

A Profile of Low-Income Immigrants in the United States

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Executive Summary

Of the more than 44 million immigrants in the United States as of 2019, one-third (14.8 million) were low income, meaning that their family's income was below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Relative to U.S.-born individuals in a similar financial situation, low-income immigrants face some unique barriers to accessing supportive services and public benefits during times of need, including language barriers, lack of access to information, and in some cases, holding an immigration status that, by federal law, makes them ineligible for public benefits. Understanding the characteristics of low-income immigrants can help service providers and policymakers better target assistance to this group and include them in broader efforts to alleviate economic hardship in U.S. households.

Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that Mexico was by far the top country of birth for low-income immigrants (33 percent of the total) and Spanish the top language spoken (55 percent) in 2019, as they were for the United States' immigrant population overall. But a wide range of countries of birth, many in Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia, were also present, and English, Chinese languages, Arabic, and Vietnamese were also spoken by notable shares of this population. Low-income immigrants were less likely than immigrants overall to speak English very well or to speak only English (39

percent vs. 54 percent), and also less likely to have a college degree (16 percent vs. 33 percent). About two-thirds of low-income immigrants of prime working age (ages 25 to 54) were employed in 2019, and the top industries of employment for those ages 16 and older were construction and accommodation and food services.

Understanding the characteristics of low-income immigrants can help service providers and policymakers better target assistance to this group and include them in broader efforts to alleviate economic hardship in U.S. households.

Using a unique Migration Policy Institute methodology, this analysis found that the majority of low-income immigrants in 2019 had legal status: about one-third were lawful permanent residents (i.e., green-card holders) and one-third were naturalized citizens, while the other one-third were unauthorized immigrants. About three out of every ten low-income immigrants lived in mixed-status families in which at least one family member was an unauthorized immigrant and another was a U.S. citizen or legal immigrant. In these families, an estimated 3.5 million low-income U.S.-citizen or legal immigrant children were living with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent.

The impact of federal restrictions on unauthorized immigrants' and some groups of legal immigrants' access to public benefits was also apparent. In 2019, low-income immigrants participated at lower rates than low-income U.S.-born individuals in major public benefits programs, including Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and Supplemental Security Income. They were also more likely than both immigrants overall and the low-income U.S. born to have no form of health insurance.

1 Introduction

The immigrant population in the United States is highly diverse in its origins, pathways to the country, characteristics, and experiences and outcomes after arrival. Decades of evidence have shown that immigrants in the United States experience strong upward mobility overall, both over time and over successive generations.¹ However, the limited educational attainment and English proficiency of some immigrants, and the challenges of starting over in a new country, leave some first-generation immigrants with relatively low incomes and limited household means. Although low-income immigrants are a minority of all immigrants, they are of particular interest to policymakers and service providers seeking to support individuals and families who may

need tailored assistance to get on a path to upward economic mobility.

Drawing on original analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey and Current Population Survey,² and from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), this fact sheet presents data on the origins, states of residence, demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, and employment outcomes of low-income immigrants in the United States. Most of the data describe the low-income immigrant population as of 2019, the latest year for which high-quality, detailed data are available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

2 Population Size and Top States of Residence

Of the 44 million immigrants in the United States as of 2019 whose poverty status could be determined, one-third (14.8 million) were low income, meaning that their family's income was below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.³ In 2019, the federal poverty threshold was \$16,521 for a family of two and \$26,172 for a family of four.⁴

TABLE 1

Low-Income Immigrants in the United States, by Ratio of Family Income to the Federal Poverty Level, 2019

	Number of Immigrants	Share of All Low-Income Immigrants
Below 50% of poverty level	2,574,000	17%
50 to 99% of poverty level	3,451,000	23%
100 to 149% of poverty level	4,271,000	29%
150 to 199% of poverty level	4,503,000	30%
Total	14,799,000	100%

Note: Numbers may not add up to the total due to rounding.

Source: Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey (ACS).

Among low-income immigrants, 41 percent had a family income below the poverty level and 59 percent had a family income between 100 and 199 percent of the poverty level (see Table 1). Seventeen percent had a family income below 50 percent of the poverty level—commonly defined as deep poverty.

