



Source:

**USC**  
**Dornsife**  
*Center for the Study of  
Immigrant Integration*

## **Understanding Immigrants with a Racial Equity Lens**

May 19, 2020

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# OVERVIEW

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- Data
- Defining Racial Equity
- U.S. Population by Race/Ethnicity
- Immigrants by Race/Ethnicity
- Changing demographics
- Social Vulnerabilities
- Strategies for Collaborative Action



Source:  
<https://gatasnegrasbrasil.files.wordpress.com/2015/05/em-rio-branco-ac-420-imigrantes-aguardam-c3b4nibus-com-destino-a-outros-estados.jpg>

## **Data sets: National Equity Atlas**

The National Equity Atlas is the product of a partnership formed in 2011 between PolicyLink and USC PERE/CSII.

The goal = provide advocates with clear, convincing data to make the case that equity is both a moral imperative and the key to our nation's economic prosperity.

Source: <https://nationalequityatlas.org/indicators>

# WHAT IS RACIAL EQUITY?

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A state in which **all people** in a given society share **equal rights and opportunities**. – Center for the Study of Social Policy

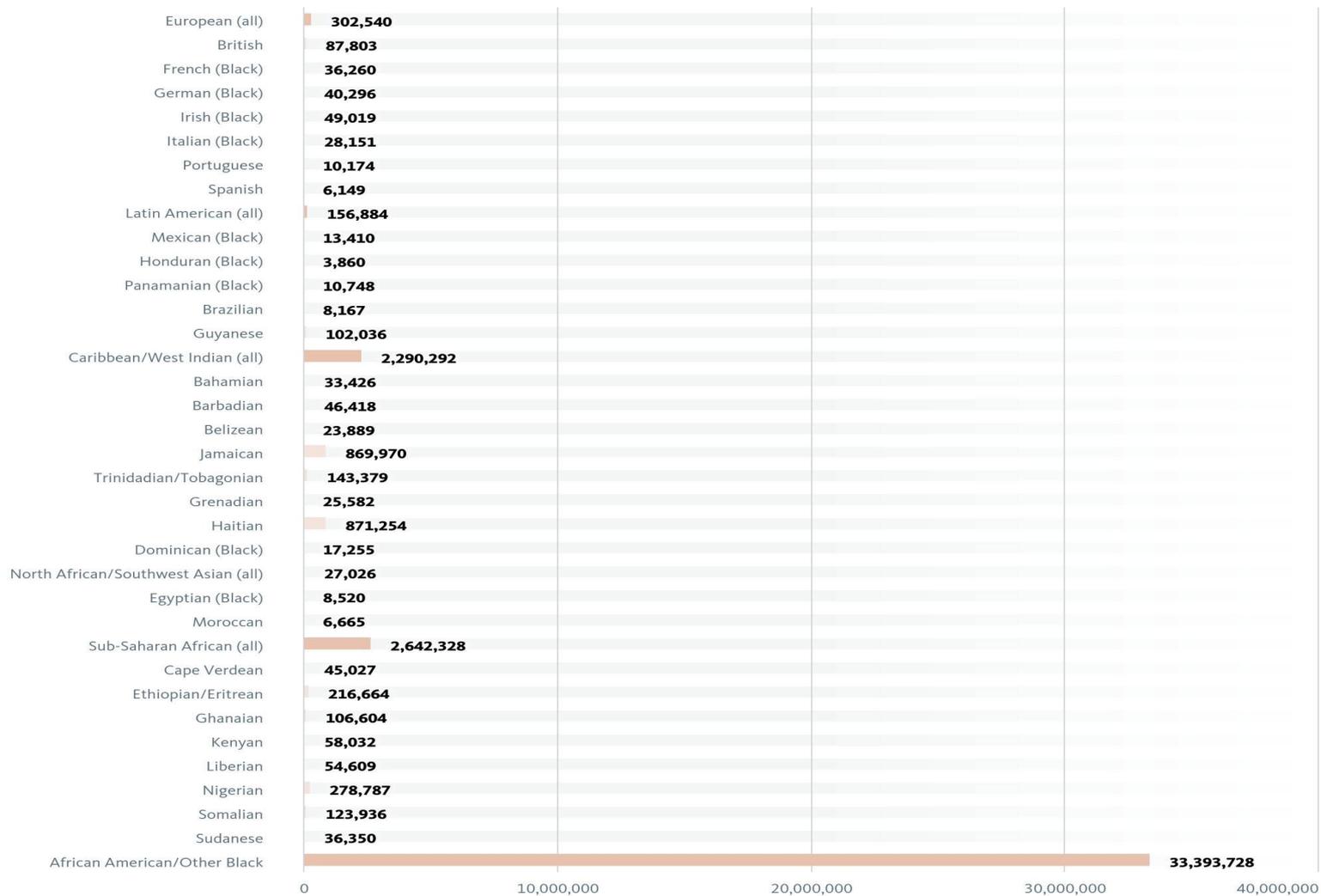
Equity is the measure of **fair treatment, opportunities and outcomes across race, gender, class and other dynamics**. – Washington Community Action Network

Just and fair inclusion into a society in which everyone can participate and prosper. – **USC Center for Immigrant Integration**

Racial equity refers to what a **genuinely non-racist society** would look like. In a racially equitable society, the distribution of society's **benefits and burdens would not be skewed by race**. – The Aspen Institute

