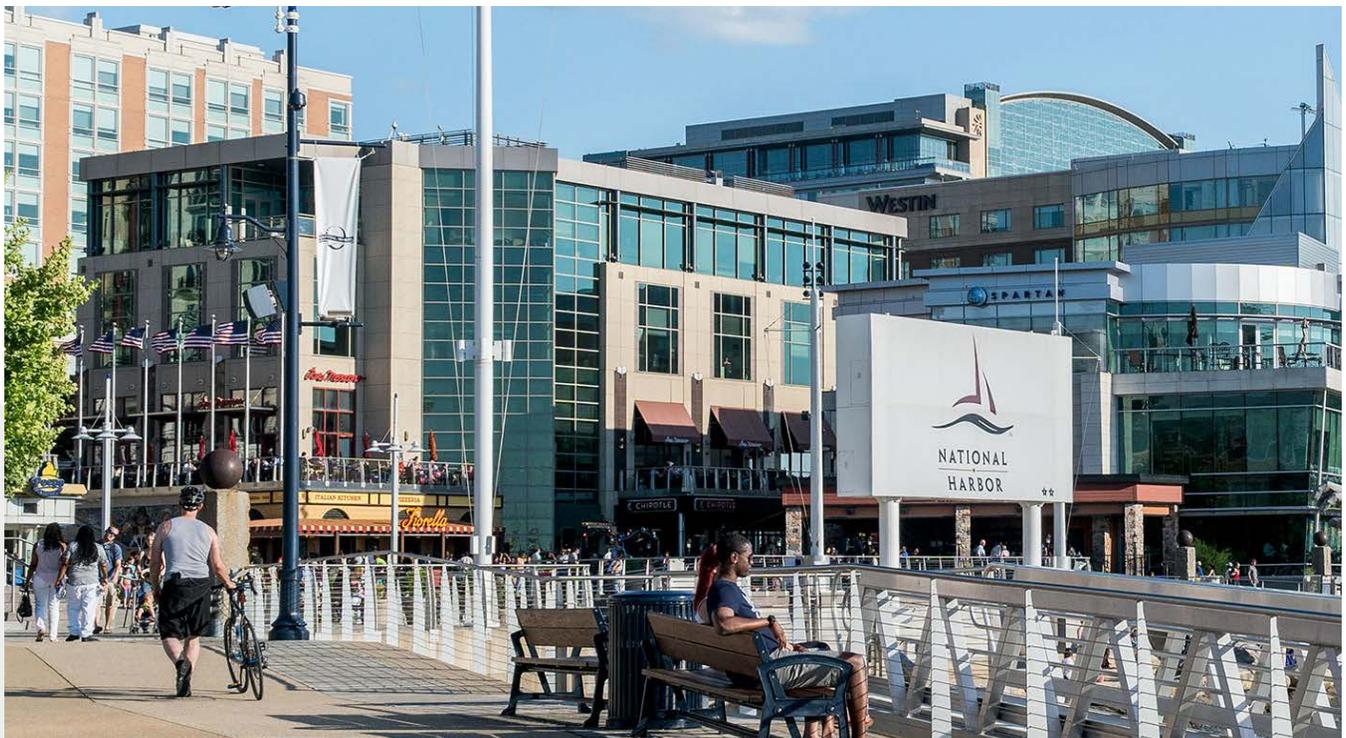


New Americans in Prince George's County and the Impact of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Communities in the Region

Insights from Prince George's County and its Community Impact Survey





About the American Immigration Council

[The American Immigration Council](#) works to strengthen America by shaping how America thinks about and acts towards immigrants and immigration and by working toward a more fair and just immigration system that opens its doors to those in need of protection and unleashes the energy and skills that immigrants bring. The Council brings together problem solvers and employs four coordinated approaches to advance change—litigation, research, legislative and administrative advocacy, and communications. In January 2022, the Council and New American Economy [merged](#) to combine a broad suite of advocacy tools to better expand and protect the rights of immigrants, more fully ensure immigrants' ability to succeed economically, and help make the communities they settle in more welcoming. Follow the latest Council news and information on ImmigrationImpact.com and X (formerly Twitter) [@immcouncil](https://twitter.com/immcouncil).

About Prince George's County

A mere glance at the diversity of Prince George's County confirms our role as a cultural and economic leader of tomorrow. Located in the heart of the Baltimore/Washington corridor, the County borders Washington, D.C., and is just 37 miles south of the city of Baltimore. Encompassing almost 500 square miles, Prince George's County has an urban atmosphere that still manages to provide a scenic and peaceful place to live, work, and play. For more details, view the demographics provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. Visit <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/> to learn more.



New Americans in Prince George's County

Acknowledgements

Former Councilmember Taveras and the Prince George's County District 2 office were the grantor and manager of the project, selecting the American Immigration Council as the grantee of the report. Former Councilmember Taveras was instrumental in coordinating the scope of research and immigrant interviews found within this report. The American Immigration Council performed the research and prepared this report.

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Prepared by the American Immigration Council

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Introduction

First established in 1696, Prince George's County, Maryland, is one of the largest and most economically important counties in the Washington metropolitan area, otherwise known as the DMV (District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia). Originally a largely rural, tobacco-producing county—it had the [largest population of enslaved peoples in Maryland](#)—today, Prince George's County is home to many high-skilled industries, is a diversified economy, and is one of the most prosperous majority-African American counties in the country. More recently, the county has welcomed increasing numbers of immigrants. Today, immigrants makeup almost 1 in 4 residents of the county, with the immigrant population experiencing double-digit growth between 2010 and 2020.

To examine the contributions and characteristics of immigrants in Prince George's County, this report presents data from the 1-year 2019 American Community Survey and features interviews with residents, conducted over the summer of 2022, to show the important role immigrants play in the economy, workforce, and community. This report also investigates where immigrant communities may be lagging, taking into account the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the physical and economic wellbeing of many of the county's most vulnerable residents.



KEY FINDINGS

▶ **Immigrants form a significant part of Prince George's County's population.**

In 2019, immigrants numbered more than 208,000, comprising 22.9 percent of the population.

▶ **Immigrants were responsible for all recent net population growth in the county.**

In fact, had it not been for immigrants, the county would have shrank between 2014 and 2019 by almost 1,000 people.

▶ **Immigrants are strong drivers of the county's economy.**

In 2019 alone, immigrant households earned more than \$6.9 billion and paid more than \$1.8 billion in taxes, including \$723.0 million in state and local taxes. In total, immigrant households held almost \$5.1 billion in spending power and were responsible for almost \$11.9 billion of Prince George's County's gross domestic product (GDP).

▶ **The demographics of Prince George's County's immigrant population are unique.**

Salvadoran immigrants formed the largest national group (21.6 percent of all immigrants), followed by Nigerians (7.7 percent), Guatemalans (7.5 percent), Mexicans (5.8 percent), and Jamaicans (5.5 percent) in 2019.

▶ **Immigrants are particularly important to some of the county's most critical industries.**

In 2019, immigrants made up two-thirds (66.0 percent) of all workers in the construction industry and more than 39.0 percent of all healthcare and social assistance workers. Immigrants also accounted for more than 1 in 4 workers in manufacturing, retail, and professional services industries.

▶ **Despite these achievements and strengths, immigrants in Prince George's County, on average, remain more vulnerable than their U.S.-born neighbors.**

Almost 3 in 10 immigrants in 2019 lacked any form of health insurance, and the median income for immigrant households in Prince George's County was \$17,000 less than the median income for U.S.-born households.

Population Growth and Demographics of the Immigrant Population

Prince George's County enjoyed steady growth in its overall population after the Second World War due to the expansion and growth of the broader Washington metro area. In recent years, the data shows that immigrants have contributed significantly to that growth. In the five-year span between 2014 and 2019, the county's overall population grew by 2.7 percent, from 885,000 in 2014 to more than 908,000 in 2019. Over that same period, the number of immigrants in Prince George's County also grew, but at a significantly faster rate. In 2014, there were almost 184,000 immigrants living in the county. By 2019, there were almost 208,000 immigrants, an increase of some 24,000, or 13.3 percent.

Immigrants make up almost 23.0 percent of the population of the county, an increase from 20.7 percent in 2014. This, however, is a significant increase from as recently as 1990, when less than 14.0 percent, or 110,000, of the county's residents were immigrants.¹ A growing diversity in terms of where residents were born can also be seen in the U.S. Census Bureau's metric, the Diversity Index, which calculates the likelihood that two people chosen at random in a given area are of different races or ethnicities. In Prince George's County, the Diversity Index score increased from 55/100 in 2010 to 59/100 in 2020.² By 2019, the data also shows that more than 1 in 4 households, or 26.7 percent, in the county have at least one immigrant person.

TABLE 1: POPULATION GROWTH IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY AND SELECTED COUNTIES AND MARYLAND

| | Prince George's County | Montgomery County | Anne Arundel County | Maryland |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Immigrants, 2014 | 184,000 | 327,000 | 44,000 | 836,000 |
| Immigrants, 2019 | 208,000 | 337,000 | 48,000 | 911,000 |
| Total Population, 2014 | 885,000 | 1,005,000 | 551,000 | 5,888,000 |
| Total Population, 2019 | 908,000 | 1,044,000 | 571,000 | 6,019,000 |
| Immigrant Share of Population, 2019 | 22.9% | 32.3% | 8.5% | 15.1% |
| Total Population Growth Rate, 2014-19 | 2.7% | 3.9% | 3.5% | 2.2% |
| Immigrant Growth Rate, 2014-19 | 13.3% | 3.0% | 10.4% | 8.9% |
| Share of Total Population Growth Due to Immigrants, 2014-19 | 103.1% | 25.6% | 23.5% | 57.1% |

Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

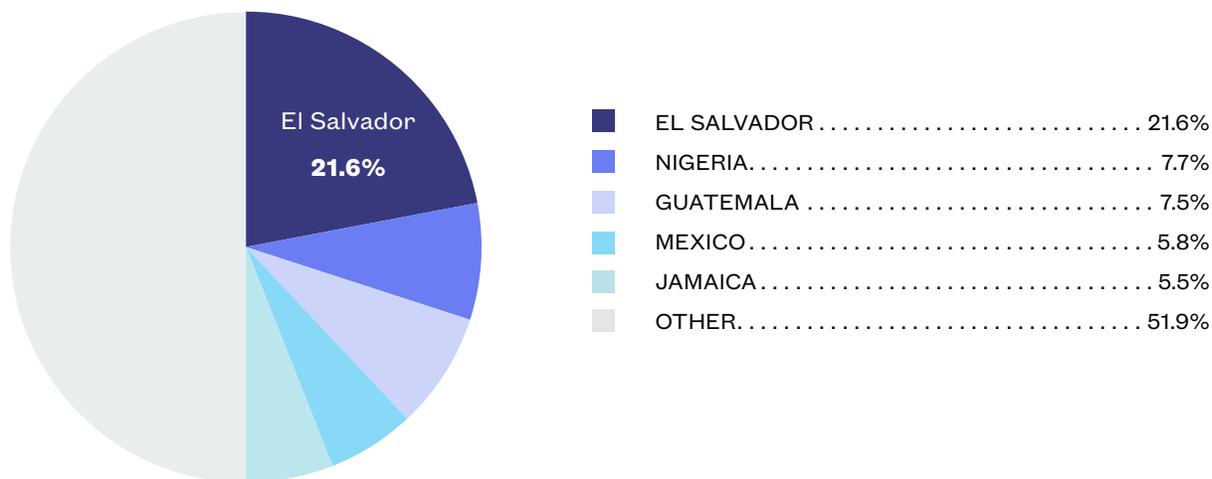
The population of Prince George's County appears to have a higher immigrant share than nearby counties in the Washington metro area and the state of Maryland. For example, in 2019, Anne Arundel County had far fewer immigrants than Prince George's County, with immigrants making up only 48,000, or 8.5 percent of its population. In Maryland overall, 15.1 percent of the population was immigrants in 2019. However, Prince George's County has fewer immigrant residents than Montgomery County, another densely populated county, where 32.3 percent of the population are immigrants.

Immigration, however, appears to be more important to Prince George's County in terms of overall growth, compared with these other counties and the state of Maryland. While around a quarter of all population growth in both Anne Arundel and Montgomery counties, and more than half, or 57.0 percent, of Maryland's population growth were attributable to new immigrant residents, the data shows that all of Prince George's County's growth was due to immigrants. In fact, absent immigration, Prince George's County would have shrunk by nearly 1,000 people. Instead, the county was able to grow by more than 23,000.

Absent immigration, Prince George's County would have shrunk by nearly 1,000 people.

Even within a county as diverse as Prince George's County, the demographic characteristics of immigrants in the county stand out. Whereas Mexican immigrants make up the largest group among immigrants nationwide, Salvadoran immigrants make up the largest group in Prince George's County, with more than 1 in 5 immigrant residents in the county born in El Salvador. They are followed by Nigerian immigrants, who make up 7.7 percent of the immigrant population, and by immigrants from Guatemala, who make up 7.5 percent.

FIGURE 1: TOP FIVE COUNTRIES OF BIRTH AMONG IMMIGRANTS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



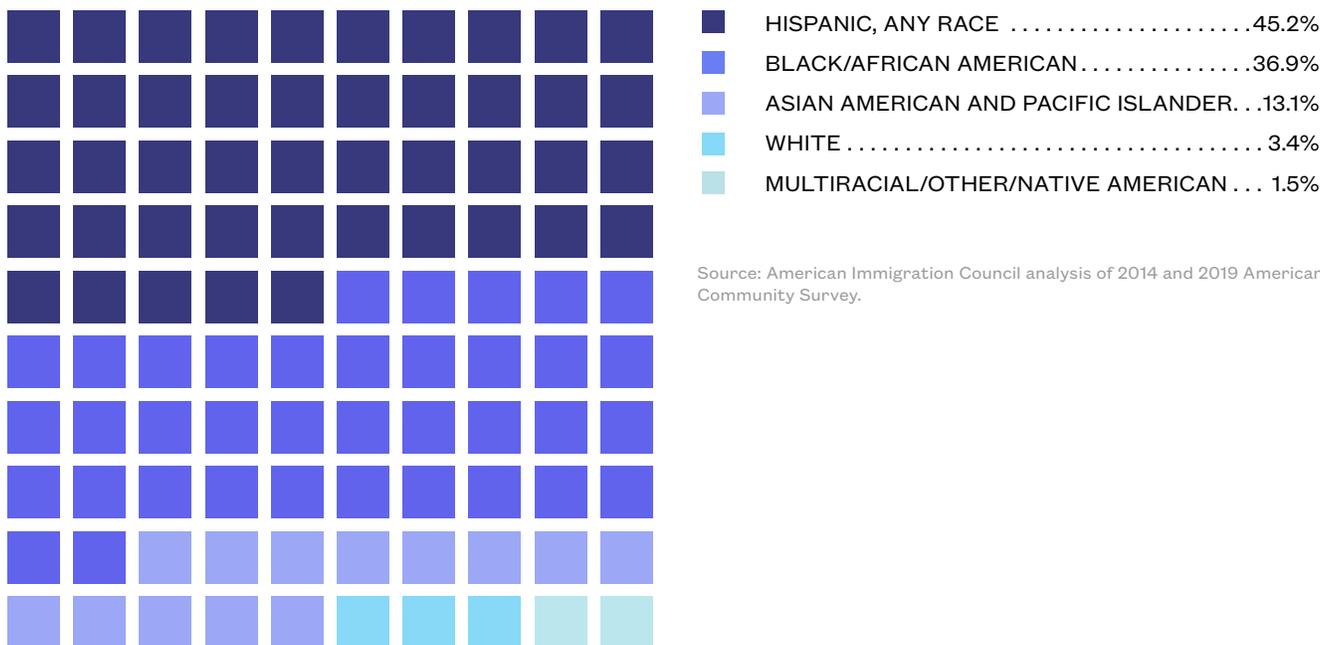
Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

Immigrants were 36.8% more likely to be of working age than their U.S.-born counterparts.

The racial and ethnic characteristics of Prince George's County reflect these demographics, with more than 45.0 percent of immigrants identifying as Hispanics of any race and an additional one-third of immigrants identifying as Black, non-Hispanic.

Like immigrants nationwide, the immigrant population in Prince George's County is more likely to be of working age — between the ages of 16 and 65 — than their U.S.-born counterparts. Less than 62.0 percent of the U.S.-born population in the county was of working age in 2019, compared with almost 85.0 percent of the immigrants. This means that immigrants were 36.8 percent more likely to be of working age. This helps explain why immigrants in Prince George's County are so economically important to the region — they make up disproportionately larger shares of the working age and employed populations in the county than their share of the overall population.

FIGURE 2: RACE AND ETHNICITY AMONG IMMIGRANTS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



SPOTLIGHT ON



KATTY DE LA PAZ

Owner, Katty Hair Studio

Katty De La Paz followed her husband's moves twice, first to Spain, when she was 31 years old, then to the United States, when she was 35. The second move was decidedly harder.