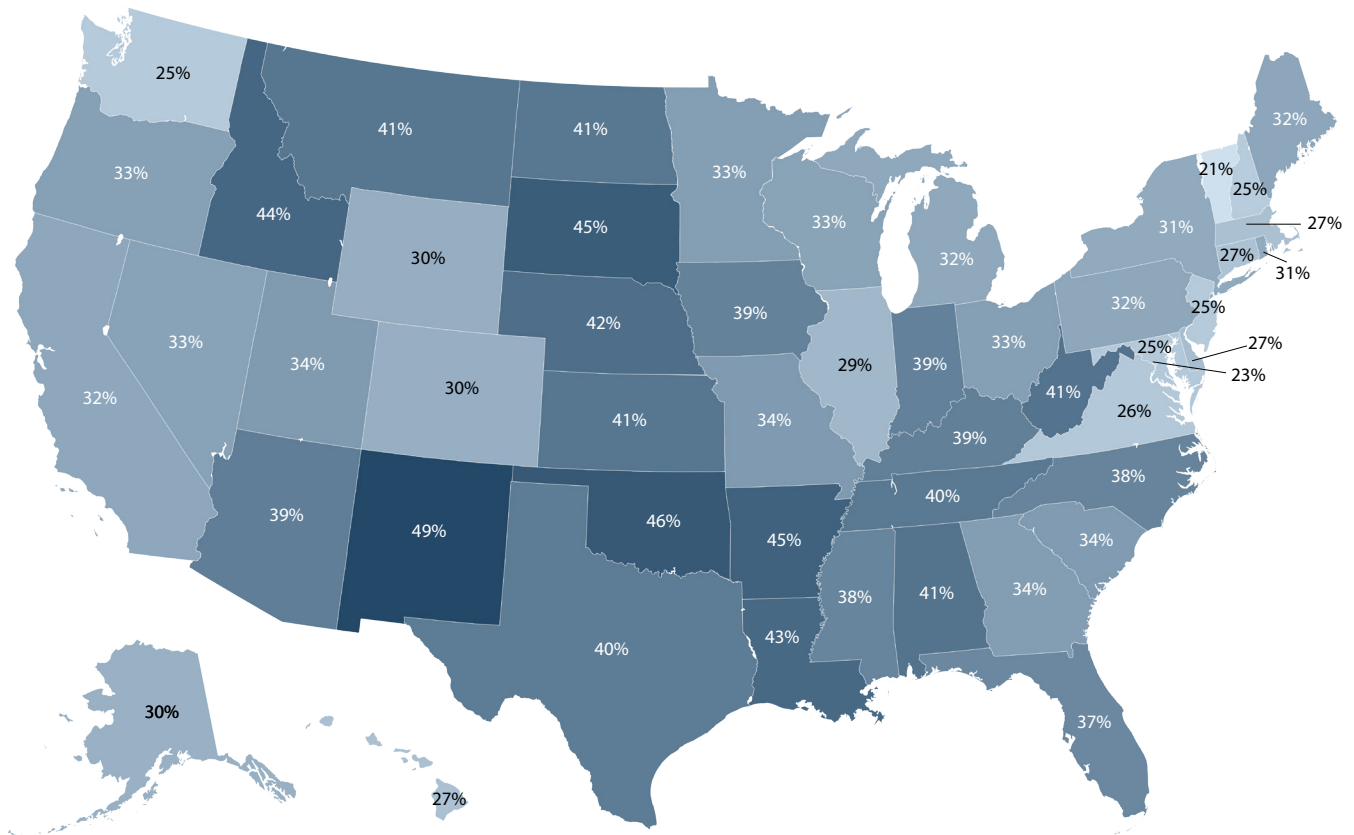
As is the case for immigrants overall, the largest numbers of low-income immigrants live in California (3.3 million as of 2019), Texas (2.0 million), Florida (1.7 million), New York (1.4 million), New Jersey (526,000), Illinois (506,000), and Arizona (383,000). However, low-income immigrants made up the largest shares of all immigrants in New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Arkansas, and Idaho, comprising between 44 and 49 percent of all immigrants in

those states (see Figure 1). Vermont, Washington, DC, New Hampshire, Washington, and New Jersey had the lowest shares, with no more than one-quarter of all immigrants being low income.

3 Immigrant Origins

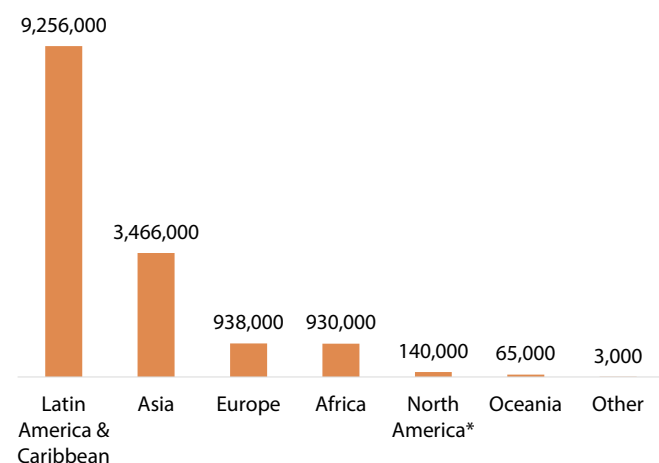
Latin America and the Caribbean is by far the most common region of origin for low-income immigrants in the United States, as it is for immigrants overall. In 2019, 9,256,000—or approximately 63 percent of—low-income immigrants were from Latin America and the Caribbean, followed by 3,466,000 from Asia, 938,000 from Europe, and 930,000 from Africa (see Figure 2). Smaller numbers came from the rest of North America (Canada or Bermuda) and Oceania.

FIGURE 1
Share of Immigrants Who Are Low Income, by State, 2019



Source: MPI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2019 ACS.

FIGURE 2
World Region of Birth of Low-Income Immigrants in the United States, 2019



* In this figure, North America is comprised of Canada and Bermuda. Mexico is included in Latin America and Caribbean. Source: MPI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2019 ACS.

