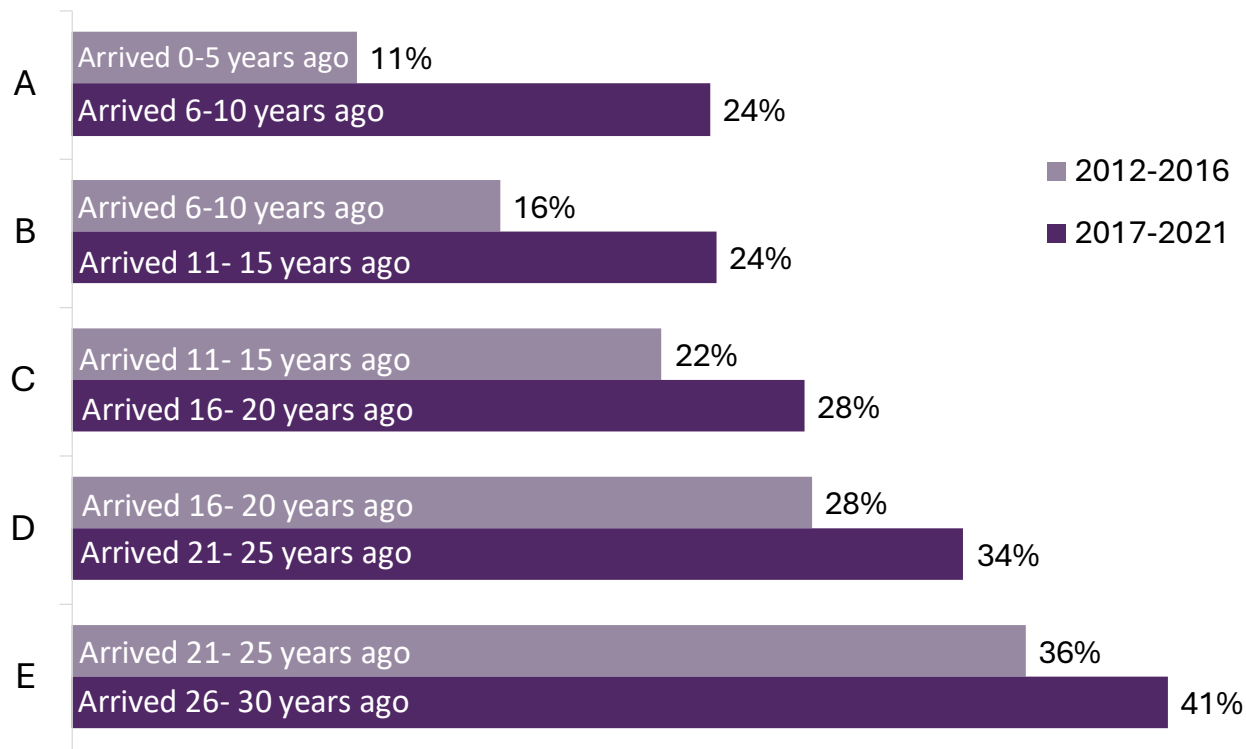
Median Household Income for Top 10 Asian American Immigrant Groups, L.A. County, 2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Universe includes all immigrant Asian American households. Values represent a 2017-2021 average adjusted to 2021 dollars.

The rate of immigrant homeownership has increased for those living in the U.S. for longer periods.

