

RepresentLA: Capturing the Program's Direction and Impact Since its Inception

By: USC Equity Research Institute

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USCDornsife
Equity Research Institute



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*One of the most rewarding part of my work is to be able to assist community members and know that we're making a difference. I believe that just knowing that they can get the assistance that they need will encourage community members who are being exploited to come forward to assert their rights. **To see community members being able to come forward and gain courage to assert their right is very rewarding.***

- RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

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- Why Legal Representation Matters
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A Snapshot of Immigrant Los Angeles

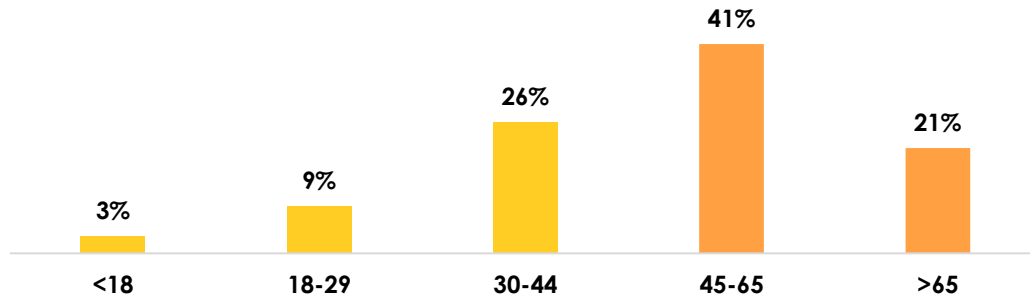
Over 1/3 of Angelenos are immigrants: Of the immigrant population, 18% are naturalized citizens, 9% are lawful residents, and 8% are undocumented immigrants.

Immigrant Angelenos have built their lives in the United States, establishing families, communities, and networks: More than 80% of immigrants in L.A. County have been living in the U.S. for over a decade.

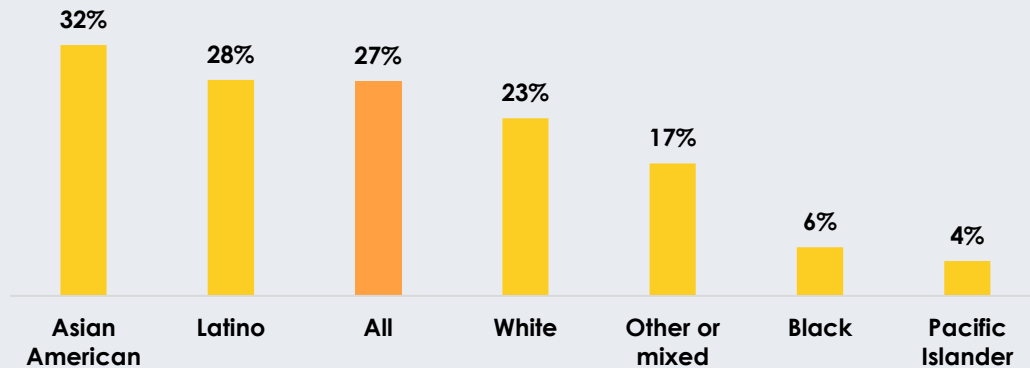
The impact of deportation has significant ripple effects beyond those at the direct risk of removal: About 1 in 5 (or 19%) Angelenos are either undocumented or live with someone who is.

Immigrant Angelenos continue to make significant contributions to the region's economy, yet they are often excluded from public health and safety net programs: In 2019, immigrants contributed about \$115 billion to the economy through the federal, state, and local taxes they paid and their spending power combined.¹

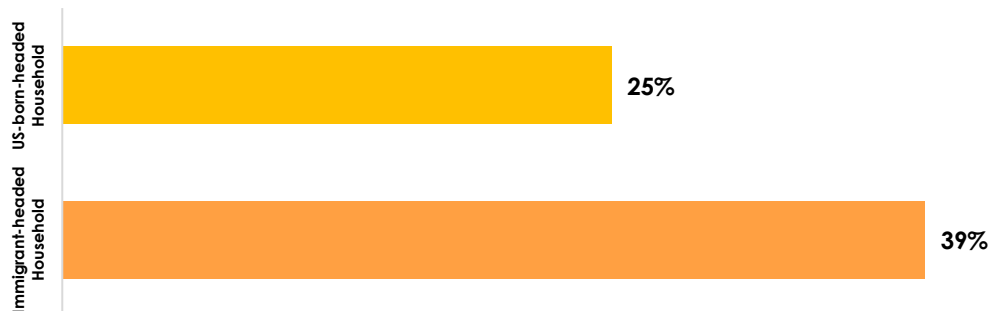
Immigrant Community by Age



Linguistic Isolation by Race



Percent Living Below 200% FPL



LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

- **Los Angeles has an aging immigrant population**—over 60% of the immigrant population are ages 45 and older.
- **More than 1 in 4 immigrant households experience linguistic isolation.** A household is considered to be linguistically isolated when no member ages 14 years or older speaks only English or speaks English at least very well.
- **Immigrant-headed households are more likely to live in poverty,** as compared to households headed by U.S.-born Angelenos.

*Note: For a complete profile of L.A. County's immigrant population by Supervisorial District, refer to the appendix.

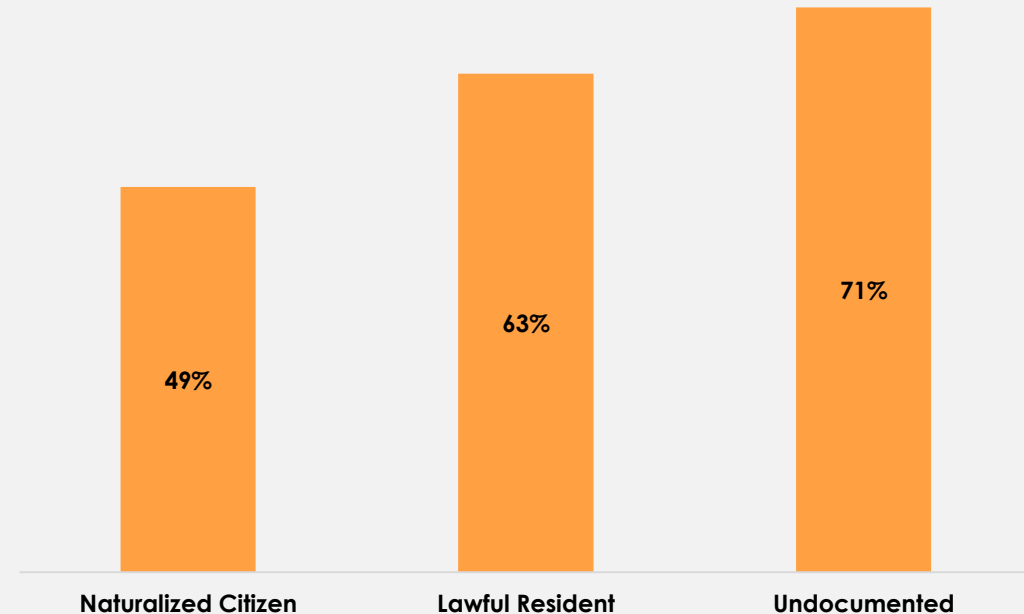
Undocumented Angelenos at a Glance

An estimated 810,000 undocumented immigrants live in Los Angeles County, with more than a quarter living in Supervisorial District 2.*

Across nativity and immigration status, undocumented immigrants are the least likely to have a bachelor's degree or higher (only 11%), as they face significant barriers to educational opportunities.

Undocumented immigrants are more likely than naturalized citizens and lawful residents to self-identify as having limited English proficiency.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) by Status



*Note: For a complete profile of L.A. County's immigrant population by Supervisorial District, refer to the appendix.

Why Legal Representation Matters

There is a growing backlog of cases in Los Angeles' immigration courts: Over 1/3 of all immigration court cases in the state of California are held in Los Angeles immigration courts, amounting to 122,651 pending cases as of February 2024.²

Among L.A. County residents with a pending immigration case, about 50% have legal representation: Of the 105,753 pending cases, only 52,965 have representation as of February 2024.³

Legal representation matters and makes all the difference in case outcomes: Among deportation cases initiated between 2016-2021, 30% of unrepresented cases resulted in removal orders; compared to 13% of represented cases.⁴

The everchanging immigration political landscape necessitates legal resources: Republican leaders nationwide have willingly put immigrant lives at risk by bussing over 900 migrants to cities such as Los Angeles and Sacramento—in response, L.A. City welcomed these migrants and voted to investigate the legality of Texas Governor Abbott's actions.⁵

Why Legal Representation Matters

The Adelanto ICE Detention Center, located adjacent to L.A. County, is one of the largest immigration detention centers in California⁶: The Adelanto Detention Center has historically had a capacity to hold nearly 2,000 individuals. However, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of individuals detained in the facility has declined significantly due to a federal judge's order in 2020 that required an immediate reduction in the population detained.⁷ Moreover, while the detention center will potentially close due to ongoing litigation around health and safety violations, its future is yet to be determined.⁸

On June 4, 2024, President Biden signed an executive order, further restricting the right to seek asylum at the border: Among one of the many implications, the order denies asylum to anyone crossing the Southern Border by closing it, once the number of individuals entering reaches 2,500 on a given day. In addition, migrants entering the U.S. would be subject to a more strenuous process as they seek humanitarian relief.⁹

RepresentLA: An Overview

In July 2021, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a motion that adopted the recommendations of the L.A. County Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) to create the RepresentLA program. Adopting the framework set forth in the report, *Proposal for a Los Angeles Immigrant Community Legal Defense Program*, RepresentLA is a merit-blind program that provides funds to organizations providing legal representation for removal defense and affirmative immigration relief, as well as social support services for clients and their families.⁶ The eligibility criteria to qualify for the program include:

- **Reside or intend to reside in Los Angeles County**
- **At or below 250% of the federal poverty level.**

RepresentLA: Objectives

The guiding pillars of the RepresentLA program include:

- **Removal Defense:** RepresentLA will provide legal representation for:
 - **Non-Detained Deportation Defense:** For low-income and vulnerable immigrants in need of legal representation in immigration courts in the Los Angeles area. Providers will operate with a merits-blind approach.
 - **Detained Deportation Defense:** For detained immigrants in the Los Angeles region by operating, to the greatest extent possible, a merits-blind approach.
- **Affirmative Immigration Benefits Representation:** RepresentLA will support vulnerable populations not in removal proceedings to apply for various forms of immigration relief. These groups include immigrants experiencing homelessness, asylum seekers, survivors of labor trafficking and/or other severe workplace exploitation, and children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by a parent.
- **Community Support/Investing in Impacted Communities:** RepresentLA will focus on various aspects of community support.

RepresentLA: Program Administrators and Managers

The L.A County Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) is the government entity administrating RepresentLA. The following are RepresentLA contractors and sub-contractors that have been actively providing legal and social services, through this program, to the immigrant community for about 2 years.⁷

Program Administrators and Managers (contractors):

- **Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)**, Program Administrator, Program Manager for Community Support as well as Removal Defense, and Legal Service Provider (affirmative and removal defense)
- **Central American Resource Center of Los Angeles (CARECEN-LA)**, Program Manager for Affirmative Immigration Benefits Representation and Legal Service Provider (affirmative and removal defense)

RepresentLA: Legal Service Providers

Legal Service Providers (sub-contractors):

- **Al Otro Lado**, Affirmative Asylum
- **Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project (Esperanza)**, Affirmative Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)
- **Council on American-Islamic Relations-CA (CAIR)**, Removal Defense
- **Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef)**, Removal Defense
- **Los Angeles LGBT Center**, Removal Defense
- **Public Counsel**, Removal Defense
- **Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC)**, Affirmative Labor Trafficking
- **TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)**, Removal Defense
- **University of Southern California Gould School of Law (USC)**, Removal Defense

Case Activity Data: Highlights

As part of the RepresentLA requirements, contractors and sub-contractors submitted demographic and case activity data for RepresentLA clients during Quarter 1 – Quarter 4 of the program (Jan 2023 to December 2023). The following sections highlight key data of the program’s accomplishments across the program areas:



Overview of Cases



**Removal defense
(Non-detained)**

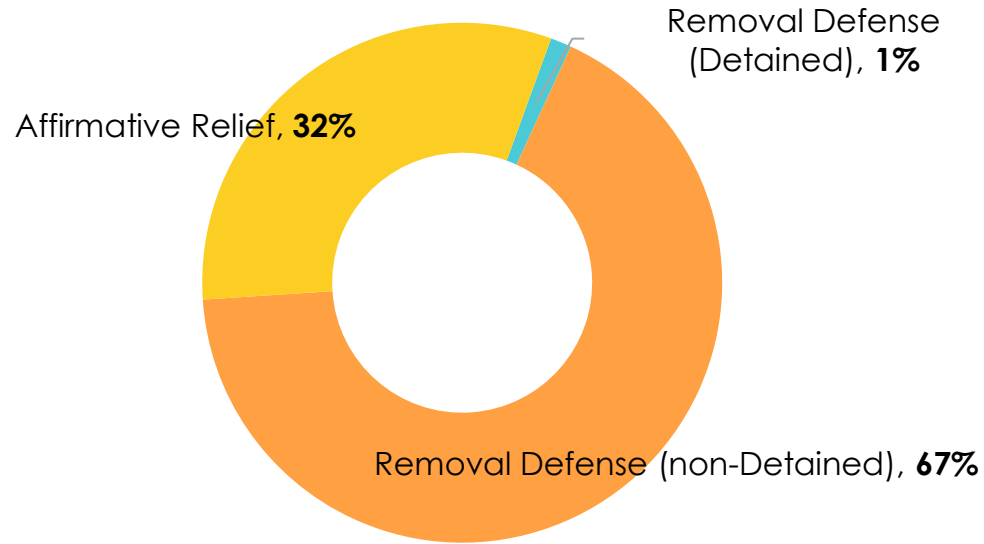


**Affirmative
Immigration Benefits
Representation**

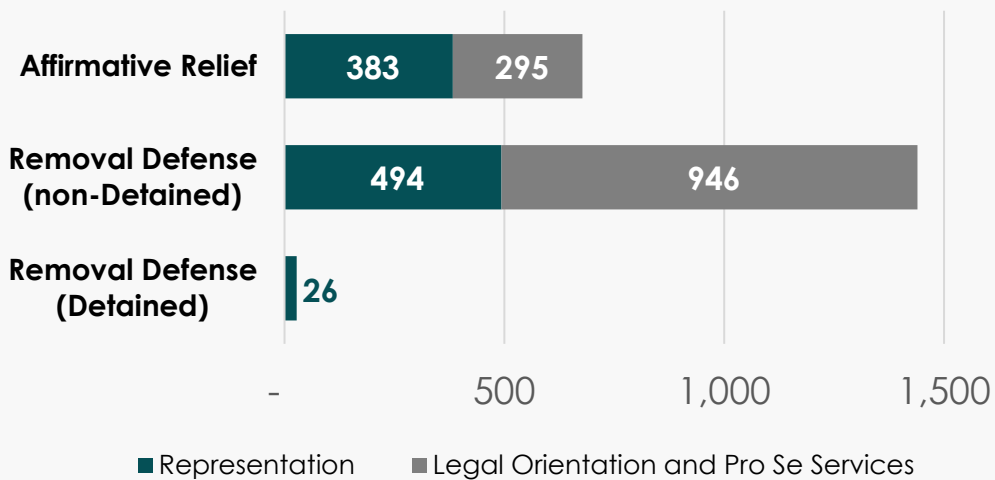


**Removal defense
(Detained)**

Case Activity Data: Highlights



RepresentLA Cases/Applicants by Pillar and Case Type



OVERVIEW OF CASES

- Overall, RepresentLA has reached **2,144 clients**. Of those cases, ***including legal orientations and pro se services***, the majority are removal defense (non-detained), followed by affirmative relief cases.
- More than 3 in 10 non-detained removal defense cases were accepted to receive full-scope legal representation.
- More than 2 in 5 affirmative relief cases involved exploited poultry workers who received legal orientation or pro bono counsel coordinated by Thai CDC.