One-third of low-income immigrants—4,887,000 individuals—were born in Mexico, which was by far the top country of birth in 2019 (see Table 2). China (including Hong Kong) was second at 754,000, fol-

lowed by El Salvador (587,000), Guatemala (569,000), and Cuba (530,000). The Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Honduras, India, and the Philippines rounded out the top ten countries of birth. Altogether, 63 percent of low-income immigrants were from one of these top ten countries in 2019. The list of top ten countries of origin for low-income immigrants is nearly the same as for immigrants overall, though India and the Philippines appear higher on the list for the total immigrant population.

4 Immigration Status

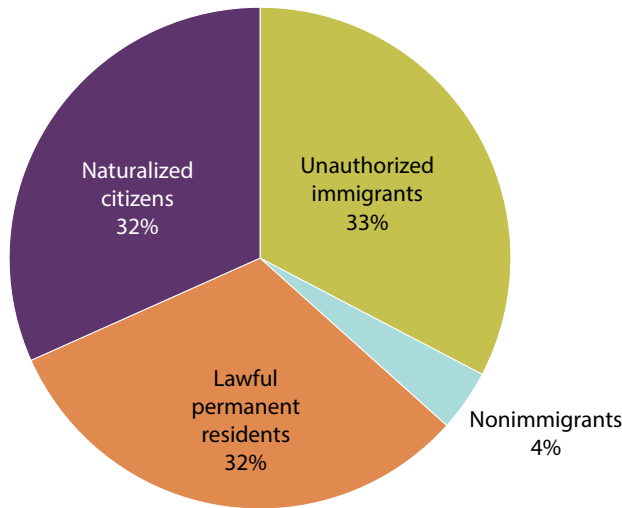
Using the Migration Policy Institute’s unique methodology for assigning legal status to immigrants in the American Community Survey,⁵ this analysis found that an estimated 32 percent of low-income immigrants were naturalized citizens and 32 percent were lawful permanent residents (also known as green-card holders) in 2019. An additional 33 percent were unauthorized immigrants, and 4 percent held a nonimmigrant status (such as students or temporary workers).⁶

TABLE 2
Top Ten Countries of Birth of Low-Income Immigrants in the United States, 2019

Country of Birth	Number	Share of All Low-Income Immigrants
Mexico	4,887,000	33%
China (incl. Hong Kong)	754,000	5%
El Salvador	587,000	4%
Guatemala	569,000	4%
Cuba	530,000	4%
Dominican Republic	520,000	4%
Vietnam	411,000	3%
Honduras	400,000	3%
India	321,000	2%
Philippines	312,000	2%
All other	5,508,000	37%
Total	14,799,000	100%

Note: Numbers may not add up to the total due to rounding. Source: MPI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2019 ACS.

FIGURE 3
Immigration Status of Low-Income Immigrants in the United States, 2019



Note: Numbers may not add up to the total due to rounding.
Source: These 2019 data result from MPI analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the pooled 2015–19 ACS and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), weighted to 2019 unauthorized immigrant population estimates provided by Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University.

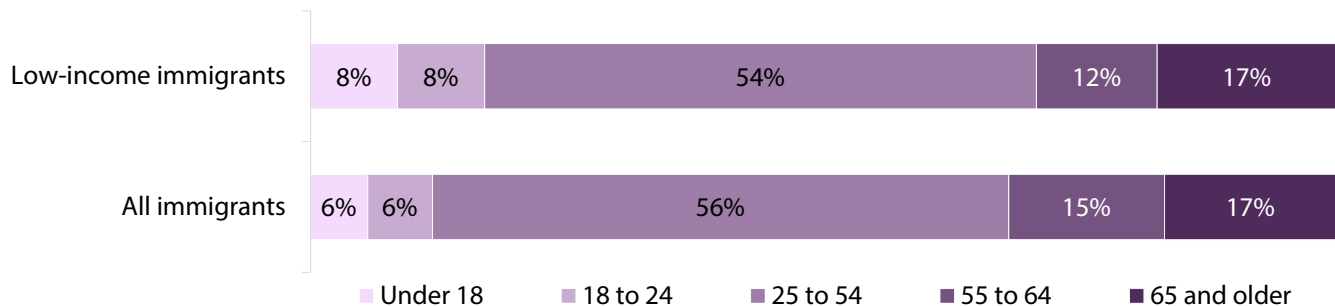
In 2019, an estimated 10 percent of low-income immigrants nationwide lived in families made up entirely of unauthorized immigrants and 30 percent lived in mixed-status families (i.e., those in which at least one family member was an unauthorized immigrant and at least one family member was either a U.S. citizen or legal immigrant). Within those mixed-status families, 977,000 low-income U.S.-cit-

zen and legal immigrant adults lived with an unauthorized immigrant spouse. Moreover, an estimated 3.5 million low-income children who were either U.S. citizens or legal immigrants lived with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent. The majority of these 3.5 million children (2.7 million) had only unauthorized immigrant parents, while 824,000 had one unauthorized immigrant parent and one U.S.-citizen or legal immigrant parent. Appendix Table A–1 shows these mixed-status estimates by state.

