

Undocumented Immigrants in Los Angeles County

2025 Data Estimates




ABOUT

The USC Dornsife Equity Research Institute (ERI) produces data-driven analysis and rigorous research, leads convenings, engages in strategic collaborations, and seeks to model what it means to be an effective, sustainable, and racially-just research center.

At ERI, we provide data and analysis to power social change. When communities come together across race, space, and place, movements for change build and have an impact on greater scales of governance. One of the many elements required to make this sort of change is research – the niche occupied by ERI. ERI has contributed reliable data in the areas of environmental justice, immigrant integration, regional equity, and movement building that is academically rigorous as well as relevant to policy debates.

ERI is rooted in Los Angeles and has long worked with groups supporting immigrant inclusion.






The recent attacks on immigrants have harmed communities and sown fear. People are being taken in unmarked vehicles and disappeared without their right to due process. [People are not going to work, businesses and restaurants are shutting down, food prices are on the rise, schools, hospitals, and churches](#) are no longer safe.

These raids are devastating our economy, with statewide losses under a scenario of deporting all undocumented workers hovering around [\\$275 billion](#), caused by labor shortages, delays, increased prices, and decreased business activity. A single raid can destabilize a neighborhood's entire [economy](#) and can have resounding effects to disrupt entire industries. Unable to afford missing work, some force themselves to work [in an atmosphere of fear](#) that extends to the families and friends of undocumented Angelenos.

The immigration raids ripple through every aspect of our lives and make communities less safe for *everyone*, not just undocumented immigrants. These raids uproot lives, tear families apart, endanger our communities, and take away our rights. To secure thriving communities, a fair economy, and the kind of country we want to live in, we must pay attention and take action to ensure that our immigrant communities can flourish and feel secure.

We hope this data on our impacted immigrant communities support the ongoing efforts happening in the movement to fight for justice and make our communities safer.



“Amidst a continuously tumultuous landscape, Los Angeles County remains strong in its commitment to the immigrants that choose this region as their home. We insist that immigrant inclusion is everyone’s business. It is a dynamic, reciprocal relationship in which immigrants and their receiving society both benefit as they work together to build safe, thriving, and connected communities. Here, we provide insights of key indicators and lift up resources to help keep our region moving forward on the path to inclusion for all.” – [State of Los Angeles, 2024](#)

We organize this analysis by asking three main questions to understand the impacts of ICE raids on Los Angeles County:

- What is the **demographic** breakdown of our undocumented immigrant population?
- What is the impact of immigration raids on the **local economy**?
- What **support** is needed in our immigrant communities during this time?

We need to support our immigrant communities to help keep our region moving forward on the **path to inclusion for all**.

OVER A THIRD (35%)

of Los Angeles County's residents
are **immigrants** (3.5 million)

OVER A QUARTER (27%)

of the immigrant population
are **undocumented** (948,700)

Race	Total	Number of Immigrants and Share of Total Population		Number of Undocumented and Share of Immigrant Population	
White	2,498,300	481,900	19%	37,700	8%
Black	749,400	57,000	8%	7,300	13%
Latino	4,962,000	1,981,800	40%	795,000	40%
Asian American	1,486,600	977,500	66%	100,400	10%
Pacific Islander	19,100	6,200	33%	-	-
Native American	18,100	-	-	-	-
Other/mixed race	386,600	58,500	15%	7,800	13%
Total	10,120,000	3,563,900	35%	948,700	27%

Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Note: Some data for Pacific Islander and Native American are not included due to small sample sizes and may not appear to add up to the total population represented for that reason. Some share of undocumented migrants are indigenous but this is hard to estimate. See CIELO and ERI's [Indigenous Migrants in Los Angeles County report](#) for more information.

Among immigrants in Los Angeles County, **Latinos (40%)** are more likely to be undocumented than other racial/ethnic groups, followed by **Black (13%), Mixed Race/Other (13%), Asian American (10%),** and **white (8%) Angelenos.**

