

MASSACHUSETTS IMMIGRANTS BY THE NUMBERS

Demographic Characteristics and Economic Footprint

Fast facts from a Study by Alan Clayton-Matthew, PhD & Paul Watanabe, PhD with Faye Karp, MS, UMass Boston for The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.

There were 912,310 immigrants in Massachusetts in 2007, comprising 14.1% of the state's population. **Immigrants are stabilizing Massachusetts' population numbers and by extension, substantial representation in Congress and access to needed federal funds.**

In 2007, **47.7% of the Massachusetts foreign-born residents were naturalized citizens and two-thirds of established immigrants (in the United States 10 or more years) were citizens.**

Immigrants account for almost one-third of all Boston households. Chelsea has the highest concentration of immigrants, followed, in order, by Malden, Lawrence, Everett, Lynn and Cambridge.

Immigrants are much more likely to be between **25 and 44 years of age than natives. This is important to the Massachusetts labor force because these workers will be here to fill jobs that baby boomers will soon vacate.**

Few differences were found between established Massachusetts immigrants and the native-born along key demographic and economic characteristics. In 2005, **established immigrants earned average salaries of \$47,800, or only 1.3% less than natives.**

Immigrants comprised 16.4% of the state income tax filers in 2005, higher than their share of population (14.1%) and showing a significant propensity to pay income taxes.

They paid \$1.2 billion in Massachusetts state income taxes in 2005.

Massachusetts' immigrant-headed households **paid \$1.06 billion in local property taxes in 2007.**

Immigrants paid \$346 million in sales and excise taxes in 2006 or 14.5 percent of the total.

Immigrants were 14.5% of consumer spending for a total of \$19.5 billion in 2006.

Immigrants comprised 9.7 percent of the 10,132 criminally sentenced persons aged 18-64 incarcerated by the Department of Corrections compared with 17.6 percent of natives. As immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than natives, costs related to their incarceration are lower.

Immigrants' reliance on public assistance income is about the same as for natives for both recent and established immigrants.

Immigrants bring tremendous education and training. **Among highly educated recent immigrants in Massachusetts, 24% hold a master's degree or higher compared to 16% of natives and hold 50.3% of all doctorates in the state.**

These highly educated **immigrants bring technology and science-based skills that enhance the biotechnology, technology, health care and educational sectors that are vital to the Massachusetts' economy and keep the Commonwealth competitive in the world economy.**

There are many challenges for **recent, less well-educated immigrants as they struggle to adapt to a new language, culture and economy. They earn 29.8% less in salary than natives and are more likely to have limited English language skills.**