Spotlights: Responding to the Political Landscape

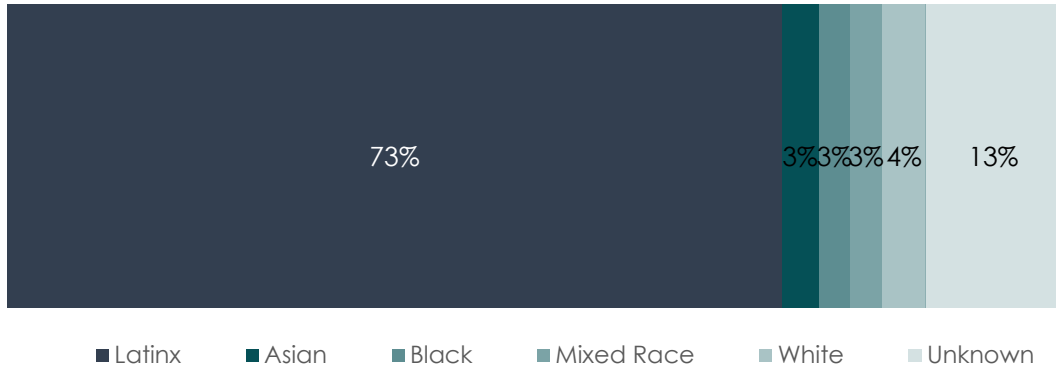
When Texas Governor Greg Abbot began sending busloads of migrants to Los Angeles in June 2023, RepresentLA sub-contractor Immigrant Defenders Law Center provided legal orientation and pro se assistance for migrants on each bus. Through December 2023, ImmDef served **1,195 individuals**, providing:

- **415** legal consultations
- Pro se assistance with **126** Employment Authorization Documents
- Pro se assistance with **160** changes of address for new arrivals in removal proceedings
- Pro se assistance with **71** Change of Venue motions

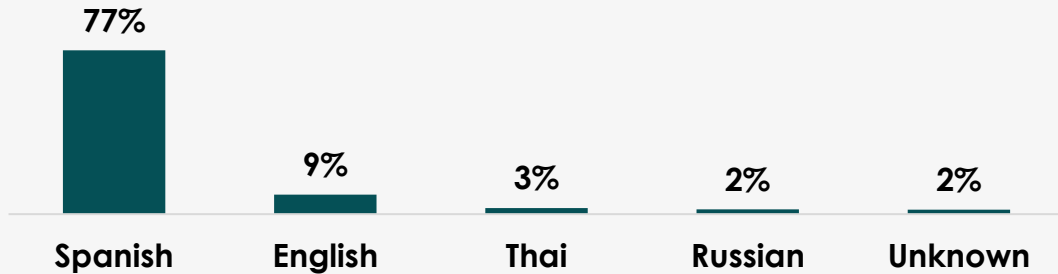
Thai CDC represented survivors of trafficking and/or severe workplace exploitation. Thai CDC also led the effort to coordinate legal and social service provision for **265 poultry workers** identified in two lawsuits—one whose findings were led by investigators from the U.S. Department of Labor. Thai CDC provided:

- **265** legal consultations on employment rights and immigration relief
- **100** pro bono counsel referrals and/or placement for immigration representation

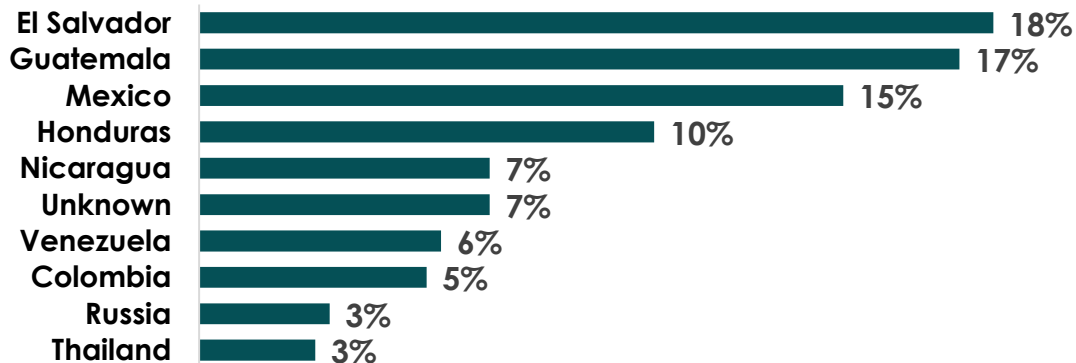
Client Demographics: Data Highlights



RepresentLA Applicants by Reported Primary Language (Top 5)



RepresentLA Applicants by Country of Origin (Top 10)

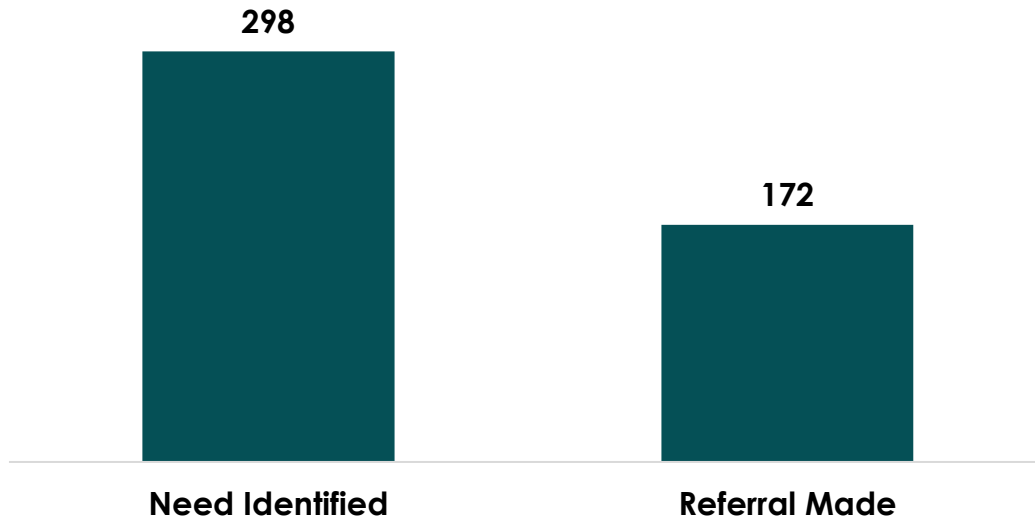


CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- RepresentLA clients are primarily Latinx (73%), whereas Asian, Black, and mixed-race clients each make up 3% of all clients.
- Less than 1 in 10 RepresentLA clients report English as their primary language.
- Nearly 7 in 10 RepresentLA clients are from a Central American country (51%) or Mexico (17%).
- 533 of the 903 (59%) of full-scope representation clients reside in the City of Los Angeles.

Client Demographics: Data Highlights

Needs Identified and Referral Made for RepresentLA Clients



Needs Identified and Referral Made for Families of RepresentLA Clients

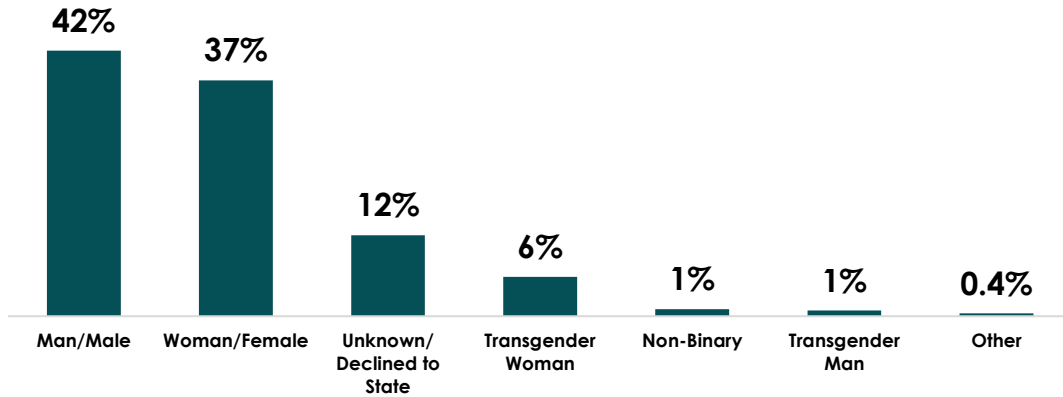


CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

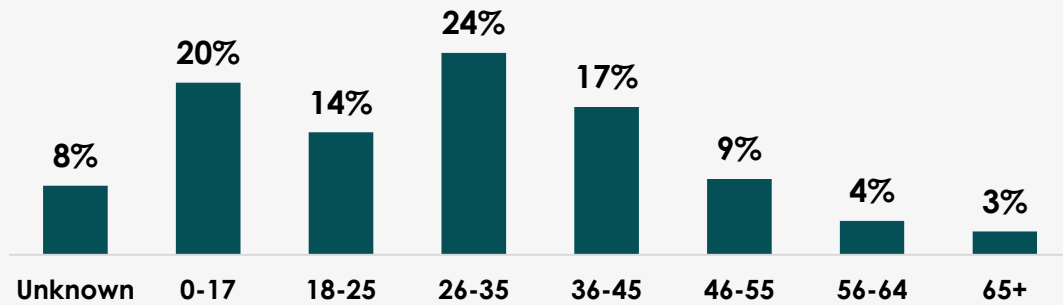
- Of the 298 RepresentLA clients who had a need identified (e.g., mental health, housing, employment), 172 (58%) were referred to a social service to meet those needs.
- Of the 108 families of RepresentLA clients who had a need identified (e.g., mental health, housing, employment), 71 (66%) were referred to a social service to meet those needs.

Client Demographics: Data Highlights

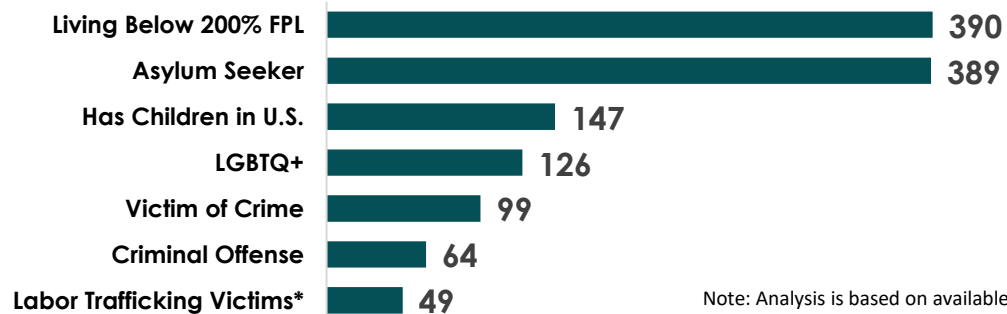
RepresentLA Applicants by Gender Identity



RepresentLA Applicants by Age



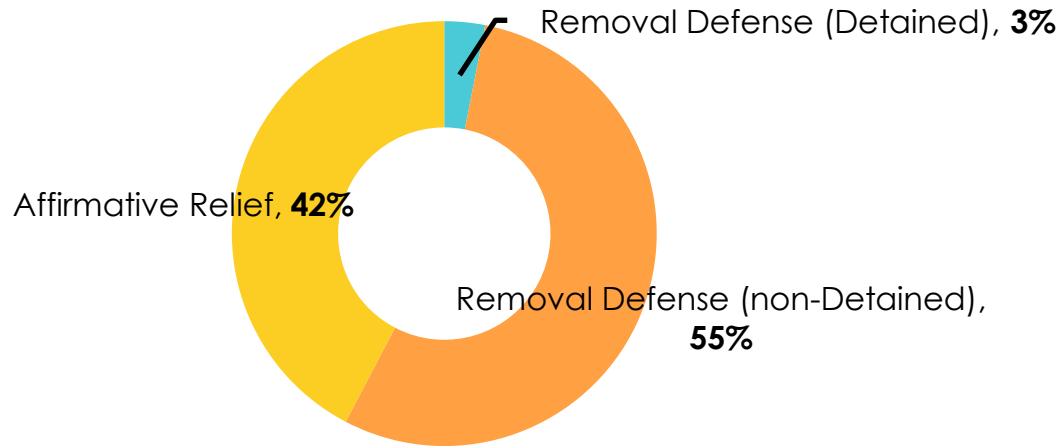
RepresentLA Applicants Reporting...



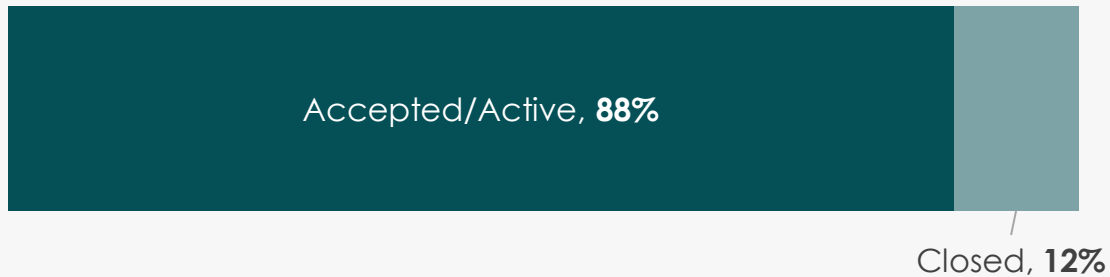
Note: Analysis is based on available data. Includes cases reporting "Yes" and "Possible"

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- About 8 in 10 RepresentLA clients identify as either men or women, whereas less than 1 in 10 clients identified as transgender, non-binary, or other.
- About 1 in 5 RepresentLA clients are ages 17 and younger.
- More than 4 in 10 RepresentLA clients live below 200% of the federal poverty line.
- More than 4 in 10 RepresentLA clients report they are seeking asylum.
- About 14% of RepresentLA clients identify as LGBTQ+.



Removal Defense (Detained & non-Detained) Status



CASE ACTIVITY DATA

- Of the 903 reported **full-scope representation cases**, 494 are classified as removal defense (non-detained), 383 as affirmative relief, and 26 as removal defense (detained).
- Of removal defense cases, all 520 cases were accepted for full-scope representation with 88% still active.
- Among full-scope representation cases, 61 removal defense cases, 94 asylum cases, 24 SIJS cases, and 36 labor trafficking cases have outcomes reported.

Voices on the Ground

“...many have strained relationships with relatives or sponsors due to their gender identity and perceived sexuality and therefore lack a proper support network...**Clients are often in need of a variety of resources, such as medical care, mental health services, and transitional housing.**

– RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

“...faced the challenge of providing services to clients outside of a legal context. **The organization is limited in the information or guidance that can be provided in the sphere of social services.** The addition of a social worker to the team could help bridge this gap and provide clients with resources, information, and guidance.

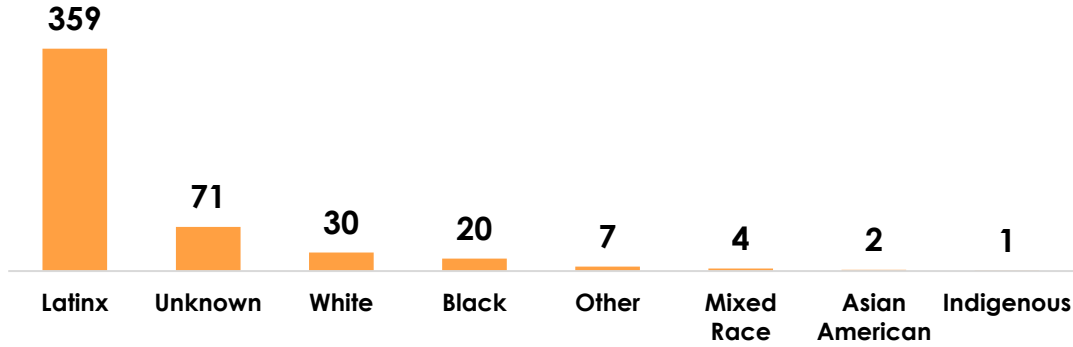
– RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

“Due to the nature of the community members being serviced, it can often be difficult for clients to meet as they usually work long hours, are victims of human trafficking, and/or have multiple jobs.

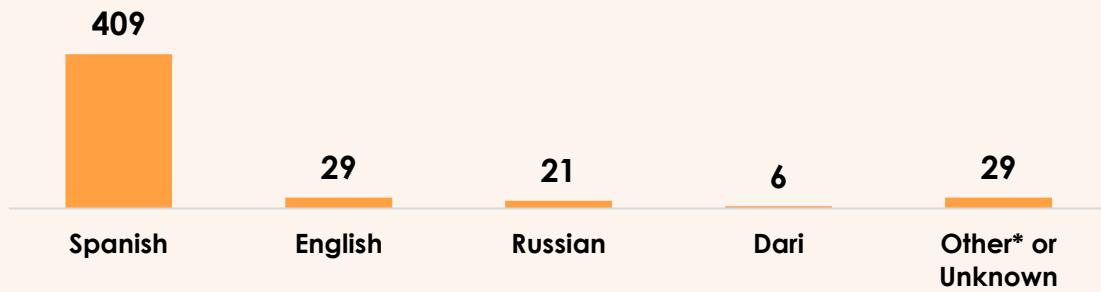
– RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

Removal Defense (Non-Detained): Data Highlights

Removal Defense (Non-Detained) by Race/Ethnicity

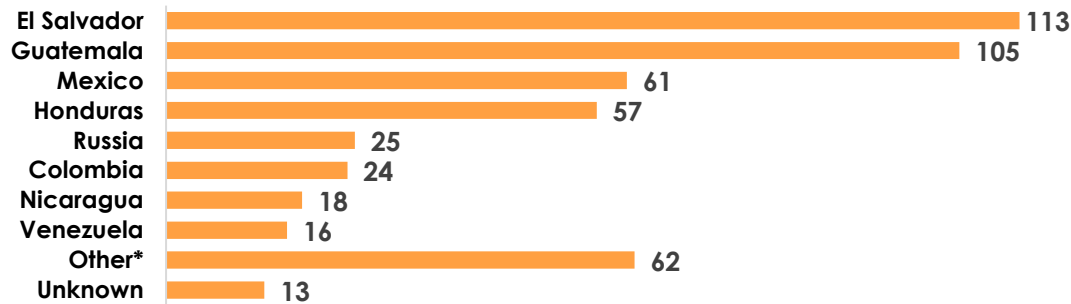


Removal Defense (Non-Detained) by Reported Primary Language



*includes Creole, Pashto, Arabic, French, Mandarin, Portuguese, Tigrinya-Eriteran

Removal Defense (Non-Detained) by Country of Origin



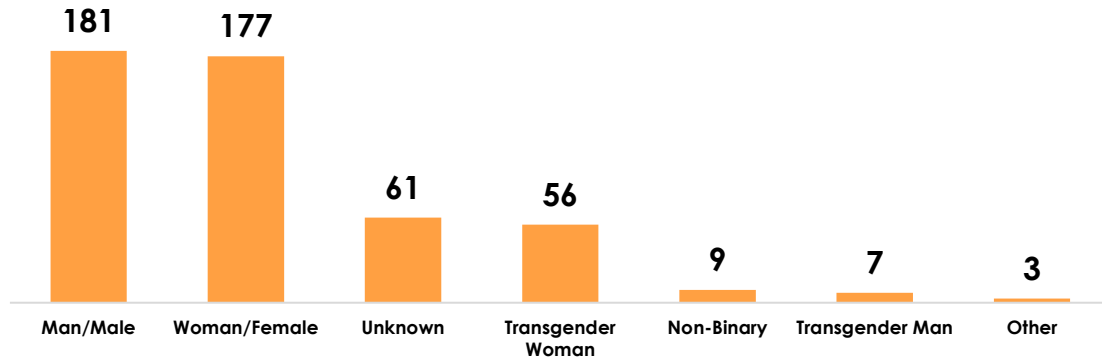
*includes (in order by the number of cases) Afghanistan, Cuba, Belize, Ecuador, Nigeria, Haiti, Mauritania, Peru, Br Uganda, Angola, China, Jamaica, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Tunisia, USSR

REMOVAL DEFENSE (NON-DETAINED)

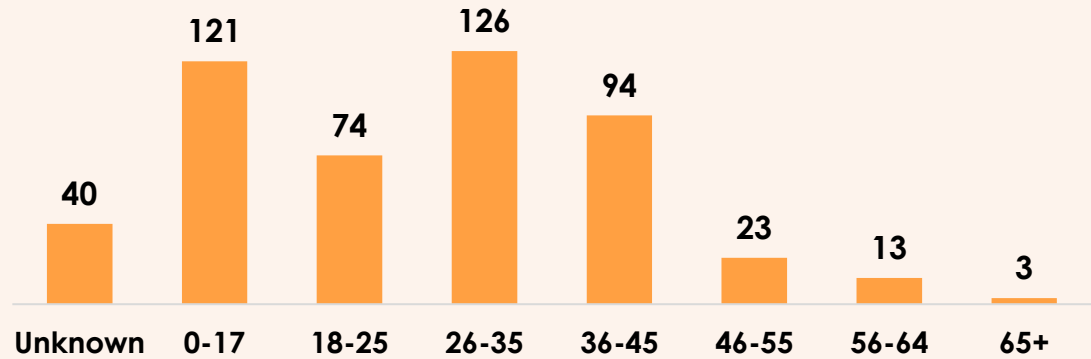
- 494 of the 903 (55%) cases are classified as removal defense (non-detained).
- The majority of removal defense (non-detained) clients identified as Latinx (72%) and reported Spanish as their primary language (83%).
- Nearly 7 in 10 removal defense (non-detained) clients reported El Salvador (23%), Guatemala (21%), Mexico (12%), or Honduras (12%) as their country of origin.

