A Profile of Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries in the United States

By Mohammad Ismail Nooraddini

About the Author

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Acknowledgements

About the Institute for Immigration Research

The Institute for Immigration Research (IIR) is a multidisciplinary research institute at George Mason University. The IIR is dedicated to informing and refocusing the immigration conversation among academics, policymakers, and the public by producing and disseminating unbiased and objective, interdisciplinary academic research related to immigrants and immigration to the United States. Our faculty affiliates, graduate students, and partners are at the forefront of research examining the economic contributions of all immigrant in the United States, with an emphasis on immigrant entrepreneurs with high levels of education and skills. The IIR produces high quality, timely research and analysis intended to promote informed action.

The IIR was founded in 2012 through the generous donation of Ms. Diane Portnoy, educator and philanthropist and is a joint venture with The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, Massachusetts.

The IIR is located on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, outside the nation's capital, Washington, DC. Its strategic location allows the IIR to draw on unparalleled academic, government, and private resources to advance its mission in research, education, and professional opportunities for current and future scholars of immigration studies. Through conferences, workshops, lectures, and other events, the IIR is able to engage in community outreach with one of the most diverse populations in the United States.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

On September 24, 2017, the Trump administration released a Presidential Proclamation enacting a travel ban that excludes certain individuals from eight countries – Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen.[1] Individuals from these countries who wish to enter the United States on either an immigrant (permanent admission) or nonimmigrant (temporary) basis are subject to restrictions. This Proclamation was the third attempt at a travel ban by the administration; the previous two had been partially blocked by the courts.[2] The September 24, 2017 Proclamation was also initially blocked, but on December 4, 2017 the Supreme Court reinstated the full version of the travel ban.[3] As a result, thousands of people have been impacted by the ban. In January 2018, the Supreme Court agreed to hear arguments on the legality of the Presidential Proclamation.[4] On April 11, 2018, the president removed Chad from the list of countries on the travel ban, citing improvements in the country's "identity-management and information sharing practices." [5]

Although it is difficult to estimate the exact number of individuals who may be impacted, we can examine data from the U.S. Census Bureau about immigrants from these countries already living in the United States to get a sense of the economic contribution immigrants from the affected countries are making. The data showimmigrants from the affected countries are typically employed, highly educated, have high incomes, are homeowners, and make economic contributions to the United States. The social and economic contributions made by these immigrants did not occur overnight. With time these immigrants overcame challenges to make significant contributions to the United States. All of this suggests that barring future nationals from these countries could have a negative economic and social impact on the United States.

The analysis compares the characteristics of foreign-born individuals from six countries affected by the travel ban- Libya, Iran, North Yemen, Somalia, Syria, and Venezuela-to native-born U.S. citizens. There is no census data on individuals from North Korea, and only data on individuals from North Yemen is available. Overall, immigrants from these six countries included in this analysis represent 0.25 percent of the U.S. population. Analysis in this report is based on 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file that comes from the American Community Survey (ACS).

Key Findings of the Report

- **Foreign-born individuals from travel ban-affected countries represent a small portion of the U.S. population.** Approximately 799,300 immigrants living in the United States are from one of the travel ban-affected countries, an overall increase of nine percent since 1980. This group represents 0.25 percent of the U.S. population. In other words, for every 1,000 people in the United States, 2.5 are immigrants from Iran, Libya, North Yemen, Somalia, Syria, or Venezuela. For comparison's sake, there are a total of 134 foreign-born individuals for every 1,000 people in the United States.

- **Over half of immigrants from travel ban-affected countries are U.S. citizens.** Approximately 61 percent of foreign-born individuals from the travel ban-affected countries are naturalized citizens.

- **Immigrants from travel ban-affected countries have higher rates of educational attainment compared to all other immigrants living in the United States and native-born U.S. citizens.** Nearly half of foreign-born individuals 25 years of age and older from a travel ban-affected country have either a bachelor's, graduate, and/or doctoral degree (46 percent), compared to under one-third of all other immigrants (28 percent) and native-born U.S. citizens (30 percent).

- **A vast majority of immigrants from the travel ban-affected countries are employed, with nearly two-in-ten reporting self-employment.** Ninety percent of foreign-born individuals from travel ban-affected countries age 16 to 65 report being employed. Of those employed, approximately 18 percent are self-employed.

- **Immigrants from travel ban-affected countries are most likely to work in occupational groups related to engineering, science, and entertainment.** The occupational groups with the highest share of immigrants from the travel ban-affected countries include architecture and engineering; life, physical, and social science; and sales. Immigrants from travel ban-affected countries tend to be dentists; miscellaneous media and communication workers (including translators and interpreters), biomedical and agricultural engineers; physicians and surgeons; and civil engineers.

- **Households headed by immigrants from travel ban-affected countries tend to report greater median family incomes compared to households headed by native-born U.S. citizens.** Immigrant household heads from travel ban-affected countries with a household size of three report a median annual household income of $70,240; an income that tops similarly sized households headed by native-born U.S. citizens by an estimated $4,000.

- **Over the past 30 years, immigrants from these countries have contributed civically, socially, and economically.** Since 1980, nearly 700,000 immigrants from these countries entered the United States. During this time, foreign-born individuals from the travel ban-affected countries have experienced increases in the rate of citizenships (61 percent versus 20 percent), educational attainment (46 percent versus 37 percent), property ownership (46 percent versus 38 percent), and median annual household income ($70,240 versus $46,848).

Introduction

"The available data show that immigrants from the affected countries are typically employed, highly educated, have high incomes, are homeowners, and make economic contributions to the United States."

On September 24, 2017, the Trump administration released a Presidential Proclamation enacting a travel ban that excludes certain individuals from eight countries – Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen.[6] Individuals from these countries who wish to enter the U.S. on either an immigrant* (permanent admission) or nonimmigrant (temporary) basis are subject to country-specific restrictions, as detailed in this report. This Proclamation was the third attempt at a travel ban by the administration; the previous two had been partially blocked by the courts.[7] The September 24, 2017 Proclamation was also initially blocked, but on December 4, 2017 the Supreme Court reinstated the full version of the travel ban.[8] As a result, thousands of people have been impacted by the ban. In January 2018, the Supreme Court agreed to hear arguments on the legality of the Presidential Proclamation.[9] On April 11, 2018, the president removed Chad from the list of countries on the travel ban, citing improvements in the country's "identity-management and information sharing practices." [10]

Although it is difficult to estimate the exact number of individuals who may be impacted, we can examine data from the U.S. Census Bureau regarding immigrants from these countries already living in the United States to get a sense of the economic contribution immigrants from the affected countries are making. The available data show that immigrants from the affected countries are typically employed, highly educated, have high incomes, are homeowners, and make economic contributions to the United States. The social and economic contributions these immigrants make did not occur overnight. With time these immigrants overcame challenges, became integrated, and contributed to the U.S. economy in a variety of ways.

All of this suggests that barring future nationals from these countries can have a negative economic and social impact on the United States. For example, many of those from the banned countries are doctors and dentists. Research shows that foreign-trained doctors play a critical role in serving U.S. populations. The loss of future doctors and dentists could leave some American citizens and communities underserved. [11]

*The terms "immigrant" and "foreign born" are used interchangeably throughout this document. Under immigration law, the term Immigrant refers to an individual who has been admitted to the United States on a permanent basis and as a Lawful Permanent Resident, or "green card" holder. However, this report uses "immigrant" colloquially and interchangeably with the term "foreign born." Foreign born refers to an individual who was not a U.S. citizen at birth or who was born outside the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and whose parents were not U.S. citizens. The foreign born may include naturalized U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, temporary residents, refugees and asylees, and others. Native born includes those who are U.S. citizens at birth, those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and those born abroad to a parent who was a U.S. citizen.

Who Does the Travel Ban Impact?

- People from **Libya** and **Yemen** who arrive on immigrant visas and those entering on B-1 (temporary business), B-2 (temporary tourism) or B-1/B-2 combined nonimmigrant visas.