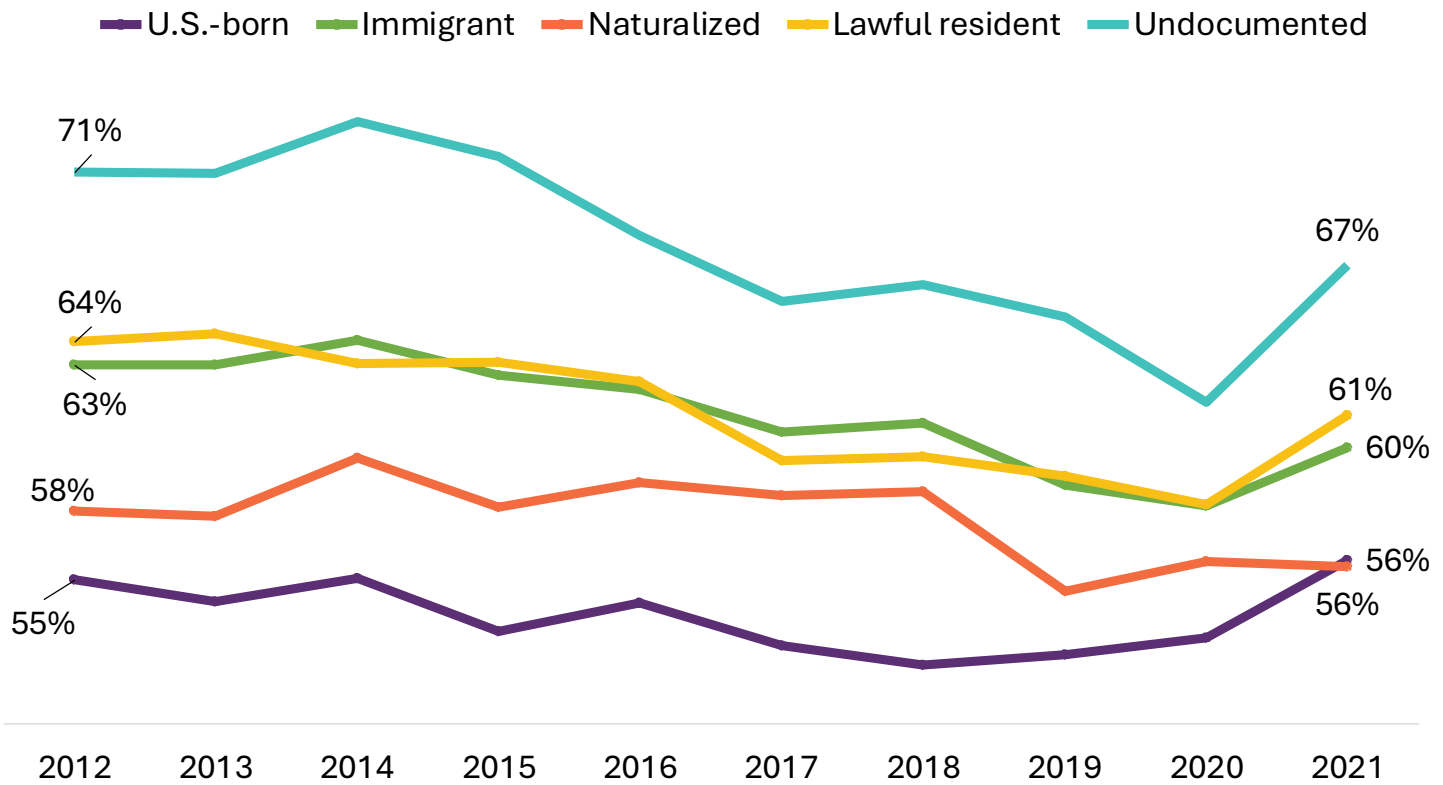
Homeownership Rate for Immigrant-Headed Households by Time in the United States, L.A. County, 2012/2016 - 2017/2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: This pseudo cohort analysis estimates the aggregated change in median household income for immigrants over time based on number of years in the U.S. (grouped by 5 year increments). For example, we assume those who indicated that they arrived less than 5 years ago in the 2012-2016 5-year microdata are on average the same group who indicated they arrived to the U.S. 6 to 10 years ago in the 2017-2021 5-year microdata. Universe includes foreign-born heads of households (excludes group quarters). All estimates are adjusted to 2021 dollars using the consumer price index.

Rent burden is the highest amongst undocumented Angelenos at almost 70 percent.

Rent-Burdened Households by Householder Nativity and Immigration Status, L.A. County, 2012-2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2016 and 2021 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: See "Data and Methods" section for details on estimates of the undocumented and documented population. Single-year weights were estimated by multiplying the 5-year pooled weights by five.