Removal Defense (Non-Detained): Data Highlights

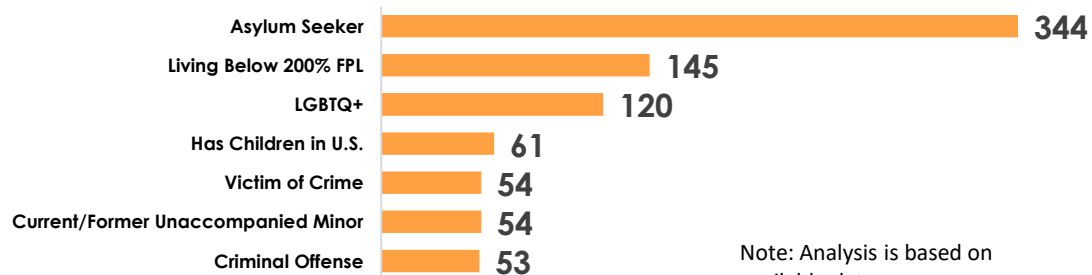
Removal Defense (Non-Detained) by Gender Identity



Removal Defense (Non-Detained) by Age



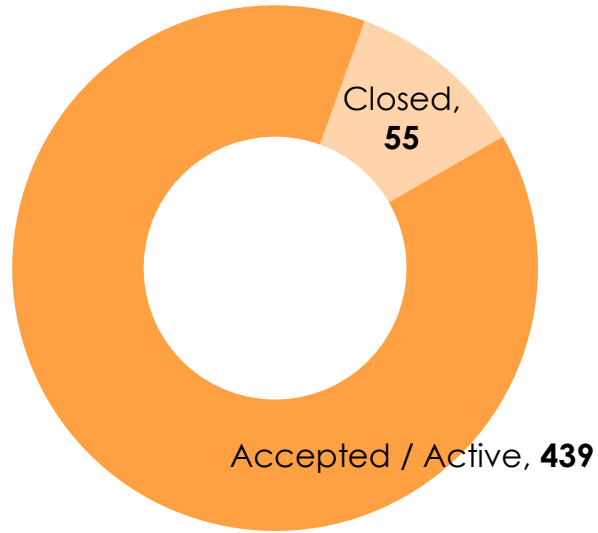
Number of Removal Defense (Non-Detained) Applicants Reporting...



Note: Analysis is based on available data.

REMOVAL DEFENSE (NON-DETAINED)

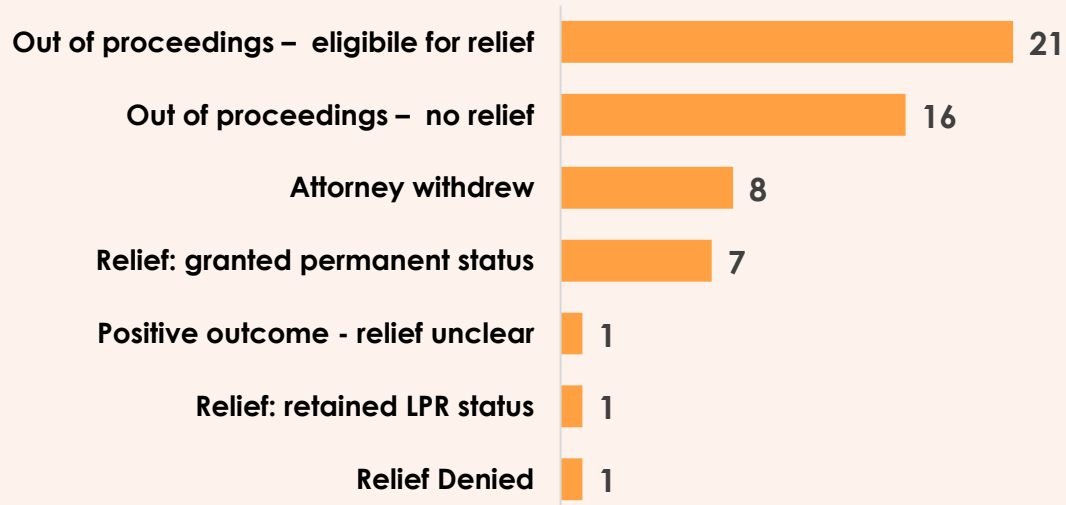
- Approximately 7 of 10 removal defense (non-detained) clients identified as men or women; about 15% of clients identified as either transgender, non-binary, or other.
- More than half (65%) of removal defense (non-detained) clients are ages 35 and younger.
- Nearly 7 in 10 removal defense (non-detained) clients report they are seeking asylum.



REMOVAL DEFENSE (NON-DETAINED)

- Of the 494 non-detained removal cases, all were accepted for full-scope representation.
- 55 cases are closed, including 38% of clients who had their removal proceedings terminated or dismissed, lifting the imminent threat of deportation and are now eligible for a form of immigration relief.
- About 84% of closed cases have resulted in a positive outcome, including clients who no longer face deportation.

Removal Defense (non-Detained) Closed Case Cited Reason



Voices on the Ground

““ *The **delay in producing receipt notices by USCIS** has brought considerable challenges to the work being completed. Additionally, there is **a lack of response from ICE counsel and can lead to a waste of resources**, such as time and staff who must attend hearings in which the ICE Counsel is not adequately prepared.*

– RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

““ *... **sharp increase in the speed of cases that are being determined for individual hearings.** Immigration judges have typically informed the attorneys within 180 days (about 6 months) of an individual hearing, which has now changed to 60 days. **This has made scheduling difficult for the staff and for the cases of the clients.***

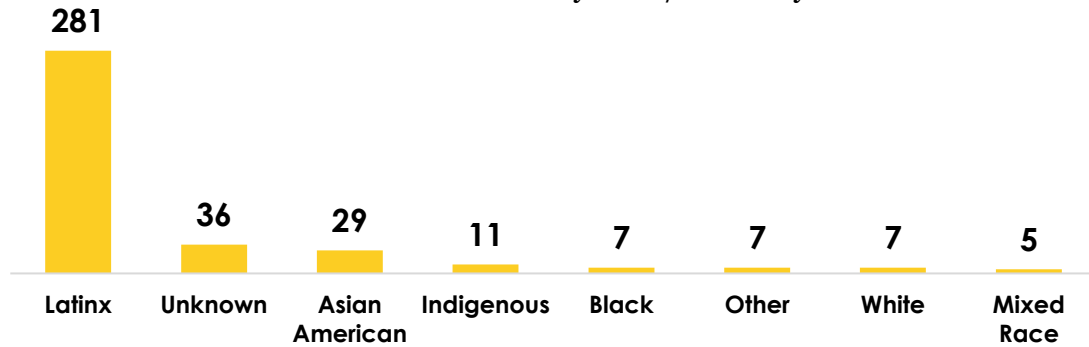
– RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

““ ***Encountering clients who were not eligible for services was a challenge, including those in removal proceedings** or because they did not live in LA County. Knowing that the demand for services is greater than what we can provide can be really heartbreaking.*

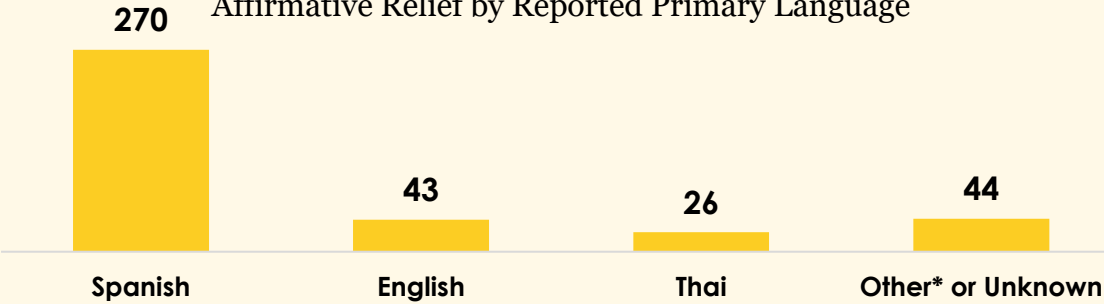
– RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

Affirmative Relief: Data Highlights

Affirmative Relief by Race/Ethnicity

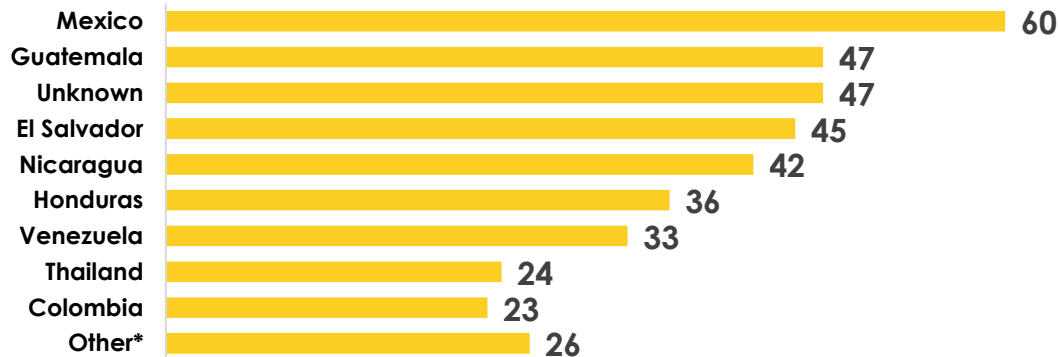


Affirmative Relief by Reported Primary Language



*includes (in order by number of cases) Indigenous language (non-specified), Ixil, Armenian, Polish, Russian, Portuguese, Quiche, and Turkish

Affirmative Relief by Country of Origin



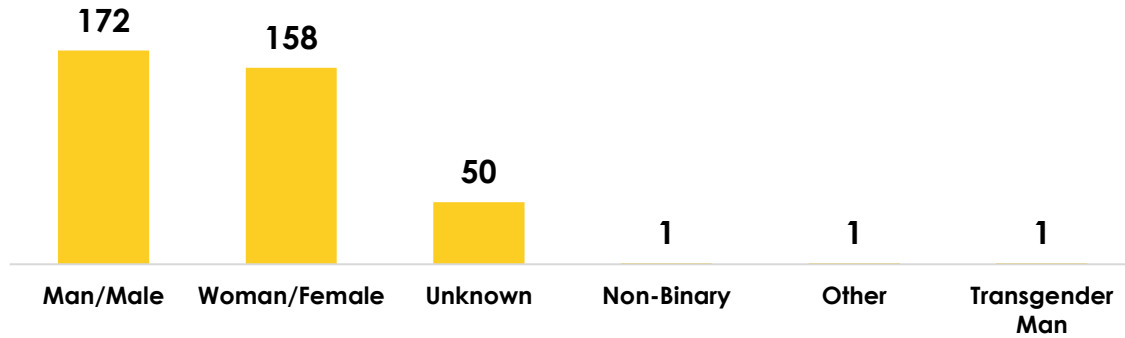
*includes (in order by number of cases) Belize, Cuba, Russia, Vietnam, China, Ecuador, Guinea, Haiti, Italy, Korea, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Turkey, Uganda, Armenia

AFFIRMATIVE RELIEF

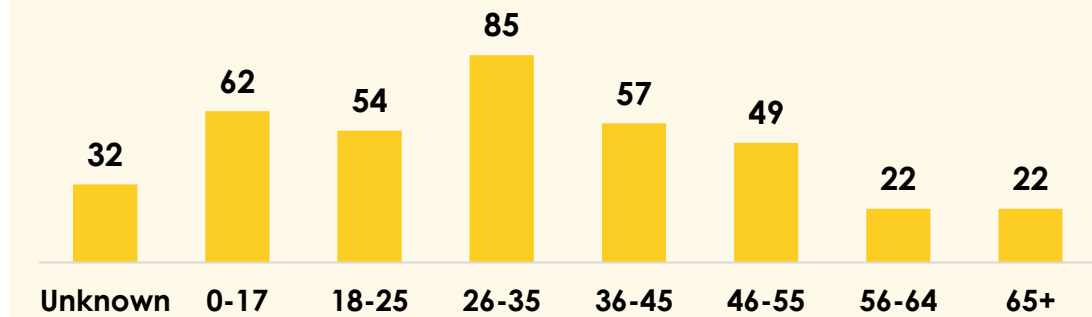
- 383 of 903 (42%) of RepresentLA's full-scope representation cases are classified as affirmative relief.
- The majority of affirmative relief clients identified as Latinx (73%) and reported Spanish as their primary language (70%).
- Approximately 6 in 10 affirmative relief clients come from a Central American country (45%), or Mexico (16%).

Affirmative Relief: Data Highlights

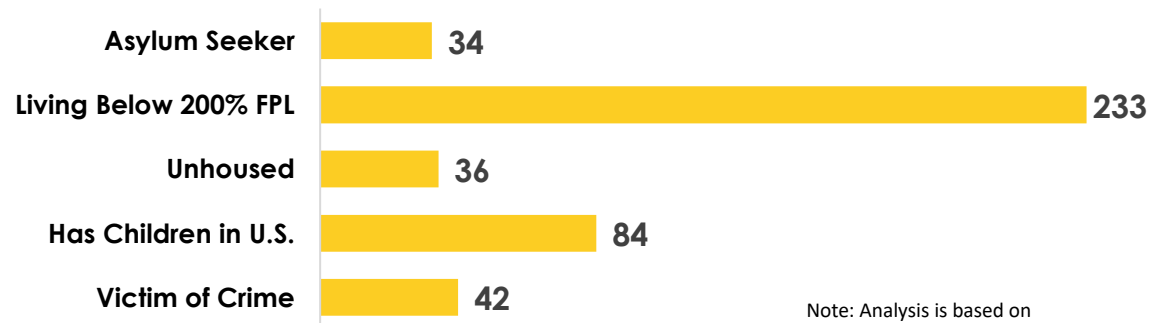
Affirmative Relief by Gender Identity



Affirmative Relief by Age



Affirmative Relief Applicants Reporting...

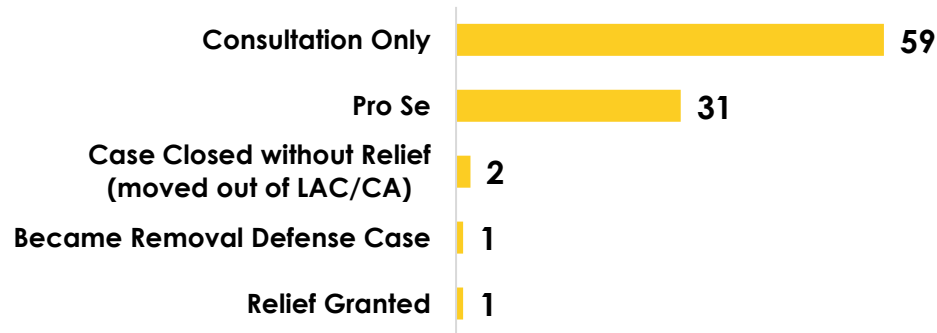


Note: Analysis is based on available data.

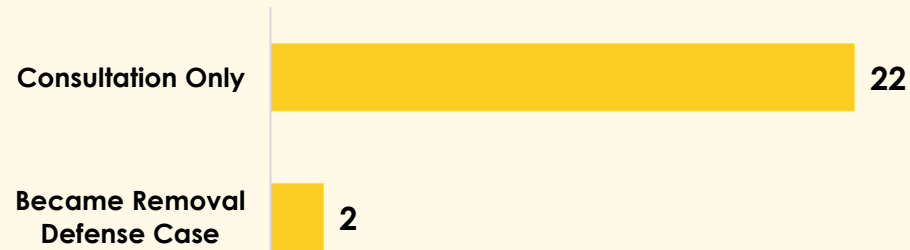
AFFIRMATIVE RELIEF

- Nearly 9 of 10 affirmative relief clients identified as men or women; 3 clients identified as either transgender, non-binary, or other.
- Nearly a quarter (22%) of affirmative relief clients are between the ages of 26 and 35 years old.
- More than 6 in 10 affirmative relief clients have household incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line.