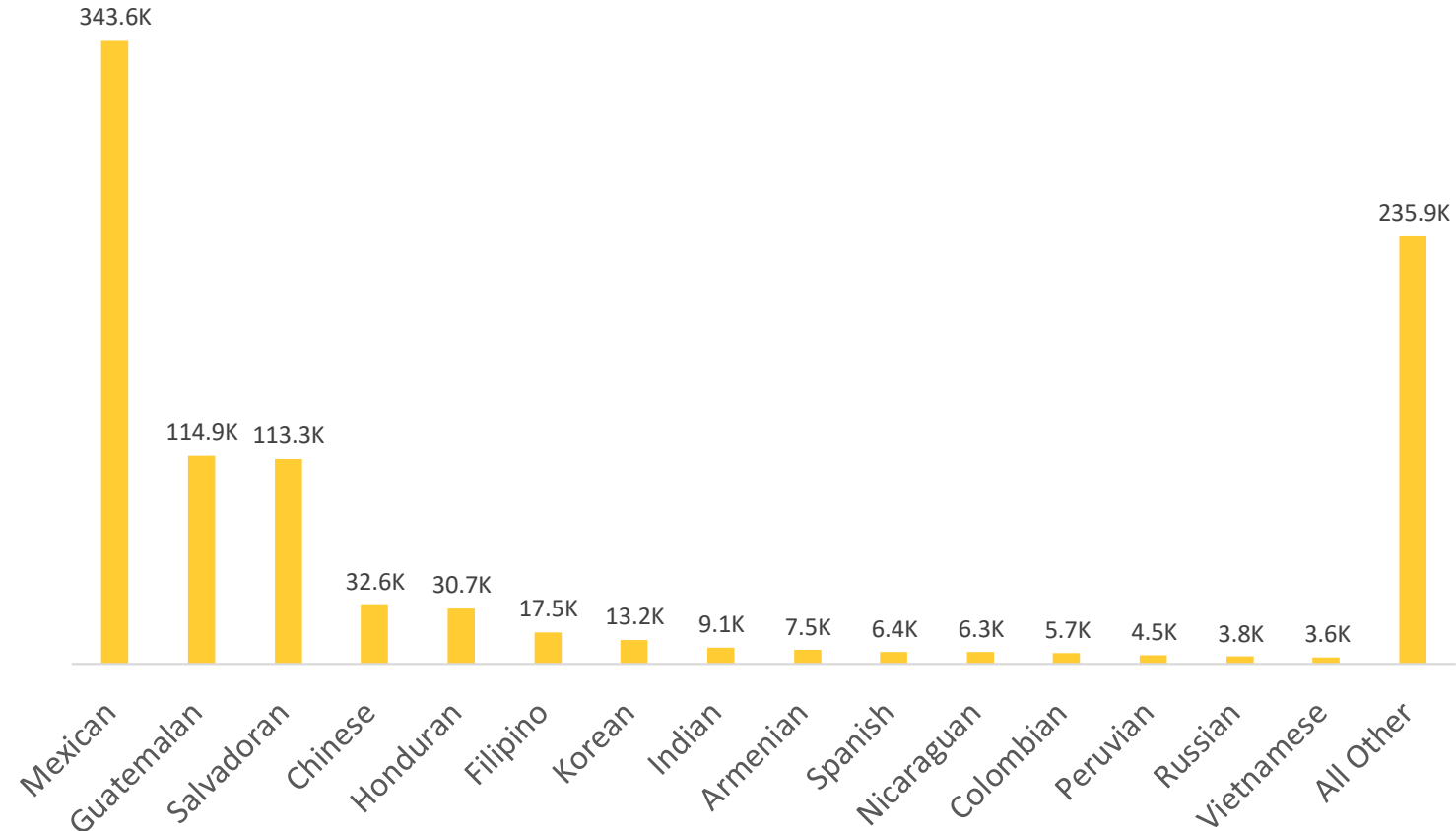
Race	Total	Number of Immigrants and Share of Total Population		Number of Undocumented and Share of Immigrant Population	
White	2,498,300	481,900	19%	37,700	8%
Black	749,400	57,000	8%	7,300	13%
Latino	4,962,000	1,981,800	40%	795,000	40%
Asian American	1,486,600	977,500	66%	100,400	10%
Pacific Islander	19,100	6,200	33%	-	-
Native American	18,100	-	-	-	-
Other/mixed race	386,600	58,500	15%	7,800	13%
Total	10,120,000	3,563,900	35%	948,700	27%

Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

There are over **343,000** undocumented immigrants of Mexican ancestry in the county, making up the **largest share** of the undocumented population in the county.

Among Asian ethnic groups, **Chinese** (32,600) and **Filipino** (17,500) undocumented immigrants are among the largest share of the population.

Undocumented Immigrants by Ancestry, Los Angeles County, 2019-2023



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Although there are **nearly 950,000 undocumented immigrants** in Los Angeles County, the impact of policies targeting undocumented immigrants have even larger ripple effects for families and communities across the county as well as the local economy.

OVER 2 MILLION

people in Los Angeles County are either **undocumented** or **living with undocumented family members** and make up a racially diverse population.

Race	Number of Undocumented and Family Members Living With Them
White	81,000
Black	15,000
Latino	1,691,000
Asian American	208,000
Mixed/other	20,000
Total	2,018,000

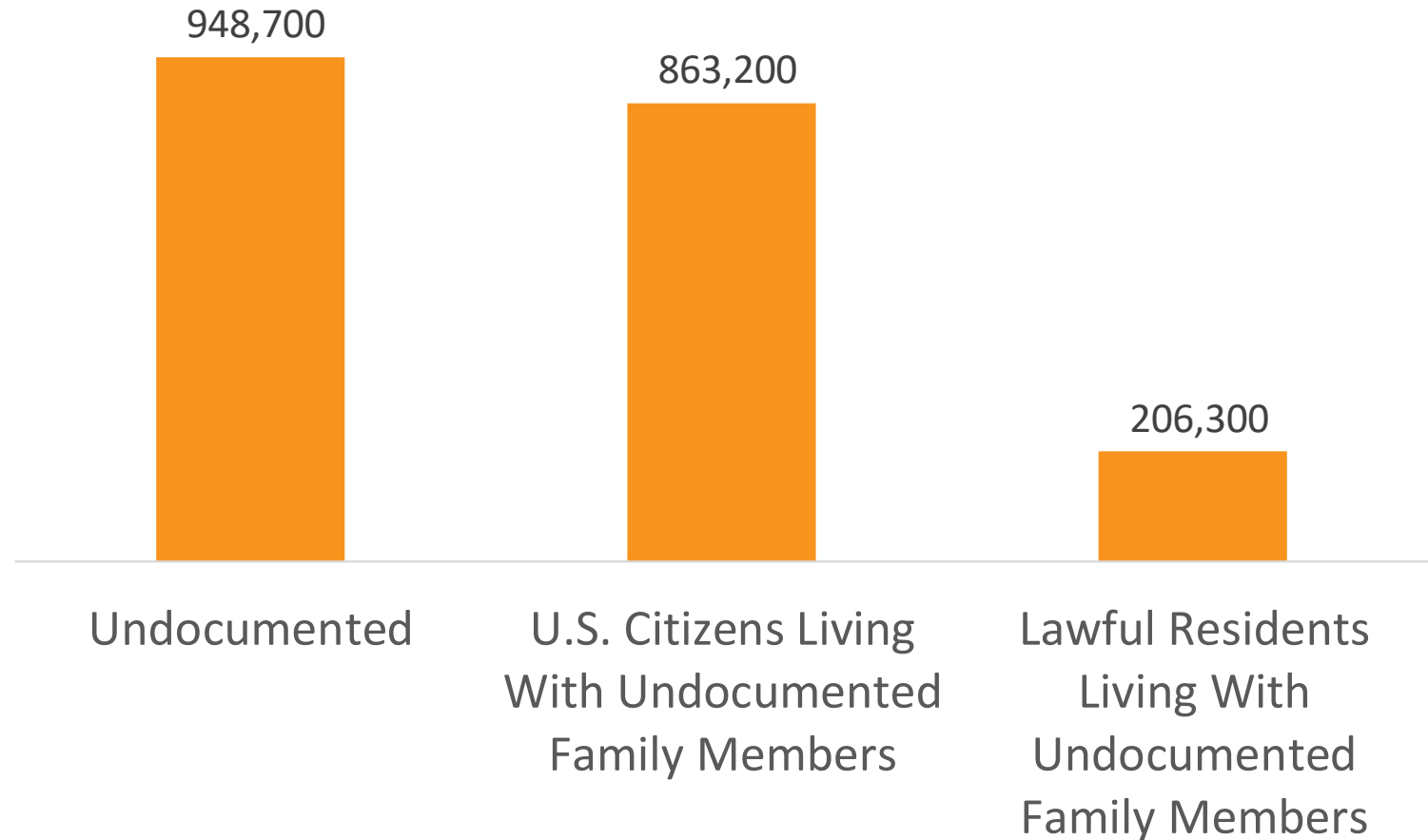
Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