By that time, she and her husband had divorced, so she would not be living with him. Even tougher: De La Paz—born and raised in the Dominican Republic—spoke no English. “I didn’t know anything,” she says, chuckling about it now, a decade later. “But I didn’t want to be away from my children, so I moved.”

While her son and daughter, ages 13 and 6, landed in Washington, D.C., with her ex-husband, De La Paz found herself largely on her own. And she was undocumented.

“I had some hardship and hard times, and I don’t want to mention when it was cold,” she says, laughing again. “It was a struggle, like we would say in our country.”

She found temporary lodging in Prince George’s County with one of her ex-husband’s relatives and a job 90 minutes away in a Dominican hair salon. Often using rudimentary hand signals to communicate, she found her way to work on the metro, typically leaving at 8 a.m. and returning home as late as 11 p.m. She developed expertise in hair care and styling, particularly for African American women, and saved what she could.

“I really have no complaints. I met a lot of people who were very welcoming and extended a helping hand,” she says. “And I’m still here, moving forward, making the best of it.”

Eight years later, in 2020, De La Paz fulfilled her dream and, with her ex-husband, launched a business—right before COVID-19 hit. Katty Hair Studio, in Hyattsville, Maryland, would sit idle for more than a year. “It was really hard for me because I really needed the [COVID relief funds] for my business, but because of my status, I didn’t qualify,” she says.

Open since July 2022, De La Paz’s business is now growing and she has five employees, most of whom are U.S.-born Americans. De La Paz is in the process of petitioning for citizenship through her son, a U.S. citizen studying architecture at the University of the District of Columbia. Her daughter is in 11th grade and wants to pursue a career in medical forensics.

“I arrived here basically with nothing. Today, I have a business. My children are on a good path,” she says. “I don’t personally believe in the term American Dream, but I do believe that if you have a dream, you can make that dream come true wherever you are.”

De La Paz now helps other new immigrants—finding them services, or letting them stay in her home.

“My experience here in Prince George’s County has been very good,” she says. “And I think that immigrants in this county contribute a lot. There are a lot of Latino- or Hispanic-owned businesses. We want to support and contribute to the economy.”

Overall, 41.8 percent, or almost 87,000, of the immigrants in Prince George's County are naturalized U.S. citizens. An additional 13.1 percent, or 27,000, are noncitizens who may already be eligible for naturalization given their length of residency in the U.S. and their English language skills. Finally, 45.1 percent of the immigrant population, or almost 94,000 people, are currently not eligible for naturalization. Of those, almost 77,000 are undocumented immigrants, including more than 4,800 who are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)-eligible; almost 17,000 are documented—lawful permanent residents (green-card holders), asylees, and refugees—but have yet to meet the residency requirements for naturalization, or are in the country on temporary student or worker visas. These individuals, as well as some currently undocumented immigrants, may be eligible for other immigration statuses and become eligible for naturalization over time.

These distinctions are important, as gaining citizenship remains an important milestone for most immigrants in the U.S. and for the communities that welcome them. There are real economic benefits for communities that embrace naturalized citizens and encourage immigrants to take steps toward naturalization when they become eligible: studies have shown that naturalized citizens out-earn noncitizens by as much as 16.0 percent, giving them more income to contribute to taxes and spend in the local economy.³

Naturalized citizens are also eligible to work in a number of occupations that require citizenship—most notably, government service positions and scientific research posts requiring a security clearance. Lastly, due to the increased ease with which they can apply for licenses and insurance, naturalized citizens are also more likely to establish U.S.-based businesses, creating jobs that support the local economy.⁴ Given the makeup of Prince George's County's immigrant community, the earning potential of the immigrant population could be expected to increase by 8.9 percent if all those eligible to naturalize do so.

FIGURE 3: IMMIGRANTS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BY NATURALIZATION STATUS

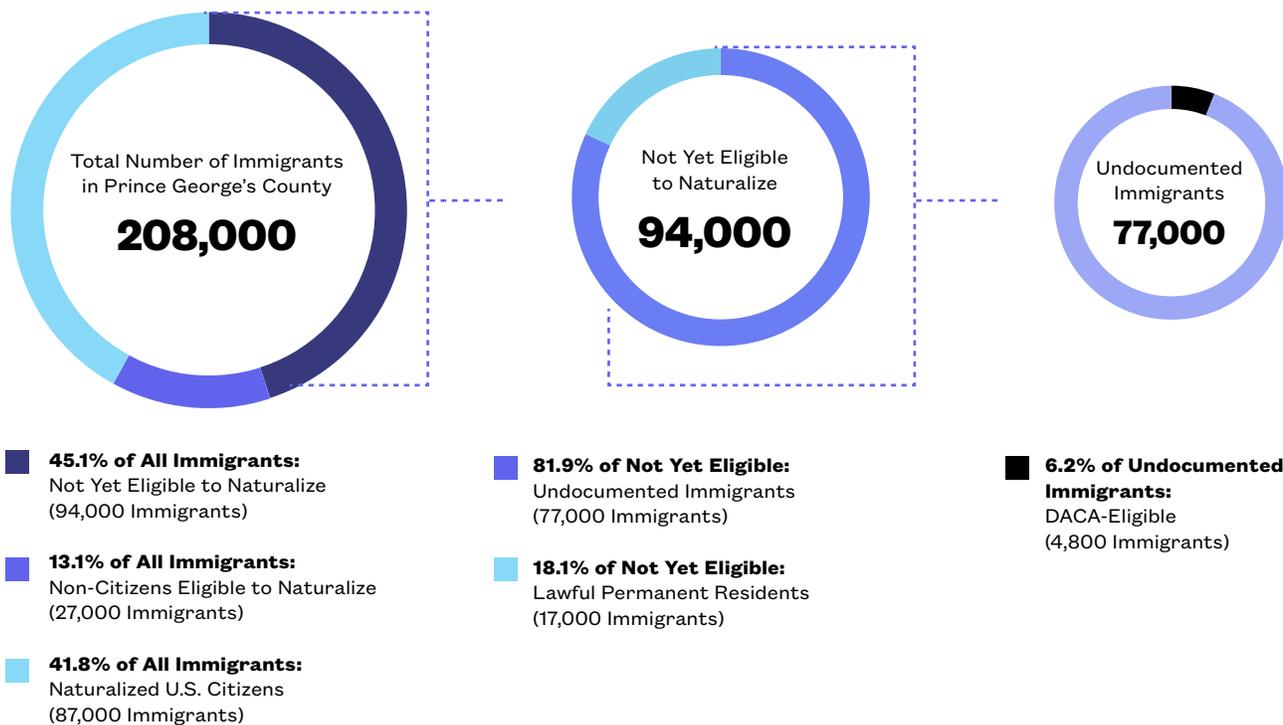
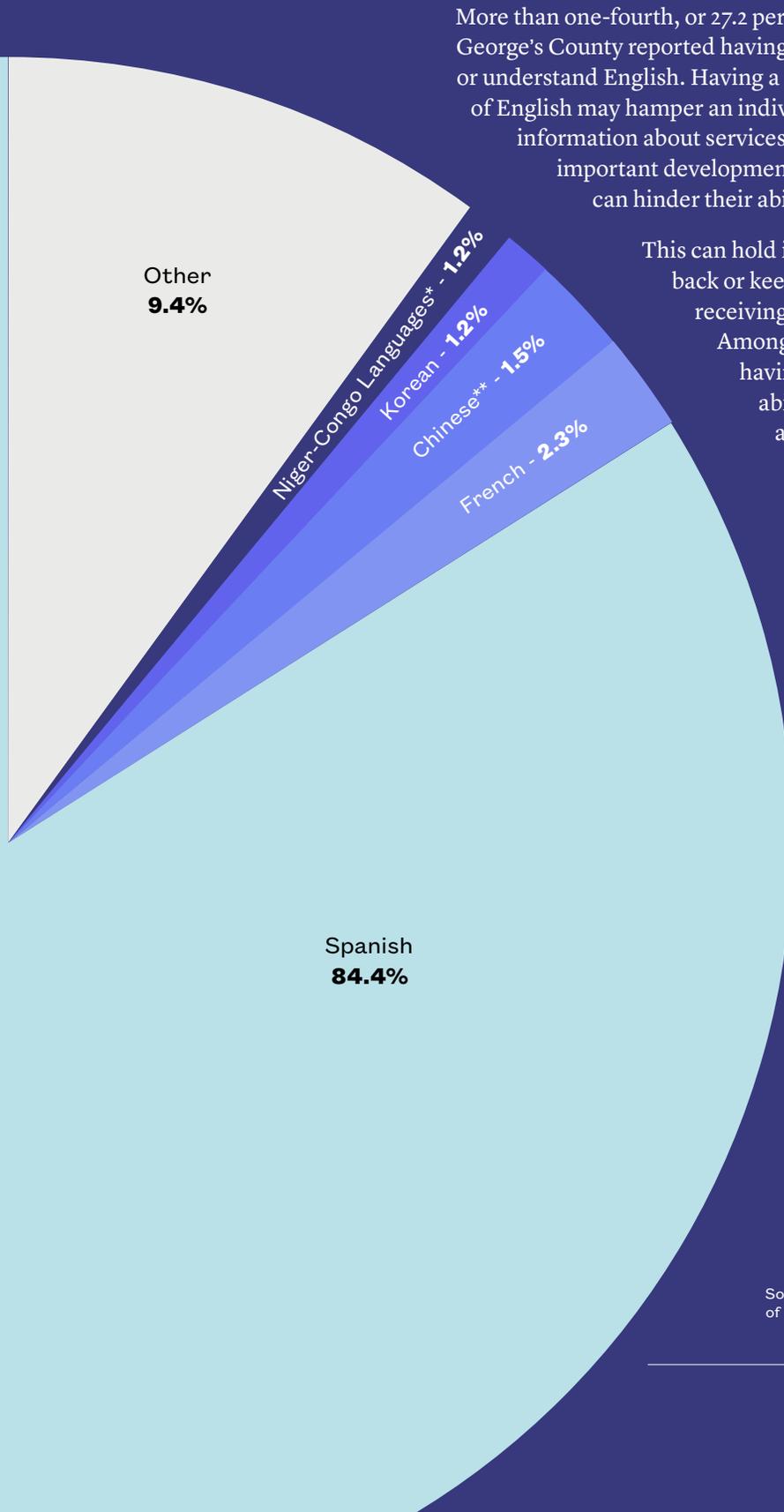


FIGURE 4: TOP LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME BY LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT IMMIGRANTS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



More than one-fourth, or 27.2 percent, of immigrants in Prince George's County reported having a limited ability to speak, read, or understand English. Having a limited working knowledge of English may hamper an individual's ability to access information about services, public safety, and other important developments in their neighborhood, and can hinder their ability to obtain or retain work.

This can hold immigrants and their families back or keep them from getting help or receiving aid that they are eligible for. Among immigrants who reported having limited English language ability, the top language spoken at home was overwhelmingly Spanish, spoken by 84.4 percent of limited English speakers, followed by French, Chinese, and Korean.

*Includes Yoruba, Igbo, etc.
**Mandarin and other dialects

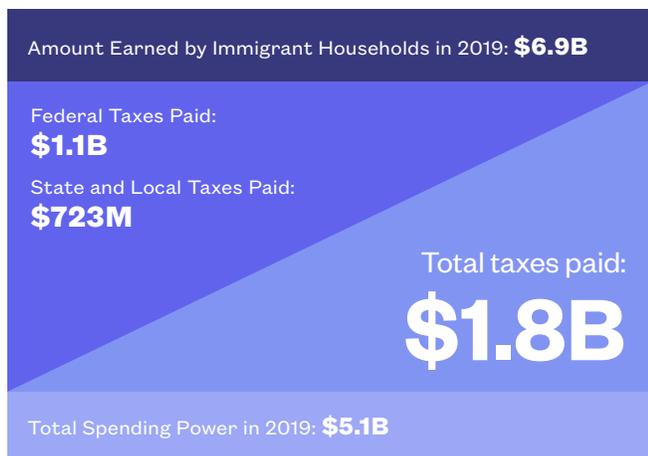
Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

Economic Contributions of Immigrants

Given the size of Prince George's County's immigrant population, it comes as no surprise that immigrants hold considerable economic power. In 2019 alone, immigrants contributed almost 24.4 percent, or \$11.9 billion, of the county's GDP. Altogether, immigrant households earned more than \$6.9 billion in 2019. These earnings allowed them to pay more than \$1.1 billion in federal income taxes and \$723.0 million in combined state and local taxes. This left immigrant households with almost \$5.1 billion in spending power for housing, food, transportation, and consumer goods, further adding to the economic activity in the county. This represented 22.5 percent of all private spending power in the county.

Beyond the taxes paid, immigrant workers also contributed to social programs that benefit all of Prince George's County residents. Through their payroll taxes or equivalent contributions, immigrant workers added more than \$802.0 million to the U.S. Social Security fund and almost \$196.0 million to the Medicare trust fund, helping to keep these programs funded.

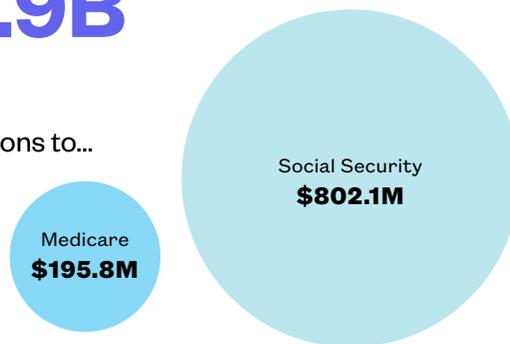
ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, IN \$USD



Contributions to GDP by Immigrants in 2019:

\$11.9B

Contributions to...



Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

Although immigrants are active in the county's economy, and the labor market, they still lag behind their U.S.-born counterparts in terms of income. In 2019, the median household income for immigrants in Prince George's County was well below that of U.S.-born households. While U.S.-born households had a median income of \$93,656, immigrant households had a median income of \$76,359. (Both were higher than the U.S. median household income of \$68,700 in 2019.⁵) The disparity in median incomes between immigrant and non-immigrant households is also reflected in the lower income quintiles. More than 45 percent of immigrant households are found in the bottom two income quintiles. Meanwhile, only 15.5 percent of immigrant households are found in the highest quintile.

FIGURE 5: MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY NATIVITY IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



FIGURE 6: IMMIGRANTS BY INCOME RELATIVE TO FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

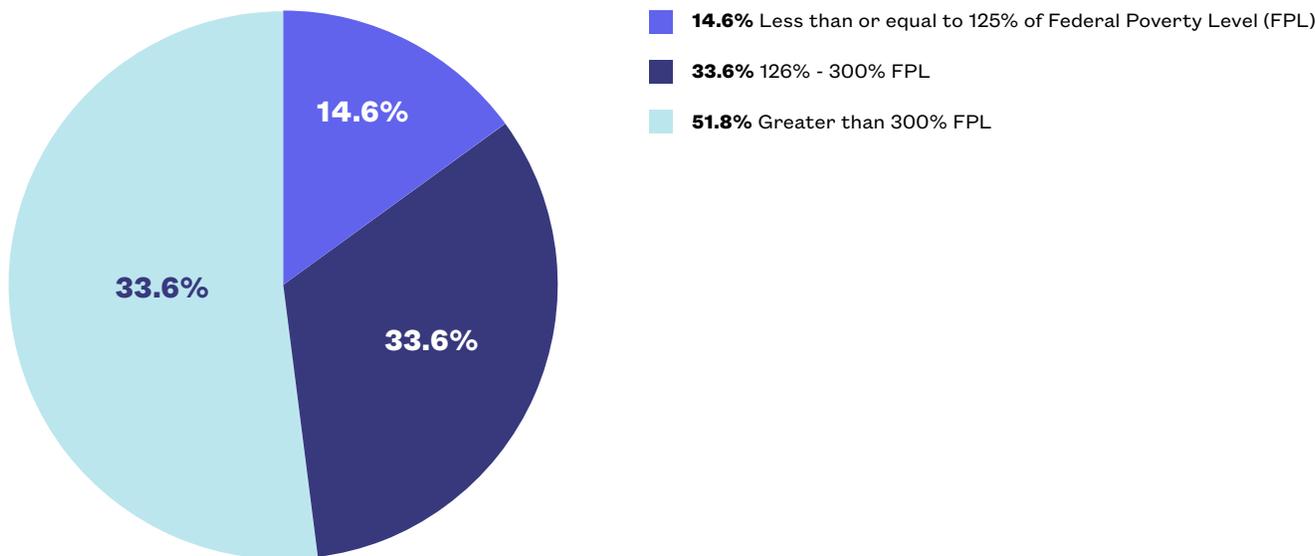


FIGURE 7: DISTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME QUINTILE IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



FIGURE 8: DISTRIBUTION OF U.S.-BORN HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME QUINTILE IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

TABLE 2: HEALTHCARE COVERAGE BY NATIVITY IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

| | U.S.-Born | Immigrant |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Share with private healthcare coverage | 59.9% | 49.9% |
| Share with public healthcare coverage | 21.9% | 16.1% |
| Share with both private and public healthcare coverage | 13.4% | 5.6% |
| Share uninsured | 4.8% | 28.4% |

Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

Immigrants in Prince George's County are less likely to be covered by public healthcare programs compared with their U.S.-born counterparts. In 2019, 35.3 percent of U.S.-born residents had public healthcare coverage alone or in combination with private coverage, while only 21.7 percent of immigrants did. Immigrants were also significantly less likely to have private healthcare coverage than the U.S.-born in the county. While 73.3 percent of U.S.-born residents had some form of private healthcare coverage, only 55.5 percent of immigrants did. In all, more than one in four immigrants, or 28.4 percent, were uninsured in 2019. And, despite making up 22.9 percent of the county's population, immigrants account for nearly 63.7 percent of all those without any form of health insurance coverage, making them almost six times more likely to be uninsured than their U.S.-born counterparts.