  ⇒ In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, a total of 13,682 Libyans and Yemenis were admitted as immigrants, 7,734 individuals were admitted as nonimmigrants, and 5,117 of those were admitted on B-1 and B-2 visas.

- People from **Iran** who arrive on immigrant visas and nonimmigrant visas, with the exception of individuals arriving on F (student), J (cultural exchange), and M (student) visas.

  ⇒ In FY2016, nearly 45,000 Iranians were admitted as immigrants and nonimmigrants, 7,500 of whom arrived on F, J, and M visas.

- People from **North Korea** and **Syria** entering the country as immigrants and nonimmigrants.

  ⇒ In FY2016, an estimated 168 North Koreans and 18,275 Syrians were admitted as immigrants and nonimmigrants.

- People from **Somalia** who arrive on immigrant visas. Somali nonimmigrants are subject to extra scrutiny.

  ⇒ In FY2016, an estimated 7,388 Somalis were admitted as immigrants and nonimmigrants.

- Certain nonimmigrant government officials from **Venezuela** and their family members.

Source: Presidential Proclamation (2017). Presidential Proclamation Enhancing Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry Into the United States by Terrorists or Other Public-Safety Threats. Retrieved on March 10, 2018 from https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-enhancing-vetting-capabilities-processes-detecting-attempted-entry-united-states-terrorists-public-safety-threats/; Institute for Immigration Research analysis of U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics (2016) "Persons Obtaining Lawful Permanent Resident Status by Region of Birth" and "U.S. Nonimmigrant Admissions."

How Many People Might be Subject to the Travel Ban?

The travel ban has been in full effect since December 8, 2017, and before that, for a period of time, people had also been subject to an earlier version of the travel ban. The total number of people who have already been subject to the ban and the number of people who may be banned in the future remains unknown. The left two columns of Table 1 show the number of admissions of permanent immigrants and temporary nonimmigrants from the travel-ban affected countries in Fiscal Year 2016.[12] The right two columns of Table 1 show the number of nonimmigrant B-1 and B-2 visas (temporary business and tourist visas, respectively) as a subset of the total nonimmigrant admissions for each country. These numbers reflect the number of admissions and not the exact number of individuals; in some cases the same person may have entered multiple times. While we do not know how many people may be affected by the travel ban, these numbers provide a good estimate, if we assume that roughly the same number of people would have been admitted in FY2017 as in FY2016.

"The total number of people who have already been subject to the ban and the number of people who may be banned in the future remains unknown."

Table 1. Number of Immigrant and Nonimmigrant Admissions from Countries Affected by Travel Ban Admitted in Fiscal Year 2016				
Country of Origin	Total Immigrant Admissions	Nonimmigrant Admissions		
		Total Nonimmigrant Admissions	B-1 Visa (Business)	B-2 Visa (Tourist)
Iran	13,298	31,481	2,433	20,191
Libya	642	2,106	293	931
North Korea	47	121	24	28
Somalia	6,958	430	43	196
Syria	4,800	13,475	1,478	10,442
Yemen	13,040	5,628	521	3,372
Venezuela	10,772	644,135	33,034	562,395
Total	**49,557**	**697,376**	**37,826**	**597,555**

Source: Institute for Immigration Research analysis of Office of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, (2016) "Persons Obtaining Lawful Permanent Resident Status by Region of Birth," and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, (2016) "U.S. Nonimmigrant Admissions."

Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries Already Living in the United States

Number of Immigrants

The number of immigrants living in the United States from the travel ban-affected countries is small. While there is Census data[13] on individuals from five out of the seven countries affected by the travel ban (Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Venezuela), unfortunately, there is no data on individuals from North Korea, and only data on North Yemen is available. Therefore, individuals from North Korea are not included in the data included in this brief; data from North Yemen is provided.

As shown in Table 2 added together, immigrants from these countries make up just 0.25 percent of the U.S. population. In other words, for every 1,000 people in the United States, 2.5 people are immigrants from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, or North Yemen. Immigrants from Iran and Venezuela have, by far, the largest immigrant populations living in the United States.
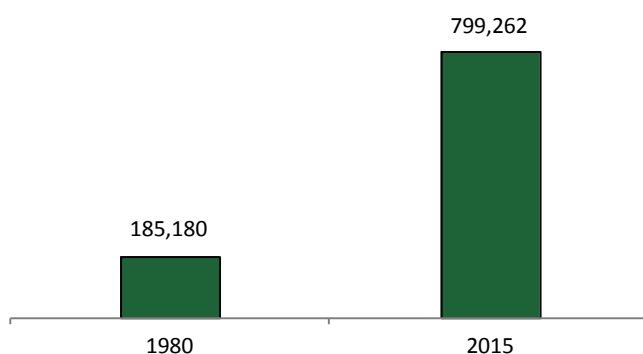
Table 2. Number of Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries Living in the U.S. and Share of U.S. Population

Country of Origin	Estimated Number Living in the United States	Percentage of U.S. Population
Iran	370,397	0.12%
Libya	8,554	<.01%
North Korea*	N/A	N/A
North Yemen*	41,536	0.01%
Somalia	83,363	0.03%
Syria	78,602	0.02%
Venezuela	216,810	0.07%
Total	**799,262**	**0.25%**

*Note: There is no available census data for individuals from North Korea. Only information for individuals from North Yemen is available.

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Figure 1. Number of Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries, 1980 and 2015

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 1980 5% sample and the ACS 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

## Number of Immigrants Living in the United States: 1980 vs. 2015

While the United States was home to nearly 800,000 immigrants from Libya, Iran, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, and North Yemen in 2015, this was not always the case. As indicated in Figure 1, in 1980 there were only an estimated 185,180 immigrants from these six travel ban-affected countries.

Year of Arrival

Figure 2 shows the year of immigration among foreign-born individuals from travel ban-affected countries. Overall, more than half (55 percent) of immigrants from all travel ban-affected countries arrived in the United States before the year 2000. The greatest spikes in immigration from these countries arrived between the years 1978 and 1979 (primarily from Iran) and in the year 2000 (many from Somalia and Venezuela).
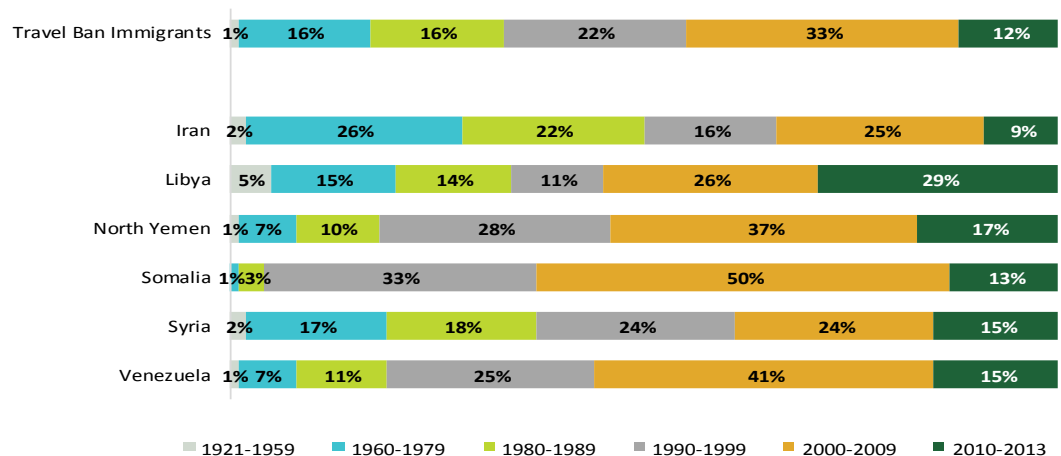
Figure 2. Year of Immigration Among Current Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries
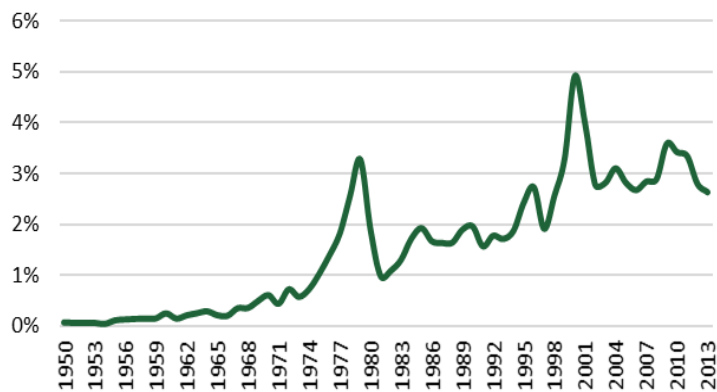
Source: IIR Analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

As illustrated in Figure 3, immigrants from Iran and Syria have been in the United States longer than those from the other travel ban-affected countries. Nearly 66 percent of Iranian immigrants and 61 percent of Syrian immigrants arrived in the United States before 2000. Foreign-born individuals from North Yemen and Venezuela were the most recent to arrive.