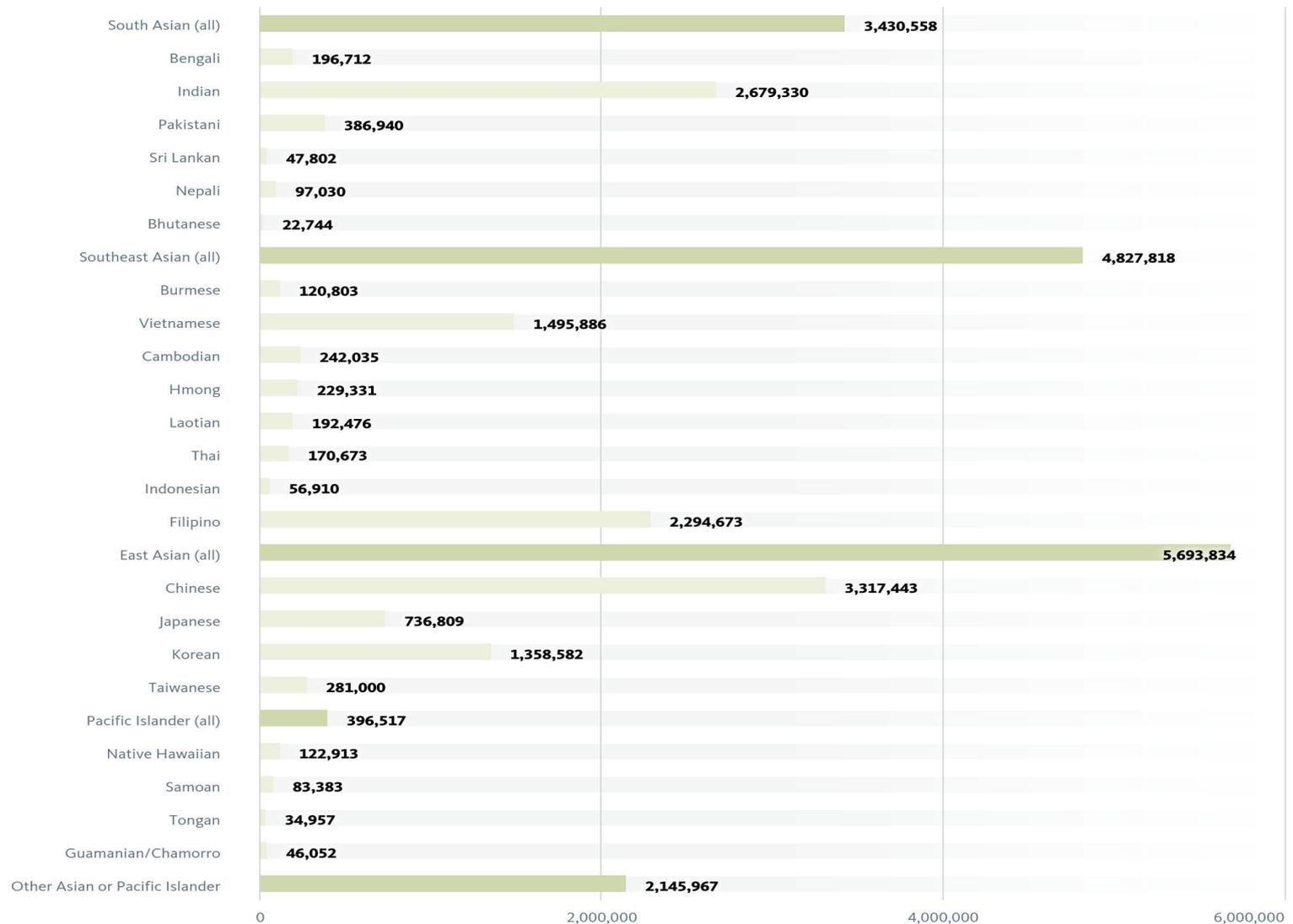
# BLACK AMERICANS IN THE U.S.

Race/ethnicity by ancestry: United States, Black, 2015



# ASIAN AMERICANS IN THE U.S.

Race/ethnicity by ancestry: United States, Asian or Pacific Islander, 2015



## Working definitions

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- **Black/African American:**

Expanded to include all combinations of responses (including mixed or multi racial) that included "Black" in the answer to the Census question on racial identity. Race and Blackness can be defined differently across the diaspora, and oftentimes Black immigrants do not align with how race is perceived in the United States.

\*Be as specific as possible in honoring preferences, eg: Haitian American, Guyanese American or (for non-U.S. citizen),Jamaican living in America.

\*Source: online to Erika Hall , prof at Emory, at <https://www.wnyc.org/story/black-vs-african-american/>