*Despite making up **22.9%** of the county's population, immigrants account for nearly **63.7%** of all those without any form of health insurance coverage, making them almost **six times more likely to be uninsured than their U.S.-born counterparts.***

SPOTLIGHT ON



PHILIP A. NJOWUSI

CEO, Pan Services

In August of 1980 Philip Njowusi was flying from his home in Nigeria to Houston to study pre-medicine as an undergraduate at Texas Southern University. Approaching New York City, the pilot hovered over lower Manhattan and told passengers to look out the right-side windows to see the World Trade Center's Twin Towers.

"I said, 'Oh my God, I love these structures. I think I'm going to study architecture'. So when I arrived in Houston, I went straight to my counselor and said, 'I want to switch my major,'" he says.

Njowusi graduated in 1985 with a professional bachelor of arts degree in architecture. After fielding offers from across the country, he accepted a job in Baltimore. He has been in Maryland ever since.

"It was not my original plan to stay in the U.S.," he says. "But I'm glad I did. And I think I'm able to do more here, in work as well as by impacting humanity."

In 1998, Njowusi founded Pan Group (now Pan Services), an architecture, engineering, and construction firm in Greenbelt that does public and private projects for local and international clients. He typically has between five and eight full-time employees, which currently includes two architects and an engineer, as well as a fluctuating number of independent contractors.

His business began after he was laid off during the Great Recession. "I took it as a challenge," says Njowusi, who took a design-build job to do an addition on a house. The

neighbors liked his work, and asked Njowusi to do one for them. His business began.

"I was cognizant of the fact that I didn't want to lose my track of getting licensed as an architect," he says. "So I took the exam, passed, and registered my company as an architect." He also entered a Masters of Business Administration program at Georgetown University and Esade Business School in Spain. "The construction experience acquired before I got my Architect's license has always been very helpful when I design."

Njowusi's next goal is to create the Pan Inspire Foundation, to expand on his work talking to young people about educational and job opportunities. His interest was sparked by Prince George's County Principal for a Day program, in which community members shadow a principal in a public school. Njowusi participated three times, and schools told him that his visits had a positive impact on students.

"To me, I think speaking to kids is the most significant thing you can do to make kids think about their future, open their minds up to the possibilities," Njowusi says. "You can give them hope about what they can be in the world. It's very impactful."

Njowusi is married and has three sons. "I tell my kids, 'I'm not 100 percent covering everything. You may hear other parents tell their kids something, and you should pay attention because it might apply to you.'"

Immigrant Contributions to the Labor Market

As more Americans from the baby-boom generation—those born between 1946 and 1964—age into retirement and leave the workforce, regional economies will be increasingly challenged to maintain a flexible and sizable labor force. To meet demand and continue to grow, economies will need workers who can offer a wide range of skills and experiences, from labor-intensive roles in hospitality and agriculture to highly technical jobs in technology and healthcare that require years of training.

However, in Prince George's County, barely 6 out of 10 people who were born in the U.S. are between the ages of 16 and 65, or working age by the U.S. Department of Labor's definition. The county's immigrants, meanwhile, are overwhelmingly of working age: More than 8 out of 10, or 84.8 percent, are between the ages of 16 and 65. As a result, despite comprising 22.9 percent of the overall population, the county's immigrant residents make up 28.9 percent of the working age population.

FIGURE 9: AGE DISTRIBUTION BY NATIVITY IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

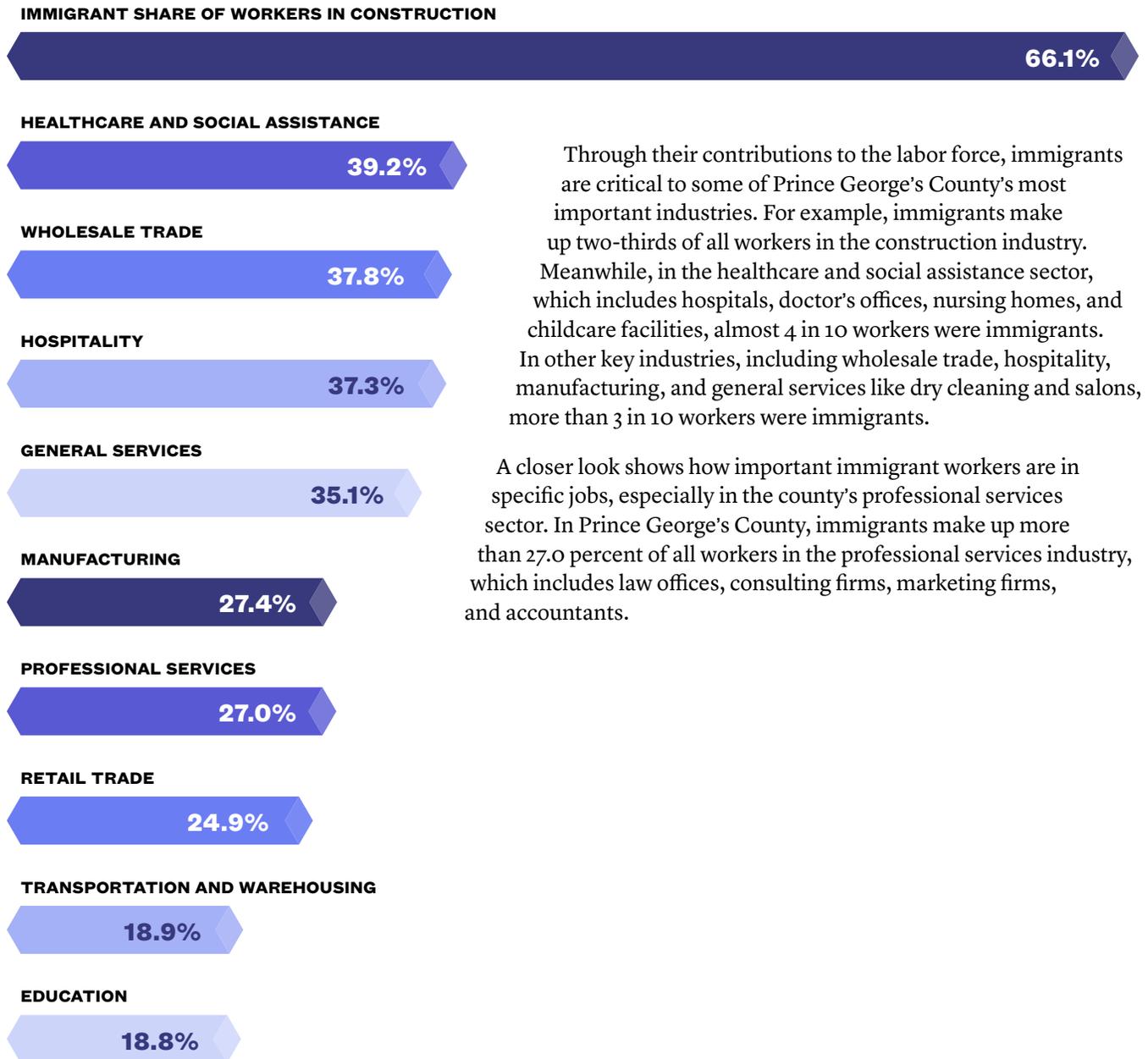


Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

Immigrants in Prince George's County also have higher rates of employment than their U.S.-born counterparts. In 2019, more than 95.0 percent of immigrants in the labor force⁶ were employed, compared to 93.2 percent

of U.S.-born workers. All in all, immigrants made up 29.7 percent of all employed workers in the county, a larger portion than their share of the population.

FIGURE 10: TOP INDUSTRIES BY SHARE OF WORKFORCE IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, IMMIGRANTS



Through their contributions to the labor force, immigrants are critical to some of Prince George's County's most important industries. For example, immigrants make up two-thirds of all workers in the construction industry. Meanwhile, in the healthcare and social assistance sector, which includes hospitals, doctor's offices, nursing homes, and childcare facilities, almost 4 in 10 workers were immigrants. In other key industries, including wholesale trade, hospitality, manufacturing, and general services like dry cleaning and salons, more than 3 in 10 workers were immigrants.

A closer look shows how important immigrant workers are in specific jobs, especially in the county's professional services sector. In Prince George's County, immigrants make up more than 27.0 percent of all workers in the professional services industry, which includes law offices, consulting firms, marketing firms, and accountants.

Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

FIGURE 11: PROPORTION OF WORKERS BY INDUSTRY WHO ARE IMMIGRANTS

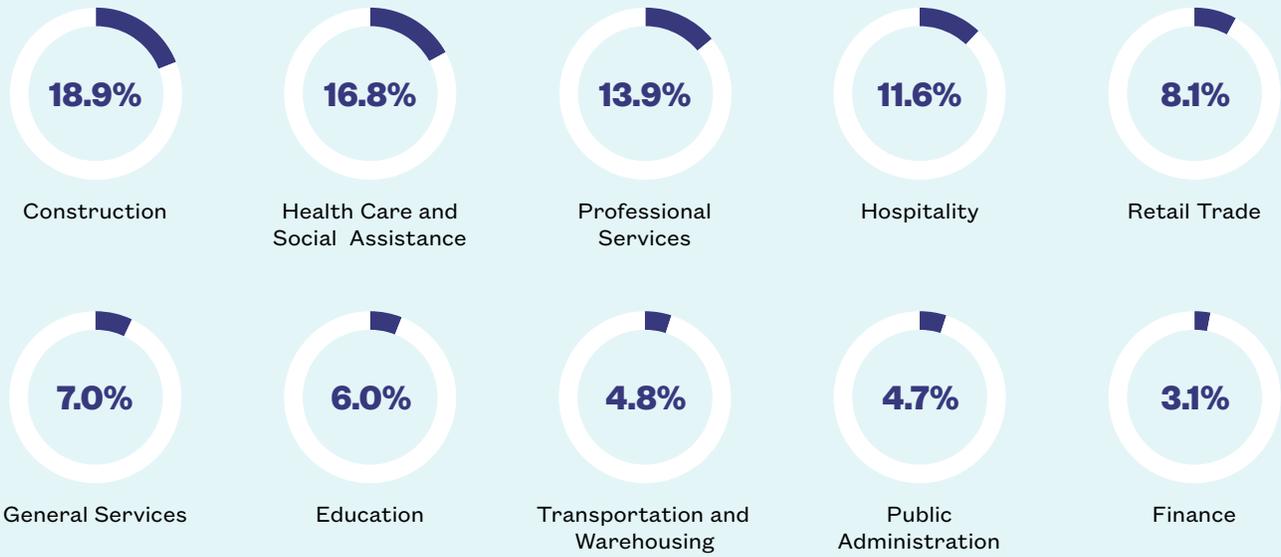


FIGURE 12: IMMIGRANT WORKERS BY INDUSTRY

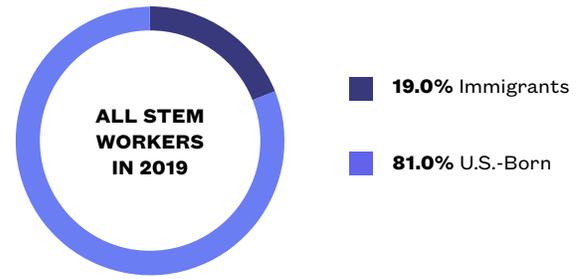


Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

Jobs in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) are increasingly critical to the county's economy. These jobs typically require extensive training or education, and, as such, can be harder to fill. These jobs also drive innovation and development within businesses and industries, putting STEM workers in particularly high demand. In 2019, more than 7,000 immigrants were employed in STEM fields in Prince George's County, accounting for more than 19.0 percent of all STEM workers in the county. These workers are in especially high demand in Prince George's County: An average of 16.0 open STEM jobs were advertised for each unemployed STEM worker in the county.⁷

While much attention is paid to workers on the higher end of the educational spectrum, millions of jobs across the country require skills that are not taught in a classroom. Many businesses rely on these so-called "low-skilled" workers to keep the lights on, services running, and orders filled. The essential role these workers play was highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic, when immigrants filled critical roles as healthcare practitioners, freight movers and drivers,

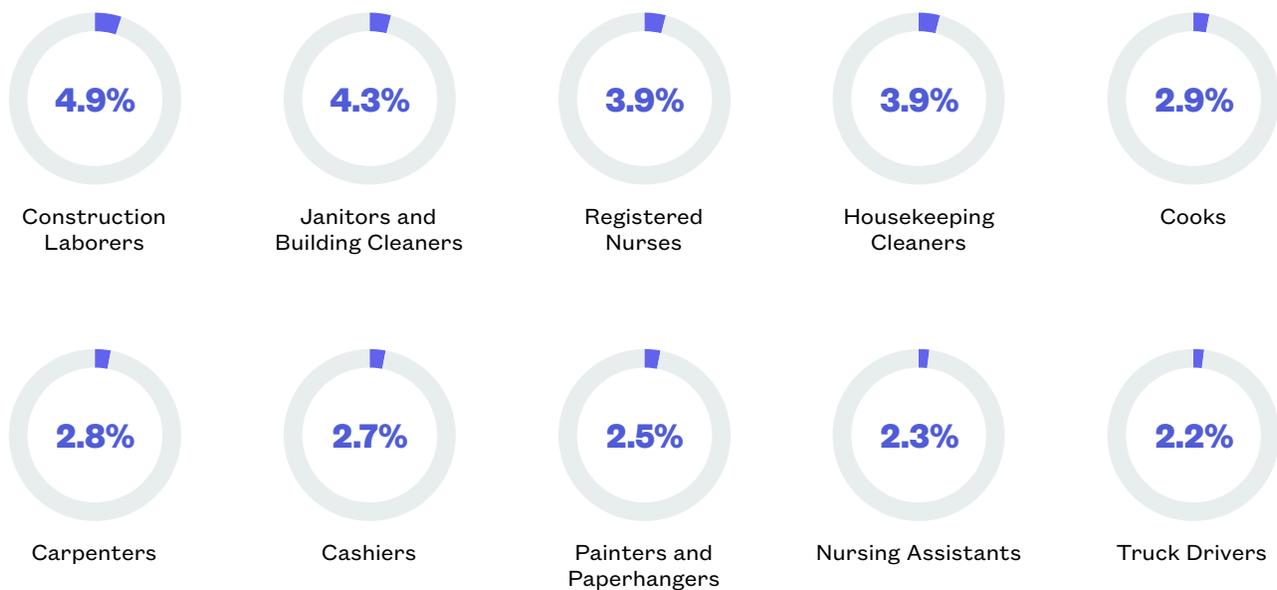
FIGURE 13: IMMIGRANT SHARE OF STEM WORKERS - 2019



maintenance workers, food manufacturing workers, and more.

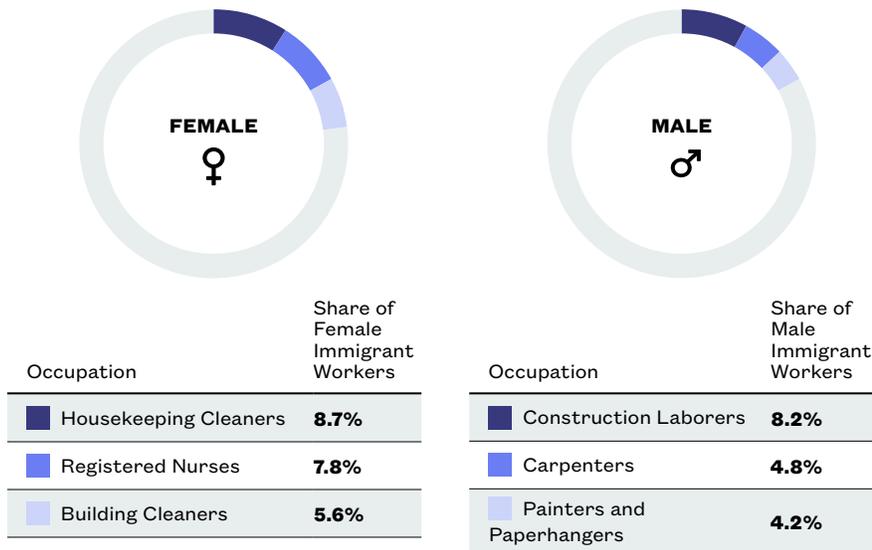
Immigrants in Prince George's County also disproportionately fill these critical roles. Almost 45.0 percent of food production workers in the county are immigrants, as are almost 44.0 percent of all healthcare workers and 43.0 percent of all food service workers. Among these workers in 2019 were 5,700 immigrant registered nurses, almost 3,400 immigrant nursing assistants, and more than 3,200 immigrant drivers and delivery workers.