APPROXIMATELY

863,200

U.S. citizens in Los Angeles
County are **living with**
undocumented family members

Undocumented Immigrants and Residents Living with
Undocumented Family Members, Los Angeles County,
2019-2023



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

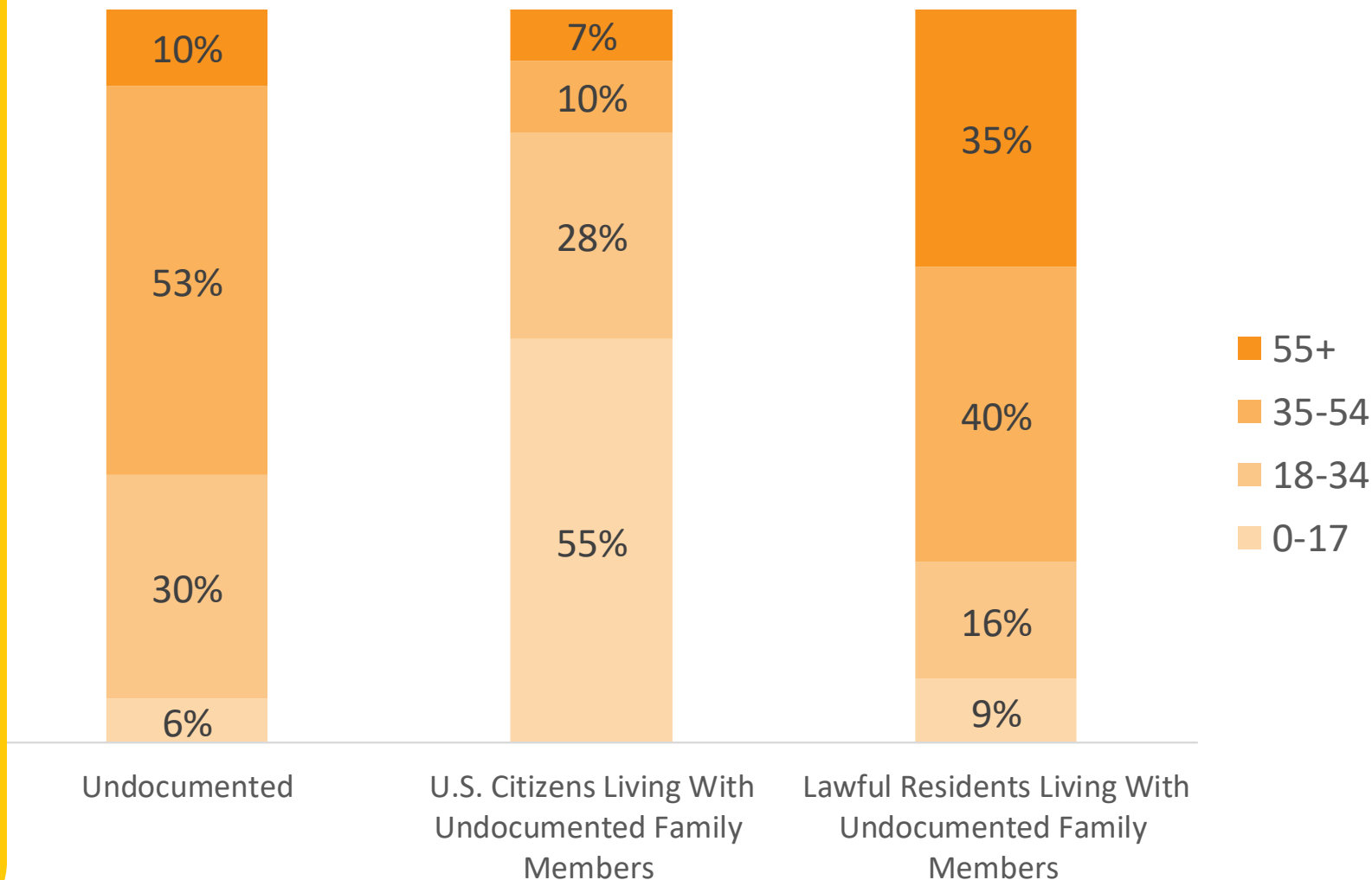
123,000

Among children in Los Angeles County ages 5 and under with parents living in their household, **a fifth (123,000) have at least one undocumented parent.**



Youth living with undocumented family members will be heavily impacted by ICE raids as we see **more than half** (55%) of U.S. citizens with undocumented family members are 17 years old and younger.