Figure 3. Year of Immigration among Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries Living in the United States, by Country of Origin

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file. Only data up to 2013 is used to account for arrivals that have not completed their arrival.[14]

> *"Overall, more than half (55 percent) of immigrants from all travel ban-affected countries arrived in the United States before the year 2000."*

Citizenship Status

Over half of the immigrants from the six affected countries for which we have data are naturalized citizens (61 percent). As seen in Figure 4, immigrants originating in Iran (73 percent), Syria (67 percent), and North Yemen (64 percent) are the most likely to be U.S. citizens. Comparatively, foreign-born individuals from Venezuela (41 percent), Libya (42 percent), and Somalia (57 percent) are less likely to be naturalized citizens.

Figure 4. Citizenship Status of Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries, by Country of Origin

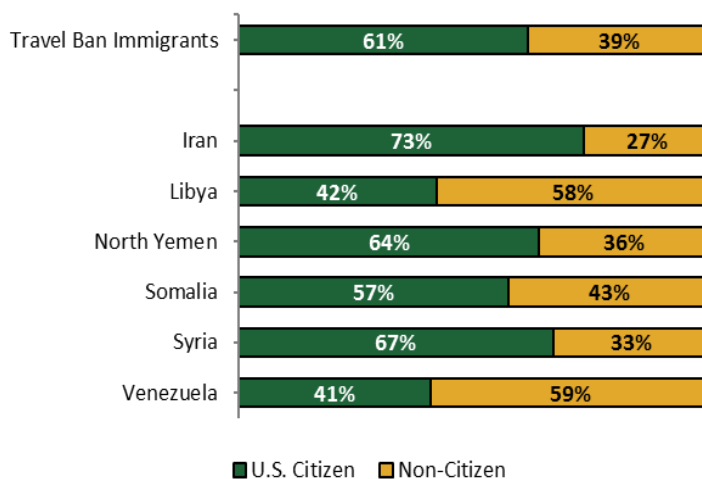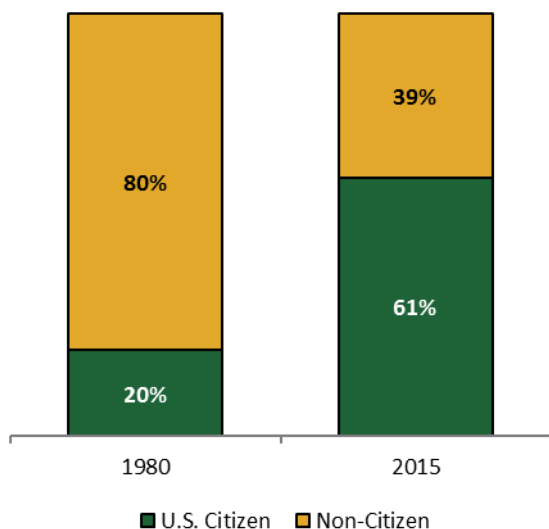| Country	U.S. Citizen	Non-Citizen
Travel Ban Immigrants	61%	39%
Iran	73%	27%
Libya	42%	58%
North Yemen	64%	36%
Somalia	57%	43%
Syria	67%	33%
Venezuela	41%	59%

■ U.S. Citizen ■ Non-Citizen

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5 -year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Figure 5. Citizenship Status of Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries, 1980 and 2015

Year	U.S. Citizen	Non-Citizen
1980	20%	80%
2015	61%	39%

■ U.S. Citizen ■ Non-Citizen

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 1980 5% Sample and the ACS 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Obtaining U.S. citizenship can be a lengthy process. An individual must first obtain legal permanent residency (a green card) and then must wait up to five years before being eligible to apply for naturalization. After applying, becoming a U.S. citizen can take anywhere from several months to years, depending on a variety of circumstances.[15] Therefore, people who have lived in the country for a longer period of time are more likely to be naturalized citizens. As Figure 5 depicts, in 1980 an estimated 20 percent of the immigrants from travel ban-affected countries living in the United States at the time were U.S. citizens. Over 30 years later, as these populations have grown and aged, this proportion has nearly tripled, and roughly 61 percent of the immigrants from travel ban-affected countries living in the United States were naturalized citizens in 2015.

"Over half of the immigrants from the six affected countries for which we have data are naturalized citizens (61 percent)."

Geographic Distribution

Immigrants from the travel ban-affected countries live all over the United States, but are concentrated in several states and metropolitan areas (Figure 6). The metropolitan areas with the largest estimated numbers of immigrants from the countries affected by the travel ban include Los Angeles, California (158,000), Miami-Fort Lauderdale, Florida (82,400) and New York, New York-New Jersey-Pennsylvania (64,000).

**Figure 6. Metropolitan Areas with the Highest Total Population
of Foreign-Born From Travel Ban-Affected Countries, 2015**
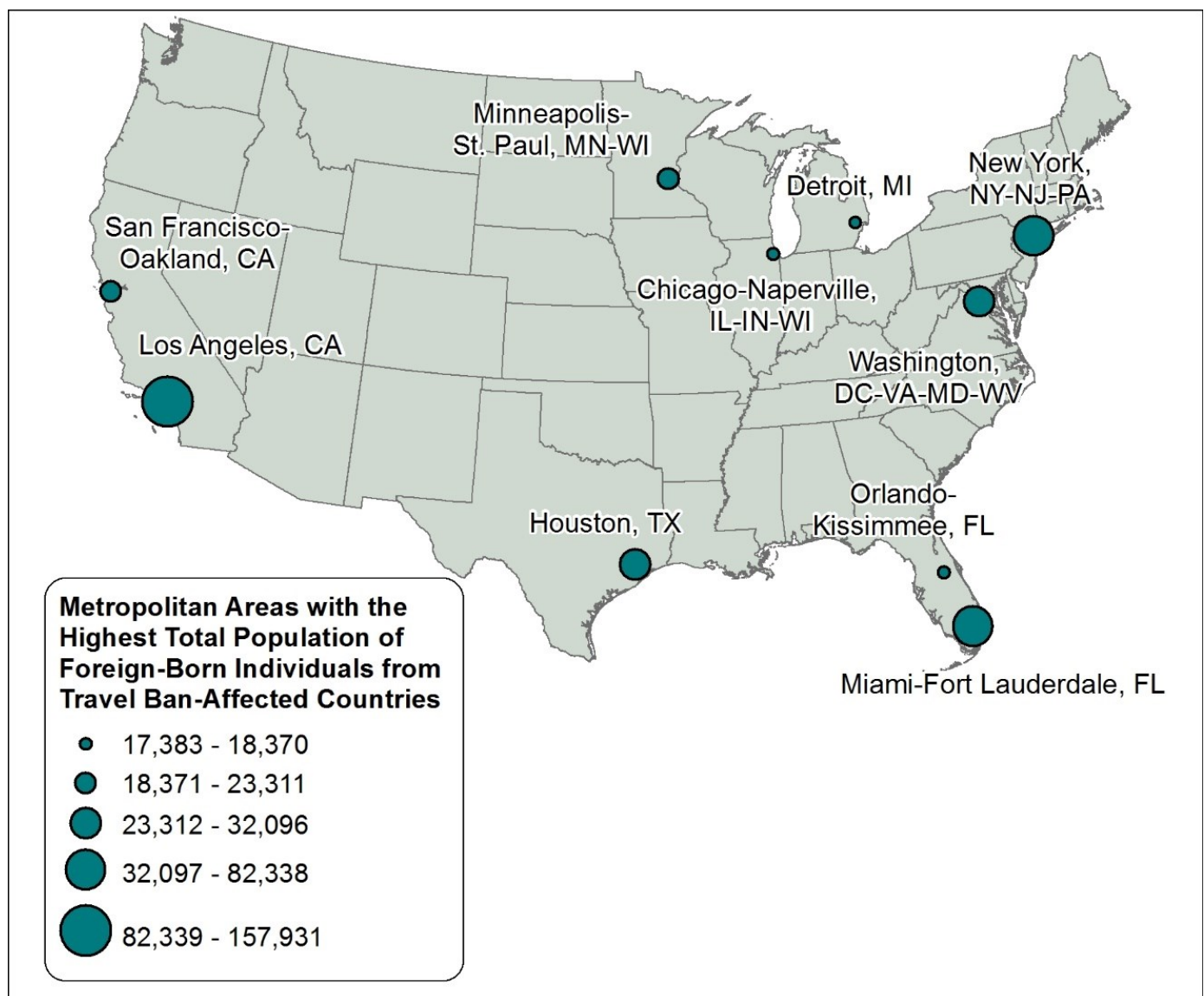
Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Figure 7. Metropolitan Areas with the Highest Shares of Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries per 1,000 Population, 2015