5 Demographics

In 2019, 55 percent of low-income immigrants were women and 45 percent were men. In terms of age, the largest share of low-income immigrants—7,961,000, or slightly more than half—were of prime working age (between the ages of 25 and 54), as shown in Figure 4. About 2,583,000 (17 percent) were ages 65 and older, while 1,743,000 (12 percent) were between 55 and 64 years old. Children under age 18 and young adults between ages 18 and 24 each made up 8 percent of the low-income immigrant population (1,256,000 each). Compared to all immigrants, a larger share of low-income immigrants were children or young adults under age 25 (12 percent vs. 16 percent).

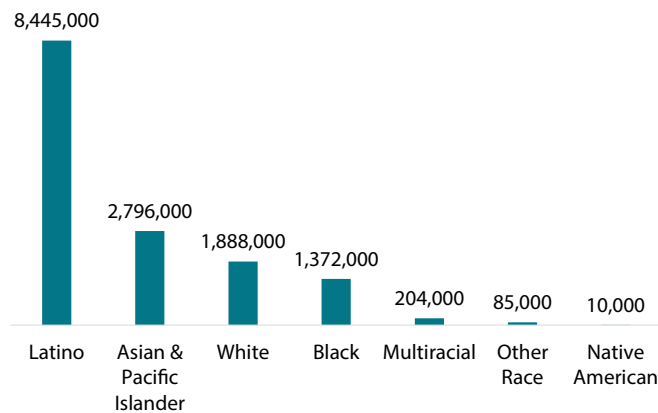
FIGURE 4
Age of Low-Income Immigrants and All Immigrants in the United States, 2019



Note: Numbers may not add up to the total due to rounding.
Source: MPI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2019 ACS.

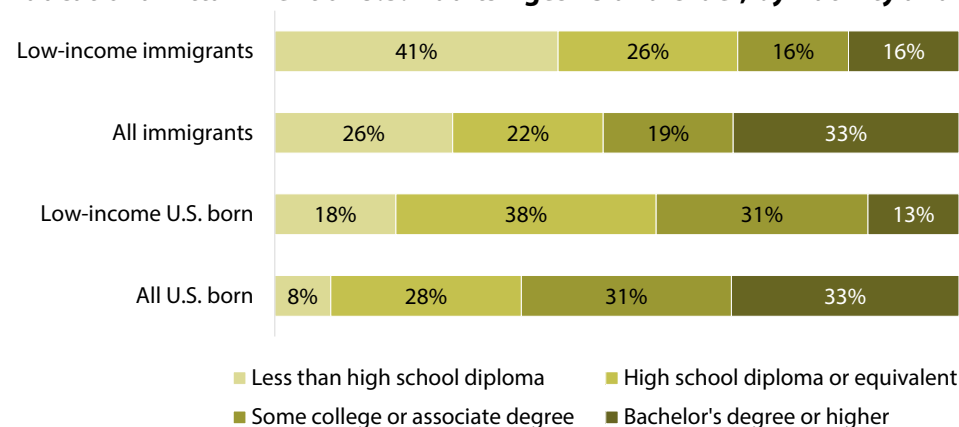
The majority of low-income immigrants in 2019, approximately 8,445,000 or 57 percent, identified as Latino (see Figure 5). The next largest number identified as Asian or Pacific Islander (2,796,000 or 19 percent), followed by those identifying as White (1,888,000 or 13 percent) and Black (1,372,000 or 9 percent). Smaller numbers of low-income immigrants were multiracial, Native American, or identified with another race, each representing no more than 1 percent of the total low-income immigrant population.

FIGURE 5
Race and Ethnicity of Low-Income Immigrants in the United States, 2019



Note: All categories in this figure are exclusive, and all Latinos are included in that category regardless of their race.
Source: MPI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2019 ACS.

FIGURE 6
Educational Attainment of U.S. Adults Ages 25 and Older, by Nativity and Income, 2019



Note: Numbers may not add up to the total due to rounding.
Source: MPI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2019 ACS.

6 Socioeconomic Characteristics

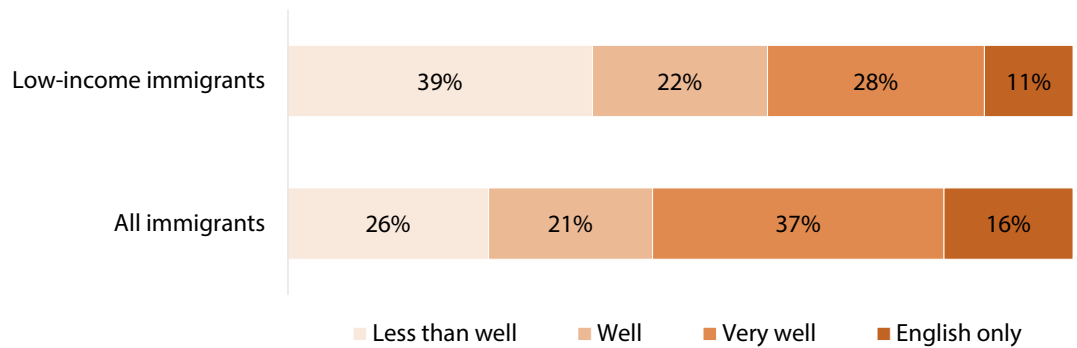
In terms of educational attainment, about 41 percent of low-income immigrant adults (ages 25 and older) had less than a high school degree in 2019. An additional 26 percent had a high school diploma or equivalent but no college education (see Figure 6). In comparison, 26 percent of immigrants of all income levels had not completed high school, and 22 percent had a high school diploma or equivalent but no further education.