## Working definitions

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- **Anti-Blackness:**

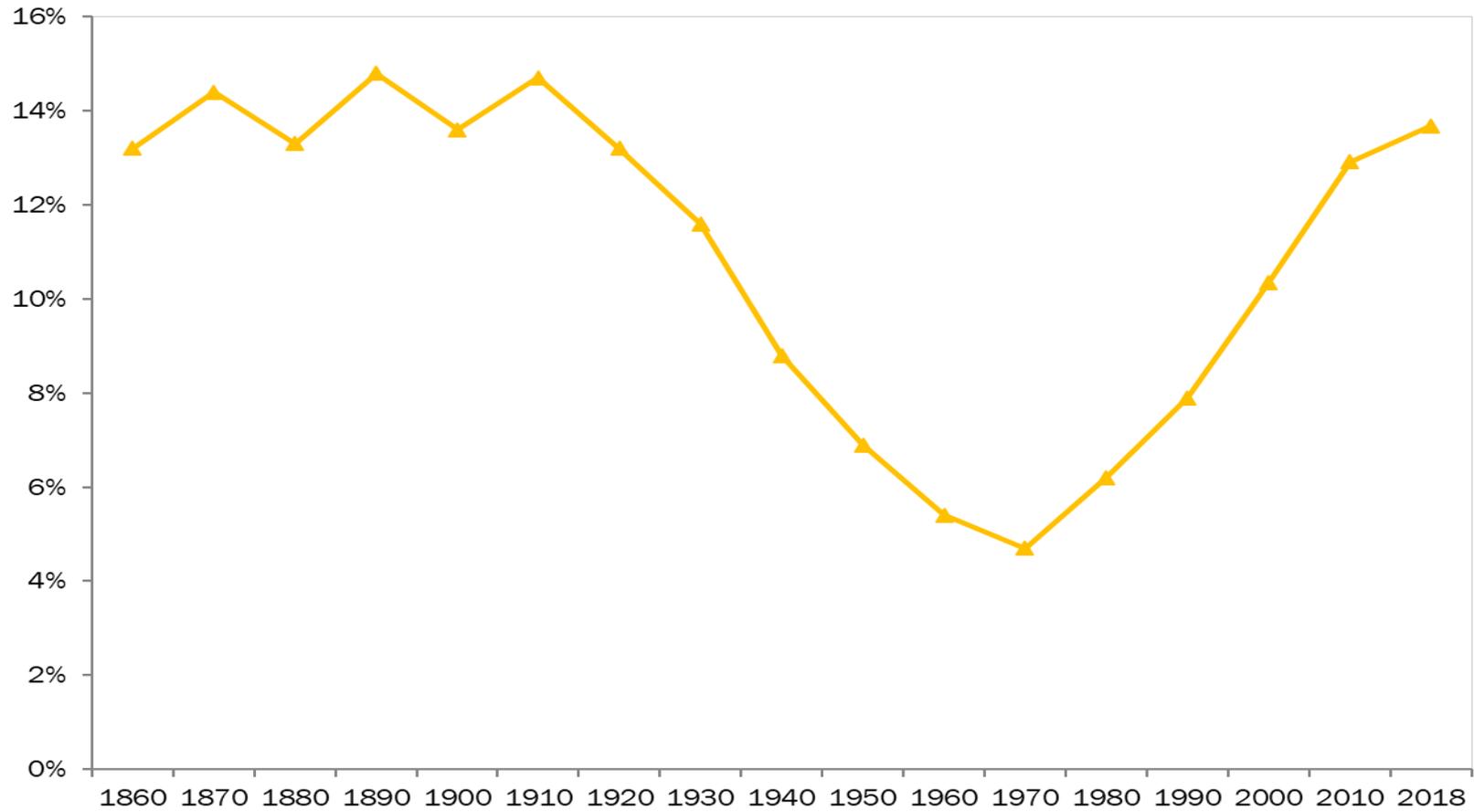
The Council for Democratizing Education defines anti-Blackness as being a two-part formation that both **voids Blackness of value, while systematically marginalizing Black people and their issues.**

- The first form of anti-Blackness is overt racism.
- The second form of anti-Blackness is the unethical disregard for anti-Black institutions and policies.

Source: Being Black at the Border, article by the Center for Constitutional Rights in NY ...<https://ccrjustice.org/home/blog/2017/08/10/5-things-know-about-being-black-border>

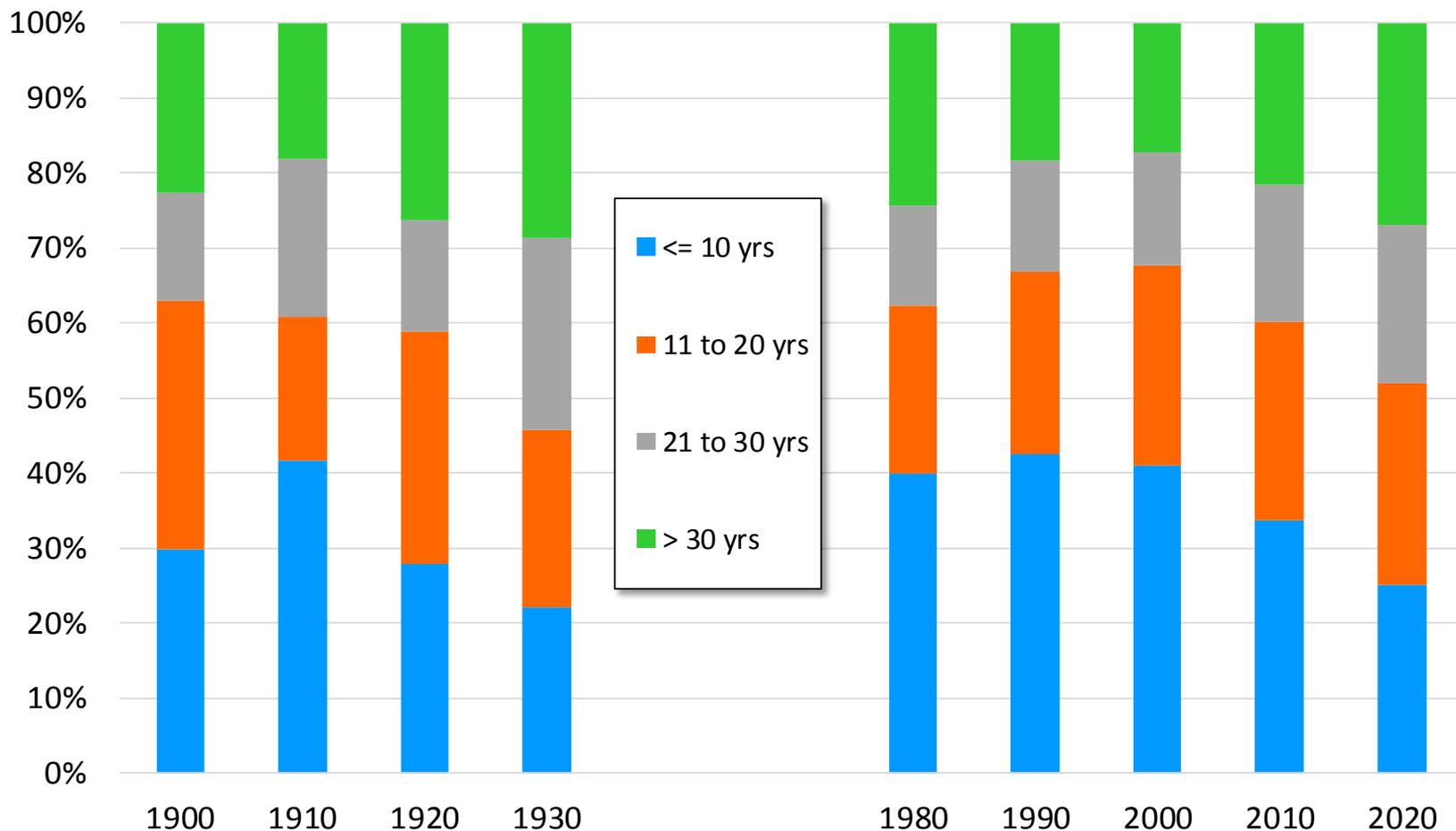
# IMMIGRANTS IN THE U.S.