FIGURE 14: TOP OCCUPATIONS AMONG IMMIGRANT WORKERS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

FIGURE 15: TOP FIVE OCCUPATIONS FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS BY GENDER*



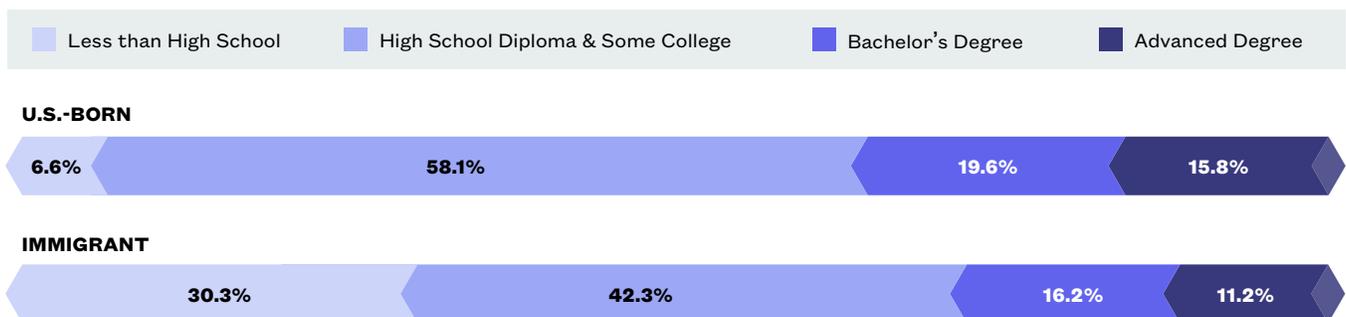
Among immigrant women, the most popular occupation was housekeeping, which 8.7 percent of all immigrant women workers claimed as their occupation. In a close second place, 7.8 percent of all immigrant women worked as registered nurses. Among immigrant men, the most common occupations were in construction trades, with 8.2 percent working as general construction workers, and 4.8 percent working as carpenters.

* No data available for non-binary or other genders.

Although immigrants nationwide are more likely to have at least a bachelor's degree than the U.S.-born, the same is not true in Prince George's County. Some of this, however, is due to the high rates of educational attainment among U.S.-born residents. In Prince George's County, 35.4 percent of U.S.-born adults have at least a bachelor's degree compared to the U.S. average of 33.3 percent for all U.S.-born adults. However, even when we compare the immigrant population of Prince George's County to the national average for immigrants, we see

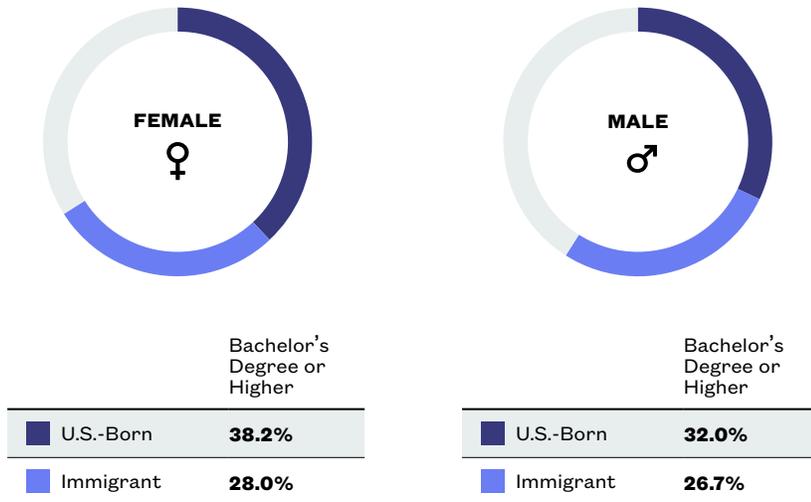
clear differences. Nationwide, 32.7 percent of immigrant adults hold at least a bachelor's degree, while only 27.4 percent of immigrant adults in Prince George's County do. The educational profile of immigrants in the county may explain why immigrant workers are so prominent in more labor-intensive occupations, such as those in construction, hospitality, and manufacturing—jobs that tend not to attract enough U.S.-born workers.

FIGURE 16: EDUCATION ATTAINMENT BY NATIVITY (AGES 25+) IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

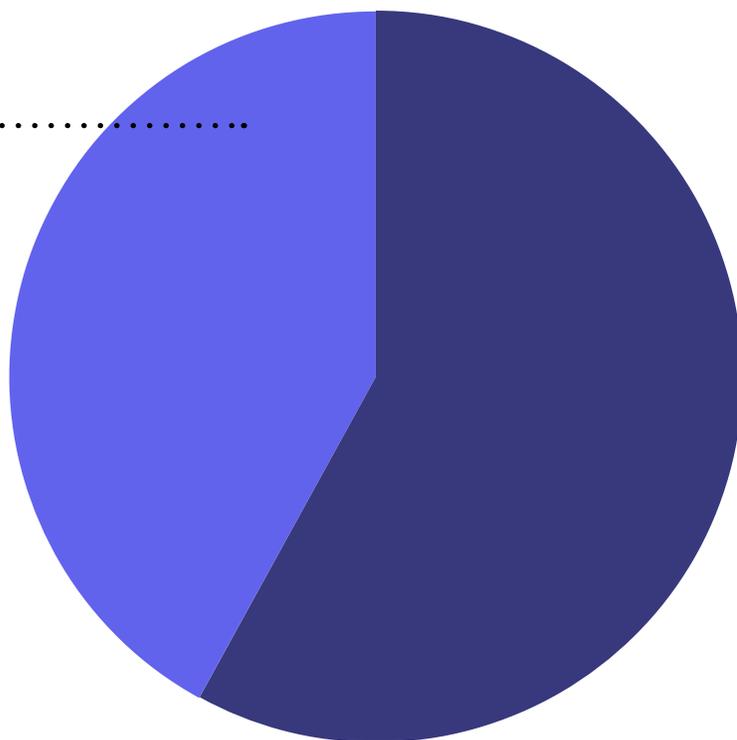
FIGURE 17: SHARE OF ADULTS (25+) WITH AT LEAST A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Digging deeper into the educational attainment data, we find that women, both U.S.-born and immigrant, are more likely than their male peers to have a college education. While 32.0 percent and 26.7 percent of U.S.-born and immigrant men, respectively, hold at least a bachelor's degree, 38.2 percent of U.S.-born adult women and 28.0 percent of immigrant adult women do.

For young immigrants and the children of immigrants, the data reveals that they make up significant shares of students at K-12 schools in the county. Young immigrant students themselves make up only 8.8 percent of the K-12 student body. However, 42.2 percent of children enrolled in K-12 schools had at least one immigrant parent in 2019.

42.2% of children enrolled in K-12 schools in the county had at least one immigrant parent in 2019.



Entrepreneurship

The entrepreneurial spirit of immigrants is well-known and well-documented. Stories of immigrants and refugees seeking out better lives in the U.S., starting their own businesses, and creating better, more prosperous lives for their families abound. A 2012 report by New American Economy (now the American Immigration Council) found that immigrants were twice as likely to start a new business than the U.S.-born.⁸ Nationally, some of these immigrant-founded companies have become the largest names in business: In 2022, almost 44.0 percent of all Fortune 500 companies in the U.S. were founded by an immigrant or the child of immigrants.⁹

*In 2022, nearly **44.0%** of all Fortune 500 companies in the United States were founded by an immigrant or the child of immigrants.*

FIGURE 18: REVENUES AND EMPLOYEES AMONG MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

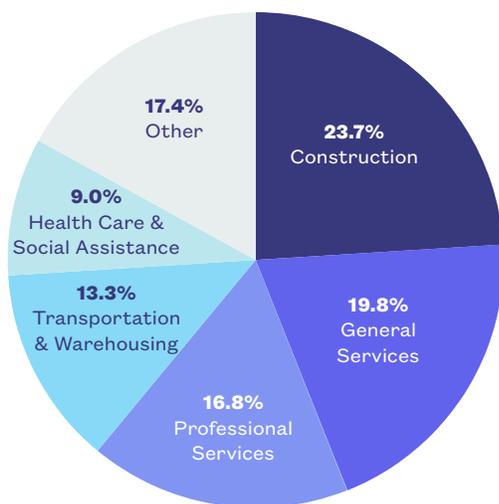


Source: 2012 Survey of Business Owners and Self-Employed Persons

In Prince George's County, immigrant business owners are making their mark. In 2019, there were almost 11,000 immigrant entrepreneurs, making up more than one-third, or 35.5 percent, of all business owners in the county. In total, these immigrant business owners made almost \$253.0 million in personal business income. From small mom-and-pop shops, to construction businesses, to professional service businesses, immigrants are helping drive job creation in the county and the wider metro area. Similar to immigrants overall at a national level, immigrants in Prince George's County also exhibit a higher propensity for starting and owning their own businesses. While only 5.7 percent of U.S.-born workers in the county owned or ran their own businesses, 7.4 percent of immigrant workers did. This means that immigrants in Prince George's County were 30.3 percent more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.

The almost 11,000 immigrant business owners in Prince George's County can be found in a variety of industries. Nearly one-fourth, or 23.7 percent, of immigrant business owners are in the construction industry, with another one in five in general services, which includes personal services like beauty salons, nail parlors, dry cleaners, and auto repair shops. An additional 16.8 percent of immigrant business owners are in professional services, which includes accountants, auditors, consultants, and law offices.

FIGURE 19: TOP INDUSTRIES FOR IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

FIGURE 20: ENTREPRENEURS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, 2019

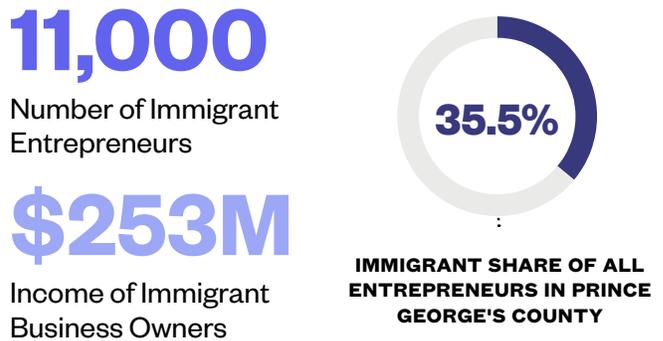
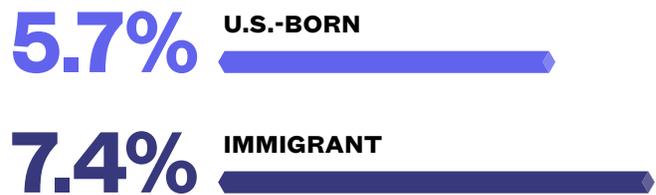


FIGURE 21: SHARE OF RESIDENTS WHO OWNED OR RAN THEIR OWN BUSINESSES



*Immigrants in the county were **30.3%** more likely to be entrepreneurs than their U.S.-born counterparts.*

Given the distribution of immigrant entrepreneurs across industries, it's likely that many of these entrepreneurs were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the general services industry alone, the data shows that there were approximately 2,100 immigrant entrepreneurs who had to deal with lockdowns, supply chain issues, and, of course, issues surrounding their health and physical wellbeing.

Housing and Real Estate

The almost 45 million immigrants who live in the United States hold powerful purchasing power. For example, in Prince George's County, households headed by immigrants hold considerable property value. In 2019 alone, immigrant households in the county collectively held more than \$13 billion in primary residential real estate value. Moreover, immigrant households paid \$576.5 million in residential rent payments in 2019, a major contributor to the local real estate and property markets.

FIGURE 22: REAL ESTATE VALUE ATTRIBUTABLE TO IMMIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

\$13.0B

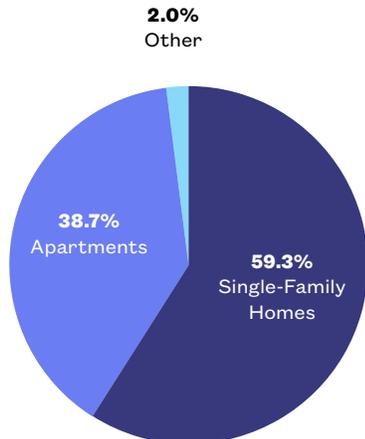
Property Value Held by Immigrant Households

\$576.5M

Annual Rent Paid by Immigrant Households

Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

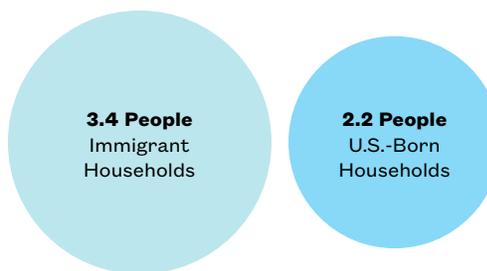
FIGURE 23: TYPE OF DWELLINGS FOR IMMIGRANTS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY IN 2019



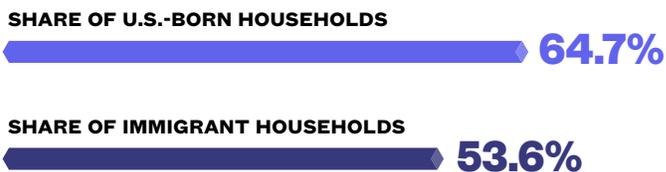
More than half, or 59.3 percent, of all immigrant households in Prince George's County live in single-family homes, while 38.7 percent live in apartments. Regardless of the type of dwelling they live in, 53.6 percent of all immigrant households own the home they live in. This rate of homeownership is less than that of U.S.-born households, where 64.7 percent owned their home in 2019.

The data also shows that immigrant households tend to have more people than U.S.-born households do. While the average size for immigrant-headed households is 3.4 people per household, the average is 2.2 people for households with a U.S.-born head. The difference between U.S.-born and immigrant households when it comes to access to broadband internet at home, however, is much smaller. Just over 89.0 percent of U.S.-born households have access to broadband internet at home, while nearly 87.0 percent of immigrant households do.

FIGURE 24: AVERAGE SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD



Home Ownership Rates



SPOTLIGHT ON

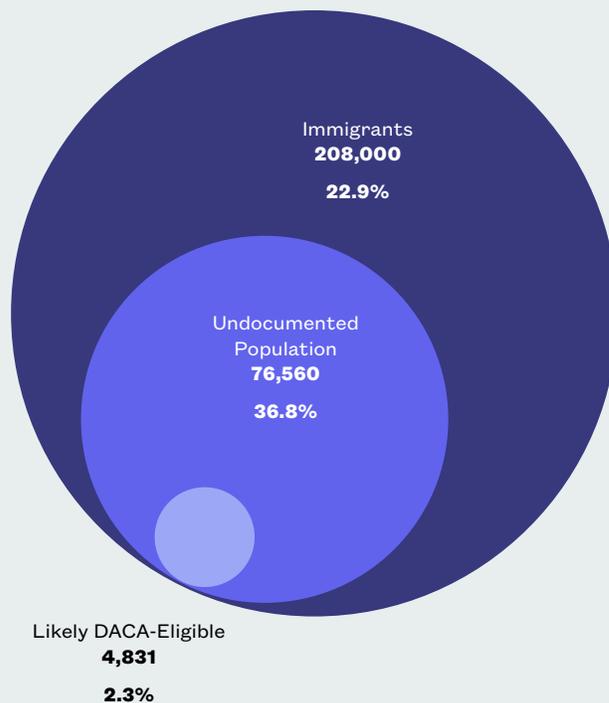
THE UNDOCUMENTED AND DACA-ELIGIBLE

The U.S. is home to an estimated 10.3 million undocumented immigrants, the vast majority of whom have lived in the U.S. for more than five years.¹⁰ While the national debate on what to do about undocumented immigrants is ongoing, millions continue to work, contribute to the economy, and build their lives in this country. Collectively, these immigrants have a significant impact on the U.S. economy. In 2019 alone, undocumented immigrants earned almost \$245.0 billion and paid almost \$31.0 billion in taxes, often supporting public welfare systems that they do not benefit from.

Compared to the national undocumented average of nearly 23.0 percent of the total immigrant population and 3.0 percent of the overall population, Prince George's County's undocumented population accounts for a larger share of the immigrant population. In 2019, there were an estimated 77,000 undocumented immigrants in the county, making up 36.8 percent of the total immigrant population and 8.4 percent of the overall population. Included in the 77,000 undocumented immigrants living in Prince George's County are an estimated 5,000 undocumented immigrants who are likely eligible for the DACA program.

Undocumented immigrants are an important part of the economy and workforce. In Prince George's County, like elsewhere in the U.S., undocumented immigrants are overwhelmingly active and productive workers in the labor market. In 2019 alone, undocumented households in the county earned more than \$1.4 billion. Even though they may lack the formal status to work in the country, many find ways to be productive contributors, earning a living, supporting their families, and contributing to the local economy.