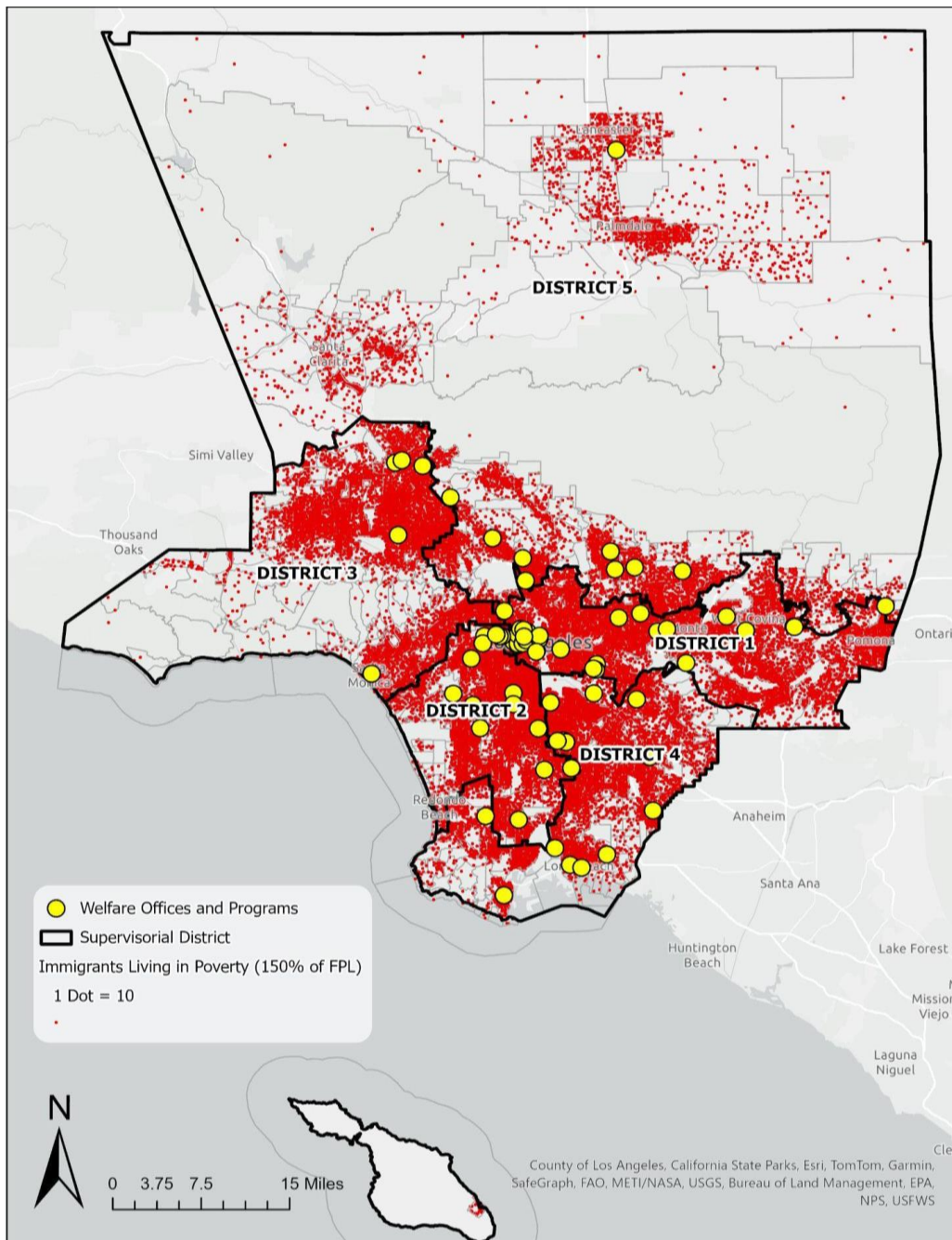
Warmth of Welcome

5th Annual Immigration Summit Presentation of Findings

Warmth of Welcome: Access to Services

Low-income immigrants live throughout the county.

