



Immigrants in Health Care

Medicine and Medical Science

Long-Term Care

Nursing

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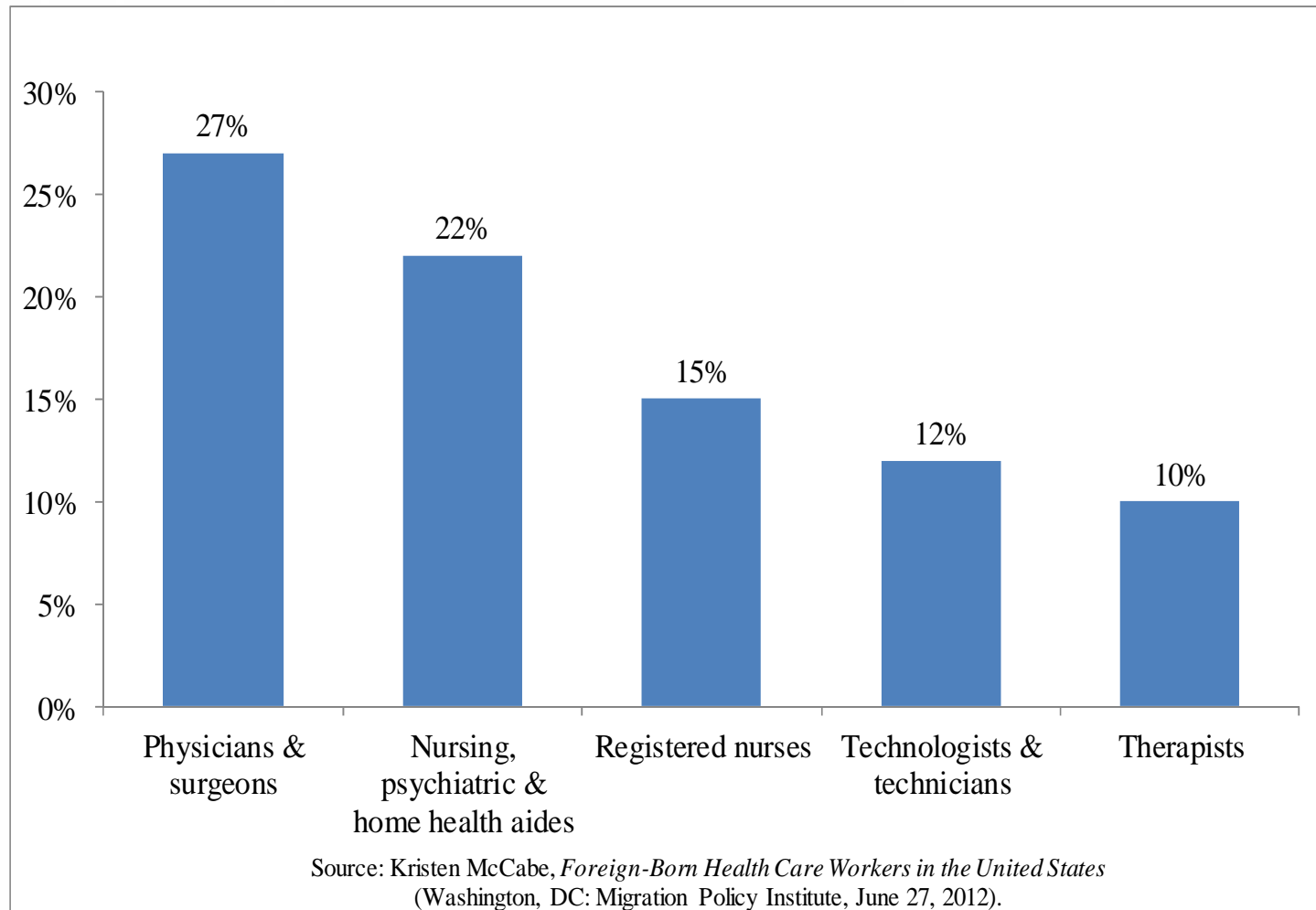
The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.