Low-income immigrant adults were also less likely to have a bachelor's degree or higher than immigrant adults overall (16 percent vs. 33 percent). However, they were slightly *more* likely to have a bachelor's degree than low-income U.S.-born adults (13 percent).

According to pooled 2012/2014/2017 PIAAC data (an international survey of adult skills), 20 percent of low-income immigrants ages 25 and older in the United States who had an associate degree or higher were first-generation college graduates, meaning that their parents did not have a college degree. This was also true for 14 percent of low-income immigrants who had a bachelor's degree or higher.⁷

FIGURE 7

Spoken English Ability of Immigrants Ages 5 and Older in the United States, by Income, 2019



Notes: Numbers may not add up to the total due to rounding. English proficiency is self-reported in the ACS. The survey questionnaire asks respondents if they speak a language other than English at home. If yes, the survey asks them to self-assess their spoken English proficiency.

Source: MPI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2019 ACS.

In 2019, 39 percent of low-income immigrants ages 5 and older were English proficient, meaning they indicated they spoke English very well or spoke only English at home (see Figure 7). At the same time, 61 percent were limited English proficient, meaning they spoke English less than very well. This was a higher share than among immigrants overall, 47 percent of whom were limited English proficient.

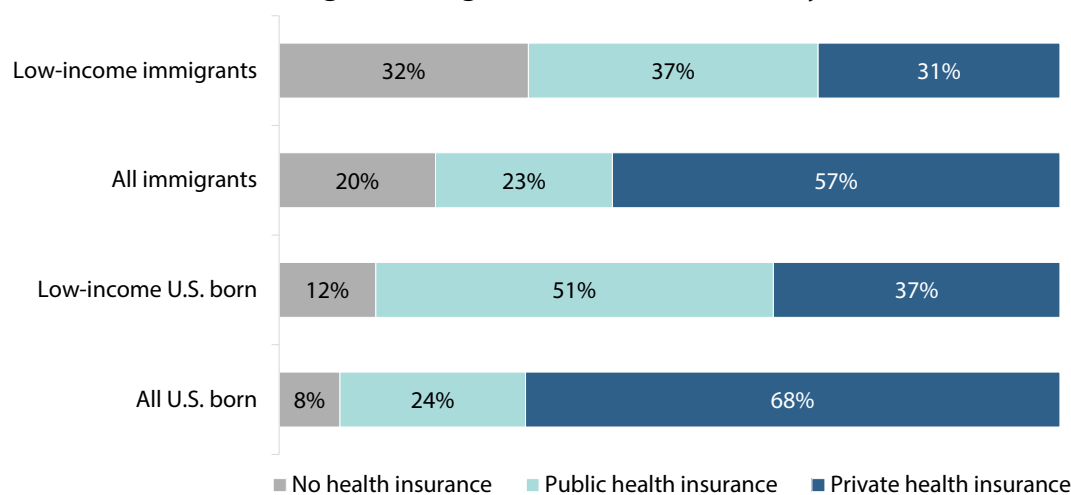
The top languages spoken at home by low-income immigrants in 2019 were Spanish (55 percent), English (11 percent), a Chinese language⁸ (5 percent),

Arabic (3 percent), and Vietnamese (2 percent). All other languages were spoken by less than 2 percent of the low-income immigrant population.

Thirty-two percent of low-income immigrants, or 4.7 million, lacked health insurance in 2019. This uninsured rate was higher than for both immigrants overall (20 percent) and for the low-income U.S. born (8 percent). Among low-income immigrants who were insured, public health insurance (including Medicaid) was more common than private insurance (see Figure 8).

FIGURE 8

Health Insurance Coverage of Immigrants and the U.S. Born, by Income, 2019

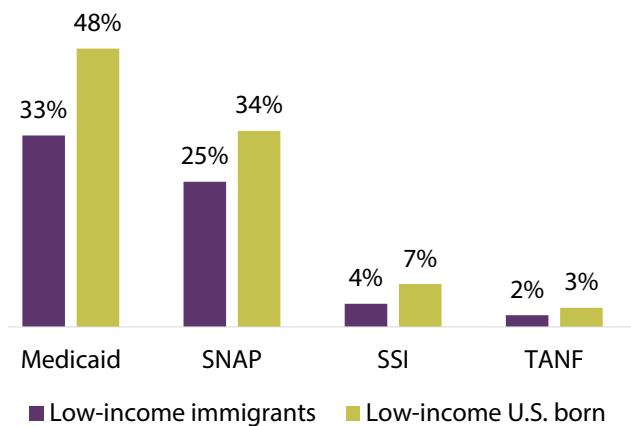


Notes: Numbers may not add up to the total due to rounding. Public health insurance coverage includes Medicaid.

Source: MPI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2019 ACS.

One-third of low-income immigrants had health insurance coverage through Medicaid or the companion Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2019 (see Figure 9). One-quarter received nutritional assistance by participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), otherwise known as food stamps. Less than 5 percent of low-income immigrants participated in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. Benefits receipt rates were higher for the low-income U.S. born across all four programs.