Metropolitan Area	Value
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	14.1
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	12.0
Modesto, CA	8.8
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	8.4
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	8.1
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	6.5
Columbus, OH	5.6
Morgantown, WV	5.5
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	5.5
St. Cloud, MN	5.2

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Figure 7 displays the metropolitan areas with the highest shares of immigrants from countries affected by the travel ban. Immigrants living in the United States from travel ban-affected countries make up relatively large shares of some of the most populated and economically prosperous metropolitan areas in the United States. These areas are likely to be most immediately affected by the travel ban. To the extent immigrants and nonimmigrants go to places in the United States where family and friends have settled, these are the areas that stand to be most affected socially and economically by the travel ban. In addition, the effects of stress and uncertainty regarding the travel of friends and family would also be concentrated in these areas.

The Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, Florida metropolitan area comes in first, where for every 1,000 individuals, there are 14.1 immigrants from the travel ban-affected countries. Approximately 91 percent of the immigrants (ages 16-65) from travel ban-affected countries living in the Miami metropolitan area are employed, with one in five having reported owning their own business. Moreover, just over half (51 percent) of foreign-born individuals from travel ban-affected countries living in the Miami metropolitan area own their home or are in the process of buying their home.[16]

The Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, California metropolitan area is the area with the second highest proportion of immigrants from countries affected by the travel ban, with 12 immigrants for every 1,000 people. This is largely due to the large Iranian population who migrated to the United States in the early 1980s.[17] Iranians living in the Los Angeles metropolitan area are employed in occupational groups including management, business, science and arts; sales; office and administrative support; and healthcare practitioners and technical occupations.[18]

"Immigrants living in the United States from travel ban-affected countries make up relatively large shares of some of the most populated and economically prosperous metropolitan areas in the United States."

Gender and Age

Overall, the immigrants in the United States from travel ban-affected countries are approximately evenly split between men and women (Table 3). Immigrants from Venezuela (55 percent) and Somalia (53 percent) are slightly more likely to be female, compared to immigrants from the other travel ban-affected countries.

"Overall, immigrants from travel ban-affected countries reported higher rates of educational attainment compared to other foreign-born individuals and native-born U.S. citizens."

Table 3. Gender of Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries, 2015							
Gender	All Travel Ban Immigrants	Iran	Libya	North Yemen	Somalia	Syria	Venezuela
Male	50%	51%	55%	56%	47%	52%	45%
Female	50%	49%	45%	44%	53%	48%	55%
Estimated Population	799,262	370,397	8,554	41,536	83,363	78,602	216,810

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

On average, immigrants from the six travel ban-affected countries are older compared to native-born U.S. citizens and all other foreign-born individuals living in the United States (Table 4). Immigrants from Iran (median age 52.0) and Syria (median age 47.0) tend to be older compared to all other immigrants from the travel ban-affected countries. This is likely because Iranians and Syrians have been in the country the longest when compared to individuals from the other countries affected by the travel ban.

| Table 4. Median Age of Native Born U.S. Citizens and Immigrants from Travel Ban- Affected Countries, 2015	
Citizenship Status	Median Age
Native-Born U.S. Citizens	35.0
All Other Immigrants in the U.S.	43.0
Travel Ban Immigrants	45.0

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file

Educational Attainment

Overall, immigrants from travel-ban affected countries reported higher rates of educational attainment compared to other foreign-born individuals and native-born U.S. citizens. As show in Figure 8, nearly half of foreign-born individuals 25 years of age and older from a travel ban-affected country have either a bachelor's, graduate, and/or doctoral degree (46 percent), compared to under one-third of all other immigrants in the United States (28 percent) and native-born U.S. citizens (30 percent). Immigrants from Libya (59 percent) and Iran (54 percent) are more likely to have a bachelor's, graduate, and/or doctoral degree compared to immigrants from other travel-ban affected countries.
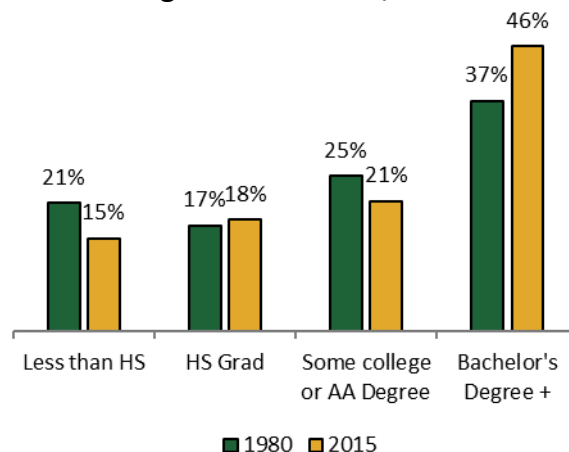
Figure 8. Educational Attainment among Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries, Ages 25 and Older, 2015
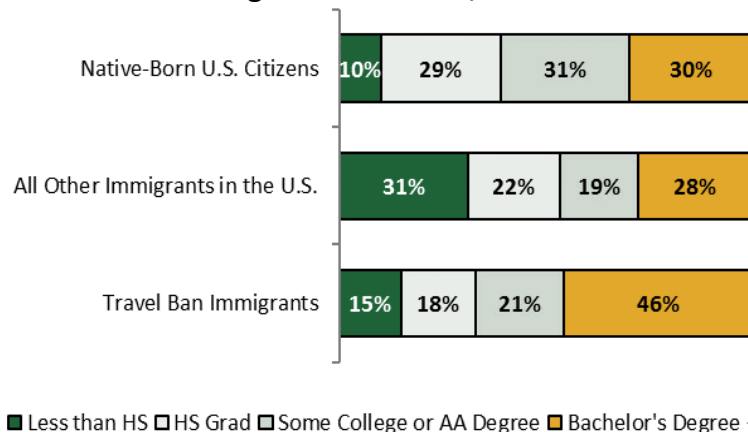
Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Educational levels for these groups have improved over time. Compared to 1980,[19] in 2015 these populations were more likely to have at least a bachelor's degree and less likely to have less than a high school degree (Figure 9). While in 1980, over one-third (37 percent) of immigrants from the travel ban-affected countries reported obtaining a bachelor's degree or higher, in 2015 nearly half of immigrants have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Figure 9. Educational Attainment Among Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries Ages 25 and Older, 1980 and 2015

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 1980 5% sample and the ACS 2011 – 2015 5 year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Family Demographics

Immigrants from countries affected by the travel ban are more likely to be married compared to native-born U.S. citizens (60 percent versus 46 percent). As shown in Table 5, immigrants from North Yemen, Libya, and Syria are more likely to be married compared to immigrants from Somalia, Venezuela, and Iran.