Mixed Status Families by Age Group, Los Angeles County, 2019-2023

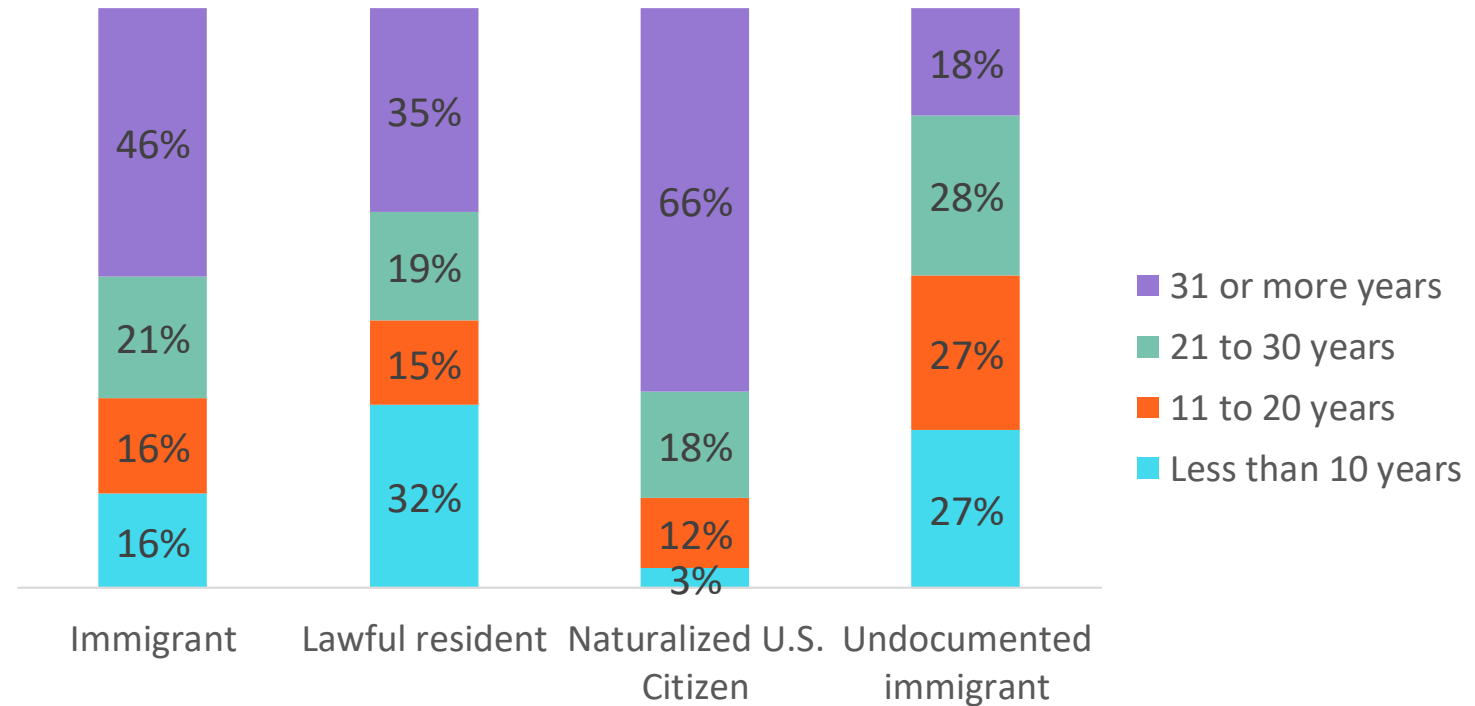


Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

NEARLY THREE QUARTERS

of the undocumented population in Los Angeles County have been in the country for **more than a decade** and have planted deep roots in the region.

Share of Immigrants by Recency of Arrival and Immigration Status, Los Angeles County, 2019-2023