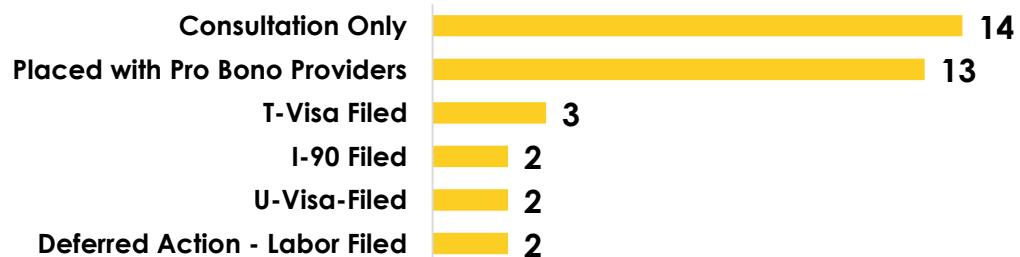
Reported Outcome for Asylum Cases



Reported Outcome for SIJS Cases



Reported Outcome for Labor Trafficking Cases



AFFIRMATIVE RELIEF

- Data inconsistency on status (e.g., “accepted/active” and “closed”) is due to different cases having distinct objectives by design (e.g., SIJS vs. labor trafficking vs. asylum cases).
- 94 asylum cases had a reported outcome, including 59 cases that were a consultation only and 31 that were pro se.
- 24 SIJS cases had a reported outcome, including 22 cases that were a consultation only and 2 that became removal defense cases.
- 36 labor trafficking cases had a reported outcome, including 14 cases that were a consultation only and 13 that were placed with pro bono providers.

Voices on the Ground

“**Clients are having to wait an indefinite amount of time for their cases to be resolved at the Asylum Office.** There are also delays with the annual visas that creates challenges in adjusting the status of many clients. **U-Visa eligibility in removal defense cases has remained strenuous** due to annual visa caps and long processing times.

– RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

“**At the federal level, the immovable visa bulletin is a challenge with an estimated wait time of 5 years for SIJS clients to receive lawful permanent residency...**several requirements must remain unchanged for the client to retain permanent residency such as remaining unmarried and/or having no interaction with the criminal system.

– RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

“**Caseworkers will most likely have to obtain more work and resources for the new asylum rules following the end of Title 42...**Clients with NTAs must apply for asylum affirmatively and may be ineligible after one year. **Various changes have been made by USCIS that have made this more difficult,** such as the inability to complete this task online.

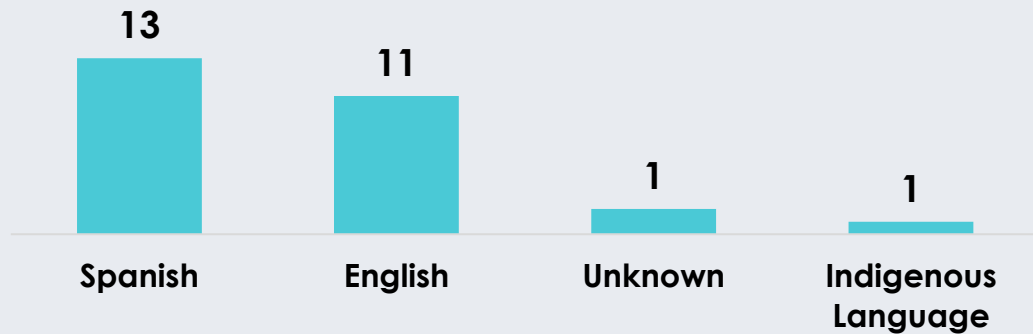
– RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

Removal Defense (Detained): Data Highlights

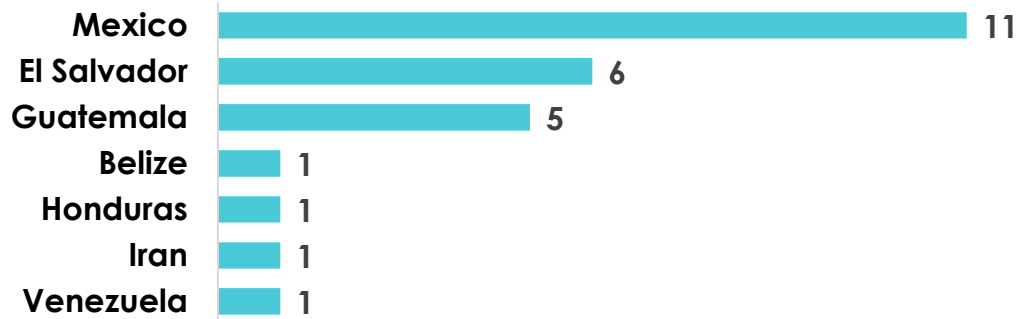
Removal Defense (Detained) by Race/Ethnicity



Removal Defense (Detained) by Reported Primary Language



Removal Defense (Detained) by Country of Origin

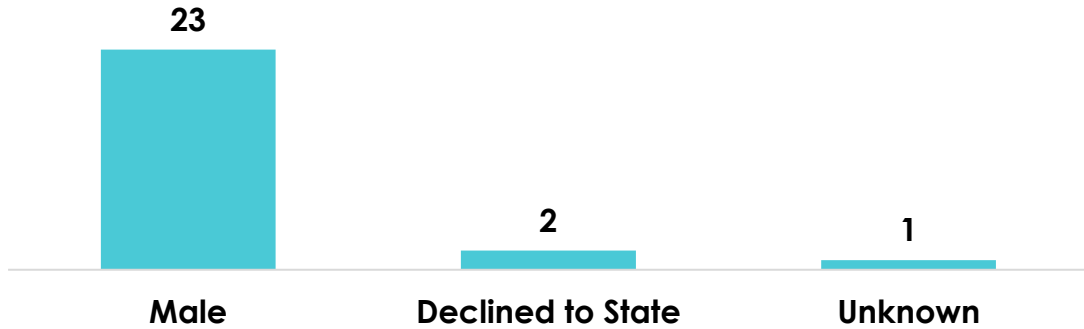


REMOVAL DEFENSE (DETAINED)

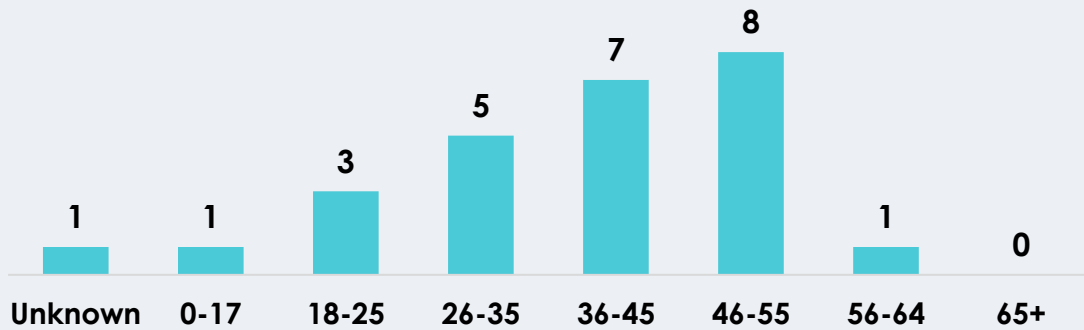
- 26 of the 903 (3%) RepresentLA full-scope representation cases are classified as removal defense (detained).
- The majority of removal defense (detained) clients identified as Latinx (69%) and reported Spanish as their primary language (50%).
- A significant share of removal defense (detained) clients reported Mexico as their country of origin (42%).

Removal Defense (Detained): Data Highlights

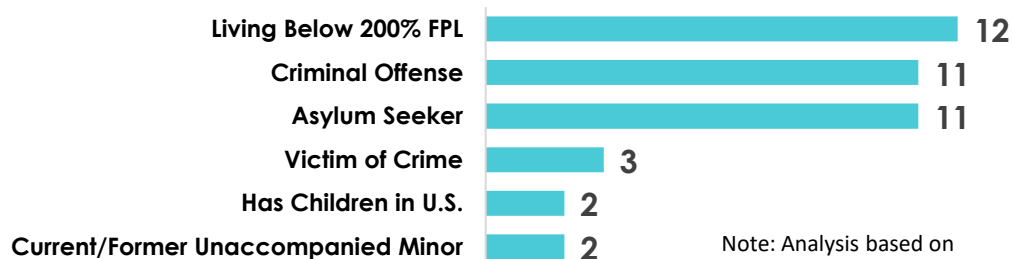
Removal Defense (Detained) by Gender Identity



Removal Defense (Detained) by Age at Intake



Number of Removal Defense (Detained) Applicants Reporting...

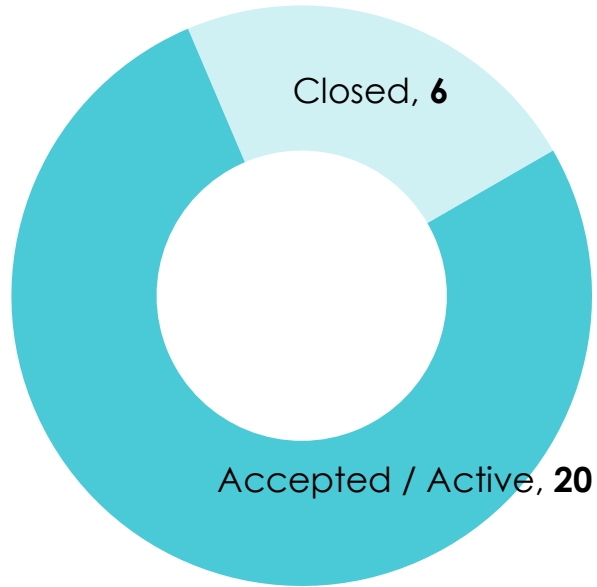


Note: Analysis based on available data.

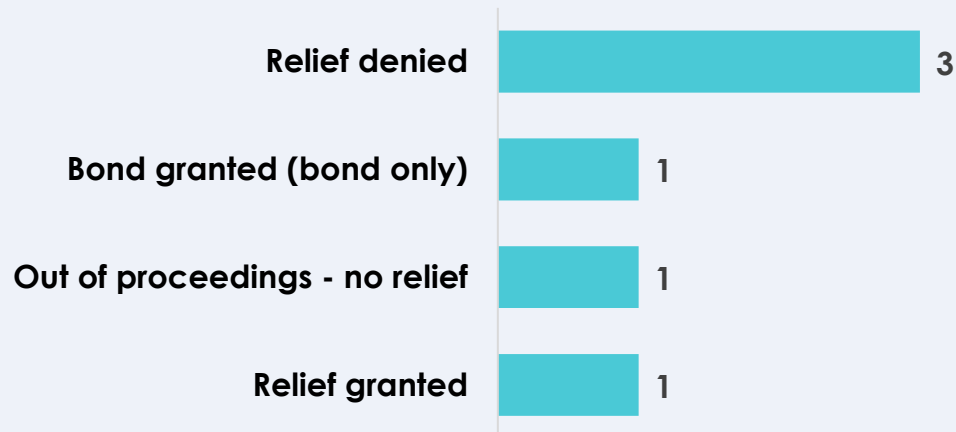
REMOVAL DEFENSE (DETAINED)

- Among removal defense (detained) clients with gender reported, all identified as men.
- More than half (57%) of removal defense (detained) clients fall between the ages of 36 and 55 years old.
- More than 4 in 10 removal defense (detained) clients have at least one vulnerability reported, including seeking asylum.

Removal Defense (Detained): Data Highlights



Removal Defense (Detained) Closed Case Cited Reason



REMOVAL DEFENSE (DETAINED)

- 3 of the 6 closed cases had a positive outcome, including having a bond granted, proceedings dismissed/terminated, or relief granted.
- 3 of the 6 closed cases had their relief denied.
- Of the 26 removal defense (detained) cases, all were accepted for full-scope representation.

Voices on the Ground

““ The biggest obstacle has mostly been **providing timely services to detained clients while facing red-tape from detention centers.** Detention administrators and officers do not operate with the same sense of urgency as legal providers and court staff do, which further delays our work.

– RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

““ Our team encountered **communication issues with our clients in detention.** It's difficult to schedule video calls with our clients and some delays with the mail as well. Communication is even more challenging when our **clients are transferred to a different detention facility without any notification to us.**

– RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

““ The most challenging part of my work has been the **lack of cooperation and availability to talk to my client with GEO group** - the group contracted to guard detainees. Perhaps due to the sheer amount of individuals currently detained, it is at times **difficult to get a timely video appointment with clients.**

– RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

Understanding the Data: Quarterly Wellness Survey

As part of the RepresentLA reporting requirements, contractors and sub-contractors are encouraged to complete a quarterly survey to evaluate their feelings of burnout; the emotional toll of the work; the positive influence on clients' lives; and whether they have adequate time and resources to complete work-related tasks.

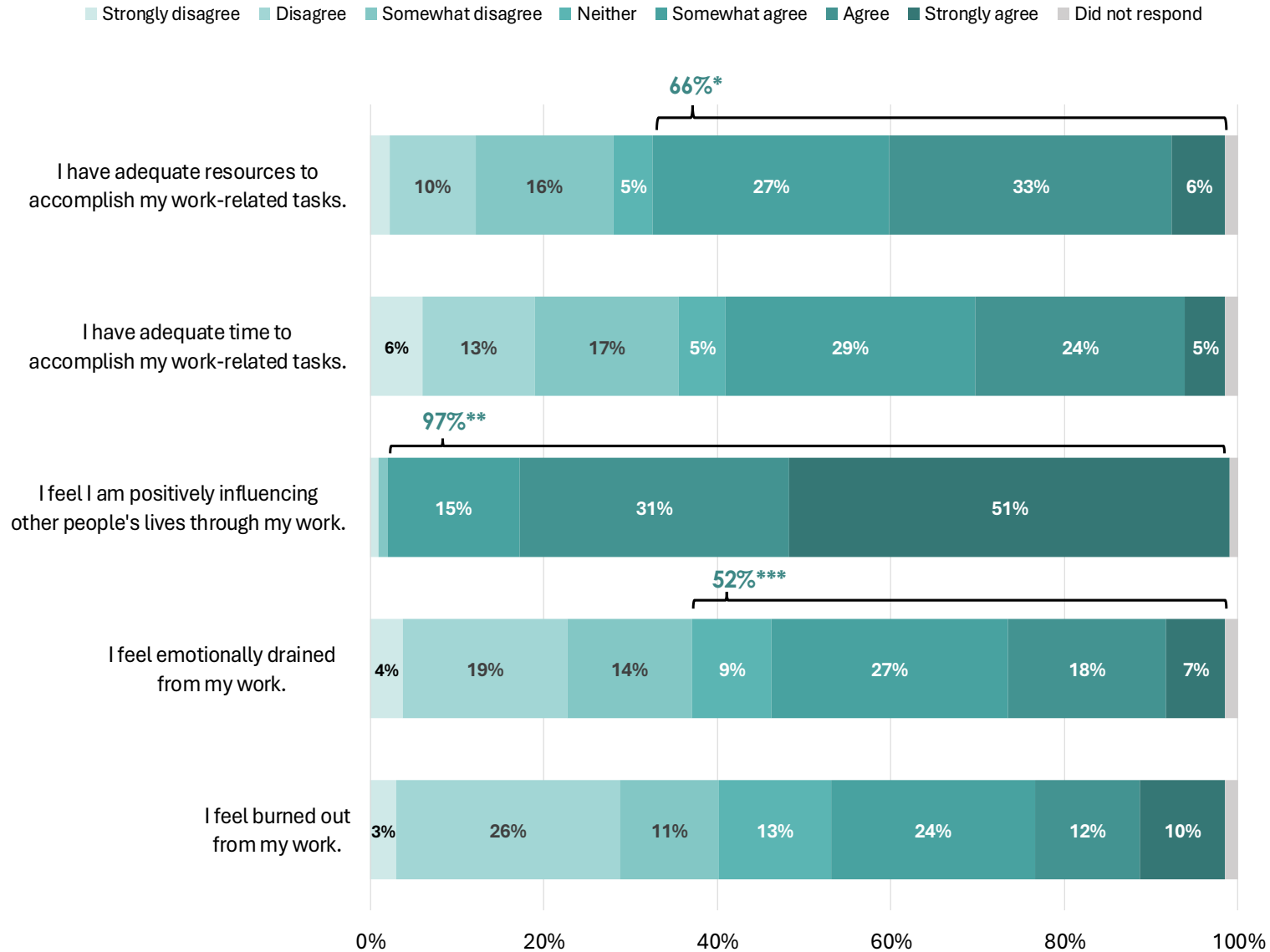
The survey also assesses the successes and challenges they face as legal service providers that provides further context and insight into the case activity data.

“

*Not only is it a lot of **high stress and pressure to meet the 1-year deadline** for cases that we don't always have as much time as we would like, but also **all the emotional work** that happens in order to focus the client to get the necessary/helpful facts to the case.*

– RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

RepresentLA Wellness Survey Q 1 - Q 4



Note: The total number of responses featured above was 132.

- ***66%** of responses indicated some degree of agreement with the statement: *“I have adequate resources to accomplish my work-related tasks.”*
- ****97%** of responses indicated some degree of agreement with the statement: *“I feel I am positively influencing other people's lives through my work.”*
- *****52%** of responses indicated some degree of agreement with the statement: *“I feel emotionally drained from my work.”*

Understanding the Wellness Survey Data: Top 3 Challenges

1. RepresentLA contractors and sub-contractors have an overwhelmingly high volume of cases with unreasonable and competing priority deadlines. Many describe their experience as constantly “operating in a state of emergency” while understaffed and under-resourced.
2. Immigration law is not only complex, requiring time and resources, but also emotionally taxing and attorneys are often not compensated adequately. This can explain the high attorney turnover that creates challenges for them in managing caseloads and can explain the “difficulty of hiring qualified and quality candidates to do the work.”
3. Contractors and sub-contractors are not only providing critical legal services but are also a lifeline to vulnerable clients who have faced traumatic experiences and numerous socioeconomic challenges—such as economic insecurity, housing, mental health challenges, and transportation needs. Clients’ circumstances can often impede them from providing the necessary documentation to attorneys and even attending their appointments.