Percent of U.S. Population Foreign-born, 1860-2018



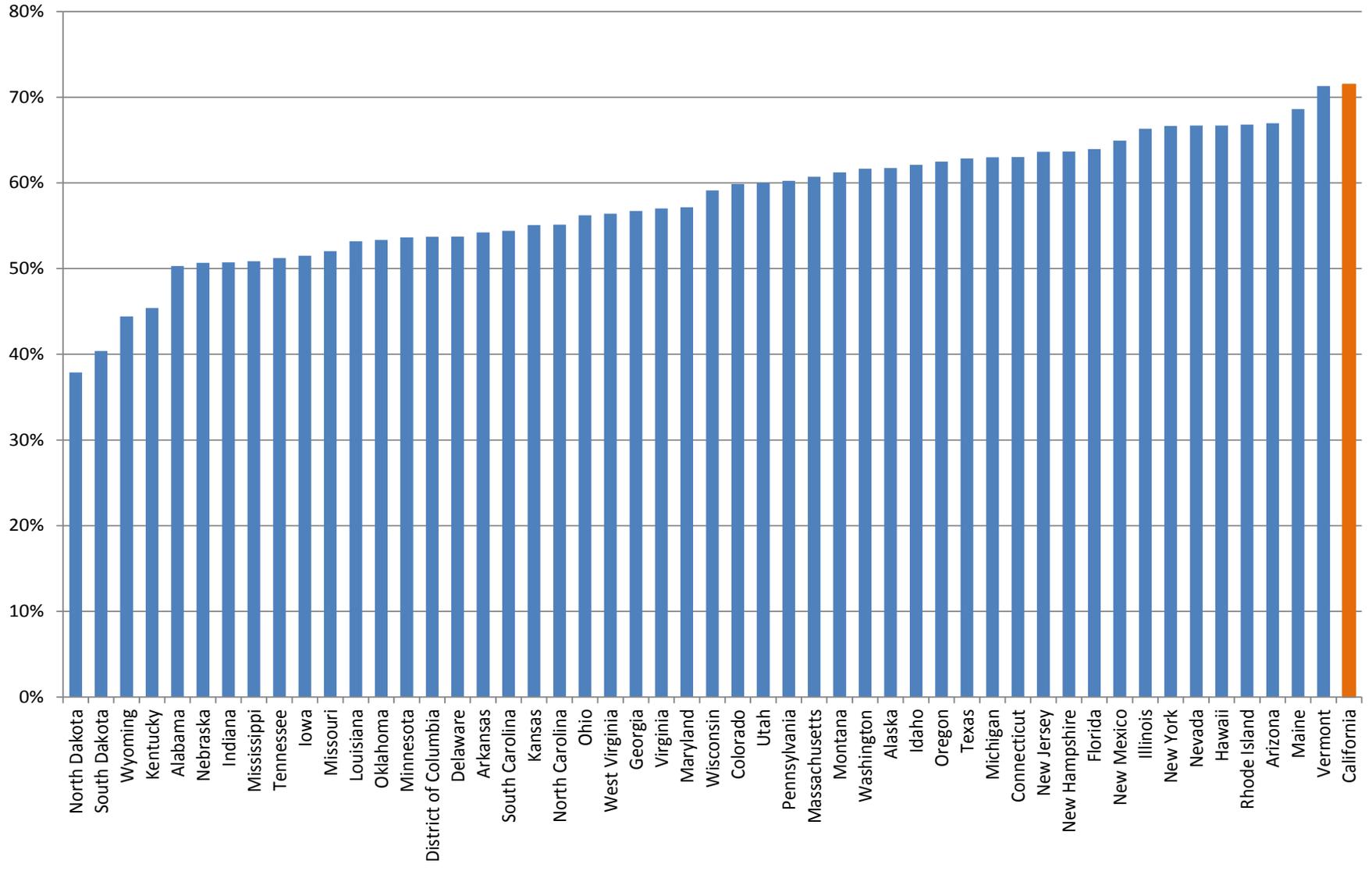
# IMMIGRANTS IN THE U.S.