FIGURE 25: UNDOCUMENTED AND DACA-ELIGIBLE POPULATIONS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Many undocumented immigrants also pay taxes, despite not having legal status. Various studies have estimated that anywhere from 50.0 to 80.0 percent of households led by undocumented immigrants file federal income taxes annually.¹¹ Federal government officials have also estimated that 75.0 percent of undocumented workers have taxes withheld from their paychecks.¹²

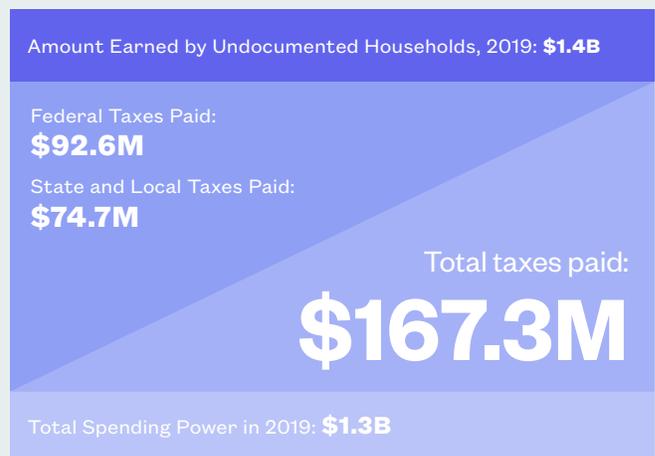
In this report, we make the conservative assumption that 50.0 percent of the county's undocumented households paid income taxes in 2019, the lower boundary of such estimates. As such, given their earning power in 2019, we estimate that undocumented households in Prince George's County paid almost \$93.0 million in federal income taxes and almost \$75.0 million in combined state and local taxes. This leaves undocumented households with almost \$1.3 billion in annual spending power, much of which is spent locally on housing, consumer goods, services, and things like dining and entertainment. This is money that is circulated back into the local economy.

*Federal government officials have estimated that **75.0% of undocumented workers** have had taxes withheld from their paychecks.*

Undocumented immigrant contributions to....



FIGURE 26: ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF UNDOCUMENTED HOUSEHOLDS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

DACA-eligible immigrants, although technically undocumented, can work legally once they obtain DACA status. While this status must be periodically renewed and the future of the DACA program is not guaranteed, for the time being, DACA recipients are able to work and file taxes just like other documented immigrants. Altogether, DACA-eligible immigrants earned almost \$51.0 million dollars in 2019 and paid more than \$7.0 million in federal income taxes and \$5.3 million in combined state and local taxes.

DACA-eligible immigrant contributions to....

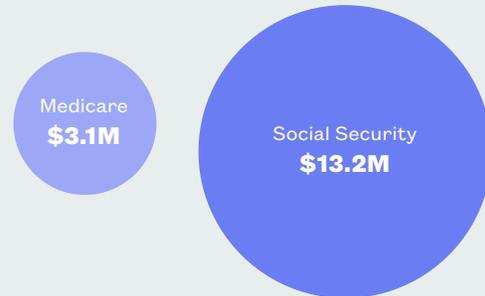
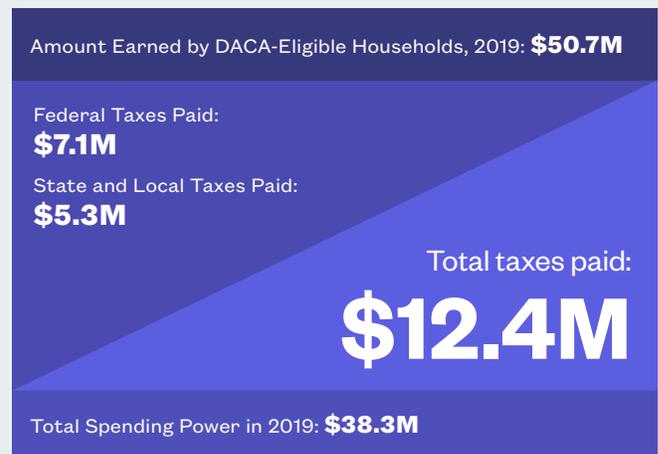


FIGURE 27: ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF DACA-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

SPOTLIGHT ON

REFUGEES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

While refugees represent a small share of the U.S. population—less than 1.0 percent—they have stood out from the broader population and even other immigrants for their resilience, entrepreneurial spirit, and dedication to their new homeland. In the U.S., refugees earned almost \$99.0 billion in 2019 and contributed almost \$28.0 billion in taxes.¹³ Past research has also shown that refugees were more likely to own their own businesses, hold U.S. citizenship, and own their own homes than other immigrants.¹⁵

In Prince George's County, there were more than 10,000 resettled refugees in 2019. Together, these refugees made up 5.1 percent of the county's immigrant population, and 1.1 percent of the county's overall population. Refugees, like other immigrants, are significant contributors to the local economy. In 2019 alone, refugee households earned almost \$394.0 million in income. This allowed them to pay more than \$67.0 million in federal income taxes and more than \$41.0 million in combined state and local taxes, monies that go back into funding services and infrastructure for all county residents. After taxes, this still left refugee households with more than \$286.0 million in annual spending power, a significant amount for such a relatively small population.

FIGURE 28: REFUGEE POPULATION IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

10,602

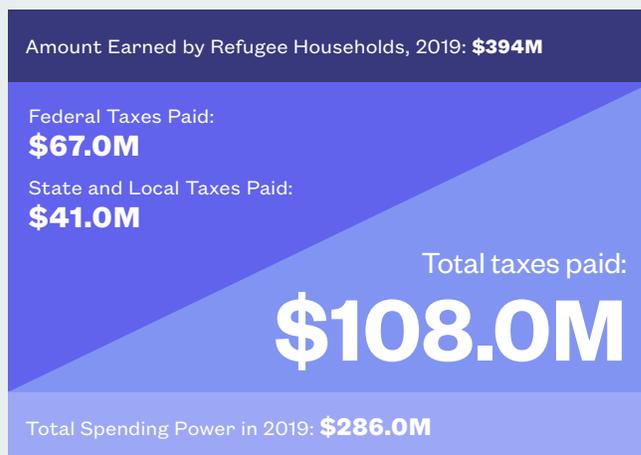
Number of Likely Refugees in 2019

5.1%

Refugee Share of Immigrant Population

*In Prince George's County, refugee households earned nearly **\$394.0 million** in 2019. This allowed them to contribute more than **\$41.0 million** in state and local taxes.*

FIGURE 29: ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

Refugees in Prince George's County reflect the wider diversity of the county overall. The top country of birth for refugees was Sierra Leone, accounting for an estimated 23.2 percent of the refugee population. Refugees born in Ethiopia (22.0 percent) and Afghanistan (14.7 percent) were the next two largest countries of origin.

Compared to immigrants overall in Prince George's County, refugees have a slightly higher educational attainment profile. Whereas 27.4 percent of all immigrant adults in the county have a college degree, more than one-third, or 35.1 percent, of refugees do.

Compared with all immigrant workers in Prince George's County, refugee workers appear more concentrated in certain jobs, particularly in the healthcare and professional services industries. More than one-third of all refugee workers, or 34.2 percent, work in the healthcare and social assistance industry, which includes hospitals, nursing homes, and childcare centers.

Refugees in Prince George's County also have a much higher naturalization rate than other immigrant residents. Whereas under half, or 41.8 percent, of immigrants in the county have obtained U.S. citizenship, more than 60.0 percent of refugees in the county have naturalized since arriving in the U.S.

FIGURE 30: TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AMONG THE REFUGEE POPULATION IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

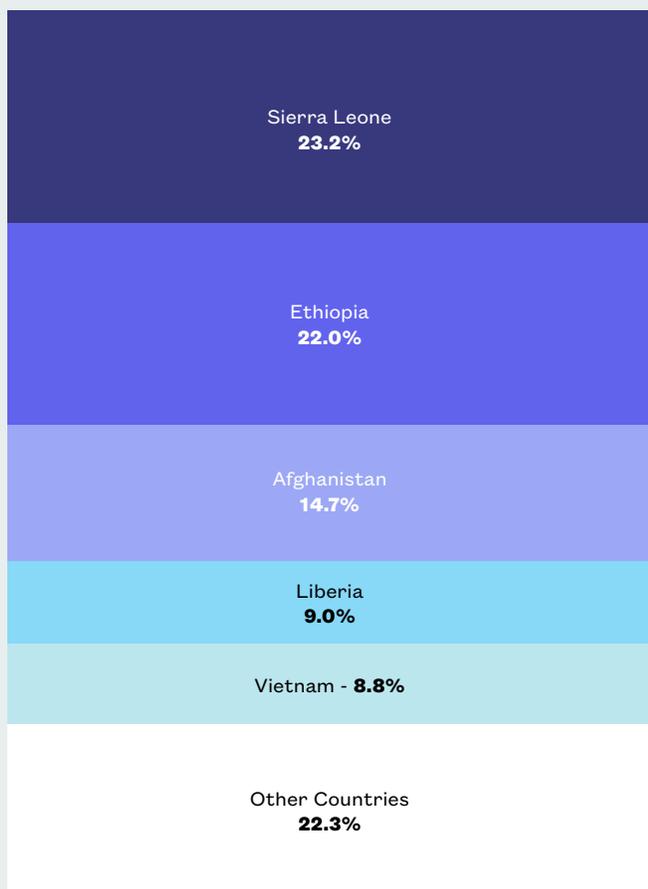


FIGURE 31: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF REFUGEES (AGES 25+) IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

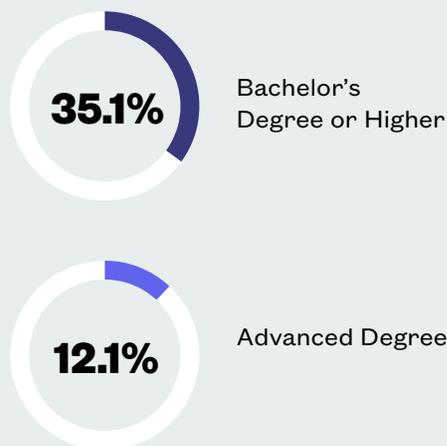
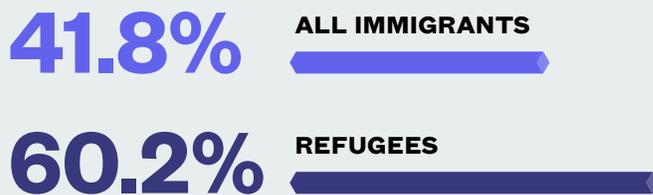


FIGURE 32: NATURALIZATION AMONG IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

SPOTLIGHT ON

THE TPS-ELIGIBLE POPULATION

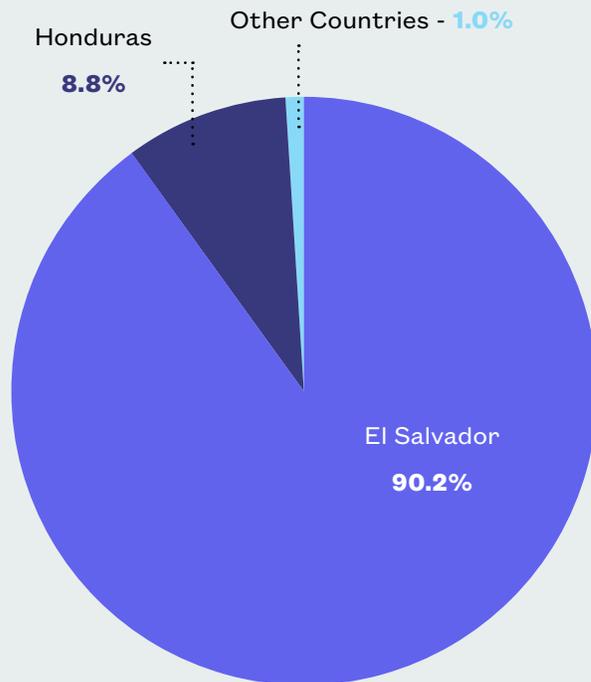
While the refugee resettlement program is meant to provide a permanent home for people fleeing war, conflict, and disaster, the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program is meant to provide temporary shelter to nationals of countries that are confronting an ongoing armed conflict, environmental disaster, or extraordinary and temporary conditions. Since its creation in 1990, TPS has served as a lifeline to hundreds of thousands of people who could not safely return to their home countries.

Nationals of a designated TPS country do not automatically receive TPS but instead must register during a defined registration period, pay significant fees, and submit an application to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). An individual's immigration status at the time of application for TPS has no effect on their eligibility, nor does the previous issuance of an order of removal. If eligible and granted TPS, that person receives a temporary stay of deportation and temporary authorization to work in the U.S. TPS beneficiaries are also eligible for advance parole, which provides permission to travel abroad and return to the U.S., but they must apply for it separately. Beneficiaries are not eligible for any public assistance by virtue of their TPS status.¹⁵

The data reveals that Prince George's County is a home, however temporary, to a significant number of TPS-eligible individuals. In 2019, there were an estimated 13,000 TPS-eligible people in the county, making them 6.3 percent of the county's immigrants and more than 1.4 percent of the county's overall population.

More than 9 in 10 TPS-eligible individuals in Prince George's County are from El Salvador, which was first designated as a TPS country in 2001. In a distant second place are TPS-eligible individuals from Honduras, who make up 8.8 percent of the TPS population. Honduras was first designated as a TPS country in 1999.¹⁶

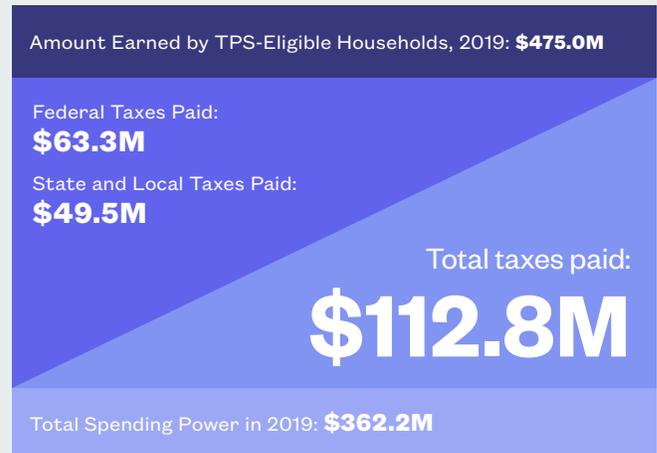
FIGURE 33: TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AMONG THE TPS-ELIGIBLE POPULATION IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Despite their difficult situations, in 2019 alone, TPS-eligible households earned almost \$475.0 million in income. This allowed them to pay more than \$63.3 million in federal income taxes and almost \$49.5 million in combined state and local taxes. After taxes, this left TPS-eligible households with more than \$362.2 million in spending power each year, a significant amount for such a relatively small population.

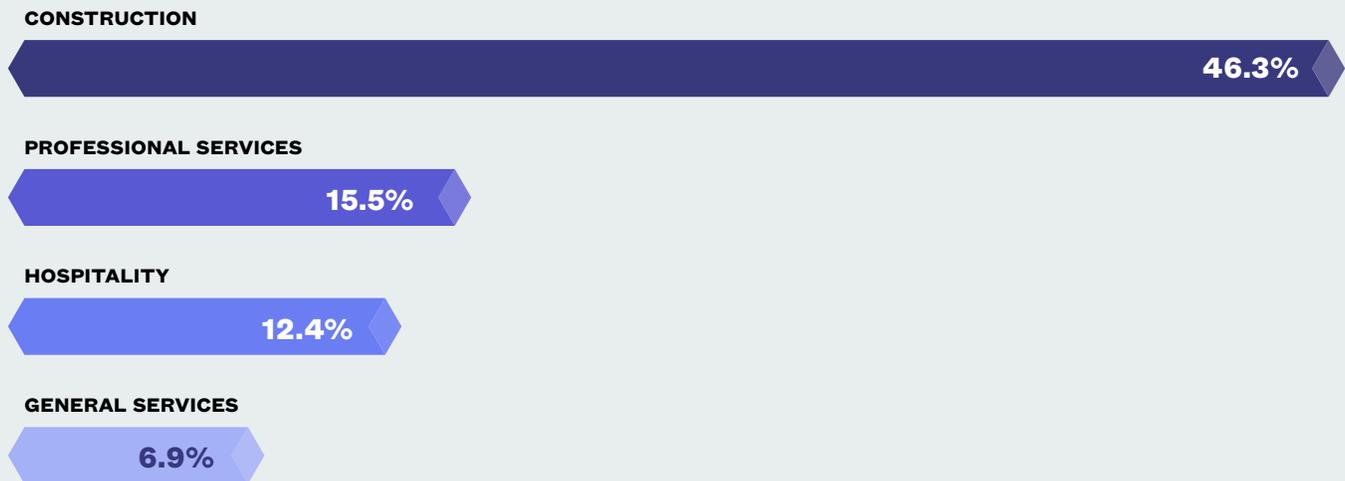
Compared to all immigrant workers in Prince George's County, TPS-eligible workers were heavily concentrated in the construction industry. Nearly half, or 46.3 percent, of TPS workers were in the construction industry. A smaller share, 15.5 percent, worked in professional services, while other top concentrations were in hospitality (12.4 percent) and general services (6.9 percent).