“

*Constantly **being in a state of emergency** has been absolutely exhausting. **Short deadlines coupled with too much work, not enough time, and complex cases—it gets draining.** You feel guilt when you're not working but your physical and mental health suffer if you're at your desk all day and into the night. It's a tough balance that affects us beyond our work self and into our relationships and families.*

*– RepresentLA Legal
Service Provider*

Understanding the Wellness Survey Data: Top 3 Rewarding Factors

1. The majority of RepresentLA contractors and sub-contractors highlighted that providing clients—who have navigated challenging circumstances—with critical support throughout their legal processes that tend to be complex, is the most rewarding aspect of their work.
2. Similarly, they feel rewarded when they can obtain positive outcomes for clients who otherwise may not have been represented—for immigrants in removal proceedings this meant preventing their clients from being deported or releasing their client from detention—and receiving their client's appreciation.
3. An additional rewarding component of the work for RepresentLA contractors and sub-contractors was working alongside their dedicated co-workers who fostered a sense of camaraderie.

“

*The most rewarding thing about the work is definitely being able to **assist and guide clients who have already struggled a lot** and are traumatized from what they have seen and lived. It is very satisfying to be able to assist them...through **case management work such as application for benefits, support with other types of needs** to provide a more well-rounded assistance.*

*– RepresentLA Legal
Service Provider*

Looking Ahead: Factors to Consider

1. To date, RepresentLA has provided critical services, including legal orientation and pro se services, to 2,144 vulnerable immigrants who otherwise would not be represented. Indeed, about 14% of RepresentLA clients identify as LGBTQ+.
2. Attorneys are a lifeline to clients—71 families and 172 clients were referred to social services—but funds to hire in-house social workers are an urgent need.
3. Navigating a complex and ever-changing immigration system warrants funding for organizational capacity, technical assistance, and living wages—this is especially important in retaining attorneys who experience significant burnout. Due to this, RepresentLA has pivoted to respond to the moment in time and the needs of immigrant Angelenos.
4. Despite all the challenges contractors and sub-contractors face in providing legal services, they continue to achieve positive case outcomes for their clients—not only in the form of relief but also in providing competent counsel throughout challenging legal processes and the cancellation of removal proceedings, among others.
5. RepresentLA has forged new partnerships with AltaMed, the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles, and the Department of Labor that are coordinating social and legal services for vulnerable immigrant populations.



*...the partnerships between **AltaMed and Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles** have **remained fruitful** and allowed clients to receive medical care, psychological care, case management, and legal **services to the children impacted by the stress and vulnerabilities of immigration.***

– RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

Looking Ahead: Factors to Consider

6. RepresentLA has expanded the infrastructure of legal services—that is critical in responding to a changing political landscape—yet the need continues to far outweigh the availability of resources.
7. Factors such as the reduction in the detained population at the Adelanto Detention Center impact the volume of detained removal defense cases represented through the program. As such, flexibility in funding is important to respond to the moment in time.
8. Improving the centralized referral system to be more detailed, accessible, and streamlined can alleviate inefficiencies and add clarity on whether an individual is eligible for the program.
9. Although the Community Advisory Group (a component of the program framework) has not been created yet, its implementation during the next phase, will be key for incorporating the voices and needs of the immigrant community.
10. Improving and streamlining data collection systems—while not compromising the time of attorney’s who are already at capacity—is important to improve the quality and accuracy of the case activity data. Moreover, extensive and duplicate data reporting requirements create an additional burden for attorneys—time can be better spent assisting clients.

“

*...The success rate of [our organization] has impacted the caseload deliverables positively. **All the merit hearings for LGBTQ asylum seekers have resulted in grants of relief this year.***

– RepresentLA Legal Service Provider

Methodological Appendix

CASE ACTIVITY DATA AND ANALYSIS

Contractors and sub-contractors who provide legal services input client data into an online platform operated by RepresentLA's Program Administrator, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights - Los Angeles (CHIRLA). This data then is processed and downloaded on a quarterly basis by CHIRLA. USC ERI receives the anonymized legal case activity data from the County Office for Immigrant Affairs (OIA) and CHIRLA. After receiving the data, we clean and analyze the data using SPSS, a statistical and computation tool. Based on entries categorized as "legal cases" in the data, we then create crosstabs based on different case types (e.g., removal defense or affirmative relief) and various sociodemographic indicators, including race/ethnicity, gender, country of origin, and primary language. For sociodemographic data that is missing, we recode them as unknown.

For data on vulnerabilities (e.g., Is the client experiencing homelessness?), we do not recode missing data (i.e., blank) as unknown because it is unclear if contractors and sub-contractors are systematically and consistently not responding because the client is not experiencing that particular vulnerability, if it is unknown because client did not disclose, or if the contractor or sub-contractor inputting the data overlooked the question. It is also possible that the completeness of the data is threatened by attrition.

WELLNESS DATA

The wellness survey includes open-ended questions assessing contractor and sub-contractors' experience in the past three months, including challenges, rewarding aspects, barriers, bond funds, and feedback providing legal services through RepresentLA. The survey also includes a series of Likert scale questions to measure feelings of burnout; the emotional toll of the work; the positive influence on client's lives; and whether they have adequate time and resources to complete work-related tasks.

A 7-point scale of agreement was utilized with the following ratings: strongly disagree, disagree, somewhat disagree, neither, somewhat agree, and strongly agree. While contractors and sub-contractors were encouraged to respond on a quarterly basis, they were not required to do so. The responses submitted are dated from July 2023 to January 2024 to capture quarter one through quarter four of the program. The wellness survey was embedded in the Salesforce data portal that contractors and sub-contractors used to submit case activity data. Wellness data was extracted by CHIRLA, the program administrator, and sent to the USC Equity Research Institute for analysis. The data was cleaned and reviewed by USC ERI and analyzed using Excel and SPSS.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT LEVEL ESTIMATES

In order to use the 2021 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) microdata from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS USA) to explore LA County’s supervisorial districts, we created a crosswalk by intersecting 2021 LA County supervisorial district boundaries, 2010 public use microdata areas (PUMAs), and 2021 block group centroids in ArcGIS Pro. We chose to use the block group-level because it is **the most granular geography** available in the 5-year ACS microdata.

In the crosswalk product, each row represents a sliver resulting from the intersection of PUMAs and supervisorial district boundaries. Additionally, each sliver is accompanied with **an allocation factor that indicates how much of a PUMA’s population overlap with supervisorial district(s)**. An allocation factor of 1 means that a PUMA is completely contained inside a supervisorial district.

To allocate microdata to supervisorial districts and ensure that individuals from the same household stick together, we first assigned **random numbers** to all rows (individual observations). Next, we aggregated the microdata by household serial number to find the cumulative distribution of the person weight (note, this can be either person or household weight). **This step makes sure that all household members (in a PUMA that is split among districts) stay together when assigned to a supervisorial district.** Lastly, we computed the cumulative population percentage and used that along with the allocation factor to distribute people/households into supervisorial districts.

Random distribution of overall population distribution may seem crude initially. However, we stress that two-thirds of PUMAs in LA County are fully or largely (more than 90%) contained in a supervisorial district. Additionally, our population estimates by supervisorial districts closely align with the county’s own estimates.

	SD 1	SD 2	SD 3	SD 4	SD 5
County Estimates	1,982,511	2,023,783	2,061,345	2,083,832	1,896,455
USC ERI Estimates	2,022,780	2,054,821	2,070,194	2,116,828	1,899,121
Percentage Difference	2%	1.5%	0.4%	1.6%	0.1%

ESTIMATING IMMIGRANT STATUS

To estimate immigrant status (e.g., undocumented, naturalized citizen, lawful resident), we rely on an approach developed by Pastor, Le, and Scoggins (2021).⁸ This approach relies on an increasingly common strategy that involves first determining who among the non-citizen population is least likely to be undocumented due to a series of conditions (a process called “logical edits”) and then sorting the remainder into documented and undocumented based on a series of probability estimates. The probability estimates are derived from a logistic regression model run on the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) from the U.S. Census Bureau, from which coefficients are then applied to non-citizen, non-Cuban immigrants in the 5-year ACS microdata from IPUMS USA to estimate each respondent’s probability of being undocumented. Unlike most surveys, the questions included in the SIPP allow researchers to deduce documentation status.

Individuals in the ACS microdata who are not assumed to be documented based on the logical edits are then tagged as “undocumented” until estimated control totals from experts at the Office of Immigration Statistics, the Migration Policy Institute, and the Center for Migration Studies are met. Estimated control totals at both the national level by country of origin, and at the state level (for all countries combined) are applied. It is important to note that when tagging individuals as “undocumented,” the tagging is not simply done from the top down in terms of estimated probabilities of being undocumented but is rather done in such a way that the distribution of probabilities for those tagged as undocumented mimics the distribution observed among those identified as undocumented in the SIPP.

All non-citizens not tagged as undocumented are assumed to be either Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) or holders of student or H1B visas. Student visa holders include those who immigrated as adults and were enrolled in higher education at the time they were surveyed. H1B visa holders are identified through a procedure that considers age, country of origin, length of time in the U.S., and occupation. Those not identified as student or H1B visa holders are assumed to be LPRs. Unless otherwise noted, demographic data of the LA County immigrant population are estimates by USC Equity Research Institute.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Additionally, thank you to all the contractors and sub-contractors who are providing resources and representation to immigrant Angelenos through RepresentLA, and participating in this evaluation process.

Questions?

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Equity Research Institute

Endnotes

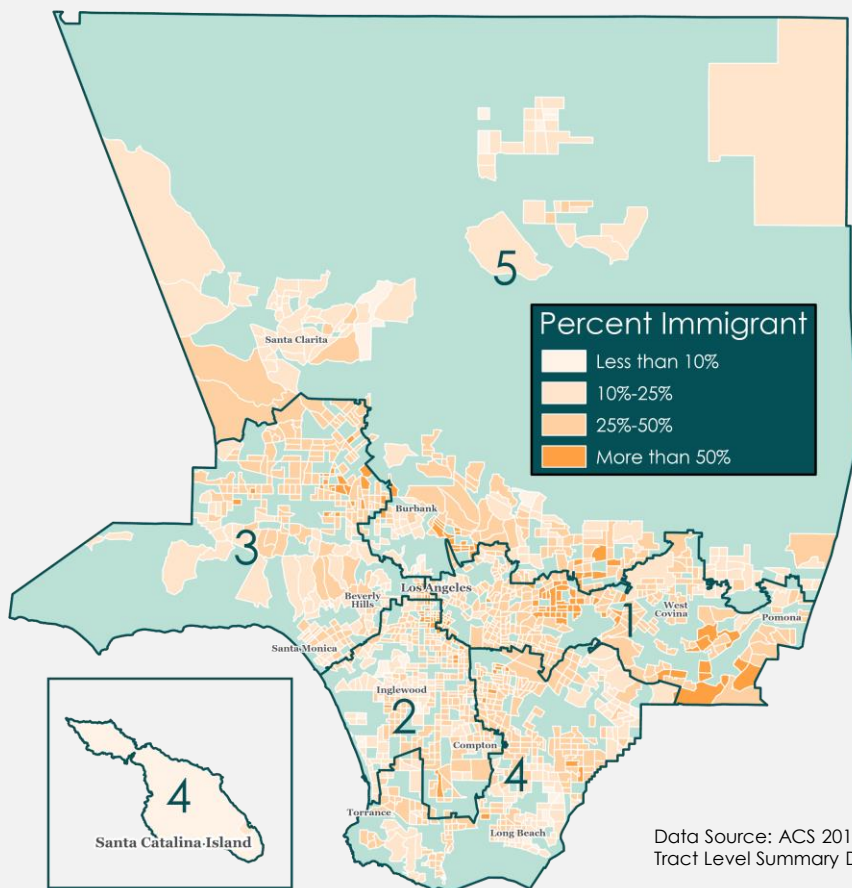
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A Demographic Snapshot of LA County's Supervisorial Districts (SD)

Neighborhood Level Immigrant Map

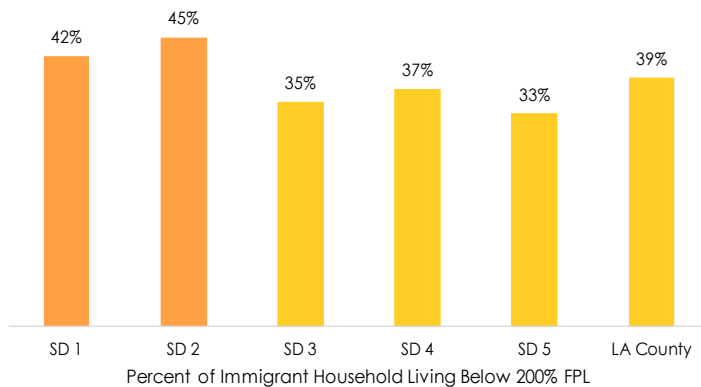
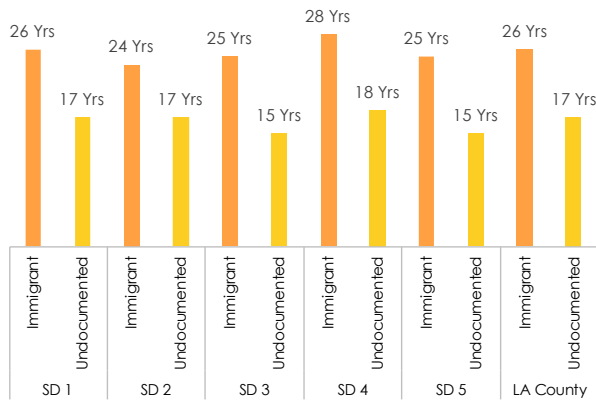
Insight & Analysis

Though SD 1 is home to a **quarter** of the county's immigrant population, SD 2 has the largest share (**28%**) of the county's undocumented immigrant population.



Supervisorial District		Immigrant Population	Undocumented Immigrant
1	Count	824K	188K
	Share	24%	23%
2	Count	709K	226K
	Share	20%	28%
3	Count	727K	144K
	Share	21%	18%
4	Count	672K	161K
	Share	19%	20%
5	Count	571K	90K
	Share	16%	11%
Los Angeles County	Count	3.5M	810K
	Share	100%	100%

Supervisory District (SD) Comparisons



Median Arrival Time

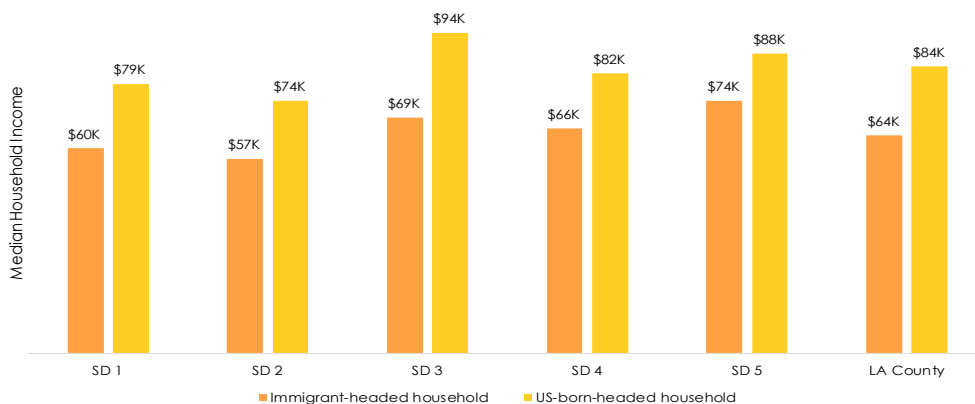
Across all districts, the median time lived in the US for undocumented immigrants is more than 15 years.

Poverty

More than 40% of immigrant households in Supervisory Districts 1 and 2 live below 200% of the federal poverty line.

Nativity Income Gap

US-born-led households generally have higher median household income than immigrant-led households. The largest gap can be found in the Third District where the gap is **\$25,000**.



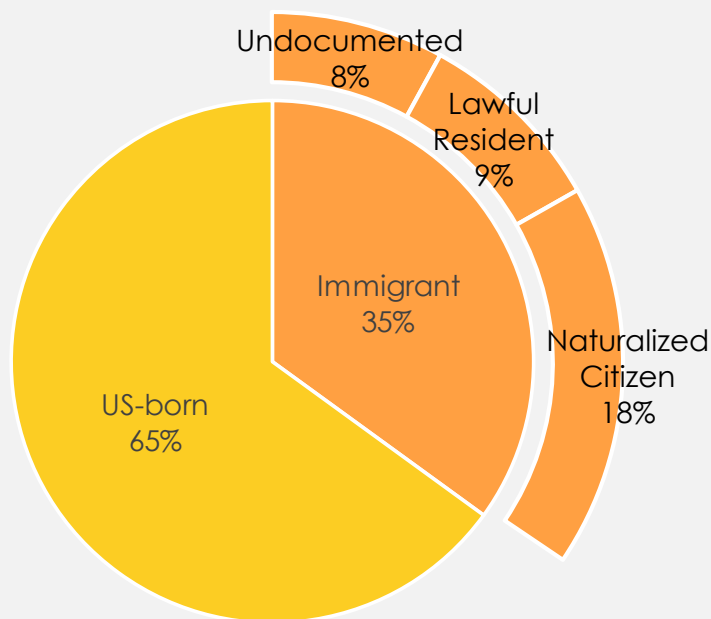
Supervisory District	Undoc Population	Citizen Living with Undoc Family Member(s)	Lawful Resident Living with Undoc Family Member(s)
1	188K	194K	56K
2	226K	233K	58K
3	144K	131K	39K
4	161K	190K	45K
5	90K	94K	31K
LA County	810K	841K	230K

Mixed-Status Families

In 2021, **over 1 million** citizens and lawful residents lived with at least one undocumented family member in the county. Overall, **1 in 5** people in Los Angeles County (19%) were either undocumented or lived with at least one undocumented family member.