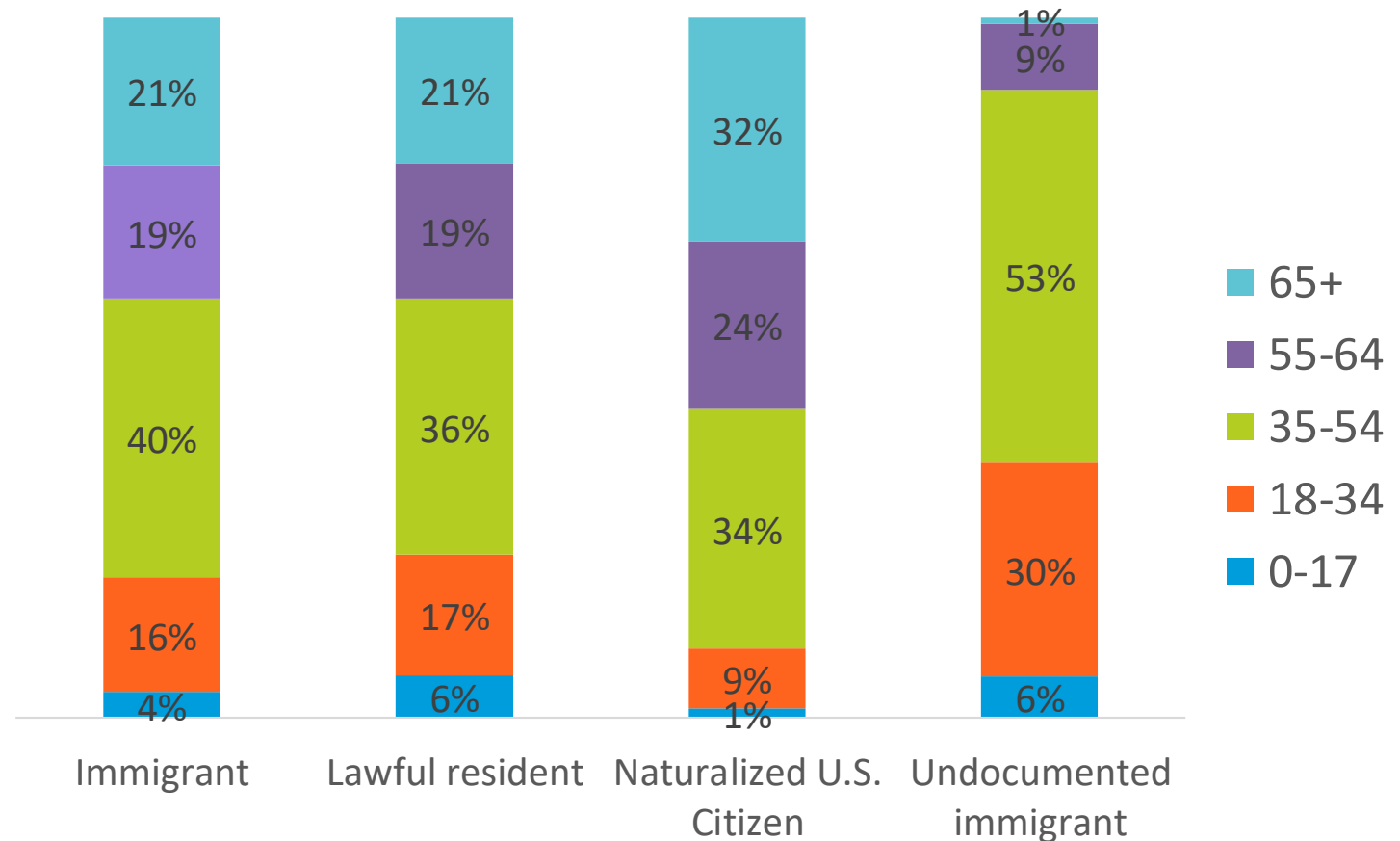


Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

OVER 90%

of undocumented immigrants in Los Angeles County are of **prime working age** (ages 18-64) and are an integral part of the local economy.

Age Group by Status, Los Angeles County, 2019-2023



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

ICE raids have had **negative** consequences on the local economy as the impacted immigrant communities are not reporting to work or avoiding public spaces **out of fear of getting deported themselves or exposing someone who could be at risk of being deported.**

In 2023, undocumented immigrants in Los Angeles County contributed

\$1.7 BILLION
in federal taxes

\$2.04 BILLION
IN STATE + LOCAL TAXES

and had a spending power of:

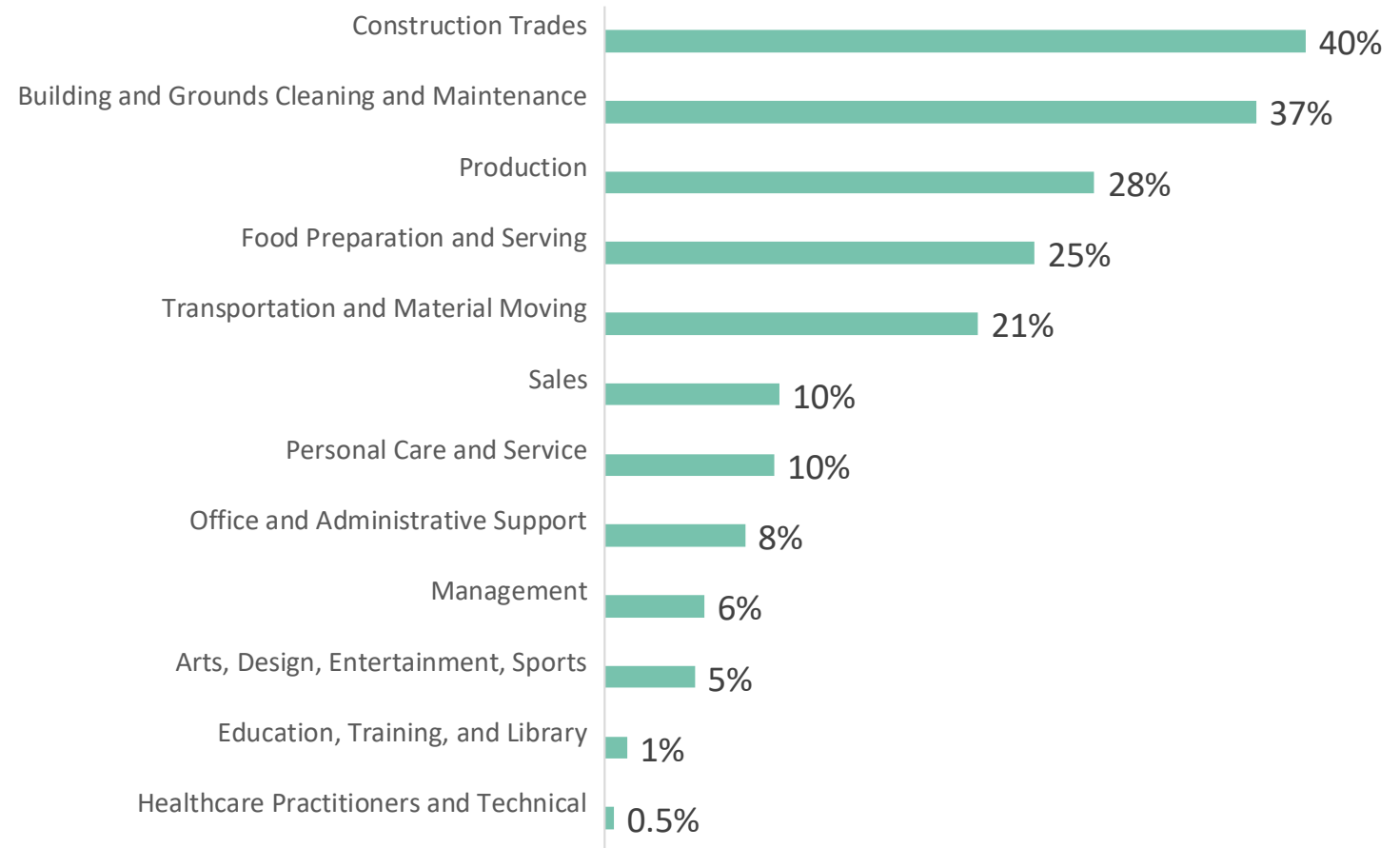
\$20.2 billion

Data source: IPUMS USA; Congressional Budget Office; Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

Across industries, the occupations with the **largest share** of undocumented workers in Los Angeles County are in:

- **CONSTRUCTION** (40%)
- **BUILDING AND GROUNDS CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE** (37%)
- **TRANSPORTATION AND MATERIAL MOVING OCCUPATIONS** (28%)
- **FOOD PREPARATION AND SERVING** (21%)

Top Occupations With Over 200K Workers Among Undocumented Immigrants, Los Angeles County, 2019-2023



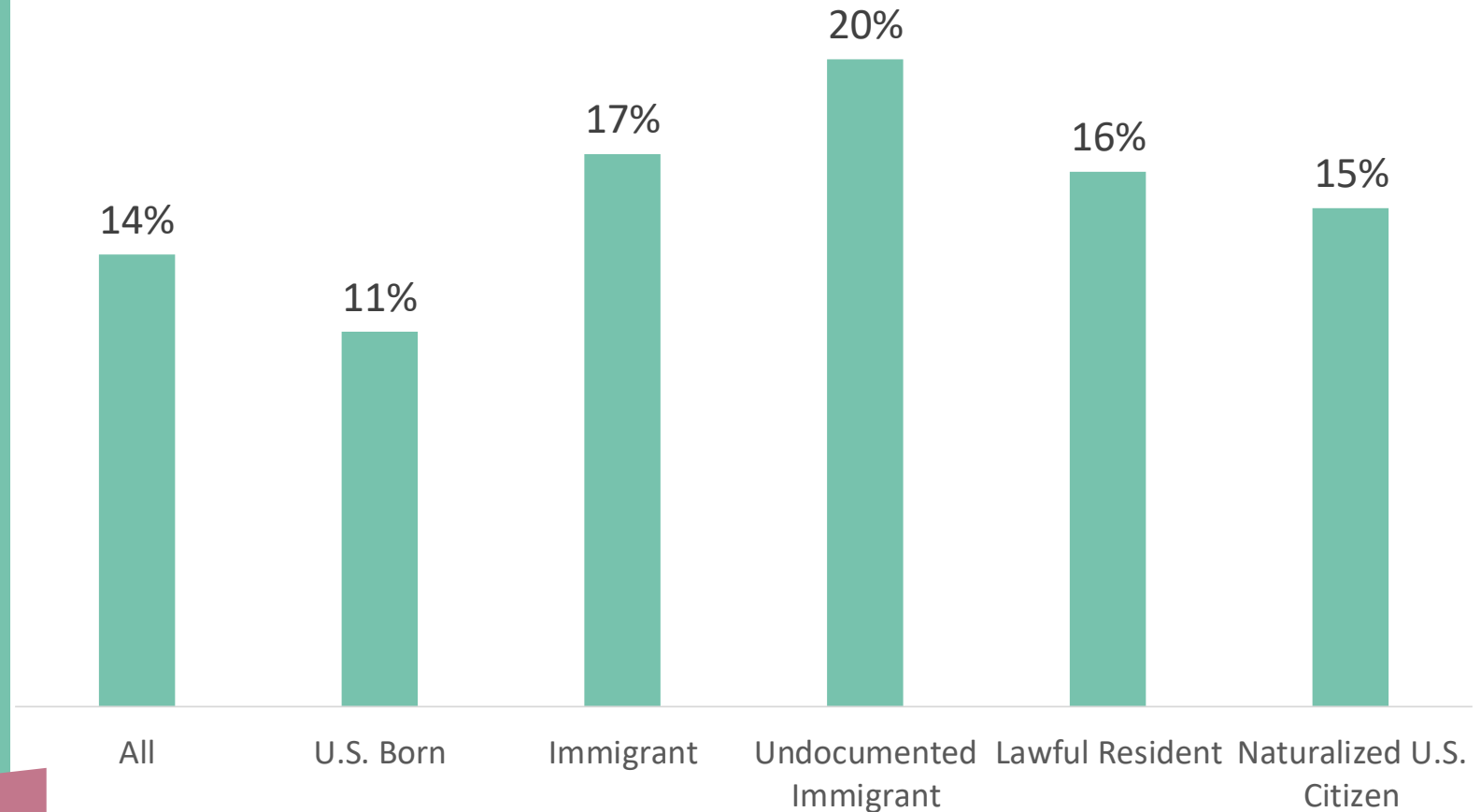
Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

ONE FIFTH



of currently employed undocumented population ages 25 to 64 are **self-employed** as small business owners and entrepreneurs, which includes street vendors who have been particularly vulnerable to ICE raids.