FIGURE 34: ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF TPS HOUSEHOLDS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.

FIGURE 35: TOP INDUSTRIES AMONG TPS-ELIGIBLE WORKERS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Source: American Immigration Council analysis of 2014 and 2019 American Community Survey.



New Americans in Prince George's County and the Impact of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Communities in the Region

Acknowledgements

This report was made possible by a grant from Prince George's County and was championed by former Councilmember Dani Taveras.

The American Immigration Council would like to thank Prince George's County and the community partners across the county who led the community survey effort, particularly [CASA Prince George's County](#).

Executive Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic [disproportionally affected](#) vulnerable communities across the United States, including racial and ethnic minorities and immigrants. Many have faced and continue to face severe challenges in meeting the essential needs of their families and processing mental health issues, both of which were exacerbated by the prolonged stress and isolation of the pandemic.

To better support vulnerable communities and to ensure that Prince George's County's emergency services provide equitable access to all of its residents, the American Immigration Council (the Council) worked with the county, under the leadership of former Councilmember Deni Taveras, and local community organizations to survey Prince George's County residents about their experiences during the pandemic. The COVID-19 Community Impact Survey, conducted between October and December of 2022, asked Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC)—which includes Hispanics—and immigrant communities in Prince George's County about the essential needs of their families, the impact of COVID-19 on their wellbeing, and the help they received from local organizations.



KEY FINDINGS

A significant share of Black, Indigenous, people of color and immigrant residents in Prince George's County experience financial hardship. Among the respondents:

- ▶ When thinking about the immediate future, Black, Indigenous, and people of color were most worried about getting enough food to feed their family (57.0 percent), paying utilities or other bills (57.0 percent), paying down debt (43.0 percent), and paying for emergency expenses (41.0 percent).
- ▶ Getting enough food (57.0 percent) and paying utilities or bills (55.0 percent) were also among the top concerns of immigrants, followed by paying down debt (44.0 percent).
- ▶ Yet nearly 71.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and nearly 72.0 percent of immigrants did not receive a stimulus check from the federal government in 2020.
- ▶ More than 69.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants had to reduce other essential spending in order to pay their rent or mortgage.
- ▶ 4.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and 5.0 percent of immigrants reported that they were unable to pay their rent or mortgage on time, and 0.5 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants said they had been evicted.

Many internationally trained immigrants struggle to find or keep jobs in the fields they were trained in.

- ▶ Among immigrants that had a post-secondary degree or certification from an institution outside of the U.S., only 14.5 percent reported being employed in a field that fully utilizes their education and training, while nearly two-thirds (61.4 percent) planned to further their education to meet U.S. requirements.
- ▶ For immigrants who have earned a postsecondary degree or certification from an institution outside the U.S. and have professional experience abroad, at least 23.0 percent lost the jobs they had before the pandemic that utilized their international education and training.

KEY FINDINGS

Access to quality, timely health care is essential to preserve a community's wellbeing, yet many Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants face barriers when trying to go to the doctor.

- ▶ More than 83.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and nearly 84.0 percent of immigrants said they did not have access to paid sick time if they became ill.
- ▶ More than one-third of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants were unable to access needed medical care; of those, around two-thirds cited financial concerns as the reason.

Community organizations are providing Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrant residents with much-needed assistance, yet more can be done. The survey found that:

- ▶ More than 58.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants agreed that there is a local organization that they can turn to for help getting their basic needs met.
- ▶ More than 62.0 percent of both Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants noted that, if in need, they would most likely receive food assistance from a church.

Local government is also providing Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrant residents with much-needed assistance, and there, too, more can be done. The survey found that:

- ▶ Among the respondents who reported receiving county government assistance, nearly 82.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and over 79.0 percent of immigrants received help securing food, and nearly 12.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color, and more than 13.0 percent of immigrants received rental or mortgage assistance.
- ▶ Nearly three-quarters of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants felt that they have regular access to timely, accurate information in their preferred language.
- ▶ Among the respondents that utilized county resources, 68.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and 70.0 percent of immigrants said they used the health department's vaccination clinics. Additionally, almost 48.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants said they picked up free COVID-19 tests, and more than 33.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and 34.0 percent of immigrants said they picked up free food at schools and specified locations.

KEY FINDINGS

Securing stable employment—which was dramatically impacted by the pandemic—continues to represent obstacles for Black, Indigenous, other people of color, and immigrant residents.

- ▶ More than 40.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color, and nearly 42.0 percent of immigrants reported that they are employed formally in a full-time job; 16.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and 15.0 percent of immigrants said they are employed formally in a part-time job.
- ▶ About 18.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants reported that they are employed in an informal job without a contract, regular payment, or stable working conditions.
- ▶ During the pandemic, over 35.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants reported that they lost a job: over 50.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants reported having their hours reduced; and 39.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants said they received a pay cut.

Many Black, Indigenous, people of color and immigrant residents reported facing obstacles and having difficulty with their children's education during the pandemic.

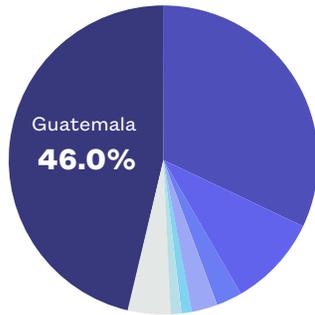
- ▶ Over 76.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and over 74.0 percent of immigrants with children said they had their children at home because daycares and schools were closed during the pandemic.
- ▶ More than 32.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants reported lacking a reliable or affordable internet connection at home for their children's online classes, and over 31.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants reported lacking a computer, tablet, or other device their children needed for school work.
- ▶ More than 45.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and more than 44.0 percent of immigrants with needs for childcare and education reported that they experienced a little bit of difficulty with the process of enrolling their children in the Prince George's County public schools.

Impact of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Communities in Prince George's County

Nationwide, COVID-19 had a disproportionate impact on economically disadvantaged families, who often had difficulty paying for bills, accessing medical care, getting food, and accounting for childcare. To identify both the essential needs of vulnerable communities and any gaps in assistance, the American Immigration Council worked with Prince George's County and local community groups to survey Black, Indigenous, and people of color, immigrant, and Hispanic residents about their experiences during the pandemic. The COVID-19 Community Impact Survey focused on communities of color and neighborhoods that were hit hard by the pandemic, aiming to identify opportunities for the county to address disparities and support these communities during the pandemic and through the economic recovery.



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF IMMIGRANT RESPONDENTS



Share of Respondents

- Guatemala 46.0%
- El Salvador 32.1%
- Honduras 9.6%
- Dominican Republic 2.7%
- Mexico 2.7%
- Cuba 1.1%
- Panama 1.1%
- Other (including Afghanistan, Bolivia, Cameroon, Chile, Ecuador, Guinea, Haiti, Peru, and Venezuela): 4.7%

RACE AND ETHNICITY OF ALL RESPONDENTS

Share of Respondents

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Hispanic or Latinx | 96.5% |
| Indigenous from Latin America | 24.0% |
| White | 21.2% |
| Some other race | 20.1% |
| Two or more races | 4.5% |
| Black or African American | 2.8% |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 0.6% |

Demographics

There were 201 valid responses to the COVID-19 Community Impact Survey in Prince George's County. Of those, 194 identified themselves as Black, Indigenous, and people of color, and 187 identified themselves as immigrants, showing a significant overlap.

The majority of all respondents (72.7 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and 71.5 percent of immigrants) were between the ages of 25 and 64, making them more likely to actively participate in the labor force. In addition, 50.5 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color, and 48.9 percent of immigrants were women.

Breaking down the respondents by race and ethnicity, 99.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color, and 96.2 percent of immigrants identified as Hispanic or Latinx. In addition, 24.9 percent and 24.4 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants, respectively, identified as indigenous from Latin America; 21.4 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and 20.8 percent of immigrants identified as white; 20.8 percent of each group identified as "some other race"; and 4.6 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and 3.6 percent of immigrants identified as "two or more races".

Looking at country of origin, 46.0 percent of immigrants and 44.8 percent of all respondents were born in Guatemala, followed by El Salvador (32.1 percent of immigrants and 31.3 percent of all respondents); Honduras (9.6 percent and 9.4 percent); the Dominican Republic or Mexico (both countries 2.7 percent and 2.6 percent); Cuba and Panama (both countries 1.1 percent and 1.0 percent); and 0.5 percent of both immigrants and all respondents from each of Afghanistan, Bolivia, Cameroon, Chile, Ecuador, Guinea, Haiti, Peru, and Venezuela.

Additionally, a majority of respondents reported their household income at or below \$40,000 in 2022, which is roughly 140.0 percent of the federal poverty level for a household of four. Specifically, 60.2 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color, and 60.1 percent of immigrants reported this income. A significant share — 78.8 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and 78.5 percent of immigrants — did not have a bachelor's degree, limiting their access to a number of higher-paying jobs.

Household Wellbeing

The survey, conducted between October and December of 2022, listed eight common concerns for a family's wellbeing and asked respondents to check all that they were worried about for the coming month. Immigrants, particularly those who were likely to be refugees or asylees, were most concerned about getting enough food for their families (56.9 percent and 64.7 percent, respectively), followed by paying utilities or other bills and paying down debt. Of respondents who were likely to be a refugee or asylees, over 17.0 percent were concerned with accessing shelter (compared to just over 10.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants). Of all respondents who were recent arrivals (those who arrived in the U.S. in the past five years), 4.0 percent were concerned with accessing shelter.

“As human beings, we should support each other, be more compassionate, kind, and humane with others.”

- Survey respondent

TABLE 1: WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE COMING MONTH, ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT BEING ABLE TO...?

| | Black, Indigenous, and people of color | Hispanic | Immigrants | Refugees and Asylees | Recent Arrivals | Immigrants with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) |
|--|--|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| Pay for healthcare and medicine for your family | 39.8% | 39.9% | 39.8% | 47.1% | 34.2% | 38.0% |
| Get enough food for your family | 56.5% | 56.8% | 56.9% | 64.7% | 56.2% | 60.1% |
| Pay utilities or other bills | 56.5% | 57.4% | 55.2% | 47.1% | 54.8% | 54.6% |
| Pay down debt | 43.0% | 43.2% | 44.2% | 47.1% | 35.6% | 43.6% |
| Pay for emergency expenses | 40.9% | 41.5% | 40.3% | 29.4% | 32.9% | 41.1% |
| Access shelter for your family | 10.8% | 10.9% | 10.5% | 17.6% | 4.1% | 11.7% |
| Receive assistance escaping an abusive environment | 5.9% | 6.0% | 6.1% | 0.0% | 1.4% | 6.7% |
| Receive financial or legal assistance for immigration issues | 20.4% | 20.8% | 19.9% | 29.4% | 19.2% | 22.7% |

Many families reported in the survey that they struggled to pay their rent or mortgage. While only 4.2 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color, and 5.4 percent of immigrants reported being unable to make their payments, more than two-thirds of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants said they were only able to do so by reducing other essential spending. Refugees and asylees were most likely to report being behind on their housing payments (11.1 percent).

SHARE OF RESPONDENTS WHO REPORTED BEING UNABLE TO MAKE RENTAL OR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS

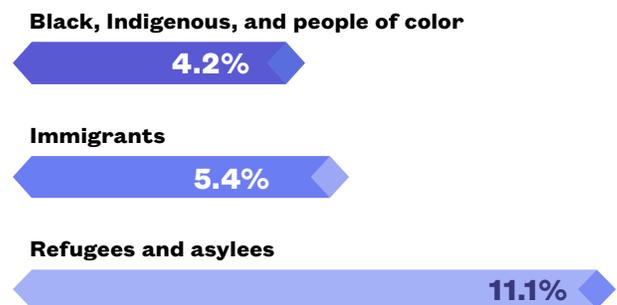


TABLE 2: HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD YOUR RENT OR MORTGAGE THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC?

| | Black, Indigenous, and people of color | Hispanic | Immigrants | Refugees and Asylees | Recent Arrivals | Immigrants with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) |
|--|--|--------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| Yes, we have paid our rent or mortgage in full and on-time | 18.2% | 18.4% | 17.3% | 16.7% | 18.4% | 14.4% |
| Yes, but we had to reduce other essential spending to meet housing expenses | 69.3% | 69.5% | 69.2% | 44.4% | 64.5% | 71.9% |
| No, we are behind on our rent or mortgage but not facing eviction or foreclosure | 3.1% | 2.6% | 3.8% | 5.6% | 2.6% | 3.6% |
| No, we are facing eviction or foreclosure for not paying our rent or mortgage | 0.5% | 0.5% | 1.1% | 5.6% | 1.3% | 0.6% |
| Already evicted for not paying rent or mortgage | 0.5% | 0.5% | 0.5% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.6% |

Help with childcare also became critical for families when in-person classes shut down during the pandemic. Of the surveyed families with needs for education and childcare during the pandemic, more than 32.0 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants said they lacked the reliable internet and computer equipment their children needed for schoolwork. A slightly higher percentage (34.4 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and 37.1 percent of immigrants) worried their children would be academically behind after the pandemic.

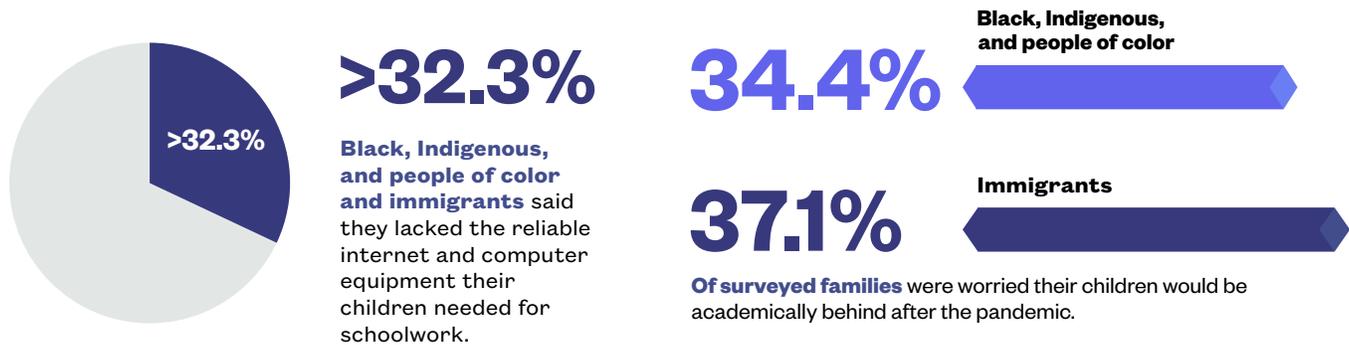


TABLE 3: WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAMILY'S EXPERIENCE WITH EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE DURING THE PANDEMIC?

| | Black, Indigenous, and people of color | Hispanic | Immigrants | Refugees and Asylees | Recent Arrivals | Immigrants with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) |
|--|--|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| Having children at home because daycares and schools are closed | 76.3% | 76.1% | 74.2% | 75.0% | 70.6% | 76.5% |
| Lacked childcare support during school hours | 23.7% | 23.9% | 23.6% | 25.0% | 17.6% | 23.5% |
| Lacked a reliable internet connection at home for children's online classes | 32.3% | 32.6% | 32.6% | 25.0% | 26.5% | 34.6% |
| Lacked computer, tablet, or other devices for schoolwork | 31.2% | 31.5% | 31.5% | 25.0% | 14.7% | 32.1% |
| Unsure how to help my children with their schoolwork or the technology | 30.1% | 30.4% | 30.3% | 12.5% | 11.8% | 29.6% |
| Worried my children are academically behind | 34.4% | 34.8% | 37.1% | 50.0% | 26.5% | 32.1% |
| Communications from school districts are not available in our primary language | 11.8% | 12.0% | 11.2% | 25.0% | 5.9% | 12.3% |

Language Access

While many Black, Indigenous, people of color and immigrant residents face challenges paying bills, securing childcare, and accessing educational support, immigrants with limited English proficiency (LEP) have a particularly difficult time getting the help they need.

Of the immigrants surveyed, 29.0 percent said they were at least able to carry on a basic conversation and read simple paragraphs in English, including 11.8 percent who said they could easily communicate in English. More than two-thirds (71.0 percent), on the other hand, said they could either understand only a few words of English (54.8 percent) or could not communicate at all in English (16.1 percent). More than three-quarters (78.7 percent) of those who had been in the country five years or less said they could only understand a few words of English (57.3 percent) or could not communicate in English at all (21.3 percent).