Los Angeles County Immigrant Community Profile

Nativity and Immigration Status



QUICK FACTS

In 2021, over 1 in 3 (or **3.5 million**) Angelenos were immigrants.

Top 5 Countries of Origin

Mexico

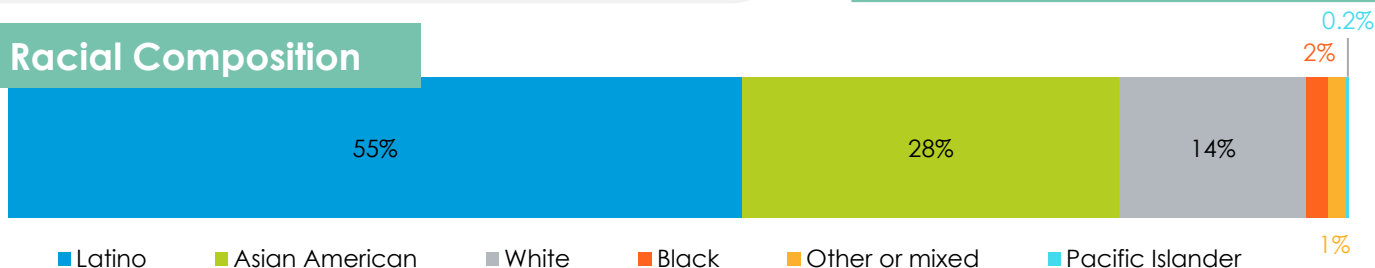
China

El Salvador

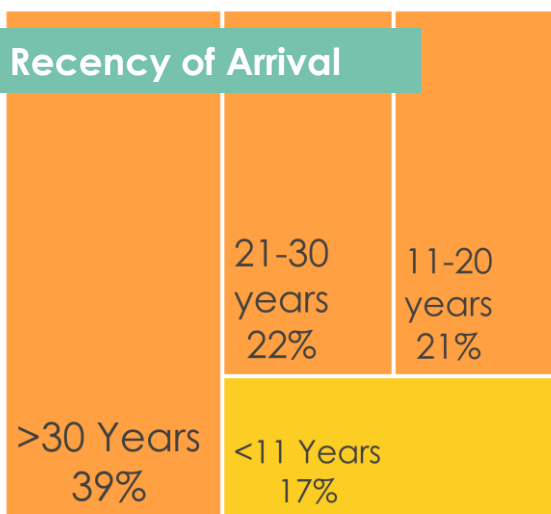
Philippines

Guatemala

Racial Composition



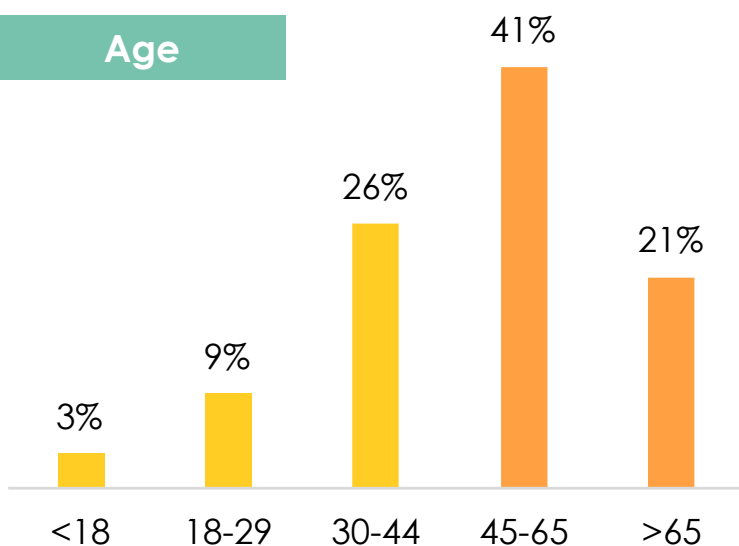
Recency of Arrival



More than **80%** of immigrants in the county have been in the US for more than a decade.

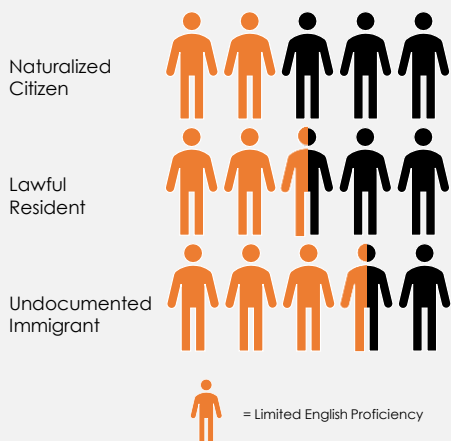
Los Angeles has an aging immigrant population. Over **60%** of immigrants are 45 or older.

Age

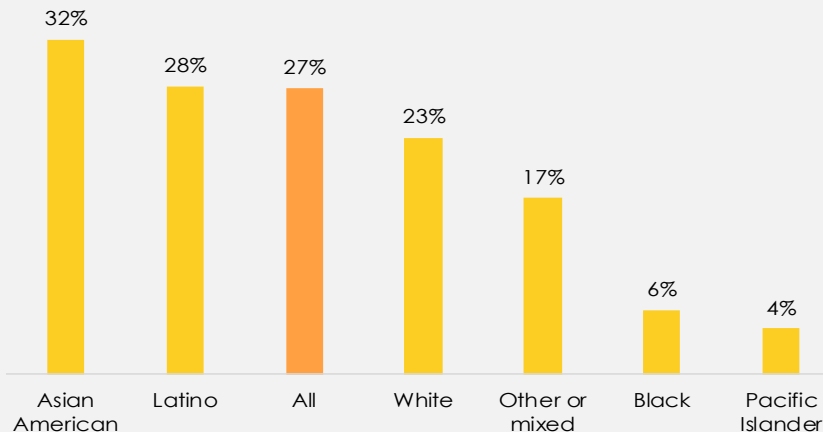


Los Angeles County Immigrant Community Profile

Limited English Proficiency



Linguistic Isolation



Language Access

More than 3 in 5 undocumented immigrants identified as having limited English proficiency. Asian American and Latino immigrant households experience linguistic isolation at a **higher rate** than the average.

Language Diversity

Los Angeles has a rich diversity of languages. **More than half** of the population speak a language other than English at home.

Spanish	3.67M	Vietnamese	82K
Chinese	393K	Hindi	77K
Tagalog	242K	Farsi	77K
Armenian	178K	Japanese	52K
Korean	169K	Russian	52K

Median Household Income Gap

Immigrant households had a median income of **\$64,000**, while US-born households had a median income that is **31%** higher at **\$84,000**.

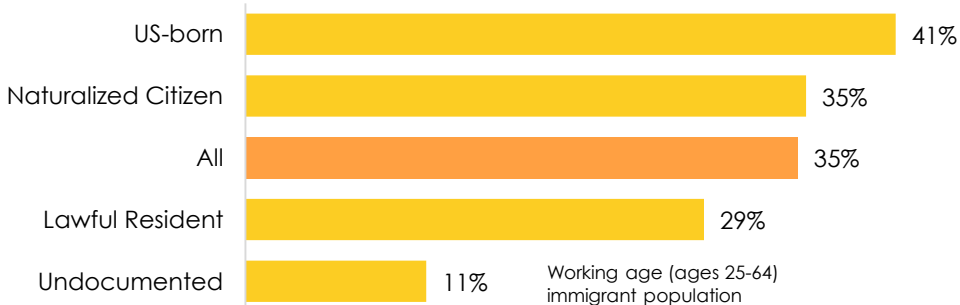
Experience with Poverty

Immigrant-led households are more likely than their US-born counterparts to experience poverty. About **39%** of immigrant-led households live below 200% of the federal poverty line in the county.

Percent Living Below 200% Federal Poverty Line

US-born-led Household	25%
Immigrant-led Household	39%

Percent with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher

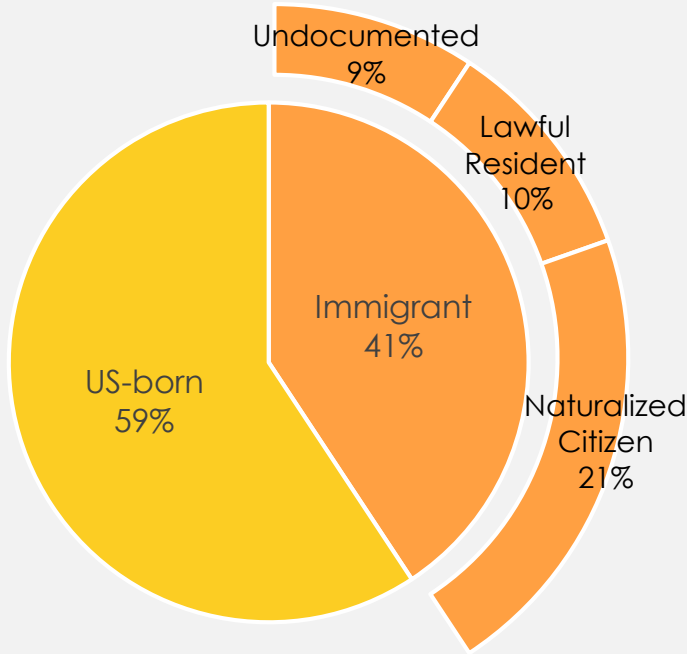


Disparities in Educational Attainment

At 11%, undocumented immigrants are **the least likely** to have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Supervisorial District 1 Immigrant Community Profile

Nativity and Immigration Status



QUICK FACTS

Supervisor: **Hilda Solis**

Total population: **2.0M**

Most populous city*: **Pomona**

*Not counting the City of Los Angeles

Top 5 Countries of Origin

Mexico

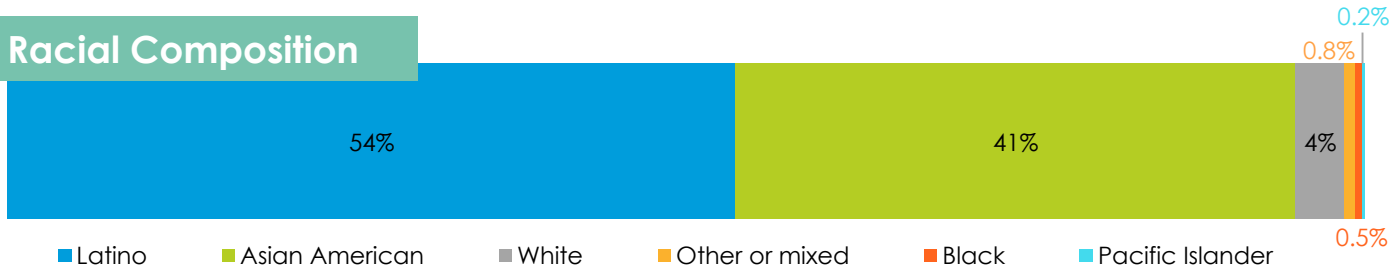
China

Philippines

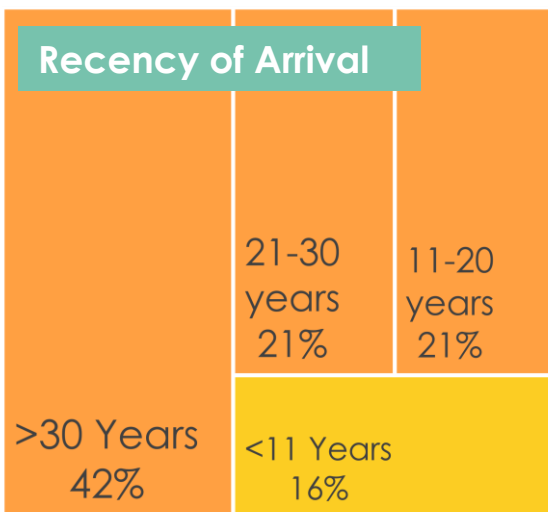
El Salvador

Guatemala

Racial Composition



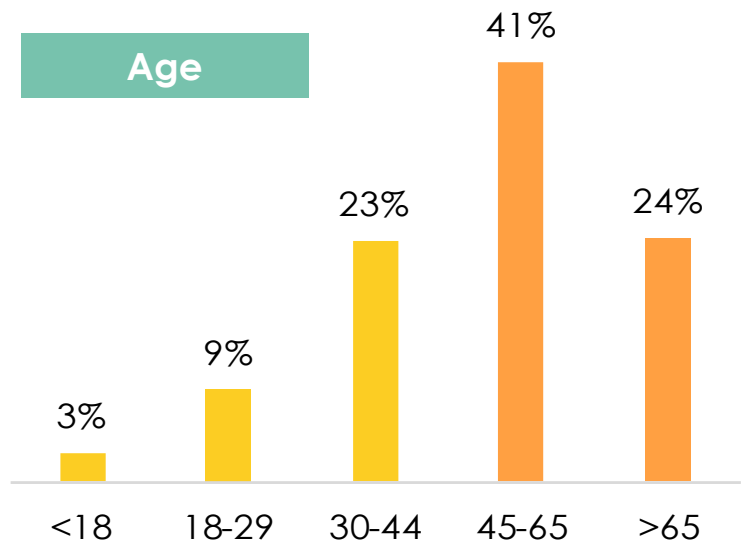
Recency of Arrival



More than **80%** of immigrants in the First District have been in the US for more than a decade.

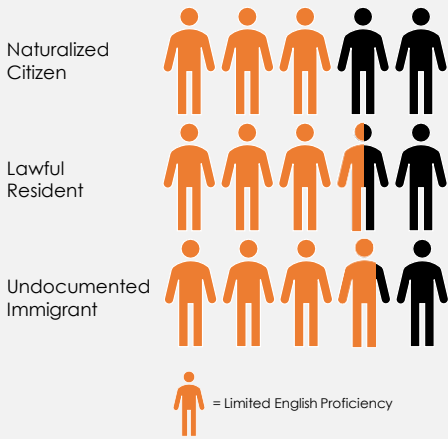
Similar to the county, District 1 also has an aging immigrant population. About **65%** of the immigrant population in the First District are 45 and above.

Age

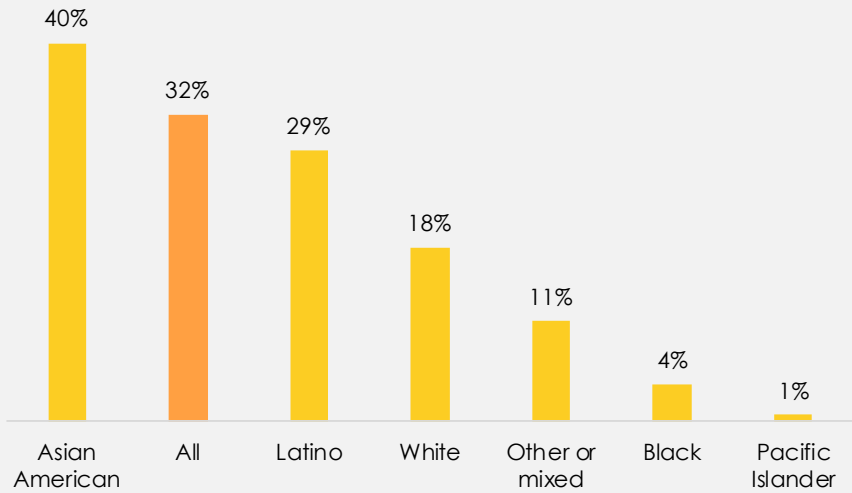


Supervisorial District 1 Immigrant Community Profile

Limited English Proficiency



Linguistic Isolation



Language Access

Close to **4 in 5** undocumented immigrants identified as having limited English proficiency. About **40%** of immigrant Asian American households experience linguistic isolation in the First District.

Language Diversity

In addition to Spanish, Supervisorial District 1 has an array of Asian languages spoken at home.

Spanish	879K	Hindi	10K
Chinese	216K	Japanese	9K
Tagalog	54K	Armenian	7K
Vietnamese	42K	Thai or Lao	6K
Korean	33K	Indonesian	5K

Median Household Income Gap

In District 1, immigrant households had a median income of **\$60,000**, while US-born households had a median income that is **32%** higher at **\$79,000**.

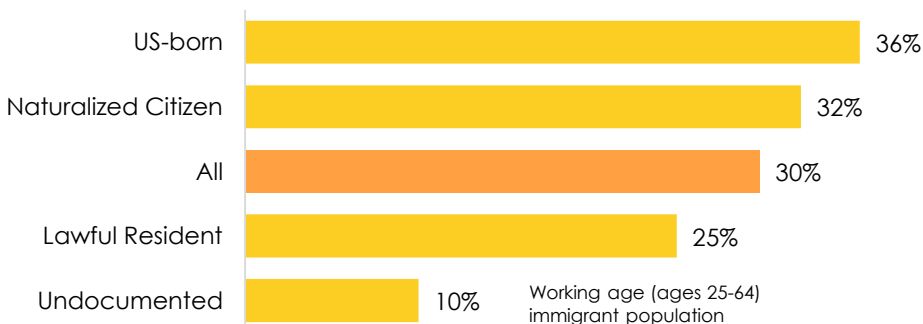
Experience with Poverty

Immigrant-led households are more likely than their US-born counterparts to experience poverty. About **42%** of immigrant-led households live below 200% of the federal poverty line in the county.