## Recency of Arrival of Immigrants in Historical Perspective



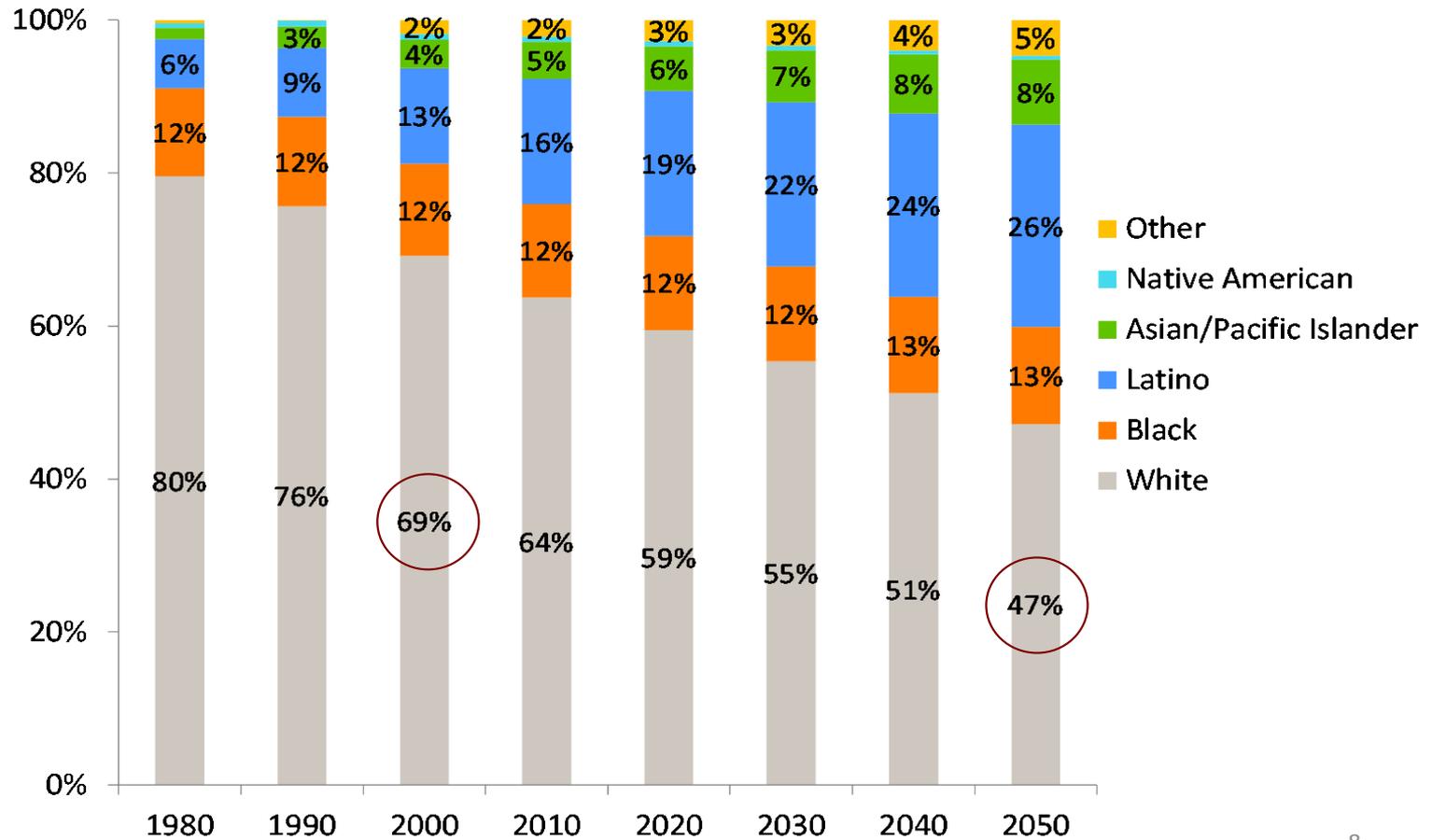
# A MORE SETTLED IMMIGRANT POPULATION

## Percent of Immigrant Population in U.S. Since 1999



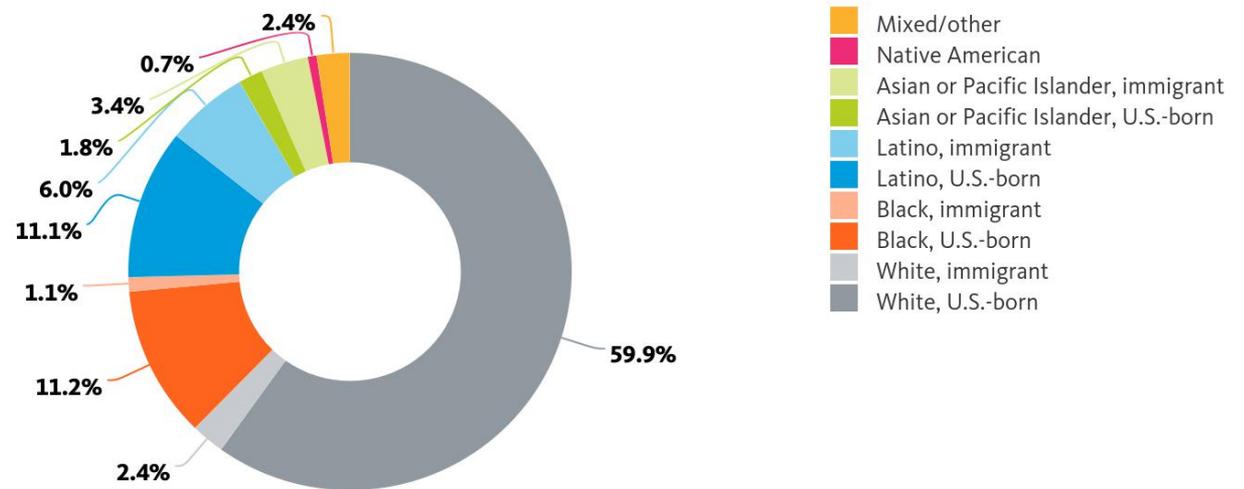
# CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS IN THE U.S.