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY OF PEOPLE WHOSE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH

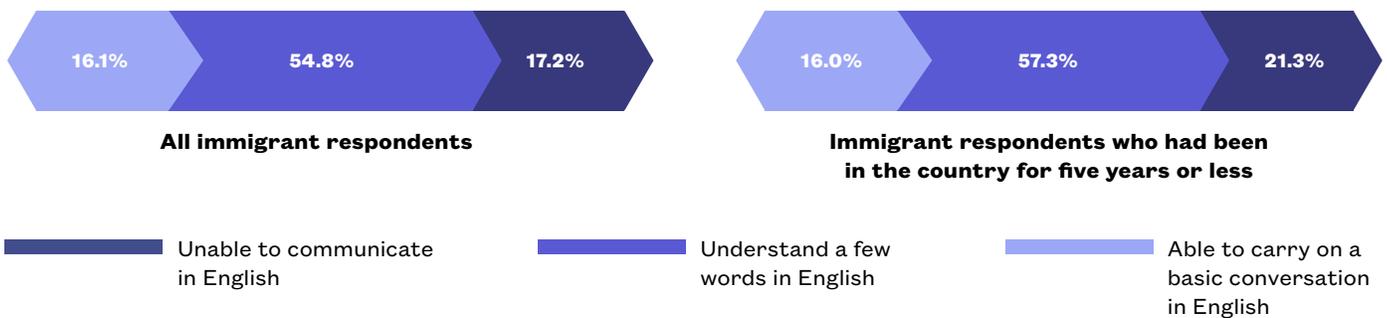


TABLE 4: ENGLISH PROFICIENCY OF PEOPLE WHOSE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH

| | Hispanic | Immigrants | Refugees and Asylees | Recent Arrivals |
|--|--------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Not able to communicate in English at all | 15.5% | 16.1% | 22.2% | 21.3% |
| Able to understand a few words | 54.0% | 54.8% | 44.4% | 57.3% |
| Able to carry on a basic conversation and read simple paragraphs | 17.7% | 17.2% | 16.7% | 16.0% |
| Able to communicate easily about everyday things | 7.0% | 6.5% | 11.1% | 2.7% |
| Highly proficient in spoken and written English | 2.1% | 2.7% | 0.0% | 2.7% |
| Fluent | 3.7% | 2.7% | 5.6% | 0.0% |

One major challenge of the COVID-19 crisis has been to figure out how to counter misinformation and get accurate information to vulnerable communities, especially in the languages people prefer.

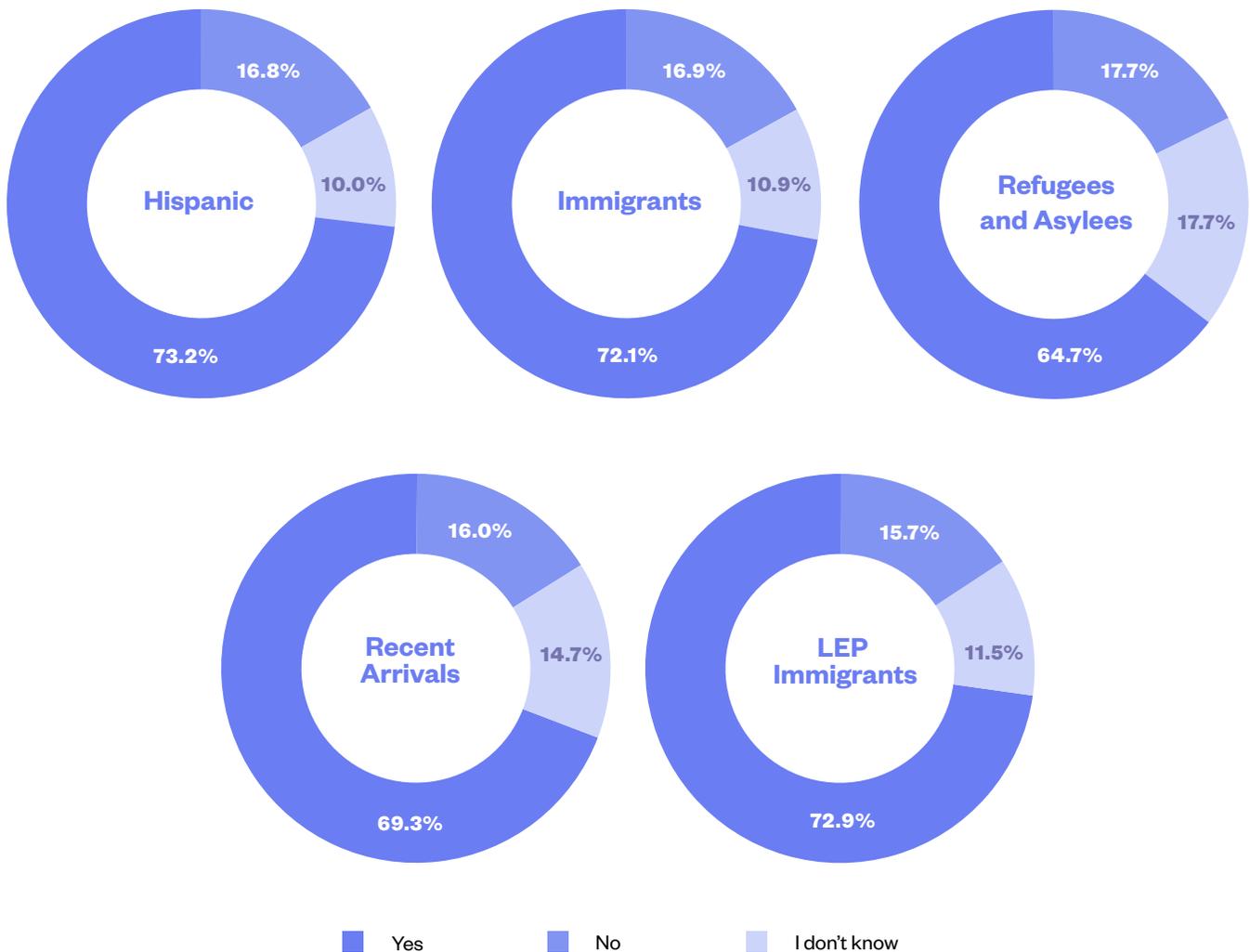
1 in 6

immigrants said they did not have regular access to timely, accurate information during the pandemic in their preferred language.

1 in 10

did not know if they had regular access to timely, accurate information during the pandemic in their preferred language.

FIGURE 5: DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE REGULAR ACCESS TO TIMELY, ACCURATE INFORMATION DURING THE PANDEMIC IN YOUR PREFERRED LANGUAGE?



If the county wants to reach vulnerable communities during emergencies — or any time — it’s important to know where people in these communities turn for news they believe they can trust. The news media was the top trusted source of information about COVID-19 and where to get help during the pandemic for immigrants (51.5 percent) and Black, Indigenous, and people of color (50.8 percent), followed by family and friends (38.5 percent and 38.6 percent, respectively) and social media (30.8 percent and 31.7 percent). Recent arrivals were slightly more likely to rely on family and friends, social media, religious organizations, and medical professionals than were other groups.

TABLE 6: WHAT IS YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 AND WHERE TO GET HELP DURING THIS PANDEMIC?

| | Black, Indigenous, and people of color | Hispanic | Immigrants | Refugees and Asylees | Recent Arrivals | Immigrants with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) |
|---|--|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Federal government (e.g., president, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)) | 22.2% | 21.9% | 22.0% | 29.4% | 17.6% | 19.5% |
| State government (e.g., governor, health department) | 12.2% | 11.8% | 12.6% | 17.6% | 17.6% | 12.2% |
| City or county government | 13.8% | 13.4% | 13.2% | 11.8% | 12.2% | 12.8% |
| News media | 50.8% | 50.8% | 51.1% | 47.1% | 52.7% | 51.2% |
| Social media | 31.7% | 32.1% | 30.8% | 35.3% | 41.9% | 31.1% |
| Family and friends | 38.6% | 38.5% | 38.5% | 35.3% | 41.9% | 40.2% |
| Religious institutions | 18.5% | 18.7% | 18.7% | 17.6% | 21.6% | 19.5% |
| Nonprofit organization | 10.6% | 10.2% | 9.3% | 11.8% | 8.1% | 9.8% |
| Medical professional | 11.6% | 11.8% | 10.4% | 11.8% | 14.9% | 11.0% |
| Employer | 5.3% | 5.3% | 4.9% | 11.8% | 4.1% | 4.3% |
| Other | 5.8% | 5.9% | 4.9% | 11.8% | 4.1% | 5.5% |
| Unknown | 9.0% | 9.1% | 9.3% | 5.9% | 9.5% | 9.8% |

Internationally Trained Immigrants

The economic recession that accompanied the pandemic posed a significant challenge to immigrants who gained their advanced education, training, and experience abroad. Among immigrants that had a post-secondary degree or certification from an institution outside of the U.S., only 14.5 percent reported being employed in a field that fully utilizes their education and training, while nearly two-thirds (61.4 percent) planned to further their education to meet U.S. requirements.

TABLE 7: EMPLOYMENT STATUS FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED IMMIGRANT TALENT

| | Hispanic | Immigrants | Refugees and Asylees | Recent Arrivals | Immigrants with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) |
|---|----------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| I am employed in a field that fully utilizes my international education and training | 15.3% | 14.5% | 25.0% | 18.2% | 16.7% |
| Before the pandemic, I was working in a field I was trained in but am currently unemployed | 4.7% | 6.0% | 25.0% | 11.4% | 6.4% |
| Before the pandemic, I was working in a field that I was trained in but am currently working outside this field | 16.5% | 16.9% | 25.0% | 11.4% | 16.7% |
| Before the pandemic, I was not working in the field I am trained in and am still not in the field | 14.1% | 15.7% | 12.5% | 15.9% | 11.5% |
| I am seeking to work in a field similar to the one I had abroad | 25.9% | 25.3% | 0.0% | 22.7% | 24.4% |
| I am seeking to pursue further education to qualify for a career in the U.S. | 60.0% | 61.4% | 50.0% | 63.6% | 60.3% |

*“Many of us **lost our jobs**, which affected us economically, and we had **to resort to seeking help from churches for food.**”* – Survey respondent

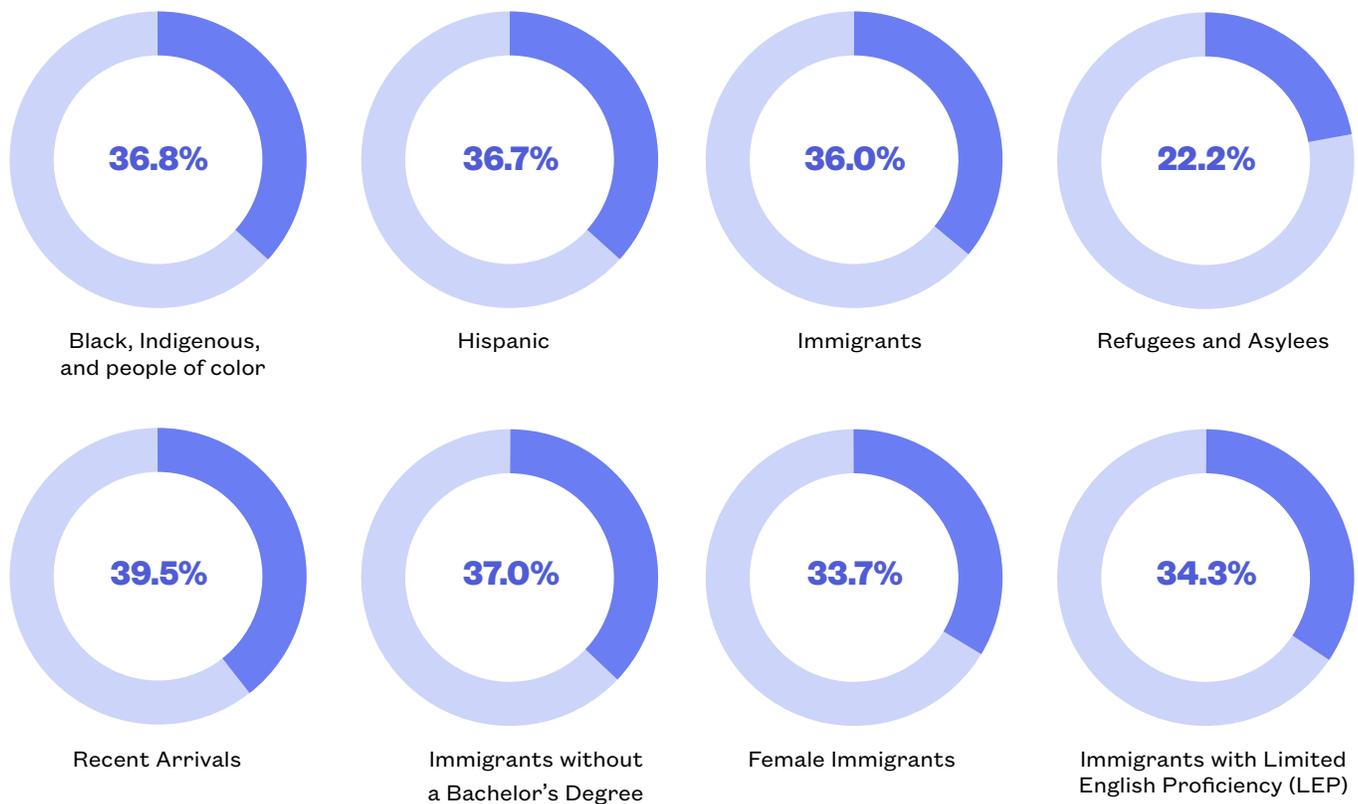
Small Business Owners

Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrant business owners were hit hard during the pandemic lockdowns and the economic recession that followed. The number of self-employed respondents in Prince George's County alone was too small to evaluate with any statistical accuracy.

Social Isolation and Mental Health

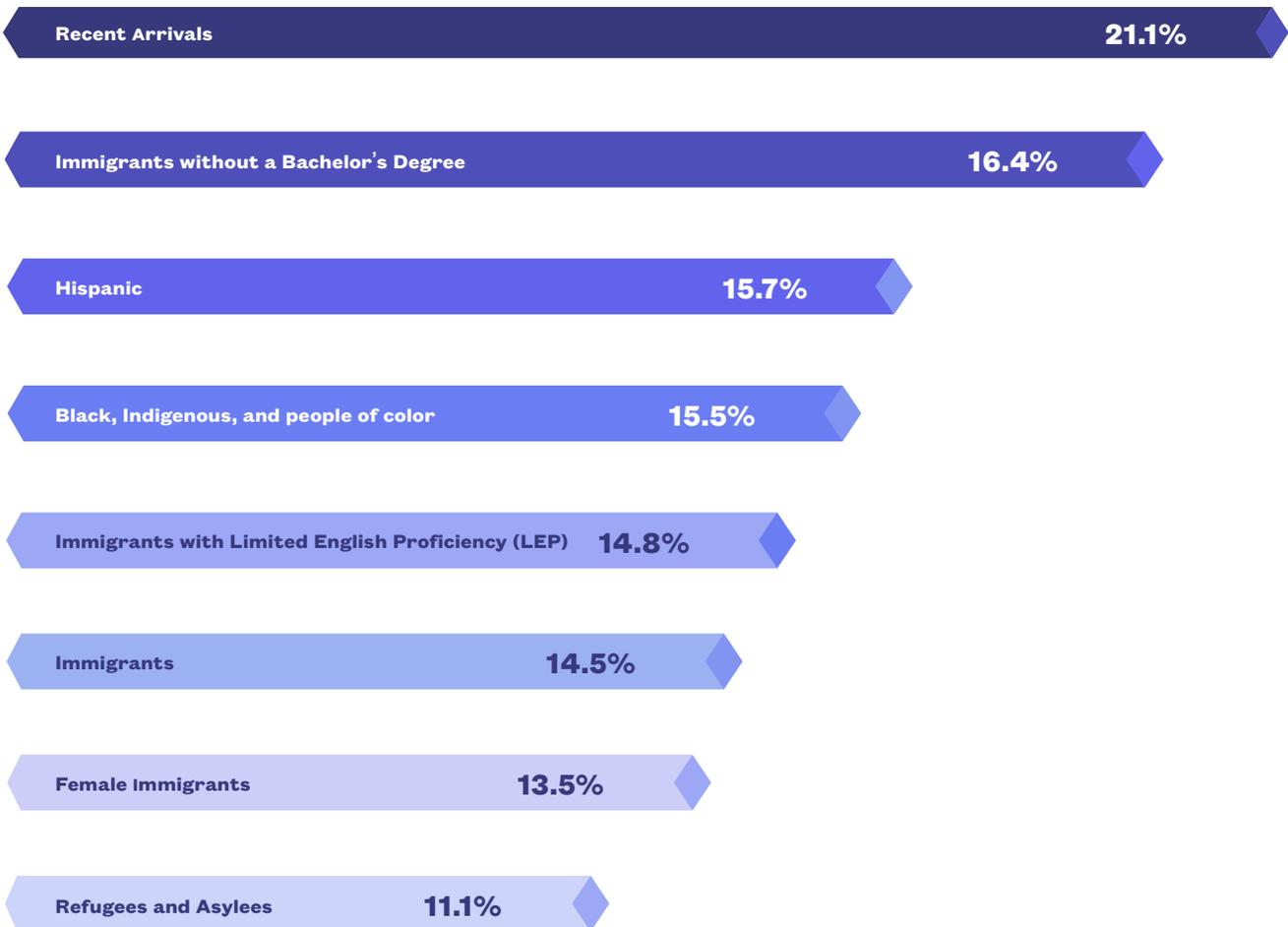
The COVID-19 pandemic socially isolated Americans and exacerbated the mental health conditions of many individuals, including those in vulnerable communities. Lockdowns and travel restrictions, put in place to slow the spread of the virus, kept many people from connecting with family and friends, or from expanding their local networks. More than one-third of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (36.8 percent) and immigrant (36.0 percent) survey respondents said they needed mental health care during the pandemic. However, 14.5 percent of the surveyed immigrants and 15.5 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color said they did not think that mental health care was available to them.