Table 5. Marital Status among Immigrants Ages 15 and Older from Travel Ban-Affected Countries, 2015								
Marital Status	**Native-Born U.S. Citizen**	**All Travel Ban Immigrants**	**Iran**	**Libya**	**North Yemen**	**Somalia**	**Syria**	**Venezuela**
Married	46%	60%	62%	72%	74%	50%	71%	55%
Separated	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	4%	2%	3%
Divorced	12%	10%	10%	6%	3%	9%	5%	12%
Widowed	6%	5%	7%	4%	3%	5%	6%	3%
Never Married/ Single	34%	23%	19%	17%	19%	32%	16%	27%
Estimated Population (Ages 15+)	**215,402,519**	**763,773**	**364,278**	**7,559**	**35,450**	**80,103**	**73,374**	**203,009**

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file

When discussing households consisting of native-born U.S. citizens and foreign-born individuals, the following definitions are used:

- *Travel-ban households* are defined as those in which the household heads or spouses (if present) were from Iran, Libya, North Yemen, Somalia, Syria, or Venezuela.
- *Native-born households* are defined as households in which the heads of the households and their spouses (if present) are native-born U.S. citizens.
- *All other immigrant households* are defined as households in which either the heads and/or spouses are foreign-born individuals, but neither are from Iran, Libya, North Yemen, Somalia, Syria, or Venezuela.

On average, when either the household head or their spouse were an immigrant from a country affected by the travel ban, households reported a greater number of family members living in the household compared to native-born U.S. citizen headed households (2.9 family members versus 2.3). As depicted in Table 6, over half of all households headed by immigrants from a travel-ban affected country (51 percent) reported three or more family members present in the household. Households where either the household head or spouse are from North Yemen or Somalia were the most likely to report having four or more family members present in the household.

Table 6. Number of Family Members per Household, 2015								
Household Size	Native-Born Households	All Travel-Ban Households	Iran	Libya	North Yemen	Somalia	Syria	Venezuela
1 Person	33%	22%	26%	17%	14%	22%	15%	17%
2 Family Members	34%	27%	32%	29%	12%	15%	24%	28%
3 Family Members	14%	19%	19%	17%	9%	16%	17%	21%
4+ Family Members	19%	32%	23%	37%	65%	47%	44%	34%
Estimated Households	**96,847,671**	**427,551**	**208,166**	**4,953**	**16,782**	**42,280**	**41,142**	**114,228**

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Immigrants from travel ban-affected countries have more children living in the home, on average, than na-tive-born U.S. citizen households (Figure 10). One-third of travel ban households reported having two or more children living in the household, compared to native-born households where 20 percent of house-holds reported having two or more children. Travel ban households where either the household head or spouse are from North Yemen (33 percent) or Somalia (25 percent) were the most likely to report having four or more children present in the household.

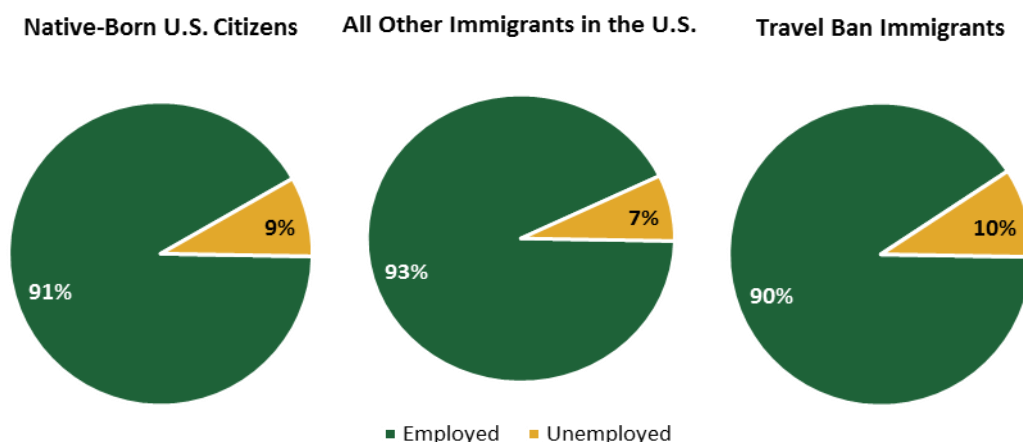**Figure 10. Number of Children in Households, 2015**
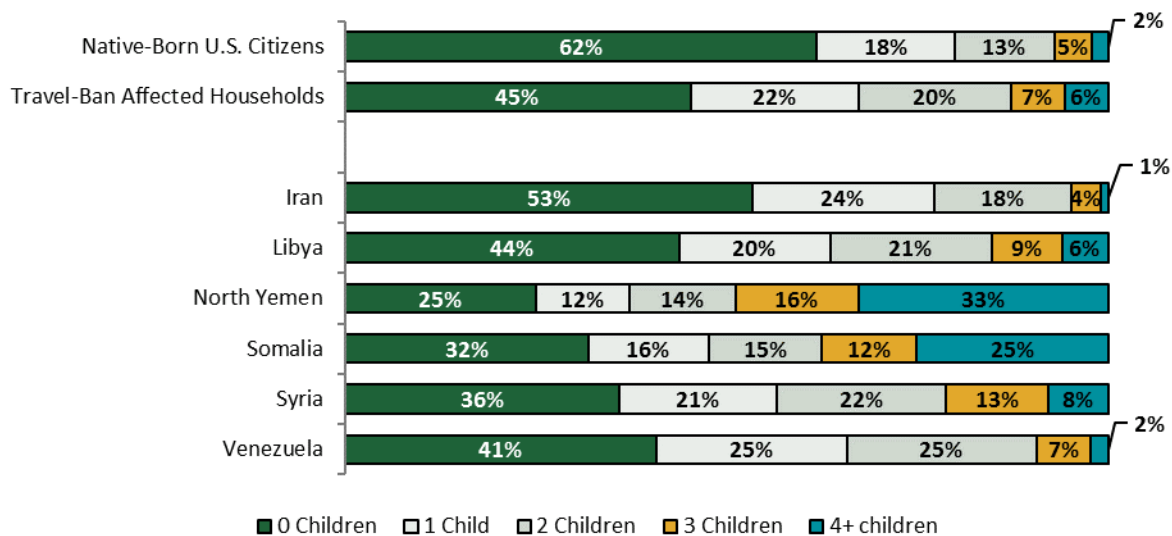
Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Employment

Immigrants from travel ban-affected countries are slightly less likely to be employed[20] compared to both native-born U.S. citizens and all other foreign-born individuals living in the United States. As shown in Figure 11, among those in the labor force, immigrants from countries other than the travel ban-affected countries are more likely to be employed compared to native-born U.S. citizens (93 percent versus 91 percent). Immigrants from the travel ban–affected countries were slightly less likely to be employed compared to all other immigrants living in the United States (90 percent versus 93 percent). Looking at individual countries of origin, immigrants from North Yemen (93 percent) and Iran (92 percent) are the most likely to be employed.

Figure 11. Employment Status of Foreign Born and Native-Born U.S. Citizens Ages 16 to 65 who are in the Labor Force, 2015

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Self-Employment

As shown in Figure 12, immigrants from the travel ban-affected countries are more than twice as likely to be self-employed (18 percent) compared to native-born U.S. citizens (8 percent). Immigrants from countries affected by the travel ban are also more likely to be self-employed compared to all other immigrants living in the United States. Immigrants from Iran (21 percent) and Syria (21 percent) were the most likely to be self-employed.