Percent Living Below 200% Federal Poverty Line

US-born-led Household	27%
Immigrant-led Household	42%

Percent with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher

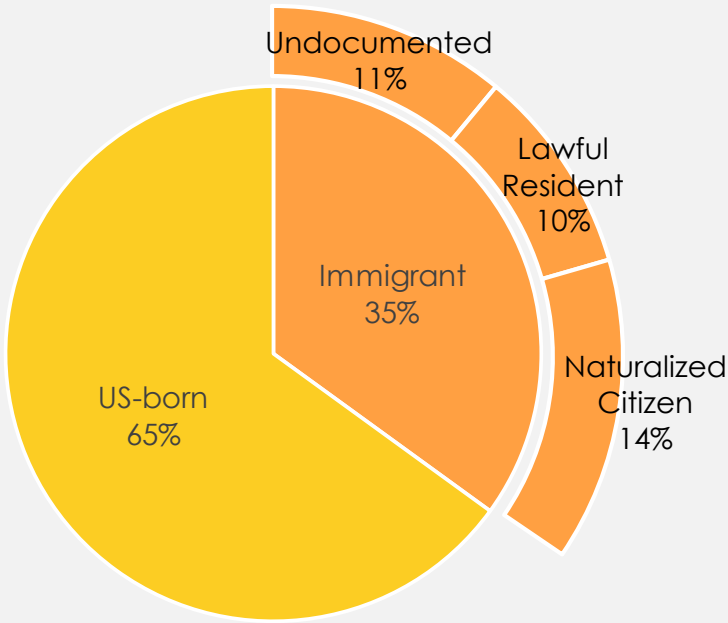


Disparities in Educational Attainment

At 10%, undocumented immigrants are **the least likely** to have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Supervisorial District 2 Immigrant Community Profile

Nativity and Immigration Status



QUICK FACTS

Supervisor: **Holly Mitchell**

Total population: **2.0M**

Most populous city*: **Inglewood**

*Not counting the City of Los Angeles

Top 5 Countries of Origin

Mexico

El Salvador

Guatemala

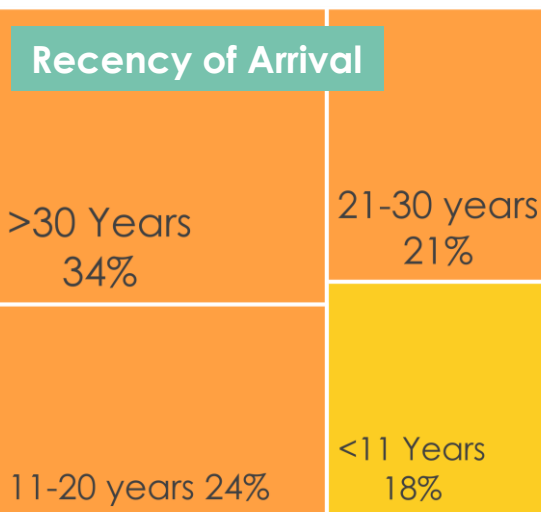
Korea

Philippines

Racial Composition



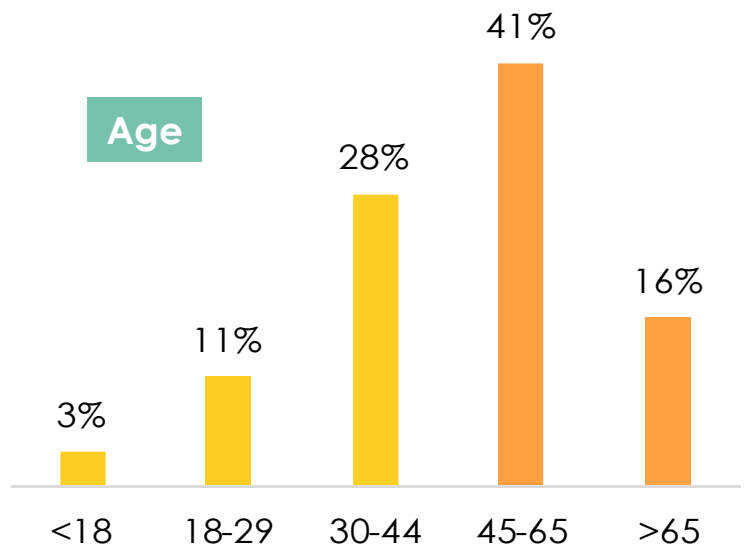
Recency of Arrival



More than **80%** of immigrants in the Second District have been in the US for more than a decade.

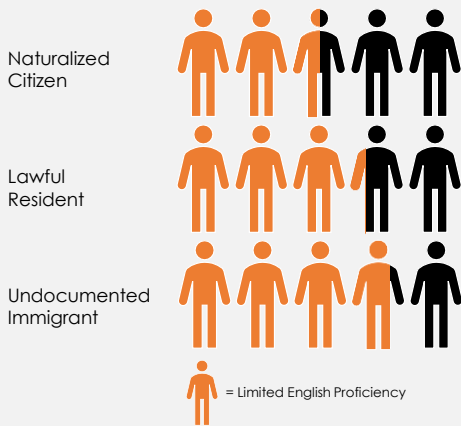
Similar to the county, District 2 also has an aging immigrant population. About **65%** of the immigrant population in the Second District are 45 and above.

Age

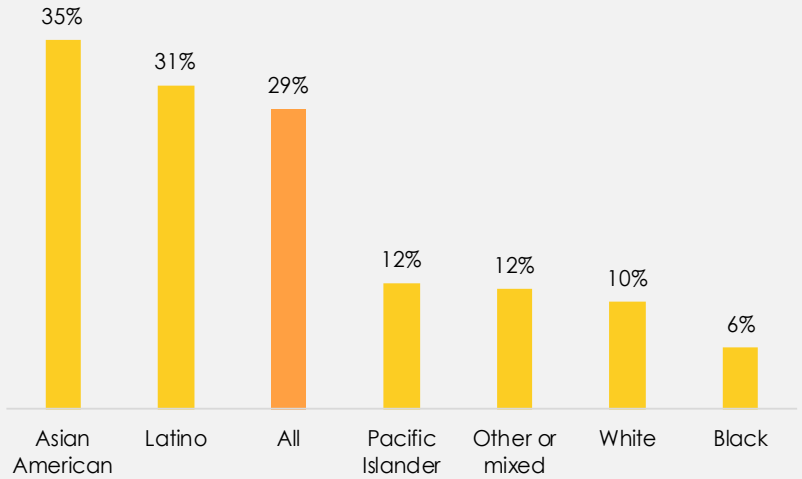


Supervisorial District 2 Immigrant Community Profile

Limited English Proficiency



Linguistic Isolation



Language Access

Close to **4 in 5** undocumented immigrants identified as having limited English proficiency. About **one third** of Asian American and Latino households experience linguistic isolation in the Second District.

Language Diversity

About **8,000** people speak a language from the Sub-Saharan African language family at home in the Second District.

Spanish	921K	French	10K
Korean	47K	Japanese	10K
Tagalog	39K	Sub-Saharan African	8K
Chinese	19K	Vietnamese	7K
Hindi	13K	Arabic	7K

Median Household Income Gap

In District 2, immigrant households had a median income of **\$57,000**, while US-born households had a median income that is **30%** higher at **\$74,000**.

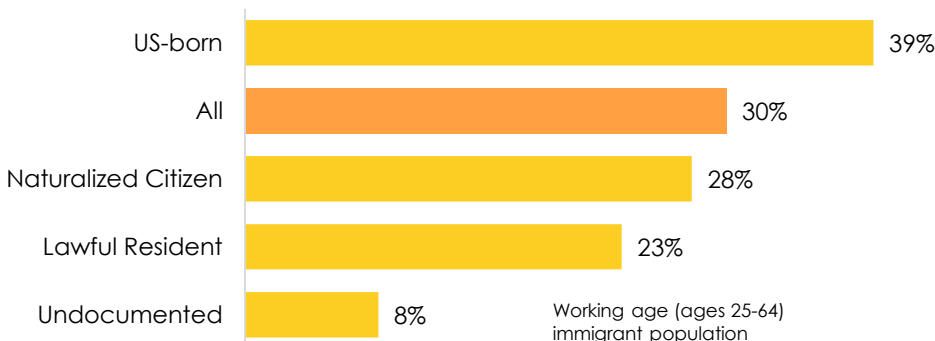
Experience with Poverty

Immigrant-led households are more likely than their US-born counterparts to experience poverty. About **45%** of immigrant-led households live below 200% of the federal poverty line in the county.

Percent Living Below 200% Federal Poverty Line

US-born-led Household	29%
Immigrant-led Household	45%

Percent with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher

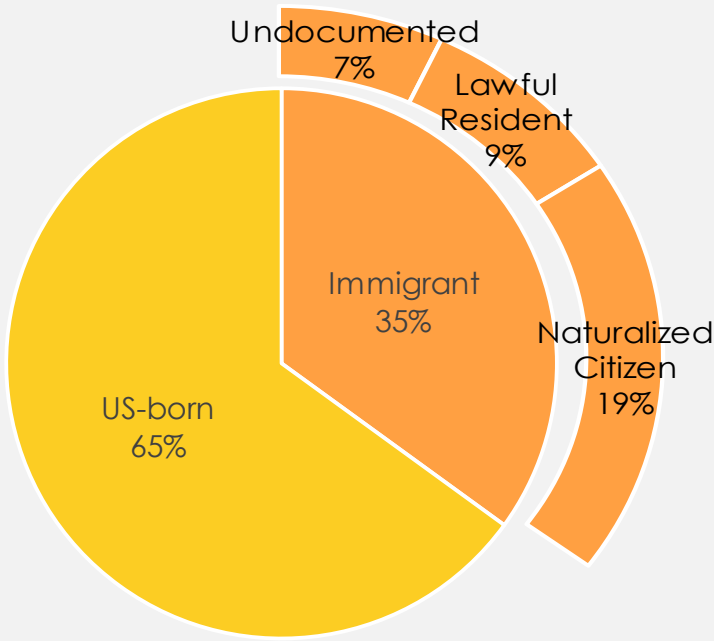


Disparities in Educational Attainment

At 8%, undocumented immigrants are **the least likely** to have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Supervisorial District 3 Immigrant Community Profile

Nativity and Immigration Status



QUICK FACTS

Supervisor:

Lindsey Horvath

Total population: **2.0M**

Most populous city*:

Santa Monica

*Not counting the City of Los Angeles

Top 5 Countries of Origin

Mexico

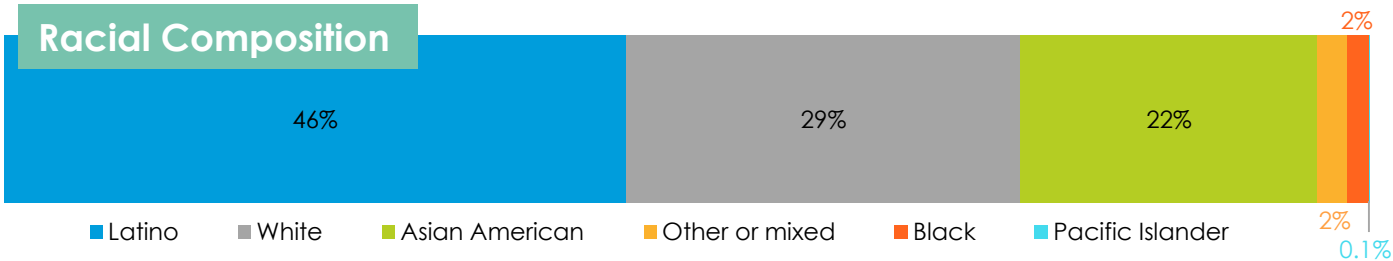
El Salvador

Philippines

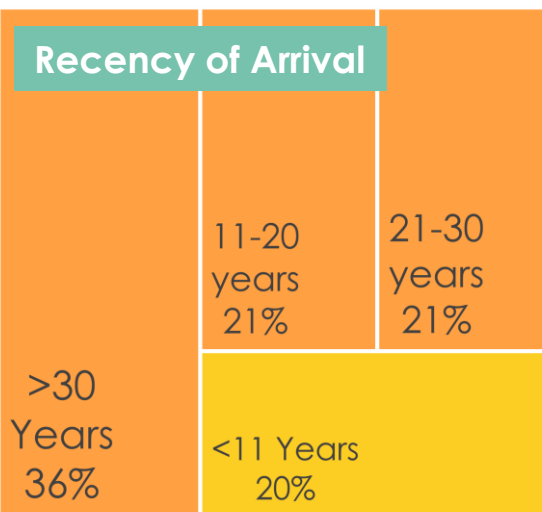
Iran

Armenia

Racial Composition



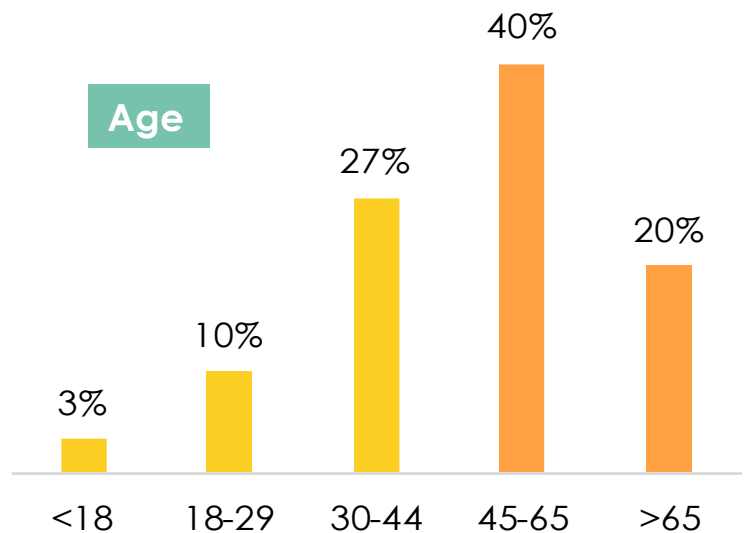
Recency of Arrival



About **80%** of immigrants in the Third District have been in the US for more than a decade.

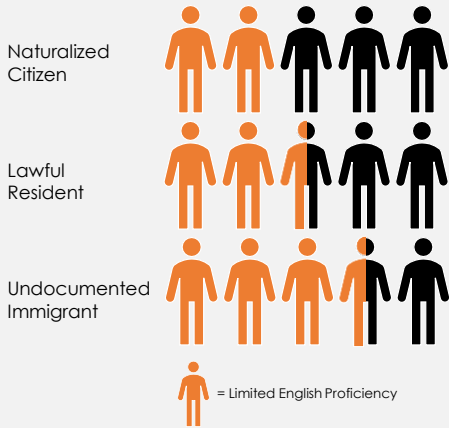
Similar to the county, District 3 also has an aging immigrant population. About **60%** of the immigrant population in the Third District are 45 and above.

Age

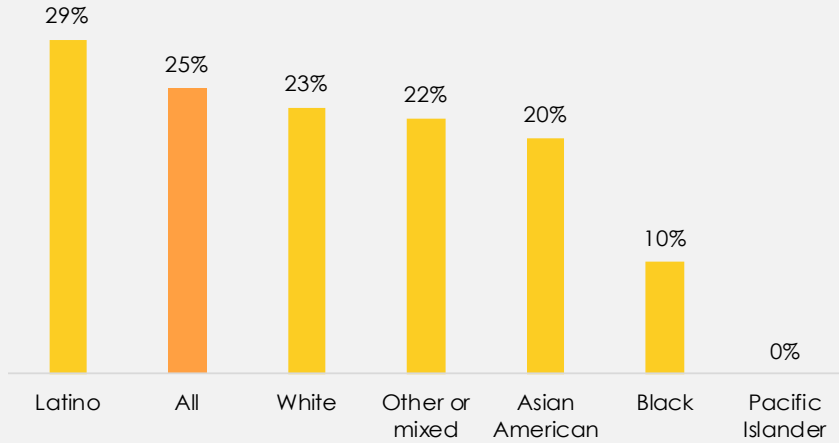


Supervisorial District 3 Immigrant Community Profile

Limited English Proficiency



Linguistic Isolation



Language Access

More than **3 in 5** undocumented immigrants identified as having limited English proficiency. About **30%** of Latino households experience linguistic isolation in the Third District.

Language Diversity

Among Asian languages, Tagalog is the most commonly spoken language at home in the Third District.

Spanish	600K	Chinese	30K
Armenian	55K	Korean	28K
Farsi	53K	Hindi	23K
Tagalog	52K	Hebrew	18K
Russian	32K	French	17K

Median Household Income Gap

In District 3, immigrant-led households had a median income of **\$69,000**, while US-born households had a median income that is **36%** higher at **\$94,000**.

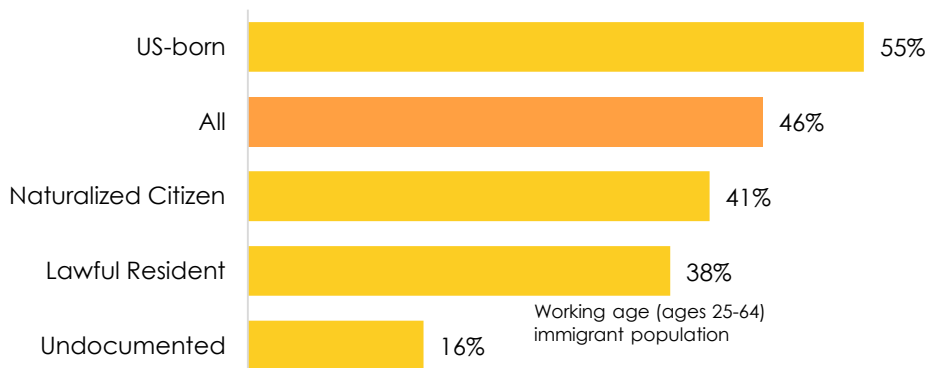
Experience with Poverty

Immigrant-led households are more likely than their US-born counterparts to experience poverty. About **35%** of immigrant-led households live below 200% of the federal poverty line in the county.