Changing Demographics  
United States, 1980-2050



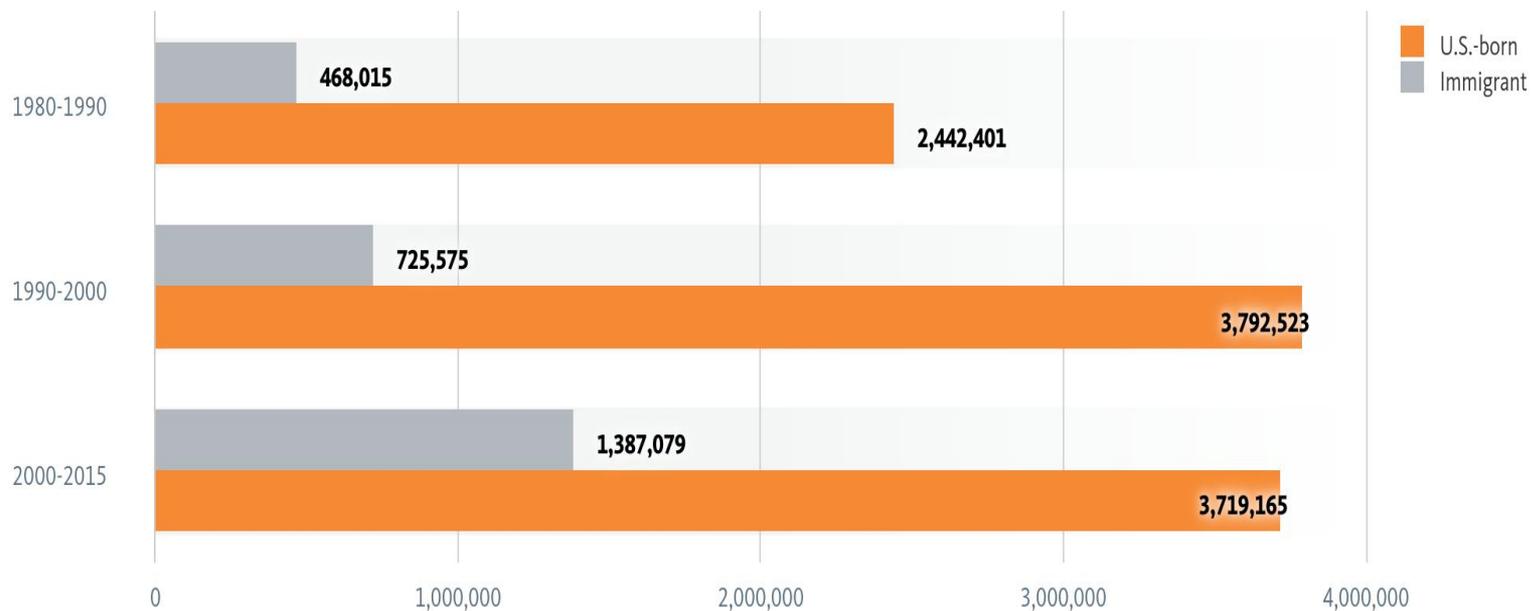
# IMMIGRANTS AND U.S. BORN BY RACE

Race and ethnicity by nativity: United States, 2015



# U.S. BLACK POPULATION 1980-2015

Change in population by nativity: United States, Black, 1980-2015

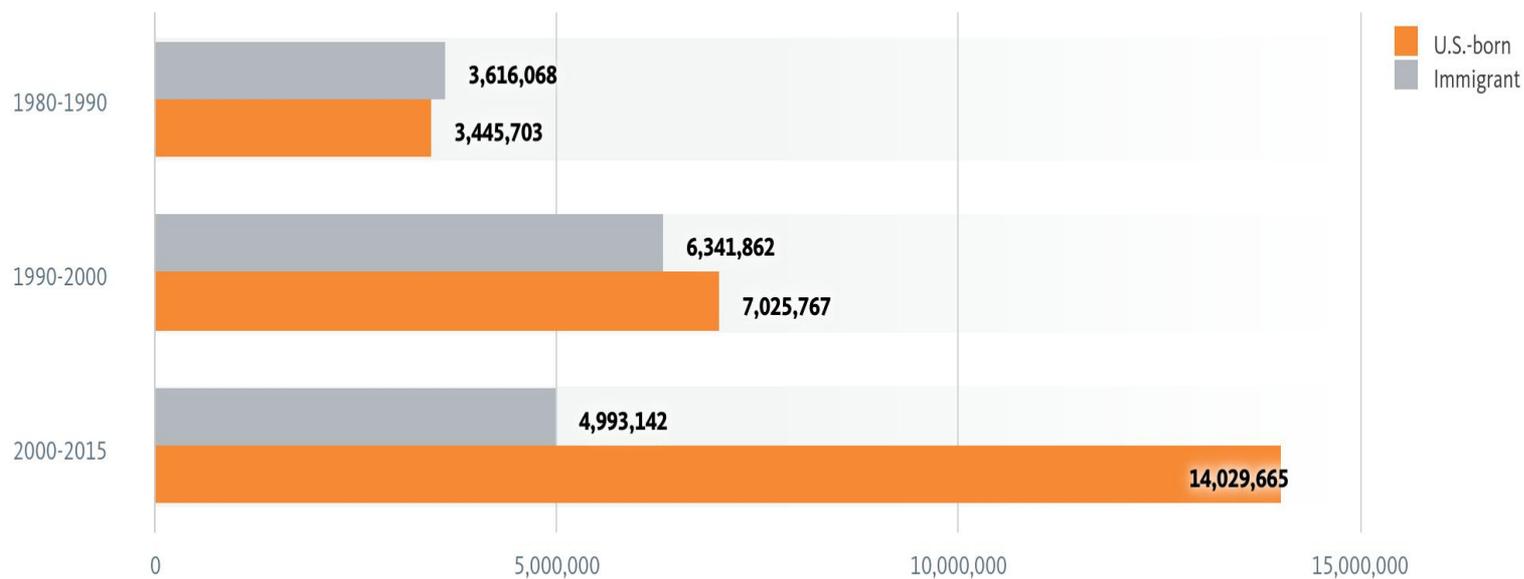


IPUMS

PolicyLink/PERE National Equity Atlas, [www.nationalequityatlas.org](http://www.nationalequityatlas.org)