Malden, MA



The Big Picture

Foreign-Born Share of Health Care Workers by Occupation, 2010



International Medical School Graduates

Specialties Pursued by J-1 Physicians and USMGs, 2010-2011 Academic Year

	J-1 Visa Physicians	US Medical Graduates
Internal medicine	45.8%	15.0%
Pediatrics	11.0%	7.4%
Family medicine	7.9%	5.8%
General surgery	7.2%	8.4%
Psychiatry	5.2%	3.8%
Neurology	4.1%	1.5%
Obstetrics and gynecology	1.9%	5.0%
Orthopedic surgery	1.4%	4.5%
Diagnostic radiology	1.4%	5.5%
Anesthesiology	1.3%	5.9%
Other specialties/subspecialties	12.9%	37.2%
Total	100%	100%



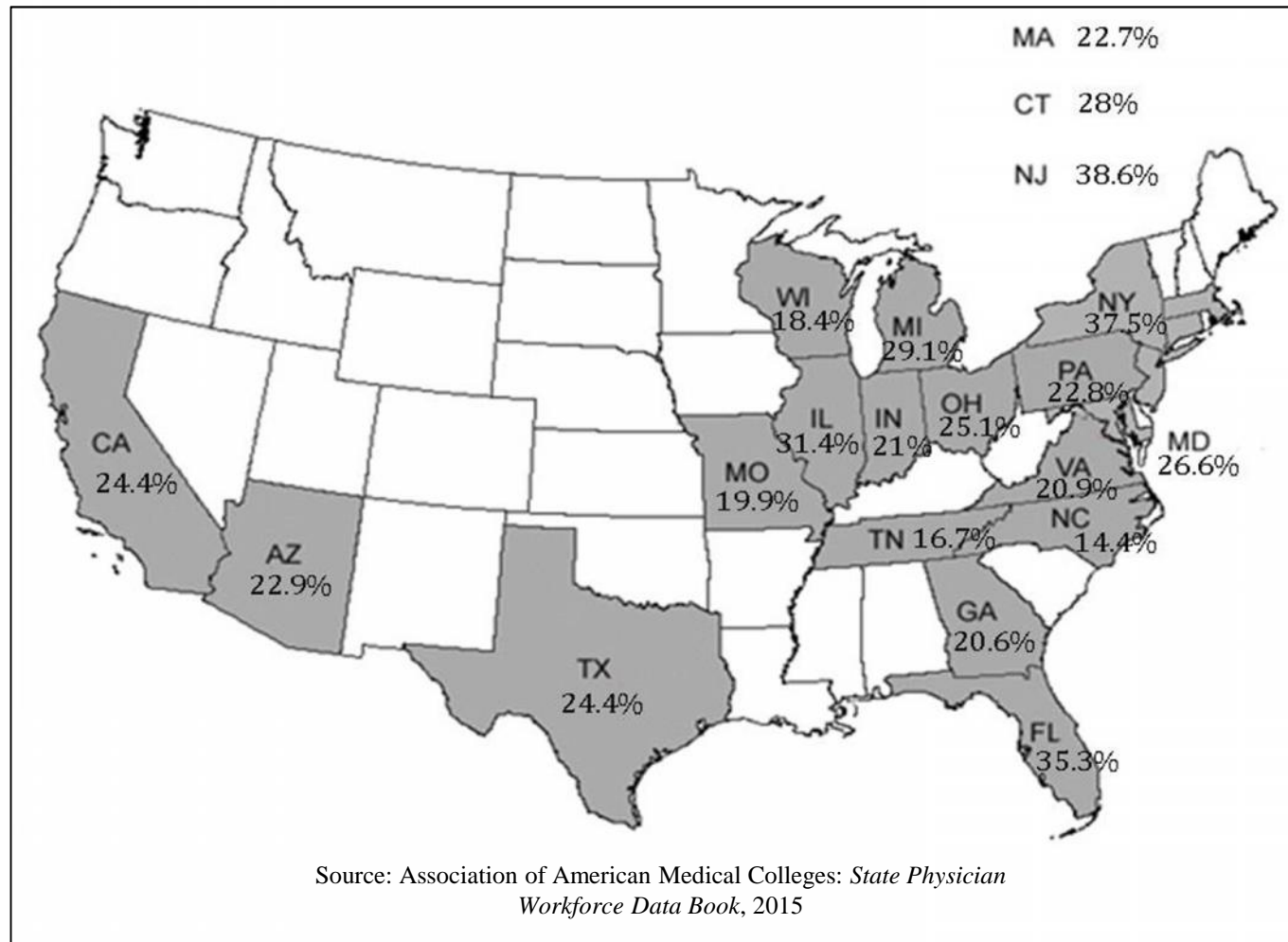
Source: Z.S. Khan, *Immigrants and the Medical Profession: Good for Our Health*
(Fairfax, VA: Institute for Immigration Research, George Mason University, May, 2015).

