Immigration Update

Latest Data and Policy Change

Denzil Mohammed
Director, Public Education Institute,
The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.,
Malden, MA
dmohammed@ilctr.org

2021 Immigrant Student Success
There are about **44.7 million** immigrants in the U.S.

About one in every eight U.S. residents (13.7%) is foreign-born.

**Source:** U.S. Census 2018 American Community Survey
Undocumented Immigrant Population

Source: Migration Policy Institute, “Crisis at the Border? Not by the Numbers,” 2018
We’ve resettled record low number of refugees (despite world refugee crisis)
Refugee Admissions

Source: Migration Policy Institute, U.S. Immigration Trends, 2020
Immigrants and the Labor Force

Immigrants are more likely to work
Immigrants are More Likely to Work

US-Born: 62.8%
Foreign-Born: 66.4%

Source: Institute of Immigration Research analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2012-2016 5-year sample data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample
Immigrants Feed America

- Immigrant population of the U.S.: 42.5%
- Percent of food service workers who are immigrants: 13.7%
- Percent of agricultural workers who are immigrants: 22%

Immigrants Keep America Clean

Immigrant population of the U.S.:
- 46.7%

Percent of janitors who are immigrants:
- 25.4%

Percent of maid service workers who are immigrants:
- 13.7%

Immigrant Doctors Fight COVID-19

Immigrant population of the U.S.:
- 28.5%

Percent of physicians who are immigrants:
- 13.7%

Immigrants populate and revitalize cities and neighborhoods
**Cities with Declining Population 1960-80**

(29 of the 50 Largest Cities saw a mid-20th Century population decline)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>-40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>-34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>-33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>-30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>-28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester</td>
<td>-24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisville</td>
<td>-24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>-23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>-23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>-19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newark</td>
<td>-19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>-17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>-16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>-16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>-16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>-15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>-14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>-14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>-13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norfolk</td>
<td>-13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>-11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>-11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland, OR</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampa</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.
Of the 29 Declining Cities, 14 Rebounded with an Increase in Population since 1980

Sources: Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of Census and ACS data.
Cities that Rebounded with Increase in Immigrants

Immigrants and Urban Revitalization

• The only cities that rebounded from mid-20th century population loss did so with a net increase in immigrant population.

• This doesn’t prove that immigrants cause growth. It may also be that immigrants are drawn to growth.

• But if a city’s plan is to grow without immigrants, it is useful to keep in mind that there are no examples of that among major cities in the U.S. over the past four decades.
Immigrants are more likely to start businesses
Immigrants and Entrepreneurship

Immigrant share of

- Population: 14%
- Labor Force: 17%
- Business Owners: 19%
- Main Street Business Owners: 30%

Immigrants and Job Creation/Innovation

Source: The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. Public Education Institute, 2016
Built by Immigrants and their children:

41% of FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES

71% of AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE firms

4/5 of the largest commercial BANKS

7/10 of the most valuable brands in the world
Immigrants support our social safety systems
Immigrants and Social Safety Systems

1950 (16:1)

1960 (5:1)

2015 (3:1)

2035 (2:1)

- Number of seniors will double by 2050
- Ratio of seniors to workers will soar by <70% by 2040
- Immigrants are subsidizing Medicare’s core trust fund
- More workers needed, especially in healthcare

Immigrants and the Labor Force

Without future immigrants, working-age population in U.S. would decrease by 2035

Source: Pew Research Center, “Immigration projected to drive growth in U.S. working-age population through at least 2035,” 2017
Immigrants as Assets

Taxes:
• Immigrants pay up to $140 billion annually in federal, state, local taxes
• Undocumented immigrants use ITINs to pay an estimated $11.7 billion per year (2016)
• Effective rate of 8% of income.

Labor force:
• They increase the productive capacity of the economy and raise GDP.
• Their incomes rise, and so do those of the U.S.-born overall.

Sources: Smith and Edmonston, 1997; Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy, Undocumented Immigrants’ State and Local Tax Contributions, 2016; Pia Orrenius, Benefits of Immigration Outweigh the Costs, George W. Bush Institute, 2016.
Immigrants as Assets

Paying it back:

• Net cost to state and local budgets of first-generation immigrant adults was, on average, $1,600 each.

• Second- and third-plus-generation adults create a net positive of $1,700 and $1,300 each, respectively.

• Implies that total annual fiscal impact of first-generation adults and their dependents is a cost of $57.4 billion, while second and third-plus generation adults create a benefit of $30.5 billion and $223.8 billion, respectively (fewer children, increased tax revenues, etc.).

Average education of first- and second-generation adult males, ages 25-59, by place of origin
Most surpass 13.8 years of average non-Hispanic U.S. white male

Source: Brian Duncan and Stephen J. Trejo, “Socioeconomic Integration of U.S. Immigrant Groups Over the Long Term” (working paper), 2018
Immigration policy update

Family Immigration
• Expand sponsorship eligibility of family members
• U visa applicants will be able to sponsor their children

DACA
• Judge ruled in December that first-time applicants can apply
• 50,000 applied; by March only 800 were approved (1.5 percent)
• Biden administration promises a pathway to permanent status
Immigration policy update

Naturalization

- Pandemic halted naturalization ceremonies
- Processing time had doubled even before this
- Plan to reduce barriers to naturalization
- Cleveland best city to become a citizen (3.7 months wait time)
- Seattle worst (16 months)
Immigration policy update

Refugees and Asylees

• Increase in migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border
• Backlog of 1.3 million asylum cases
• New policy reverses Trump-era policy of ignoring domestic or gang violence
Thank you

Learn how to change the immigration conversation at www.ilctr.org/promoting-immigrants

Online library of >1,000 immigration reports: www.immigrationresearch.org

Request free, customizable fact sheets from http://iir.gmu.edu/

dmohammed@ilctr.org