FIGURE 9
Share of Low-Income Immigrants and U.S. Born Participating in Public Benefits Programs, 2019

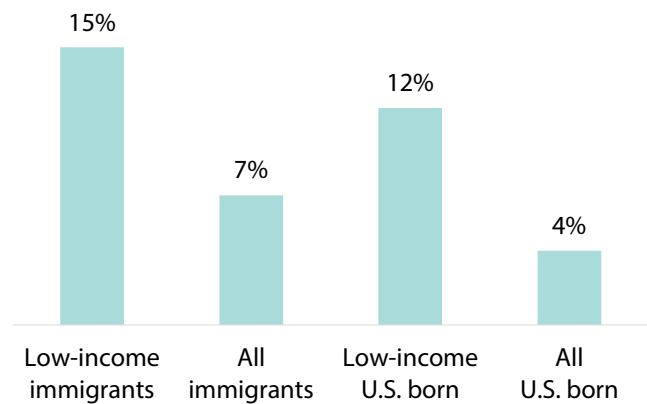


Notes: For Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), data are for U.S. residents of all ages with a family income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. For Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), the Census Bureau only asks about receipt for U.S. residents ages 15 and older, so the data cover those in this age range who have a family income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Being in a low-income household does not necessarily guarantee eligibility for any of these public benefits due to immigration status and program and/or state-specific requirements.
Source: MPI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2019 ACS.

In 2019, 15 percent of low-income immigrants lived in an unbanked household—that is, one in which no household member had a checking or savings account. The share was slightly lower for low-income

U.S.-born persons, 12 percent of whom were unbanked. In both cases, low-income individuals were more likely to live in unbanked households than immigrants overall (7 percent) and the U.S.-born population overall (4 percent).

FIGURE 10
Shares of Immigrants and U.S. Born Living in Unbanked Households, by Income, 2019



Note: In unbanked households, no member has a checking or savings account. For this indicator, information on the household’s income to poverty ratio was not available. Instead, low-income status was approximated using information on the family income of the householder, the number of residents in the household, and federal poverty levels.
Source: MPI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey June 2019 Un(der)banked Supplement.

7 Employment Characteristics

Among low-income immigrants ages 16 and older, 50 percent were employed in 2019, 4 percent were unemployed but looking for work, and 46 percent were not in the labor force. These rates varied by gender: 63 percent of low-income immigrant men were employed, compared to 40 percent of low-income immigrant women. Employment rates were lower for the U.S.-born low-income population: 41 percent overall, 42 percent among men, and 40 percent among women. Among low-income immi-

grants, employment rates were higher among those of prime working age (25 to 54): 65 percent overall, 82 percent among men, and 51 percent among women.

The top industry groups of employment for low-income immigrants were construction; accommodation and food services; professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste-management services; retail trade; and manufacturing (see Table 3).

TABLE 3

Industry of Employment of Civilian, Employed Low-Income Immigrants Ages 16 and Older, 2019

Industry of Employment	Number	Percent
Construction	982,000	14%
Accommodation and food services	962,000	14%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste-management services	823,000	12%
Retail trade	673,000	10%
Manufacturing	619,000	9%
Other services (except public administration)	574,000	8%
Health care	479,000	7%
Transportation and warehousing	415,000	6%
Educational services	351,000	5%
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing and hunting	272,000	4%
Social assistance	202,000	3%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	161,000	2%
Wholesale trade	148,000	2%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	100,000	1%
Public administration	63,000	1%
Information	35,000	1%
Mining	13,000	0%
Utilities	11,000	0%
Total	6,885,000	100%

Note: Numbers may not add up to the total due to rounding.

Source: MPI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2019 ACS.

TABLE 4

Share of All Civilian, Employed Workers Ages 16 And Older Who Are Low-Income Immigrants, by Industry, 2019

Industry of Employment	Share of Workers
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing and hunting	14%
Accommodation and food services	9%
Information	8%
Public administration	8%
Mining	5%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste-management services	5%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	4%
Transportation and warehousing	4%
Other services (except public administration)	4%
Social assistance	4%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	3%
Health care	3%
Educational services	2%
Construction	2%
Wholesale trade	2%
Manufacturing	1%
Retail trade	1%
Utilities	1%
All industries	4%

Note: Numbers may not add up to the total due to rounding.