Figure 12. Immigrants and Native-Born U.S. Citizens, Ages 16 to 65, by Self-Employment Status, 2015
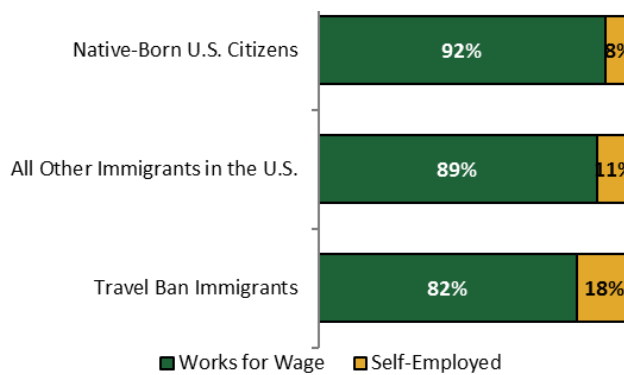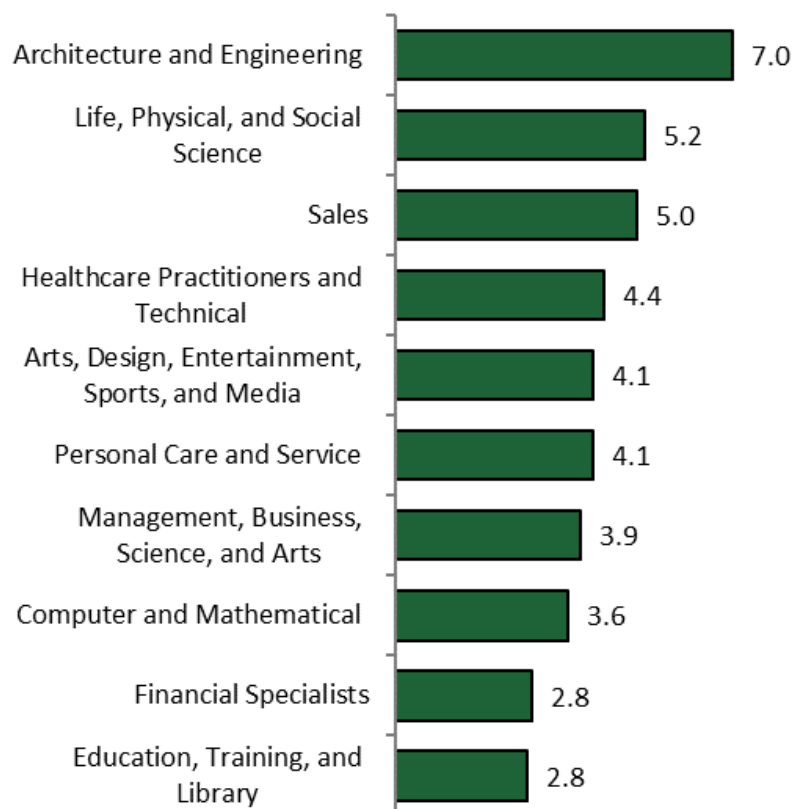

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5- year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

"Immigrants from the travel ban-affected countries are more than twice as likely to be self-employed (18 percent) compared to native-born U.S. citizens (8 percent)."

Occupational Group

Figure 13 displays the top ten occupational groups with the highest shares of immigrants from countries affected by the travel ban. Jobs related to architecture and engineering had the highest share of immigrants from these countries. Of 2,157,038 workers in jobs in the architecture and engineering occupational group, 15,183 employees were from Iran, Libya, North Yemen, Somalia, Syria, or Venezuela. In other words, for every 1,000 people in that occupation, 7.0 employees were from travel ban-affected countries. This is followed by employment in life, physical, and social science occupations, where for every 1,000 people in that occupational group, 5.2 employees were from a country affected by the travel ban. To put these numbers in perspective, recall that there are only 2.5 individuals living in the United States from these six countries for every 1,000 people in the United States.

Figure 13. Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries by Occupational Group Full-time Employed, Age 25-65, Per 1,000 Population Employed within the Occupational Group

"Jobs related to architecture and engineering had the highest share of immigrants from countries affected by the travel ban."
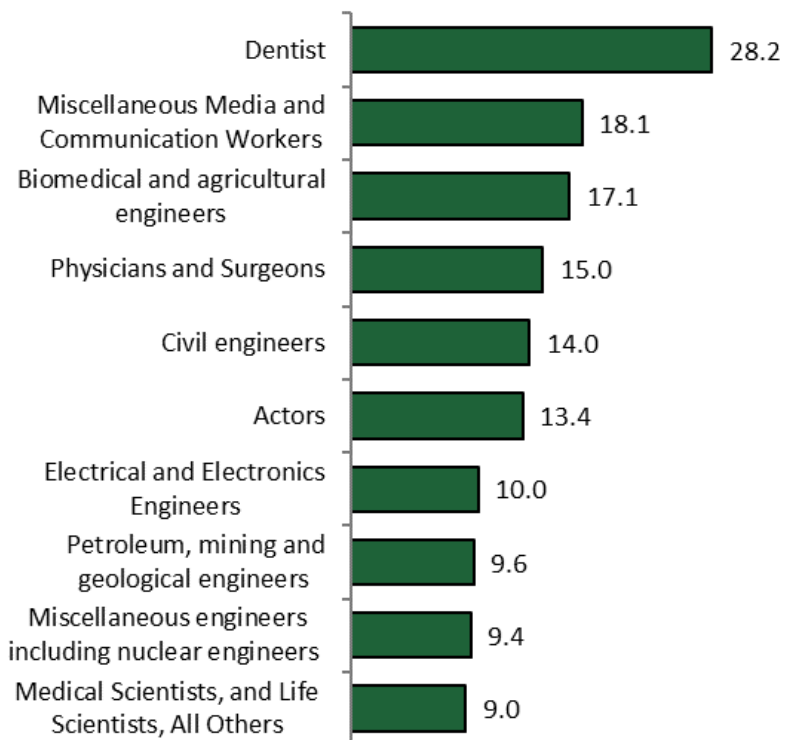
Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Specific Occupations

Within the top five occupational groups with the highest share of immigrants from the countries affected by the travel ban, employed immigrants hold a variety of important specific occupations. Figure 14 highlights the jobs with the highest proportion of immigrants from countries affected by the travel ban per 1,000 population employed within the occupation. The top job is dentistry, where for every 1,000 individuals employed, there are 28.2 immigrants who are from travel ban-affected countries. There are 95,351 dentists within the United States, of whom 2,691 are from Iran, Libya, North Yemen, Somalia, Syria, or Venezuela. Miscellaneous media and communication workers, which includes translators and interpreters, is the next specific occupation with the highest share of immigrants from travel ban-affected countries, followed by biomedical and agricultural engineers, physicians and surgeons, and civil engineers.

"The top job is dentistry, where for every 1,000 individuals employed, there are 28.2 immigrants who are from travel ban-affected countries."

Figure 14. Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries by Occupation Full-time Employed, Age 25-65, Per 1,000 Population Employed within the Occupation

| Occupation	Per 1,000
Dentist	28.2
Miscellaneous Media and Communication Workers	18.1
Biomedical and agricultural engineers	17.1
Physicians and Surgeons	15.0
Civil engineers	14.0
Actors	13.4
Electrical and Electronics Engineers	10.0
Petroleum, mining and geological engineers	9.6
Miscellaneous engineers including nuclear engineers	9.4
Medical Scientists, and Life Scientists, All Others	9.0

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Poverty Status

Immigrants from travel ban-affected countries are slightly less likely to live at or above the poverty line than native-born U.S. citizens. For example, 78 percent live at or above the poverty line, compared to 85 percent of native-born U.S. citizens (Figure 15). Immigrants from Iran, Venezuela, and Syria are more likely to live at or above the poverty line compared to immigrants from Somalia, North Yemen, and Libya. In large measure greater economic well-being for residents from Iran, Syria and Venezuela is likely to be due to the longer average time in United States for immigrants from these countries (see Figure 3) than those from Somalia, Yemen and Libya.