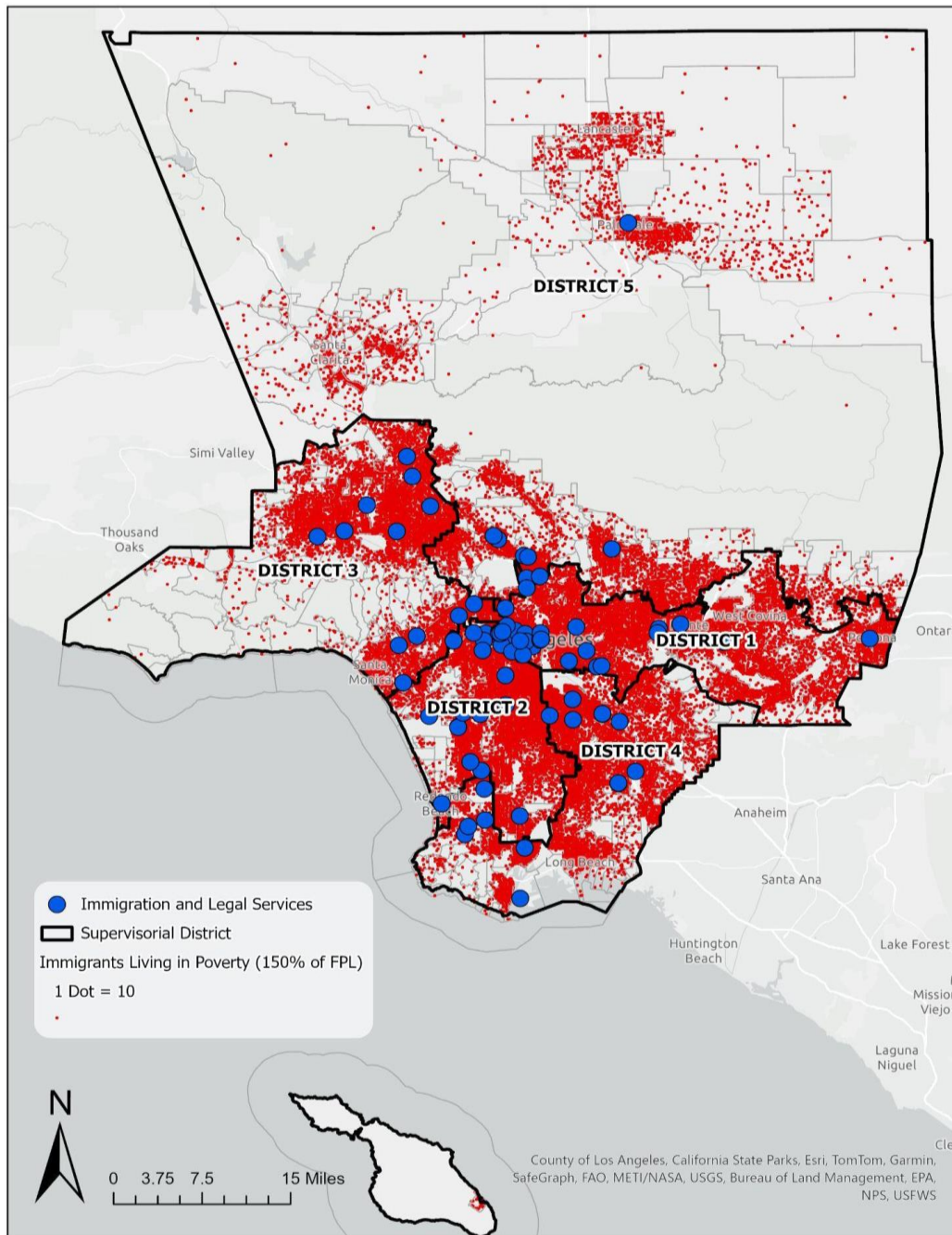
There is a lacking presence of welfare offices in areas of the county with high concentrations of immigrants living below 150% FPL.



Warmth of Welcome: Access to Services

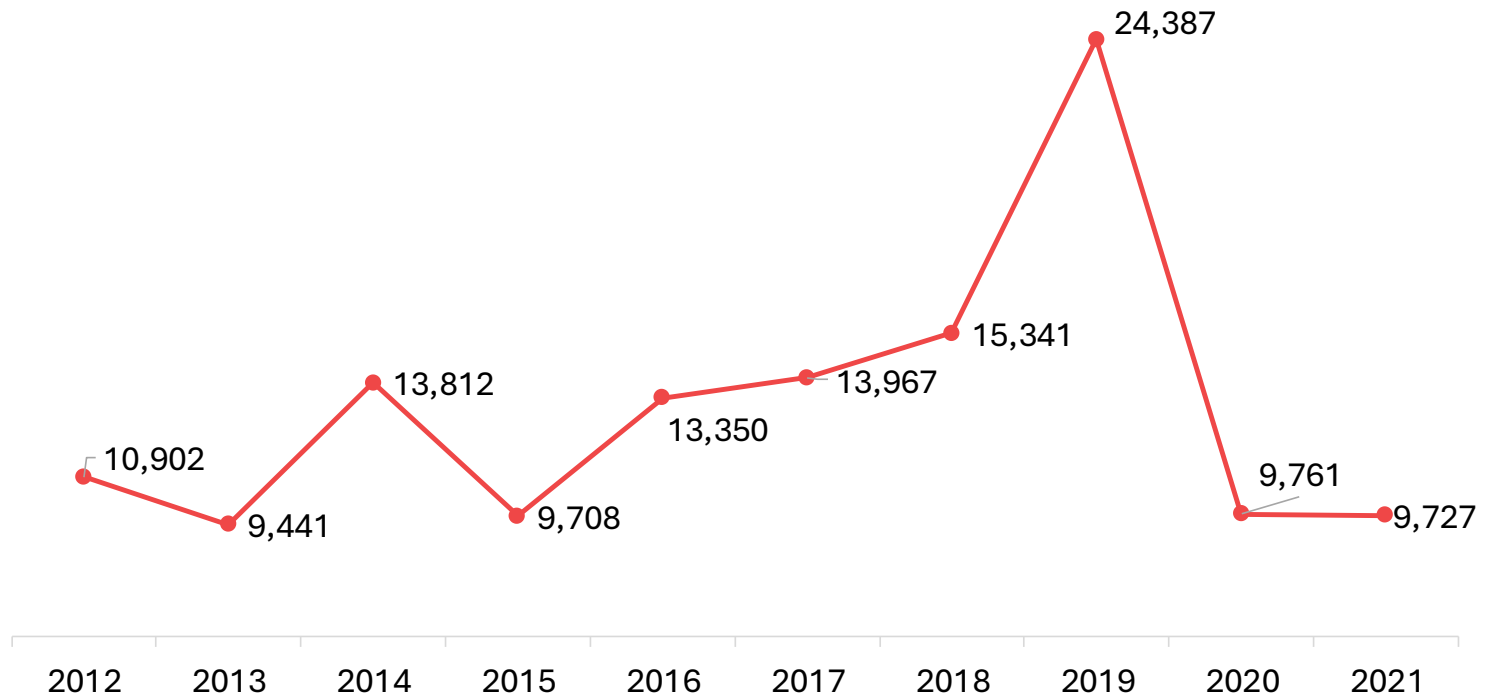
The same is true
for immigration &
legal services.