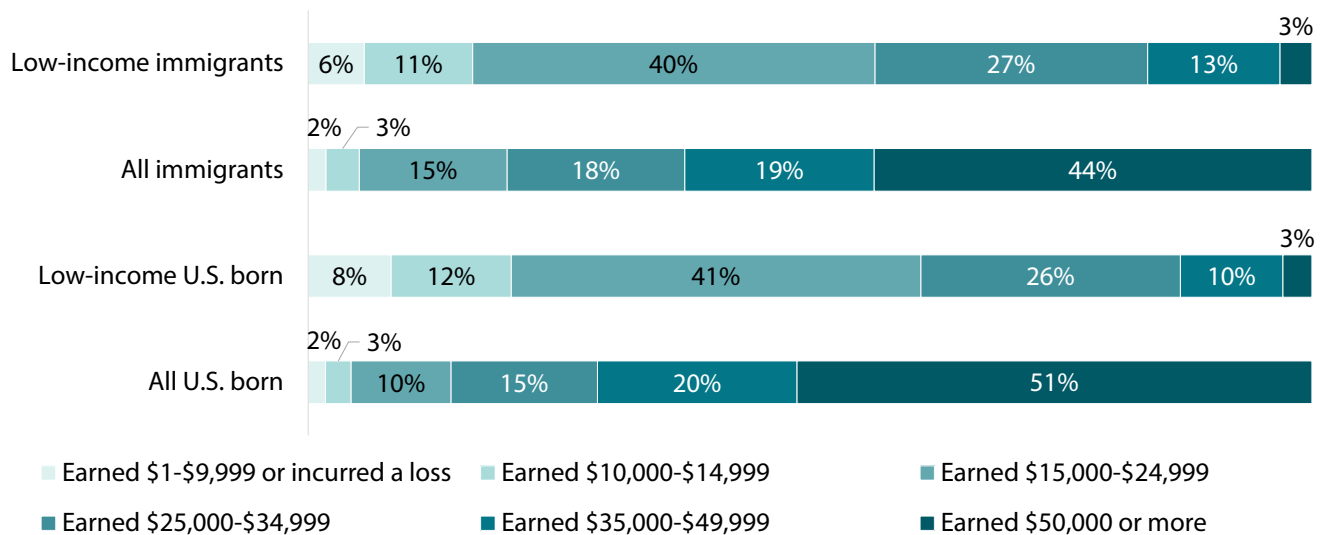
Source: MPI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2019 ACS.

Low-income immigrants made up 4 percent of the United States' total civilian workforce (ages 16 and older) in 2019. But they were overrepresented in some industry groups. Low-income immigrants made up 14 percent of all workers in agriculture, forestry, and fishing and hunting;⁹ 9 percent in accommodation and food services; 8 percent each in information and in public administration; and 5 percent each in mining and in professional, scientific, administrative, and waste-management services.

Among low-income immigrants who were employed full time, year round in 2019, 40 percent earned between \$15,000 and \$24,999 per year, 16 percent had lower earnings, and 44 percent had higher earnings (see Figure 11). Just 3 percent of low-income immigrants who worked full time, year round had earnings of \$50,000 or more per year. The earned income distribution was similar between low-income immigrants and the low-income U.S. born.

FIGURE 11

Annual Earned Income of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers Ages 16 and Older, by Nativity and Income, 2019



Note: Numbers may not add up to the total due to rounding.
 Source: MPI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2019 ACS.

In March 2021, among civilian, low-income immigrant workers ages 16 and older, 12 percent worked at jobs that were covered by an employer- or union-sponsored pension or retirement plan.¹⁰ For civilian, immigrant workers overall, not just those with low incomes, this share was 30 percent.

8 Conclusion

Low-income immigrants in the United States, estimated at 14.8 million people in 2019, make up only about one-third of the country’s foreign-born population but face a unique mix of challenges. Participating in the labor force does not guarantee an exit out of poverty: although two-thirds of low-income immigrants of prime working age were employed in 2019, more than half of those who worked full time, year round earned less than \$25,000 annually.

With higher rates of limited English proficiency and lower educational attainment than immigrants overall, low-income immigrants may face greater barriers to accessing needed services. Moreover, federal restrictions on noncitizens’ eligibility for public benefits programs puts these forms of support out of reach for millions of immigrants and their family members, potentially affecting their well-being. Low-income immigrants were also much less likely to have health insurance coverage than U.S.-born low-income individuals and the immigrant population overall.

The information presented in this fact sheet on the characteristics of low-income immigrants can inform efforts to address these challenges, through programs aimed at all U.S. residents or those targeted to immigrant families. These may include economic supports, education and training initiatives, or other services that address barriers to upward economic mobility.

Appendix. Low-Income Mixed-Status Families

TABLE A-1

Low-Income Immigrants in Mixed-Status Households, by State, 2019

	All Low-Income Immigrants in Mixed-Status Households	U.S.-Citizen and Legal Immigrant Spouses of Unauthorized Immigrants	U.S.-Citizen and Legal Immigrant Children with...		
			at Least One Unauthorized Immigrant Parent (Total)	Only Unauthorized Immigrant Parents	One Unauthorized Immigrant Parent and One U.S.-Citizen or Legal Immigrant Parent
United States	5,552,000	977,000	3,549,000	2,724,000	825,000
Alabama	33,000	6,000	28,000	21,000	6,000
Alaska	-	-	-	-	-
Arizona	162,000	31,000	109,000	82,000	27,000
Arkansas	33,000	7,000	23,000	17,000	6,000
California	1,489,000	245,000	943,000	733,000	210,000
Colorado	76,000	15,000	58,000	45,000	13,000
Connecticut	42,000	8,000	21,000	16,000	5,000
Delaware	11,000	-	10,000	8,000	2,000
District of Columbia	5,000	-	-	-	-
Florida	384,000	72,000	176,000	128,000	47,000
Georgia	169,000	27,000	133,000	108,000	25,000
Hawaii	18,000	3,000	5,000	3,000	2,000
Idaho	15,000	3,000	13,000	10,000	3,000
Illinois	208,000	40,000	151,000	114,000	36,000
Indiana	49,000	11,000	37,000	27,000	10,000
Iowa	19,000	5,000	14,000	10,000	4,000
Kansas	33,000	6,000	24,000	18,000	6,000
Kentucky	26,000	5,000	16,000	11,000	4,000
Louisiana	31,000	6,000	18,000	13,000	5,000
Maine	-	-	-	-	-
Maryland	83,000	12,000	51,000	42,000	9,000
Massachusetts	72,000	13,000	29,000	22,000	7,000
Michigan	45,000	9,000	28,000	20,000	8,000
Minnesota	38,000	8,000	25,000	18,000	7,000
Mississippi	11,000	3,000	8,000	6,000	2,000
Missouri	24,000	6,000	14,000	10,000	5,000