Share of People Age 25-64 Self-Employed by Immigration Status, Los Angeles County, 2019-2023

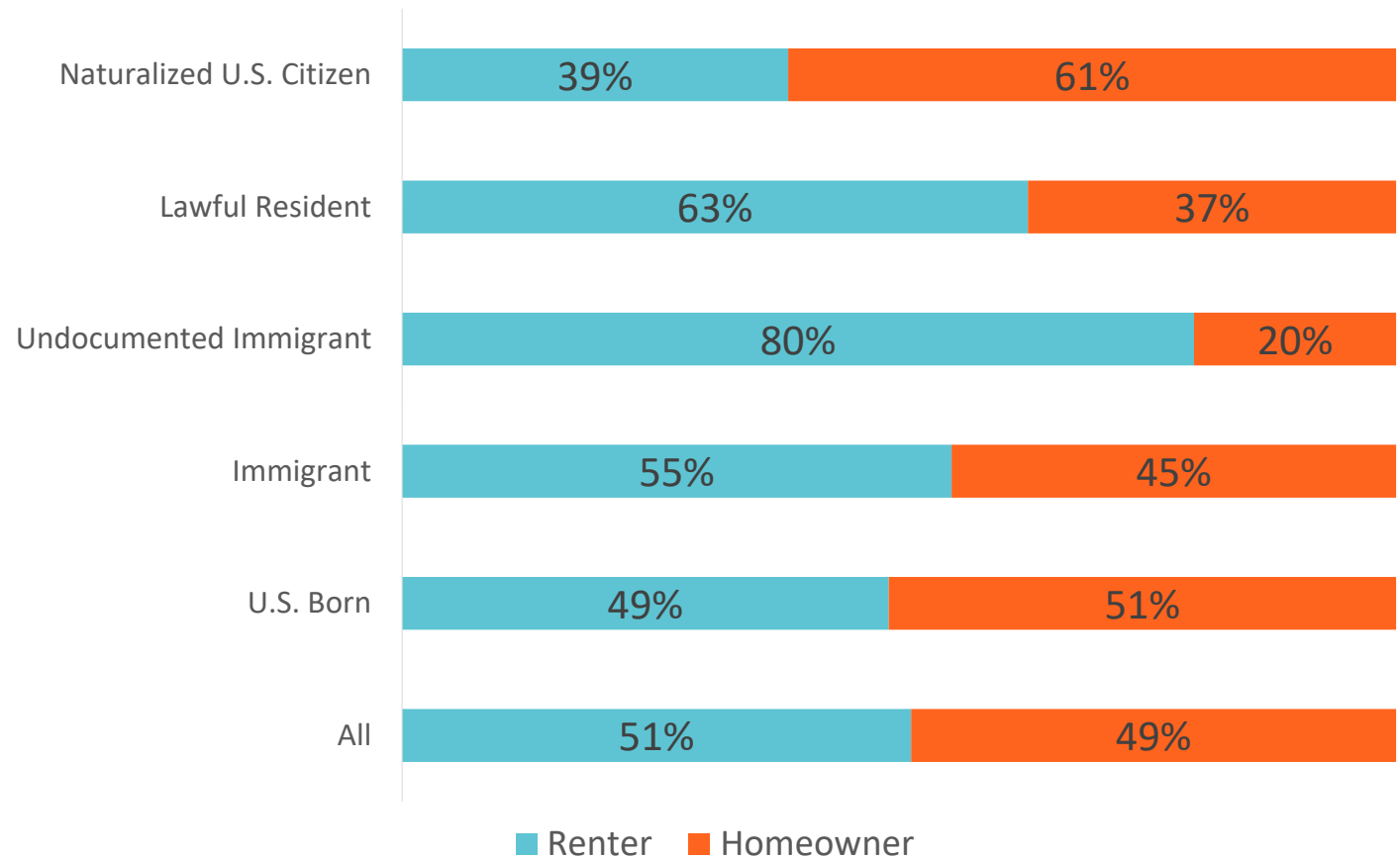


Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Undocumented immigrants are **more likely to be renters**, where **80%** of the population are renters, compared to 55% of the overall immigrant population in Los Angeles County.

With fears around ICE raids and the possibility that undocumented workers may choose not to show up for work, there is also a great risk of missing rent payments and becoming even more vulnerable to losing housing.