Greater supports
are needed in
Supervisory
Districts 1, 3, and
5, where a
significant
number of low-
income
immigrants
reside.



Deportation proceedings have decreased significantly since 2019—2020 and 2021 saw less than 10,000 cases.

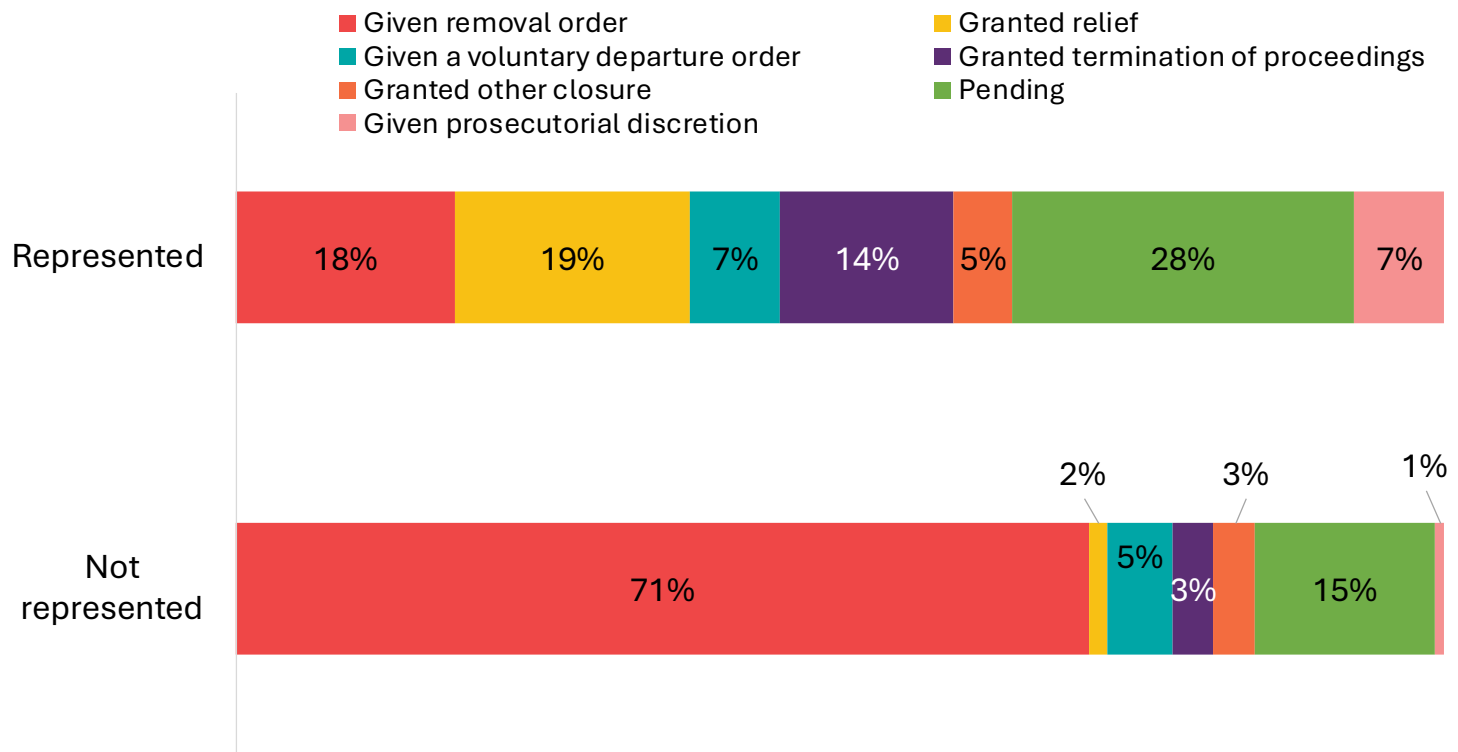
**Total Court Deportation Proceedings Trend,
L.A. County, 2012-2021**