# U.S. LATINO POPULATION 1980-2015

Change in population by nativity: United States, Latino, 1980-2015

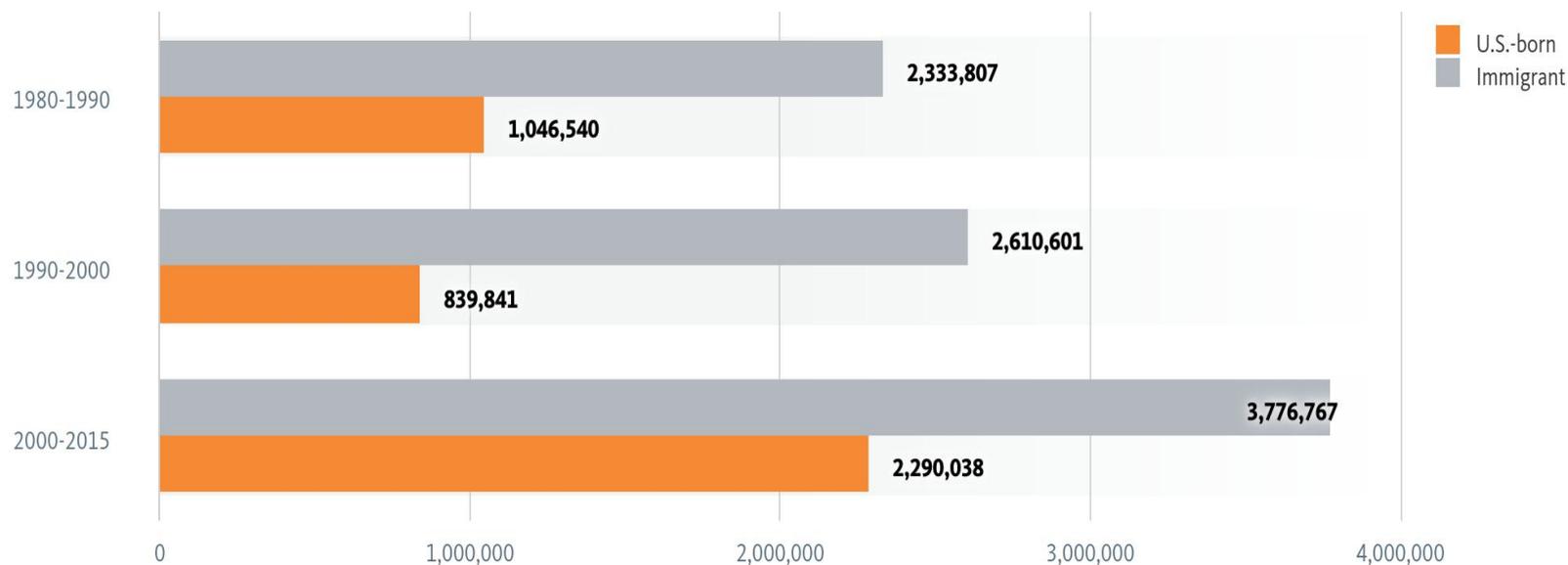


IPUMS

PolicyLink/PERE National Equity Atlas, [www.nationalequityatlas.org](http://www.nationalequityatlas.org)

# U.S. ASIAN AMERICANS POPULATION 1980-2015

Change in population by nativity: United States, Asian or Pacific Islander, 1980-2015



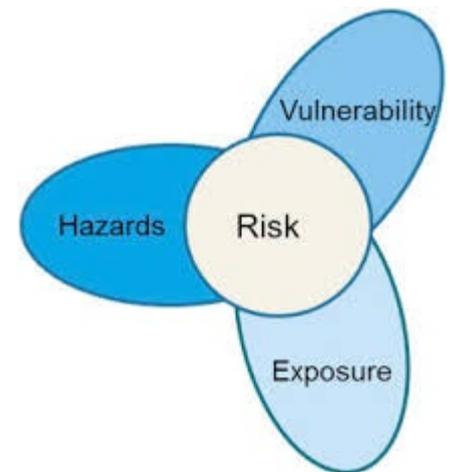
IPUMS

PolicyLink/PERE National Equity Atlas, [www.nationalequityatlas.org](http://www.nationalequityatlas.org)

# IMMIGRANTS, EQUITY AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES

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What are social vulnerabilities (in data) and how do these things relate to each other?