Figure 15. Poverty Status among Native-Born U.S. Citizens and Immigrants Living in the U.S., 2015
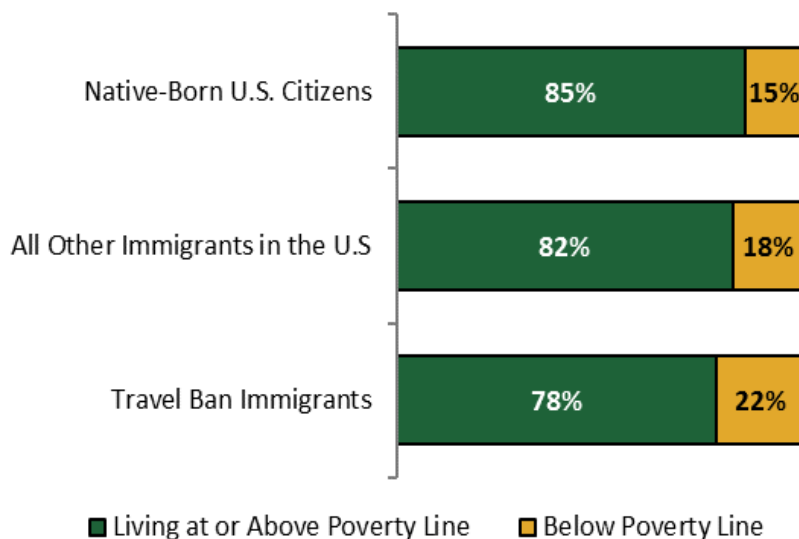
Note: Excludes individuals who live in group quarters and those who are under the age of 18 with no family.
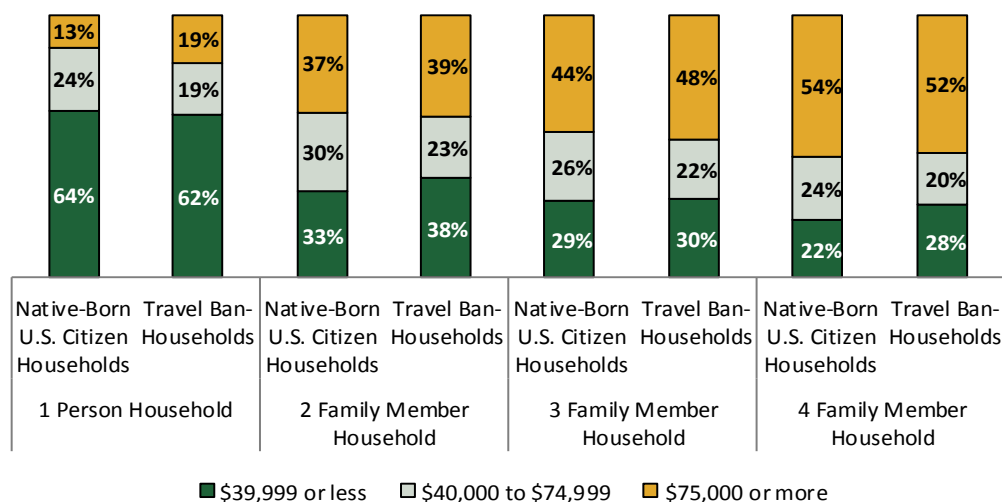
Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

"Travel ban households reported higher median annual household incomes compared to native-born households ($70,240 versus $66,605)."

Household Income

Almost half of the travel ban households with three family members (48 percent) reported earning an annual household income of $75,000 or more (Figure 16). Additionally, travel ban households with three family members reported higher median annual household incomes compared to native-born households ($70,240 versus $66,605). Median household income for households with three family members varied by country of origin and ranged from a high of $90,000 for travel ban Iranian households to a low of $18,600 for travel ban Somali households.

Figure 16. Annual Household Income in Households Headed by Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries by Number of Family Members in Household, 2015

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Figure 17. Annual Household Income, 1980 and 2015

The household income for immigrants from the six travel ban-affected countries has steadily increased over the past thirty years (Figure 17). Travel ban households with a household size of three in 1980 reportedly had a median household income of $46,848.[21] Comparatively, in 2015, similarly sized households had a median household income of $70,240 . In other words, households headed by immigrants from Iran, Libya, North Yemen, Somalia, Syria, and Venezuela witnessed an overall increase of 33 percent in their median annual household income over the past three decades, when adjusted for inflation.
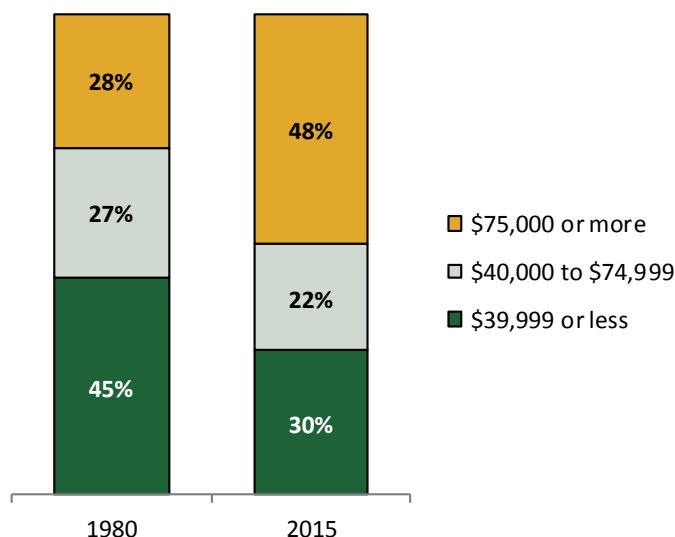
Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Homeownership

Travel ban household heads are reportedly less likely to own or be in the process of purchasing a home compared to native-born U.S. citizen household heads and all other immigrants in the United States (Table 7). Travel ban household heads from Iran and Syria were more likely to own or be in the process of purchasing a home, compared to immigrants from the other travel ban-affected countries.

Table 7. Home Ownership Among Household Heads, 2015									
Home Ownership	**Native-Born U.S. Citizens**	**All Other Immigrants in the U.S.**	**All Travel Ban Immigrants**	**Iran**	**Libya**	**North Yemen**	**Somalia**	**Syria**	**Venezuela**
Own a home, or buying a home	66%	51%	48%	56%	38%	39%	11%	56%	49%
Rent, do not own home	34%	49%	52%	44%	62%	61%	89%	44%	51%
Estimated Households	**100,005,929**	**16,569,445**	**350,307**	**178,788**	**3,686**	**13,744**	**40,462**	**32,263**	**81,364**

Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Home ownership among immigrants from Iran, Libya, North Yemen, Somalia, Syria, and Venezuela has increased over the past 30 years (Figure 18). In 1980, just over one-third (36 percent) of immigrant household heads from travel ban-affected countries reportedly owned a home or were in the process of purchasing it. In 2015, this percentage had increased, and nearly half (48 percent) of travel ban household heads either owned a home or were in the process of purchasing a home.

Figure 18. Home Ownership among Travel Ban Household Heads, 1980 and 2015
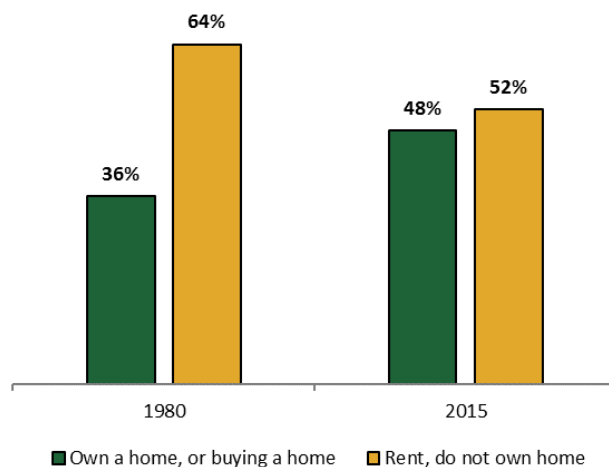
Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 1980 5% sample and the ACS 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Conclusion

The September 24, 2017 travel ban potentially affects the lives of people from seven countries hoping to study, travel, live, or work in the United States. This is troubling, because immigrants already living in the United States from travel ban-affected countries are typically employed and highly educated, and make important economic, social, and civic contributions. The current travel ban has the potential to negatively impact these immigrant communities and the states and cities in which they live and work. The United States may be denying admission to highly educated and skilled individuals who could be making significant contributions to the United States.

Over the past century, hundreds of thousands of immigrants from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, and North Yemen, came to the United States for better opportunities. Over the decades, they have become U.S. citizens, become better educated, increased their levels of property ownership, and median annual household income.