IMGs: A Critical Medical Workforce

- 75% stay to practice in U.S.
- 78% are in direct-care services
- Many practice in rural and inner-city settings filling unmet needs

Where IMGs Practice

Percentage of All Physicians Who Are IMGs: Top 20 States, 2012



Other Foreign-Born Physicians

- Those trained abroad face many credentialing challenges
- Many came to the U.S. as children and were educated and trained here
- Like the IMGs, they bring needed diversity and cultural understanding
- Have a large presence in medical science – 42% of cancer researchers in top 7 cancer research centers



Nam D. Tran

- Came to U.S. at age 8 as a refugee from Vietnam
- Became neuro-surgeon with PhD in neuroscience
- Now neuro-oncologist at Moffitt Cancer Center, FL
- Breakthrough cancer treatments



Nam D. Tran



Use this link to watch the video:

<http://bit.ly/ILCnamtran>

Immigrants in Long-Term Care

- An American turns 65 every 8 seconds, 72 million by 2050
- Living longer, often with multiple medical needs
- Shifts in ethnic and racial diversity in American population over 65, 2010 to 2050
 - White population declines from 80% to 58%
 - Hispanic population rises from 7% to 20%
 - Asian population rises from 4% to 12%
 - Black population rises from 9% to 12%

Home Health and Personal Care

- Fastest-growing segment in health care – projections for increases as much as 46% to 50%, 2008-2018
- Substantial gray market
- 28% of overall in-home care by immigrants
 - 83% in Miami
 - 61% in Los Angeles
 - 53% in Washington, D.C.
- Mostly female from Central America, Caribbean and Mexico
- 1 in 5 is undocumented (estimated)



Elizabeth Mande

- Refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Here many years before reunited with family
- Became Certified Nursing Assistant and works with patients with Alzheimer's



Elizabeth Mande



Use this link to watch the video:

<http://bit.ly/ILCelizabeth>



Where Would We Be Without Immigrants?

“Immigrants are a crucial paraprofessional workforce in sheer numbers as well as being language and cultural assets.

“There are many skill issues to address, especially around English-language and use of technology, but investing in developing this workforce really pays off for the state in delivering health services and containing costs.

“In fact, I think the health care system in Boston would collapse without immigrants.”