Homeownership by Immigration Status, Los Angeles County, 2019-2023



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

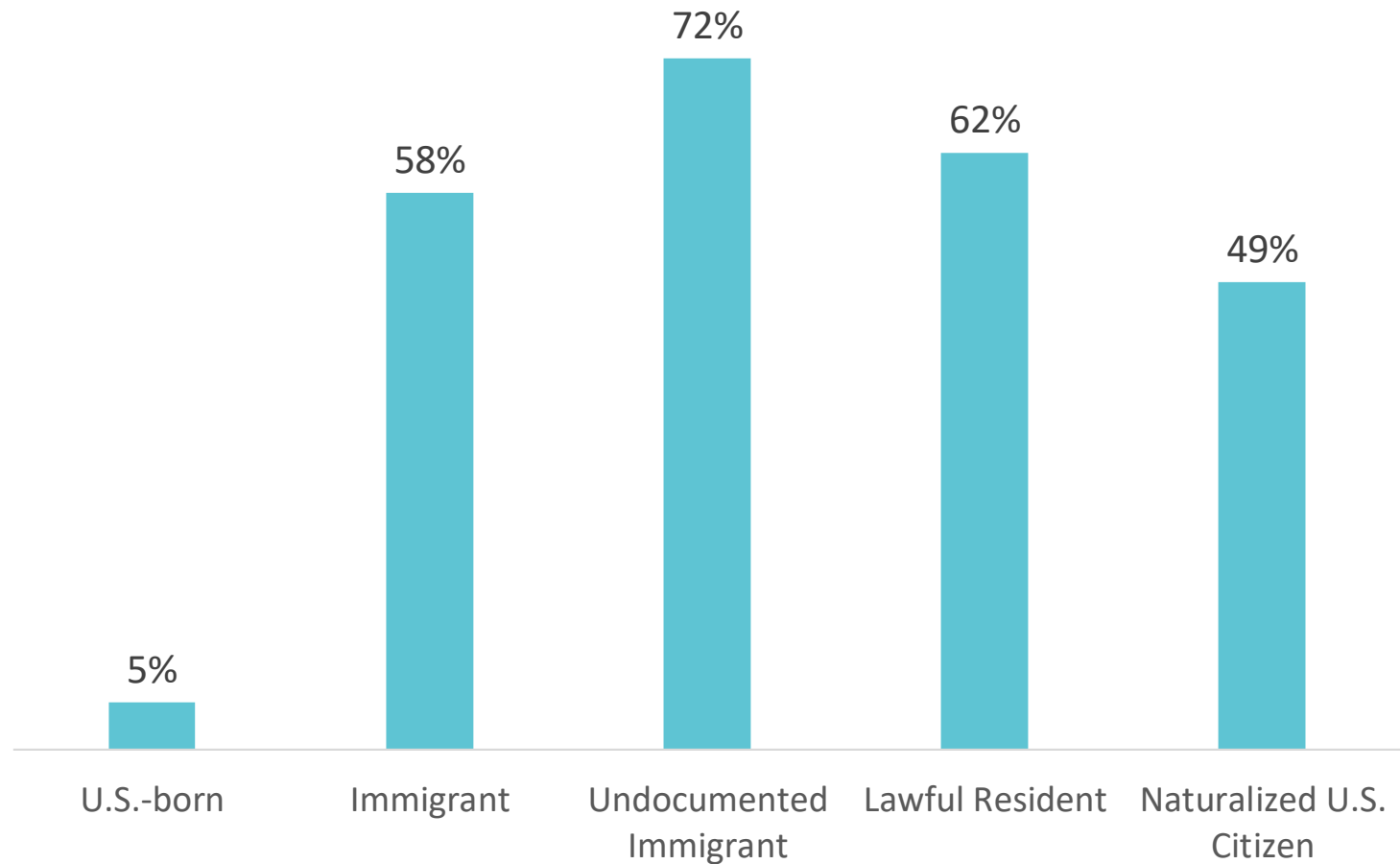
Assistance programs targeting undocumented immigrants need to consider the much **higher rates** of limited English proficiency (LEP) as

72%

of undocumented immigrants in Los Angeles County are considered **LEP**.

Limited English Proficiency includes those who don't speak English at least "very well."

Limited English Proficient by Immigration Status, Los Angeles County, 2019-2023



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Limited English proficiency expands **beyond** undocumented immigrants. Linguistic isolation is defined as households where no member age 14 years or older speaks only English or speaks English at least very well.

Much higher linguistic isolation rates among households with undocumented immigrants suggest there are **accessibility needs** for entire families and households with undocumented immigrants.



31%

of the **over 490,000** households in Los Angeles County with undocumented family members are considered **linguistically isolated**.

The **top languages spoken**, aside from English, by undocumented immigrants in Los Angeles County include:

Spanish

Filipino, Tagalog

Chinese and Mandarin

Korean

Language	Number of Undocumented Immigrants	Share of Undocumented Immigrants
Spanish	763,300	80%
Filipino, Tagalog	19,700	2%
Chinese	16,100	2%
Mandarin	15,200	2%
Korean	13,500	1%
Armenian	7,700	1%
Russian	6,500	1%
Portuguese	4,600	0.5%
Cantonese	4,400	0.5%
Vietnamese	4,100	0.4%
Hindi	3,500	0.4%
Persian, Iranian, Farsi	2,600	0.3%
All Other	38,500	4%

Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Mutual Aid

Mutual aid groups and volunteers are taking charge in supporting those who may choose to avoid public areas due to immigration sweeps.

Groups such as the [805UndocuFund Emergency Assistance Fund](#) step in to support those struggling financially, while organizations such as [Raíces con Voz](#), [Aqui Para la Comunidad](#), and [Not Us Without You LA](#) shop and deliver groceries and other essentials to those in need. The hole these groups fill to meet the need of those impacted are vital.

However, without communications in one's own language, those affected can be isolated from vital information regarding raids, safety, health, legal issues, and more. Community advocates, mutual aid, and local organizations such as South Asian Network and are distributing "know your rights" information in various languages.



RESOURCES

Community organizations and volunteers have been strengthening their infrastructure to defend and protect our communities. Please see a short compilation of resources here:

- [Home Depot Community Defense Center](#) – LA Tenants Union
- [Raid and Enforcement Action Toolkit](#) – Immigrant Legal Resource Center
- [Rapid Response Network Directory](#)
- [Support LA Street Vendors \(Solidarity Fund\)](#)
- [ICE Detention Center Map and Tracker](#) – Dr. AJ Kim
- [ICE Sightings Report Tracker](#) – People Over Papers
- [California Immigrant Data Portal](#) – USC ERI
- [Indigenous Migrants in Los Angeles County report](#) – USC ERI
- [Black Alliance for Just Immigration \(BAJI\)](#)
- [Haitian Bridge Alliance](#)
- [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#)
- [CHIRLA](#)

Undocumented Immigrants in Los Angeles County

2025 Data Estimates

USC Dornsife
Equity Research Institute

Photo by David Pashae