Percent Living Below 200% Federal Poverty Line

US-born-led Household	21%
Immigrant-led Household	35%

Percent with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher

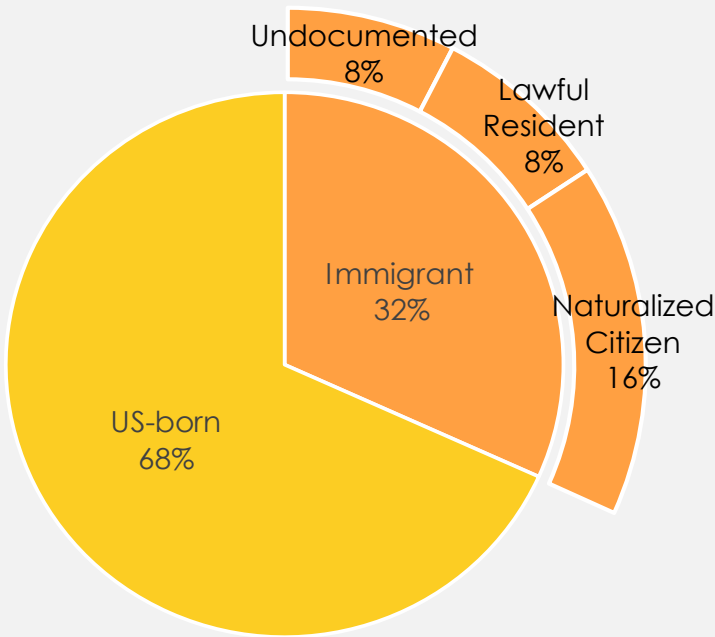


Disparities in Educational Attainment

About **16%** undocumented immigrants in the Third District have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Supervisorial District 4 Immigrant Community Profile

Nativity and Immigration Status



QUICK FACTS

Supervisor: **Janice Hahn**

Total population: **2.1M**

Most populous city*:

Long Beach

*Not counting the City of Los Angeles

Top 5 Countries of Origin

Mexico

Philippines

El Salvador

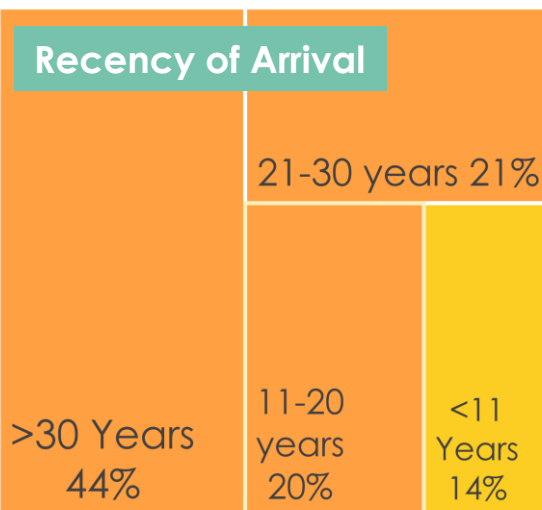
Korea

China

Racial Composition



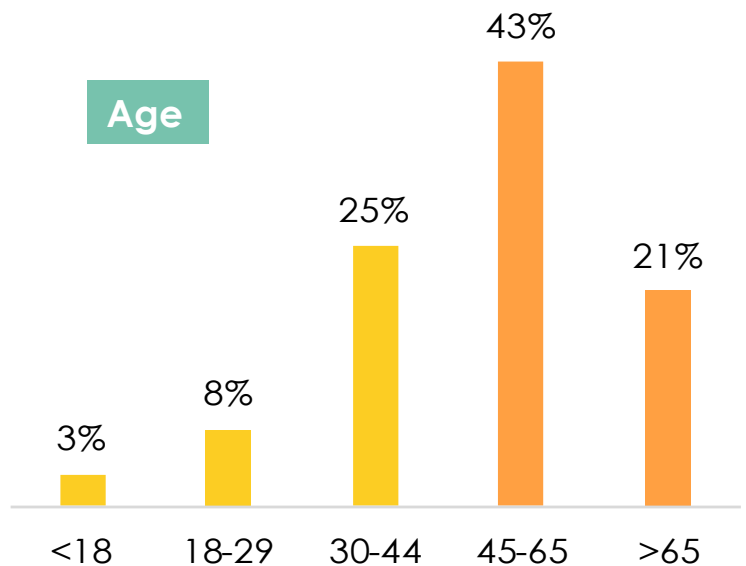
Recency of Arrival



More than **80%** of immigrants in the Fourth District have been in the US for more than a decade.

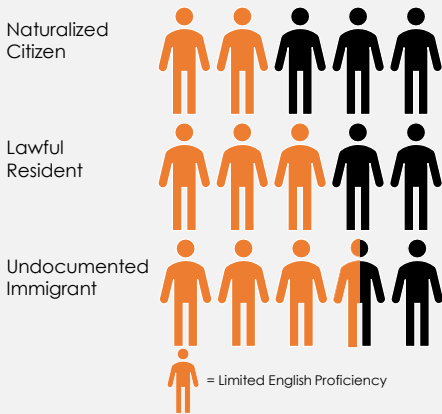
Similar to the county, District 4 also has an aging immigrant population. About **64%** of the immigrant population in the Fourth District are 45 and above.

Age

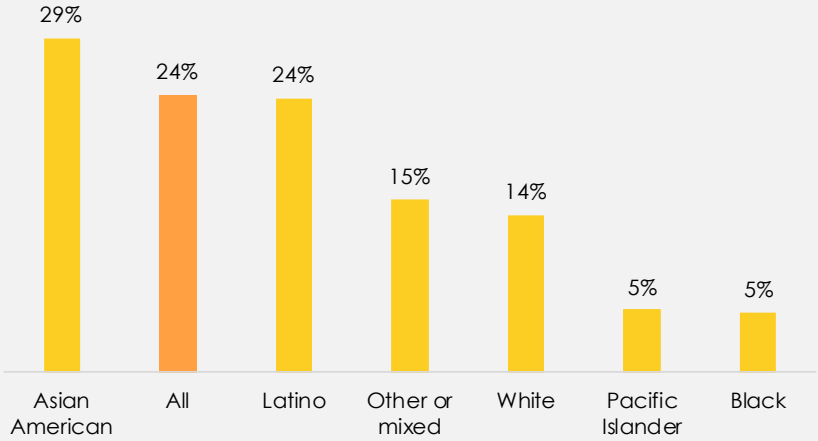


Supervisorial District 4 Immigrant Community Profile

Limited English Proficiency



Linguistic Isolation



Language Access

More than **3 in 5** undocumented immigrants identified as having limited English proficiency. About **30%** of Asian American and **24%** of Latino immigrant households experience linguistic isolation in the Fourth District.

Language Diversity

An estimated **921,000** people speak Spanish at home in the Fourth District, the second largest population in the county.

Spanish	921K	Japanese	17K
Tagalog	54K	Other East/Southeast Asian	17K
Chinese	39K	Arabic	9K
Korean	35K	Vietnamese	9K
Hindi	18K	Dravidian	6K

Median Household Income Gap

In District 4, immigrant households had a median income of **\$66,000**, while US-born households had a median income that is **24%** higher at **\$82,000**.

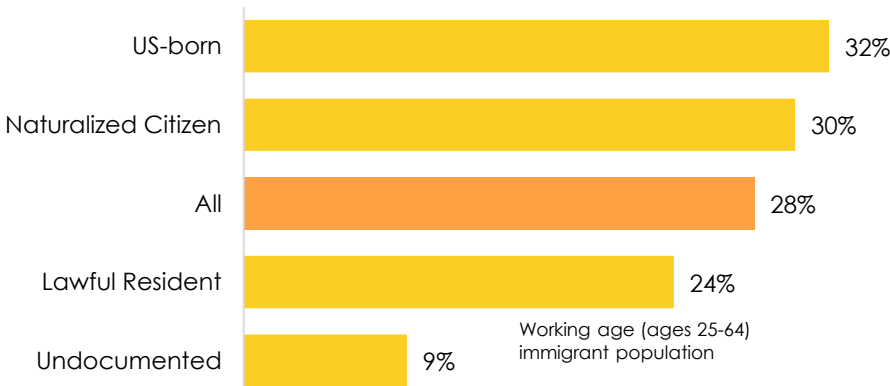
Experience with Poverty

Immigrant-led households are more likely than their US-born counterparts to experience poverty. About **37%** of immigrant-led households live below 200% of the federal poverty line in the county.

Percent Living Below 200% Federal Poverty Line

US-born-led Household	25%
Immigrant-led Household	37%

Percent with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher

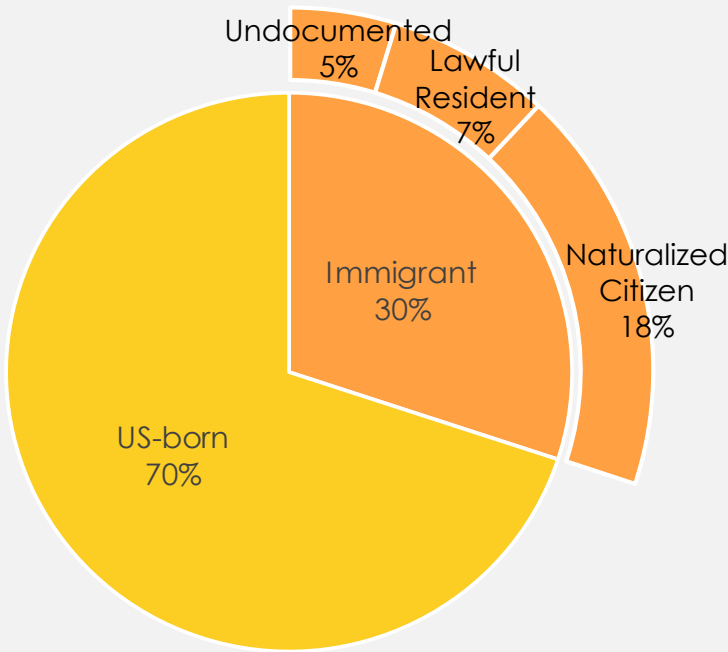


Disparities in Educational Attainment

About **10%** of undocumented immigrants in the Fourth District have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Supervisorial District 5 Immigrant Community Profile

Nativity and Immigration Status



QUICK FACTS

Supervisor:

Kathryn Barger

Total population: **1.9M**

Most populous city*:

Santa Clarita

*Not counting the City of Los Angeles

Top 5 Countries of Origin

Mexico

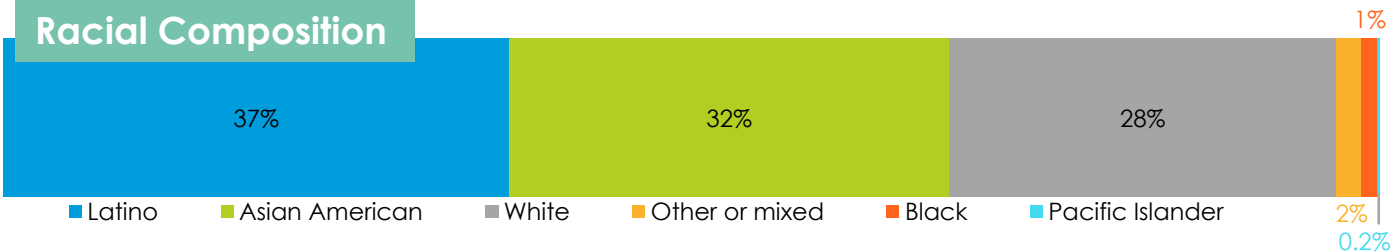
Armenia

China

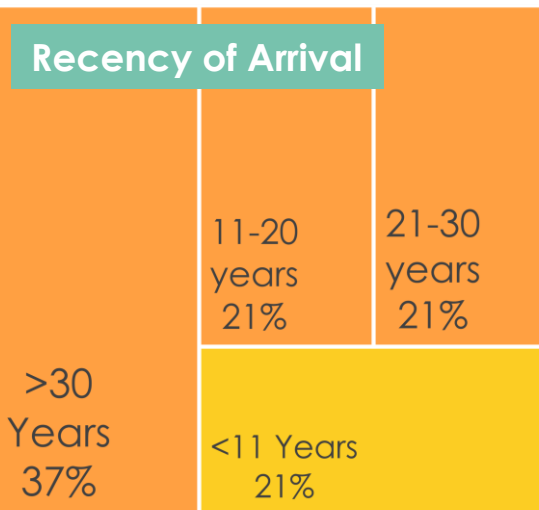
Philippines

El Salvador

Racial Composition



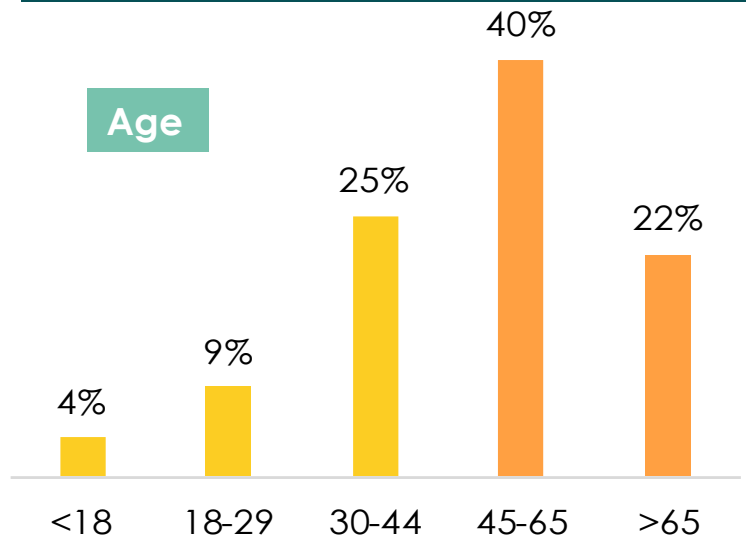
Recency of Arrival



Close to **80%** of immigrants in the Fifth District have been in the US for more than a decade.

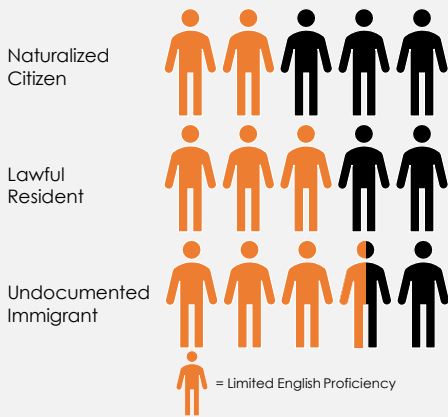
Similar to the county, District 5 also has an aging immigrant population. About **62%** of the immigrant population in the Fifth District are 45 and above.

Age

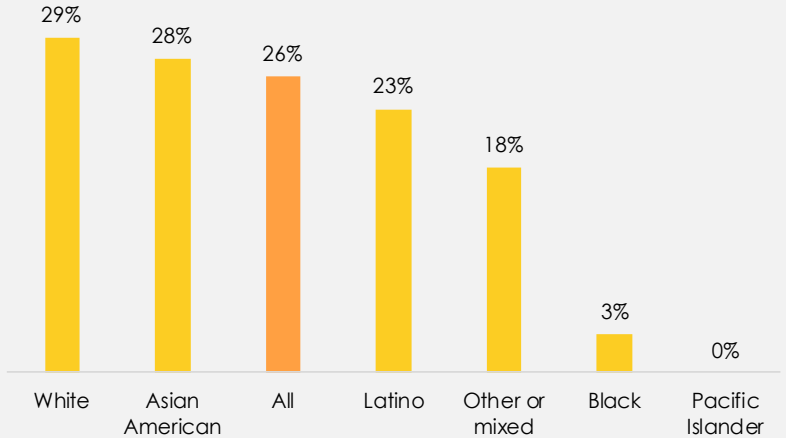


Supervisorial District 5 Immigrant Community Profile

Limited English Proficiency



Linguistic Isolation



Language Access

More than **3 in 5** undocumented immigrants identified as having limited English proficiency. Close to **30%** of white and Asian American immigrant households experience linguistic isolation in the Fifth District.

Language Diversity

Home to a vibrant Armenian community, about **111,000** Angelenos speak Armenian at home in the Fifth District.

Spanish	441K	Hindi	14K
Armenian	111K	Arabic	13K
Chinese	89K	Farsi	11K
Tagalog	42K	Russian	10K
Korean	26K	Vietnamese	10K

Median Household Income Gap

In District 5, immigrant households had a median income of **\$74,000**, while US-born households had a median income that is **19%** higher at **\$88,000**.

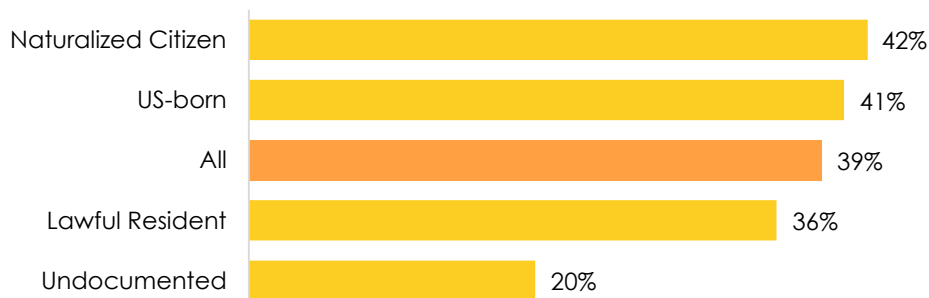
Experience with Poverty

Immigrant-led households are more likely than their US-born counterparts to experience poverty. About **33%** of immigrant-led households live below 200% of the federal poverty line in the county.

Percent Living Below 200% Federal Poverty Line

US-born-led Household	23%
Immigrant-led Household	33%

Percent with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher



Disparities in Educational Attainment

About **20%** undocumented immigrants in the Fifth District have a bachelor's degree or higher.