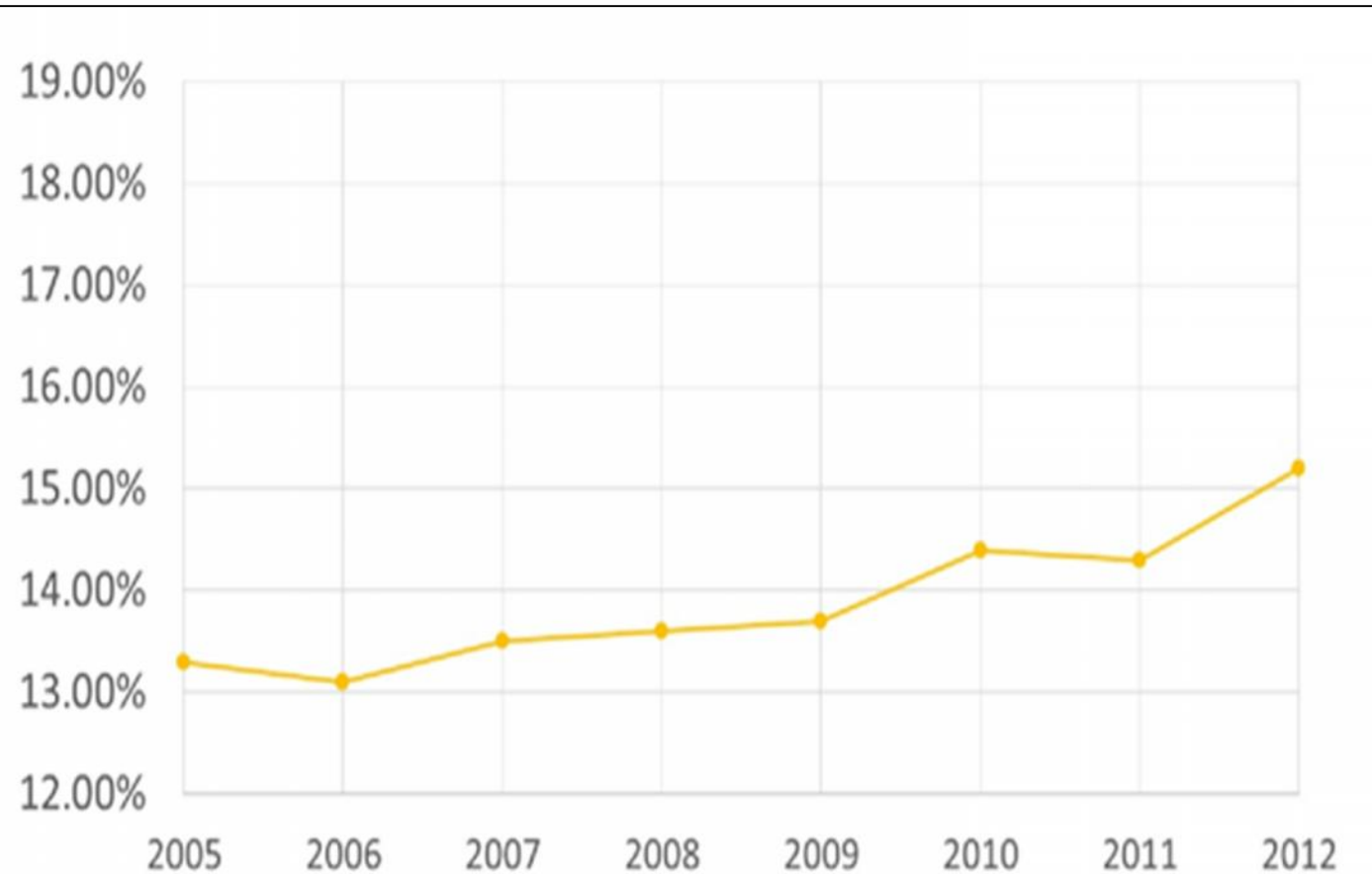
Jerry Rubin

Director, Jewish Vocational Services of Greater Boston



Immigrants in Nursing

Percentage of Foreign-Born Nurses in the U.S., 2005-2012



Source: Institute for Immigration Research, George Mason University: "Fact Sheet: Foreign-Born Nurses," September 2014



Recruitment and Licensing: A Complex Picture

- Definitions/training systems
- Language and cultural issues for immigrant nurses
- Critical need for diversity in the field

Sullivan Commission:

“The lack of diversity in the health professions is compounding the national racial and ethnic health disparities.”

- Retiring nurses and limited pipeline are driving demand
- Welcome Back Centers and IMPRINT



Conclusions and Recommendations

Immigrants play critical roles in both the high-skilled arena of health care and in long-term care

- Fill vacancies
- Practice in under-served areas
- Bring linguistic and cultural competence
- Make it possible for rising senior population to “age in place”
- Stories illustrate ambition, hard work, persistence to “make it” and the courage and willingness to take risks



Some Recommendations

- Build greater awareness of immigrants' vital role in health care
- Reduce barriers to licensure
- Increase investment in support and training programs
- Develop the home care workforce as integral to patient care plans
- Immigration reform