TABLE A-1 (cont.)

Low-Income Immigrants in Mixed-Status Households, by State, 2019

	All Low-Income Immigrants in Mixed-Status Households	U.S.-Citizen and Legal Immigrant Spouses of Unauthorized Immigrants	U.S.-Citizen and Legal Immigrant Children with...		
			at Least One Unauthorized Immigrant Parent (Total)	Only Unauthorized Immigrant Parents	One Unauthorized Immigrant Parent and One U.S.-Citizen or Legal Immigrant Parent
Montana	-	-	-	-	-
Nebraska	24,000	4,000	16,000	12,000	4,000
Nevada	82,000	15,000	62,000	48,000	14,000
New Hampshire	-	-	-	-	-
New Jersey	179,000	29,000	98,000	78,000	20,000
New Mexico	37,000	9,000	24,000	16,000	8,000
New York	412,000	64,000	193,000	146,000	47,000
North Carolina	165,000	28,000	134,000	107,000	28,000
North Dakota	-	-	-	-	-
Ohio	39,000	8,000	23,000	16,000	7,000
Oklahoma	48,000	9,000	38,000	30,000	8,000
Oregon	55,000	11,000	46,000	35,000	10,000
Pennsylvania	69,000	14,000	33,000	23,000	9,000
Rhode Island	12,000	-	5,000	4,000	2,000
South Carolina	41,000	8,000	31,000	24,000	7,000
South Dakota	-	-	-	-	-
Tennessee	64,000	11,000	51,000	41,000	10,000
Texas	954,000	170,000	666,000	510,000	156,000
Utah	43,000	8,000	30,000	23,000	8,000
Vermont	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia	95,000	14,000	53,000	42,000	11,000
Washington	106,000	19,000	77,000	60,000	17,000
West Virginia	-	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	30,000	7,000	24,000	18,000	6,000
Wyoming	-	-	-	-	-

Notes: Numbers may not add up to the total due to rounding. "-" indicates a sample size too small to produce precise estimates.

Source: These 2019 data result from MPI analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the pooled 2015–19 ACS and the 2008 SIPP, weighted to 2019 unauthorized immigrant population estimates provided by Van Hook.

Endnotes

- 1 See, for example, Mary C. Waters and Marisa Gerstein Pineau, eds., *The Integration of Immigrants into American Society* (Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2015).
- 2 The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) accessed the American Community Survey (ACS) and Current Population Survey (CPS) data through the University of Minnesota's Integrated Public Use Microdata Series. See Sarah Flood et al., "IPUMS CPS: Version 10.0" (dataset, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Population Center, Minneapolis, 2022); Steven Ruggles et al., "IPUMS USA: Version 12.0" (dataset, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Population Center, Minneapolis, 2022).
- 3 Data on poverty status are not collected for people who live in group quarters or for children who live with household members to whom they are not related.
- 4 U.S. Census Bureau, "Poverty Threshold—2019," accessed September 30, 2022.
- 5 For a description of this methodology, see Migration Policy Institute (MPI), "MPI Methodology for Assigning Legal Status to Noncitizen Respondents in U.S. Census Bureau Survey Data," accessed November 1, 2022.
- 6 This last category also includes refugees or asylees who have not yet adjusted to lawful permanent resident (LPR) status.
- 7 Because a poverty status variable is not available in PIAAC, for this analysis, low-income immigrants are defined as workers who earned two-thirds of the average national living wage in 2019. For additional information about the PIAAC survey and the U.S.-focused analyses, see Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), *Time for the U.S. to Reskill? What the Survey of Adult Skills Says* (Paris: OECD Publishing, 2013).
- 8 ACS respondents provide the language spoken in their home, and the U.S. Census Bureau does some grouping of languages. The category "Chinese" as used here includes individuals who said their language was "Chinese" as well as those who named various Chinese languages, including "Mandarin" and "Cantonese."
- 9 This is likely an undercount, as the ACS is known to undercount migrant and seasonal agricultural workers.
- 10 Data on the share of workers with an employer- or union-sponsored pension or retirement plan came from the CPS March 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Note that due to data constraints, for this indicator, the authors looked at individuals with a household income below 150 percent of the poverty level rather than below 200 percent of the poverty level.

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