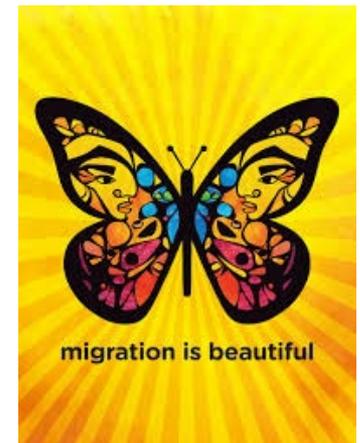


# SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES

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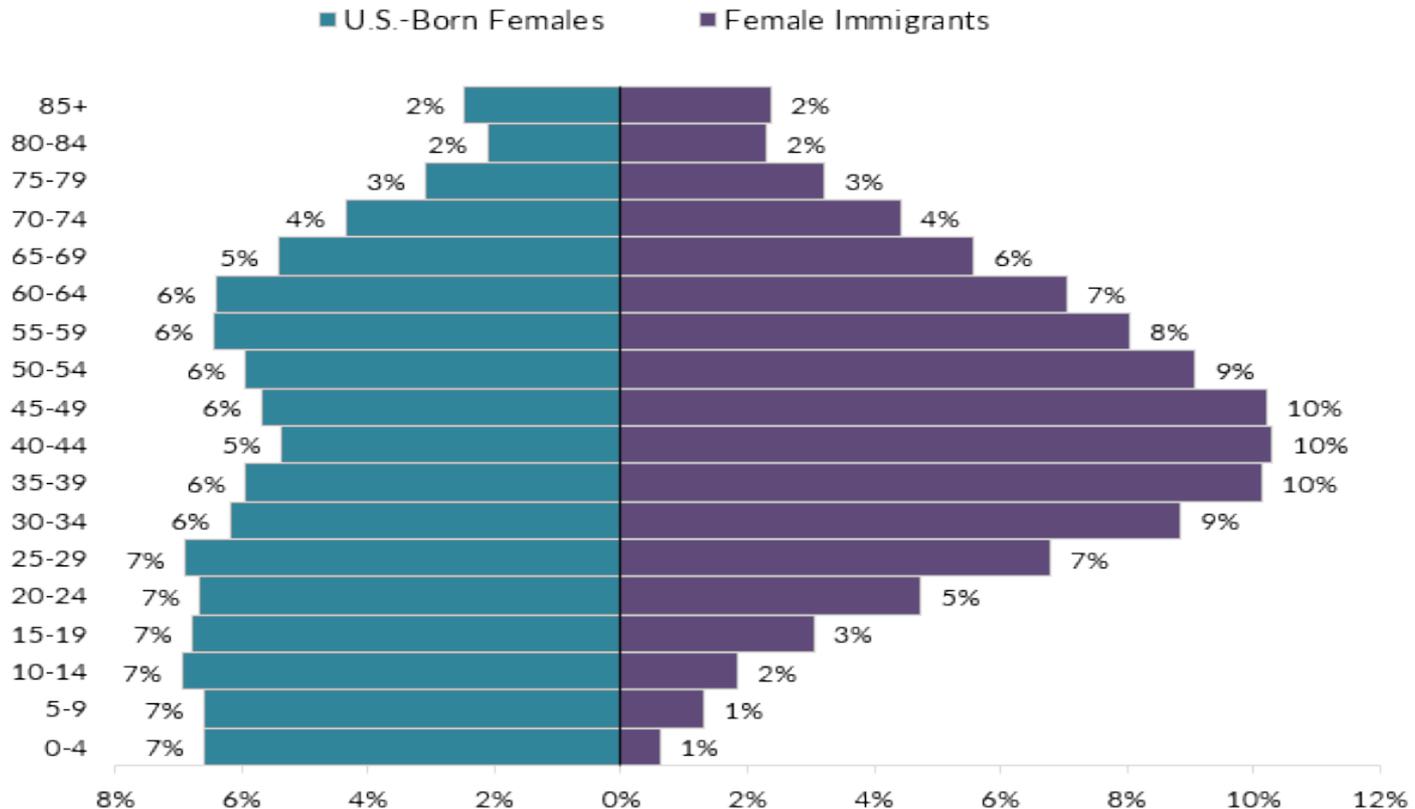
Refers to the characteristics of a person or group that shows up in the data. Some indicators include:

- Race
- Gender
- Immigration status
- Socio economic status
- Abilities
- Neighborhood environment (Climate)



# SOCIAL VULNERABILITY EXAMPLE

Immigrants by gender and age: -30% are between the ages of 35-49



Source: Migration Policy Institute tabulation of data from U.S. Census 2018 ACS

# SOCIAL VULNERABILITY EXAMPLE

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## Immigrants and the environment

1. Facilities that emit localized Greenhouse Gas emissions are located in more **disadvantaged communities**.
2. As a result of the climate gap, low-income communities of color will:
  - a. Suffer higher mortality and health impacts...because of more frequent and intense heat waves
  - b. Be exposed to higher air pollution levels.



# 6 STRATEGIES FOR COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS

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# STRATEGY #1

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## Build a more inclusive immigration movement to:

1. Address race, racism and discrimination
2. Interrupt anti-Blackness among immigrant-serving organizations
3. Address Black immigrant leadership gap
4. Create broader policy agendas that address the needs of Black and other migrants.



## STRATEGY #2

### Promote Immigrant Integration

#### Examples of Targeted Strategies:

- Black immigrants:  
Know-Your-Rights training to counter police violence
- Asian Pacific Island immigrants:  
Educational classes, perhaps in API-appropriate languages



[http://www.as-coa.org/sites/default/files/styles/tab\\_content\\_detail/public/Immigration-Flags.jpg?itok=eJ7XYI2X](http://www.as-coa.org/sites/default/files/styles/tab_content_detail/public/Immigration-Flags.jpg?itok=eJ7XYI2X)

# STRATEGY #3

Increase your visibility and rigor by:

- Partnering with research centers for data
- Disaggregating your data to help immigrants feel seen
- Storytelling
- Clearly identifying the issues



# STRATEGY # 4

Promote and incorporate equity into everything:

- Establish clear goals, practices and outcomes
- Make sure there is an element of equity in all your policies, etc.
- Evaluate everyday practices



## STRATEGY #5

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Build strong relationships with a network of community organizations

- Help fill in the gaps at city or county agencies
- Help reach diverse communities
- Help keep pulse to work on the ground





# MOVING THE NEEDLE

Some examples of orgs using a racial equity lens in immigrant organizing:



EVERY HUMAN PERSON IS SACRED ACROSS ALL BORDERS



LOCAL AND REGIONAL  
GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE ON  
**RACE & EQUITY**



**Thank you for listening.**

For more, visit us at:

<http://dornsife.usc.edu/csii>

Email: [tabari@usc.edu](mailto:tabari@usc.edu)