More than 799,300 foreign-born individuals from Iran, Libya, N. Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen currently live in the United States. Over half of the immigrants from travel ban-affected countries have been in the United States for twenty years or longer, and during that time have built a life in the United States. They have established families, become members of local communities, and made sizeable economic contributions. Immigrants from countries affected by the travel ban tend to be highly educated and employed in specialized and skilled occupations. As highlighted above, immigrants from travel ban-affected countries are more likely than their native counterparts to have a bachelor's degree, or a graduate, professional, or doctoral degree. Moreover, consistent with their higher levels of education, many immigrants from travel ban-affected countries are scientists, doctors, or engineers.

Not only does the travel ban restrict the movement of people from these countries trying to enter the United States, but it also has a potentially negative impact on individuals from those countries who are already in the United States, including the 61 percent of the individuals from these six countries who are U.S. citizens. Immigrants from the travel ban-affected countries living in the United States may be cut off from family and friends from their home countries; they may worry about whether they may ever see these family members and friends, and may even be less willing to travel out of fear that they might be denied entry when they return.

It is important that policymakers examine all of the data before making important decisions that could impact the lives of so many immigrants, U.S. citizens, and communities.

"Over half of the immigrants from travel ban-affected countries have been in the United States for twenty years or longer, and during that time have built a life in the United States. They have established families, become members of local communities, and made sizeable economic contributions."

Appendix A: Metropolitan Areas with the Largest Numbers of Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries, 2011-2015

Table A displays the metropolitan areas with the largest populations of residents born in six of the seven countries listed in the Travel Ban: Iran, Libya, North Yemen, Somalia, Syria, and Venezuela. The metropolitan area with the largest population of immigrants from the travel ban-affected countries is Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, California with an estimated population of 158,000. The Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, Florida metropolitan area has the second largest number followed by the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania) metropolitan area and the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria (DC, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia) metropolitan area.

Table A. Top 10 U.S. Metropolitan Areas with the Largest Number of Immigrants from Travel Ban-Affected Countries, 2011 - 2015

Metro Area	Iran	Libya	North Yemen	Somalia	Syria	Venezuela	Total
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	137,100	500	200	700	16,100	3,600	158,000
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	3,200	200	0	100	1,600	77,600	82,400
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	21,600	600	12,300	300	10,500	19,100	64,000
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	20,900	300	500	2,700	2,000	5,900	32,100
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	9,400	300	100	1,300	2,000	15,300	28,200
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA	17,100	200	3,100	100	1,100	2,000	23,400
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	1,500	200	300	20,400	100	300	22,600
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	1,900	100	10,600	0	5,300	700	18,400
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	1,800	100	100	0	900	15,500	18,200
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	7,700	400	1,200	500	5,300	2,700	17,400
Total Estimated Immigrant Population Across all Metropolitan Areas	370,400	8,600	41,600	83,400	78,700	216,900	799,300

Note: Observations rounded to the nearest 100.
Source: IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file.

Appendix B: Data Sources and Methodology

Data in this report is analyzed using the 2011 to 2015 data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file. IPUMS-USA includes data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5-year estimates, the most recent five year data available at the time of analysis. Five years of data are aggregated to increase the sample size and the accuracy of the estimates. The 2011 – 2015 ACS dataset has data on immigrants from five out of the seven countries affected by the travel ban: Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Venezuela. There is no census data on immigrants from North Korea, and only data on North Yemen is available. Therefore, individuals from North Korea are not included, and only individuals from North Yemen are included in the analysis.

Additional data in the report is from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Immigration Statistics. Specifically, we use the Fiscal Year 2016 admissions data which includes the number of immigrants (permanent admission) and nonimmigrant (temporary admission) who entered the United States by country of birth.

Where the household was the unit of analysis, households consist of individuals who live alone, or where the occupants live under the same roof and are related by marriage, blood, or adoption. *Travel ban households* include households in which the household heads or spouses (if present) were from Iran, Libya, North Yemen, Somalia, Syria, or Venezuela. *Native-born households* are defined as households where the heads of the households and their spouses (if present) are native-born U.S. citizens. *All other immigrant households* are defined as households where either the heads and/or spouses are foreign-born individuals, but neither are from Iran, Libya, North Yemen, Somalia, Syria, or Venezuela.

Endnotes

[1] "Presidential Proclamation Enhancing Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry into the United States by Terrorists or Other Public-Safety Threats," September 24, 2017. Retrieved on April 20, 2018 from https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-enhancing-vetting-capabilities-processes-detecting-attempted-entry-united-states-terrorists-public-safety-threats/

[2] Robert Barnes. (July 19, 2017). "Supreme Court Allows Trump Refugee Ban but Backs Broader Exemptions for Relatives," *The Washington Post*. Retrieved on April 20, 2018 from https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/courts_law/supreme-court-allows-trump-travel-ban-enforcement-but-says-it-must-allow-broader-exemptions-for-relatives/2017/07/19/6945e01e-6bf8-11e7-96ab-5f38140b38cc_story.html?utm_term=.8ef8509226bb

[3] Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia, Sirine Shebaya, and Abed Ayoub. (February 15, 2018) "Ban 3.0 at the Supreme Court: What You Need to Know," *Medium*, Retrieved on April 16, 2018 from https://medium.com/@shobawadhia/supreme-court-issues-orders-on-ban-3-0-what-this-means-db7c8e83c04c

[4] Adam Liptak. (January 19, 2018). "Supreme Court to Consider Challenge to Trump's Latest Travel Ban," *The New York Times*. Retrieved on April 15, 2018 from https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/19/us/politics/supreme-court-trump-travel-ban.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=first-column-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news

[5] "Statement by the Press Secretary Regarding the Presidential Proclamation to Lift Entry Restrictions for Nationals of the Republic of Chad," April 10, 2018. Retrieved on April 20, 2018 from https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/statement-press-secretary-regarding-presidential-proclamation-lift-entry-restrictions-nationals-republic-chad/

[6] Supra note 1

[7] Supra note 2

[8] Supra note 3

[9] Supra note 4

[10] Supra note 5

[11] New American Economy (NAE). (2015). "Life Support: The Shortage of Physicians in America's Rural Counties and How Foreign-Born Doctors can Help." Retrieved on March 07, 2018 from http://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/life-support-shortage-physicians-americas-rural-counties-foreign-born-doctors-can-help/; Fisher, N. (2016). "Midwest Diagnosis: Immigration Reform and the Healthcare Sector." The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Retrieved on March 07, 2018 from https://comm.ncsl.org/productfiles/83569061/2016-Midwest-Immigration-Reform.pdf; IHS. (2015). "The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections from 2013 to 2025." Retrieved on March 7, 2018 from https://www.aamc.org/download/426248/data

[12] Institute for Immigration Research analysis of Office of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, (2016) "Persons Obtaining Lawful Permanent Resident Status by Region of Birth;" Institute for Immigration Research analysis of Office of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, (2016) "U.S. Nonimmigrant Admissions by Country of Citizenship."

[13] Unless otherwise specified the source for these data are the American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2011-2015) and ipums.org). U.S. Census Bureau ACS data were accessed from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS). See Steven Ruggles et al. *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 6.0* [Machine-readable database]. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2015), http://usa.ipums.org/usa/

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[15] U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. (2013). Path to U.S. Citizenship. Retrieved on March 5, 2018 from https://www.uscis.gov/us-citizenship/citizenship-through-naturalization/path-us-citizenship

[16] IIR analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 – 2015 data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS-USA) file

[17] IPUMS-USA, supra note 13

[18] IPUMS-USA, supra note 13

[19] Due to limitations in the 1980 census data, specific education categories were unavailable. Some college or AA degree consist of 1 – 3 years of college. Bachelor's degree + consists of 4 years of college or more.

[20] Unless otherwise stated, employment includes individuals ages 16 to 65 years old and in the labor force.

[21] Data on household income for 1980 has been adjusted for inflation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index Research Series CPI-U-RS). Retrieved from https://www.bls.gov/cpi/research-series/allitems.pdf

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