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of the State and County Details on Deportation Proceedings in Immigration Court from the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, Syracuse University, [trac.syr.edu](https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/nta/), <https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/nta/>. Universe: All deportation proceedings initiated by the Department of Homeland Security and its predecessor, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, for immigrants residing in California. For more information, visit the California Immigrant Data Portal: <https://immigrantdataca.org/indicators/court-deportation-proceedings?breakdown=trend&geo=04000000000006037>

And legal representation is crucial. From 2001-2021, 71 percent of cases without it led to a removal order.

Deportation Cases by Legal Representation and Case Outcome, L.A. County, 2001 - 2021



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of the State and County Details on Deportation Proceedings in Immigration Court from the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, Syracuse University, trac.syr.edu, <https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/nta/>. Universe: All deportation proceedings initiated by the Department of Homeland Security and its predecessor, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, for immigrants residing in California. For more information, visit the California Immigrant Data Portal: <https://immigrantdata.ca.org/indicators/court-deportation-proceedings?breakdown=representation-and-outcome&geo=04000000000006037>

Looking Forward & Recommendations

5th Annual Immigration Summit Presentation of Findings

SOILA 2024 Recommendations

1

Our county must **shift the narrative** to value immigrants beyond their economic contributions and instead foster **a region that provides the support necessary to build the futures immigrants desire.**

2

Given the diversity of immigrant Angelenos in our region, it is necessary to **center immigrant groups that are often excluded from targeted attention**—such as immigrants that are aging, queer, trans, Black, Indigenous, as well as those living with disabilities.

3

L.A. County has made investments in **language justice**—and the data shows that further investment remains critical especially for Asian American and Latino immigrant households, and increasingly for Black immigrant households.

4

Naturalization is key for immigrants to engage civically—yet immigrant groups naturalize at disproportionate rates, indicating that the County must continue to reduce barriers by advocating for reduced fees and investing in local naturalization programs.

5

Rates of **digital inaccessibility** have decreased in recent years—yet the issue remains important for undocumented and low-income households—showing us that continued attention in this area is necessary to reach critical immigrant communities.

SOILA 2024 Recommendations

6

Median income has increased over time, but disparities remain among immigrant households depending on status—indicating that county leaders must ensure immigrant communities have the access and training necessary for jobs that pay livable wages.

7

Housing remains unaffordable for all, and the issue is especially acute for undocumented immigrants, thus County efforts to address the housing and houseless crises must intentionally consider the barriers faced by immigrant Angelenos.

8

Critical services—like welfare and legal services—must be available *where* immigrants require them. Investing in stronger data-collecting mechanisms that capture where these interventions are needed is essential to providing consistent and accessible resources.

9

Fostering a region free of **hostility towards immigrants** is essential to creating safety for immigrant Angelenos. However, hate crimes are still a reality and the County must make reporting crimes accessible, and also promote a narrative that emphasizes immigrants deserve support and dignity.

10

While many work to make this region a welcoming home for immigrants, some still face challenges such as removal orders. Ensuring that immigrants have **legal support** through programs like RepresentLA is the type of innovative policy and programming that **situate Los Angeles as an influential leader in immigrant inclusion** for federal and state actors.

Thank you!

5th Annual ◀◀

IMMIGRATION

SUMMIT

▶▶ **LEADING A BOLD,
JUST, AND INCLUSIVE
DEMOCRACY**