FIGURE 9: SHARE OF PEOPLE WHO NEEDED MENTAL CARE DURING THE PANDEMIC



“We need access to low-cost medical establishments.” – Survey respondent

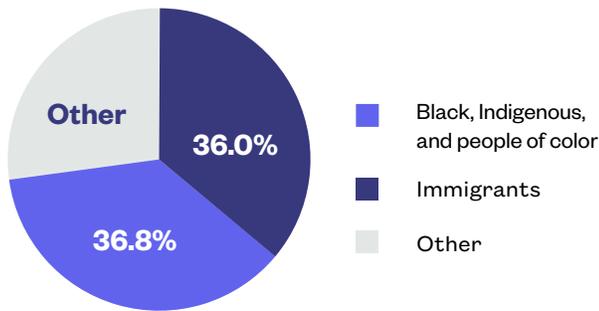
FIGURE 10: SHARE OF PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T BELIEVE MENTAL HEALTH CARE WAS AVAILABLE TO THEM



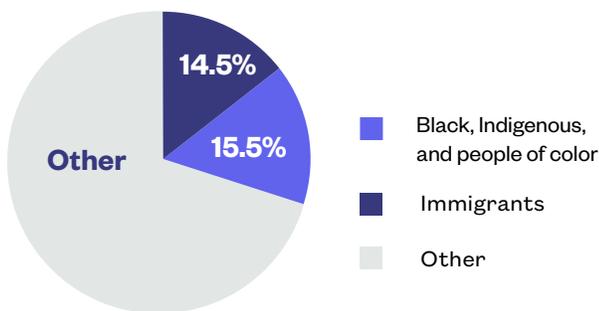
*“I would like **more support in terms of mental health for young people and low-income families regardless of their immigration status.**”*

– Survey respondent

Share of respondents who needed mental care during the pandemic



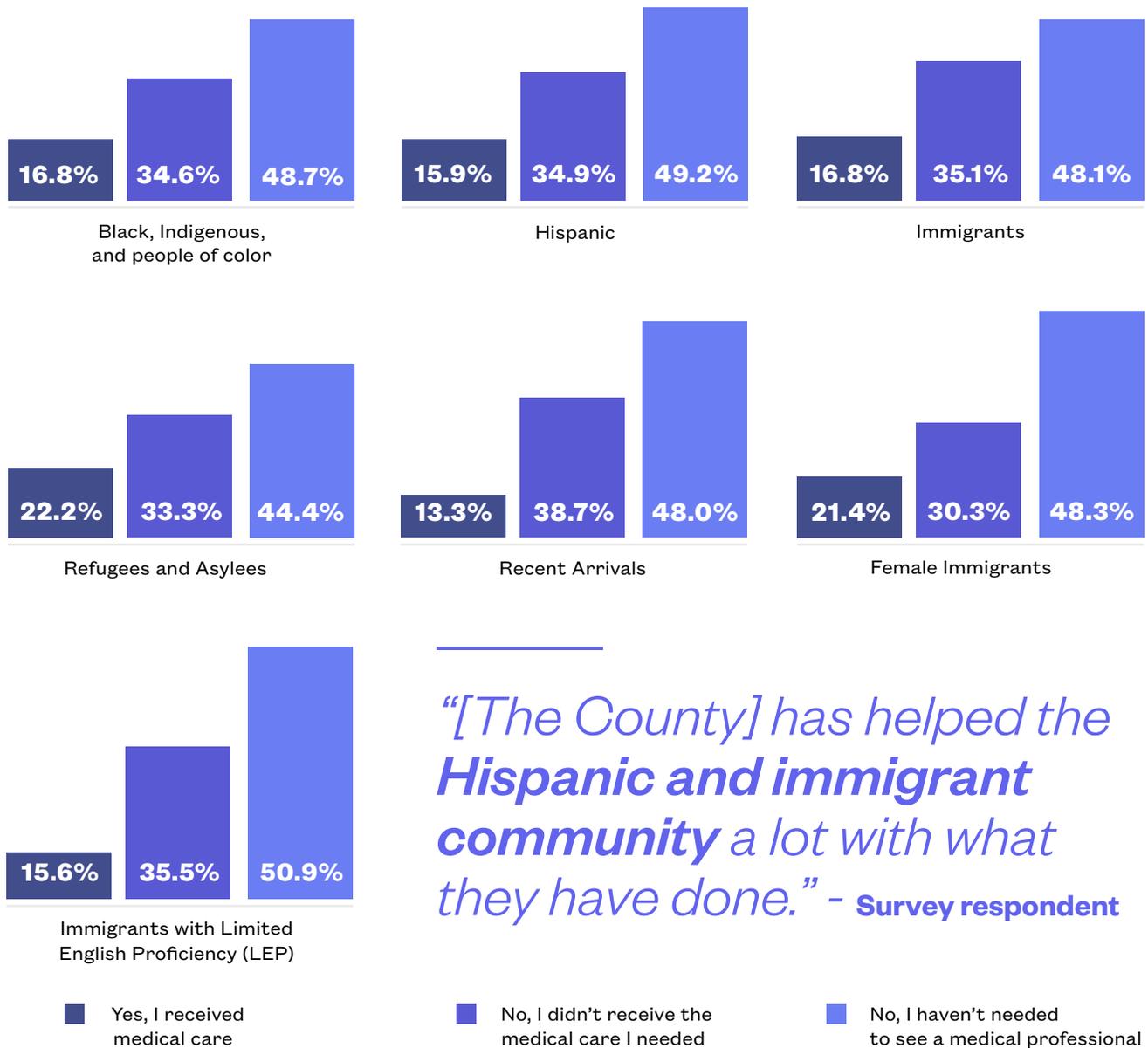
Share of respondents who did not believe mental care was available to them



More than one-third of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants said they did not get the medical care they needed during the pandemic. While about half of all the respondents needed to see a medical provider at some point during the pandemic, only 16.8 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrants said they received medical care.

“The PG County should set up food banks accessible to the community. There is a need for health insurance for the entire community. If there were health insurance, everything would be easier and we would not easily end up at the emergency door.” - Survey respondent

FIGURE 11: HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO GET MEDICAL CARE DURING THE PANDEMIC?



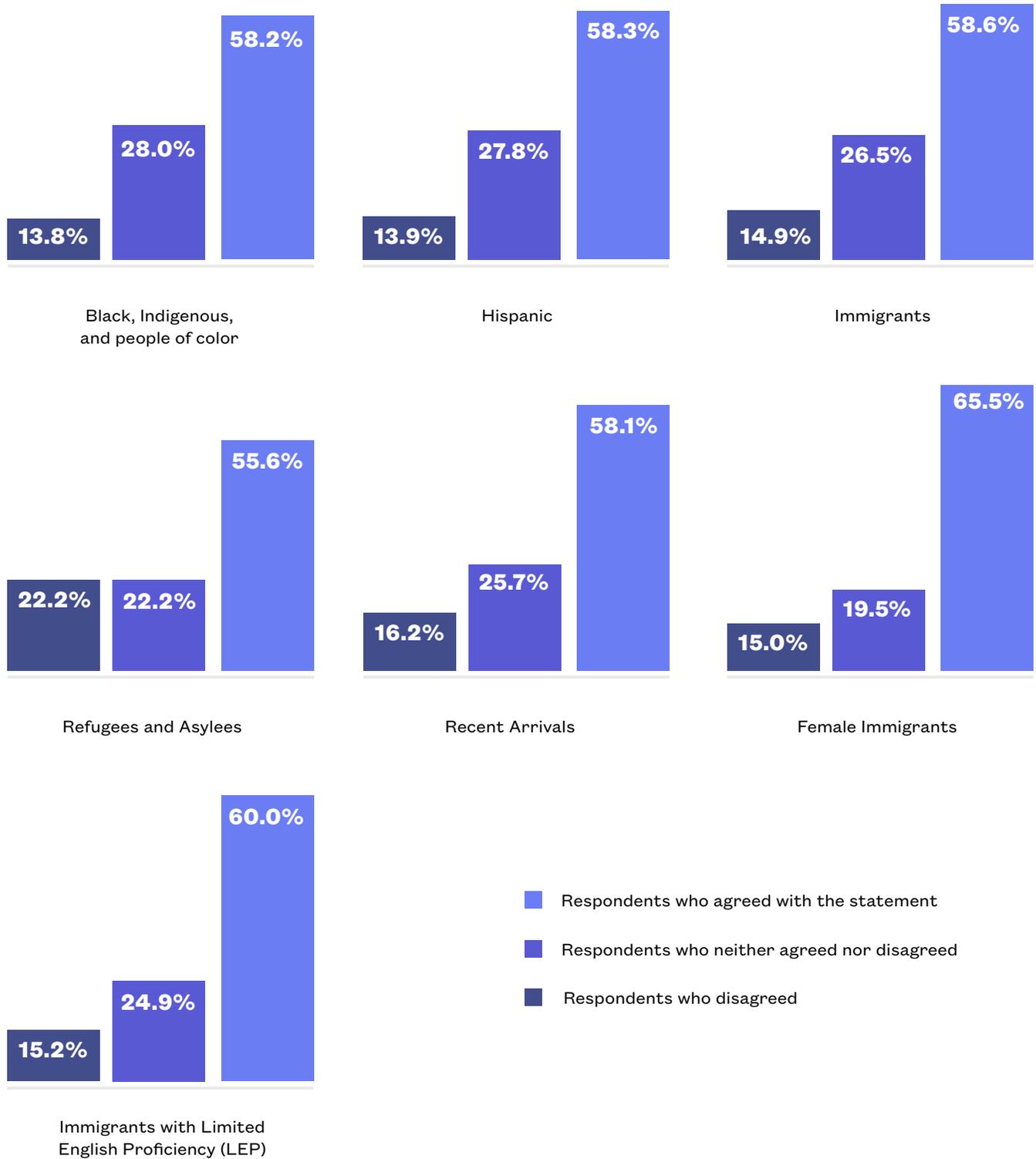
“[The County] has helped the Hispanic and immigrant community a lot with what they have done.” - Survey respondent

Community Support

Local organizations play a significant role in helping Prince George's County's residents. 58.6 percent of immigrants and 58.2 percent of Black, Indigenous, and people of color surveyed said they knew of a local organization they could turn to should they need help with healthcare, housing, food, or other essentials. However, that still left a sizable percentage of individuals unaware of an organization they could turn to for support, including nearly a quarter (22.2 percent) of refugees, asylees, and more than one in seven immigrants (14.9 percent).

These findings may be skewed due to the data collection method used in Prince George's County, which used community workers from trusted organizations to collect surveys.

FIGURE 12: THERE IS A LOCAL ORGANIZATION I KNOW THAT I COULD TURN TO IF I NEEDED HELP GETTING HEALTHCARE, HOUSING, FOOD, OR OTHER ASSISTANCE



Methodology of Prince George's County Community Impact Survey

Local officials from Prince George's County and community organizations oversaw the development and implementation of the COVID-19 Community Impact Survey, with the goal of surveying at least 200 residents.

The 50-item quantitative and qualitative survey was translated into French and Spanish. Multilingual community leaders and volunteers were recruited to provide interpretation via phone and in-person survey collection.

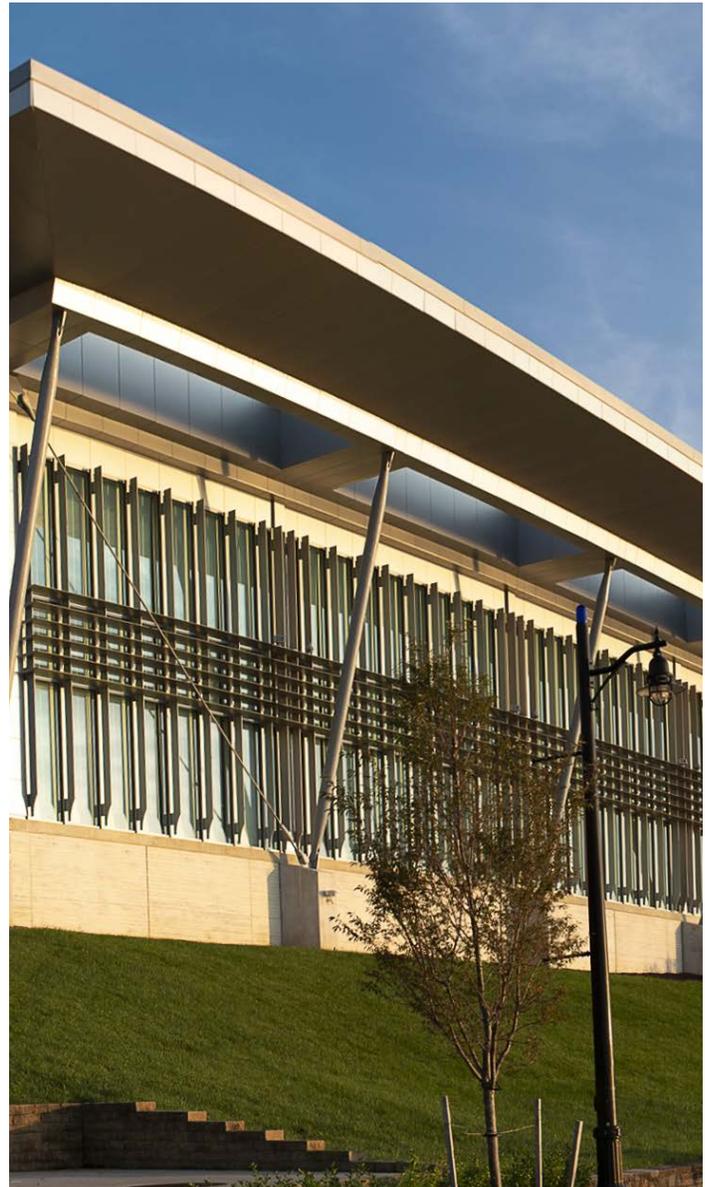
Prince George's County relied on multiple outreach strategies to ensure Black, Indigenous, and people of color and immigrant populations were well-represented in the survey. The first strategy was to partner with CASA Prince George's County, a local nonprofit that works to improve the quality of life for Black, Indigenous, and people of color residents. Between October and December 2022, CASA hosted multiple workshops, including English classes and health programs, where attendees were encouraged to participate in the survey. The county also posted the survey on social media including, Facebook and Nextdoor, shared the survey with community partners, conducted interviews with local media, and shared posters and flyers about the survey at nonprofits and Black, Indigenous, and people of color businesses.

In total, the Council received valid survey responses from 201 adult residents in Prince George's County. The Council did not collect personal information, such as names, telephone numbers, or any potentially identifying information. The Council shared participants' email addresses with Prince

George's County partners but only for the purpose of issuing gift cards as incentives for their participation in the survey. The Council did not match the email data with the survey data.

When participants responded to write-in or open-ended questions in a language other than English, the Council asked survey staff to translate the responses into English, if they were able, and input them into the online forms.

For all non-English responses, the Council worked with its staff members, members of local organizations, and a professional agency to translate content into English for the analysis.



Conclusion

This report provides evidence and examples of how immigrants are critical to Prince George's County's economy and community. Immigrants — including naturalized U.S. citizens, refugees, and undocumented individuals — are integral to the county's construction, healthcare, and professional services industries, to name just a few. This report also details the monetary contributions immigrants make by paying taxes to the federal government — which supports social programs that benefit all Americans — and to state and local governments that help fund critical infrastructure, safety, and education programs, including in Prince George's County. In addition to the billions of dollars immigrants pay in taxes, they also spend billions on real estate and consumer goods and create jobs through the businesses they start that help increase local economic activity and employ the county's residents.

Despite these contributions, many immigrants still face significant challenges securing opportunities and benefits that U.S.-born residents typically have greater access to. On average, immigrant households not only earn less than their U.S.-born neighbors do but also experience lower rates of health insurance coverage and the uncertainty that being underinsured or uninsured brings. The COVID-19 crisis exacerbated inequalities, leaving not only immigrants but also racial and ethnic minorities in local communities struggling to meet their basic needs and accessing local services and resources in times of emergency.

Results from the COVID-19 Community Impact Survey show that state and local communities can do more to support vulnerable populations. By enacting inclusive policies that help all residents and position them to reach their full potential, Prince George's County can help immigrants and Black, Indigenous, and people of color create better lives for themselves and their families while building a stronger, more prosperous county for all.



Endnotes

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