

# Social Justice Watch 0827

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# QAnon

is a sprawling conspiracy theory alleging that a cabal of "deep-state" Satan-worshipping pedophiles secretly control America. *Really.*

The movement accuses many liberal celebrities and Democratic politicians of heinous crimes and warns of an impending "apocalyptic reckoning" in which they'll be indicted, *and perhaps executed*, at Guantanamo Bay. Here are a few of the targets of QAnon conspiracies:



(Yes, that list includes Tom Hanks, the Pope, and the Dalai Lama.)

In the QAnon narrative, President Trump is the savior who was specially recruited by the military to fight the deep state.

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT X @NOWSIMPLIFIED  
SOURCE: NEW YORK TIMES, CNN/MARSHALL COHEN



Theories are often shared by an anonymous internet user who calls itself "Q" and claims to be a high-level intelligence officer.

"Q" has shared more than 5,000 cryptic messages on various websites. Many of the posts include specific predictions that simply *do not come true*.

Information is then shared on social media sites like Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook.

Followers often use the hashtag #WWG1WGA ("where we go one, we go all") to coordinate messages.

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT X @NOWSIMPLIFIED  
SOURCE: NEW YORK TIMES



Since the theory first emerged three years ago, Donald Trump himself has employed a wink-and-nod approach to the conspiracy theory - he's regularly retweeted Q followers but conspicuously ignores questions about it or gives vague answers, alleging ignorance.

**But the conspiracy no longer just lives on the fringes & in the nooks and crannies of the internet.**

Marjorie Taylor Green - a QAnon follower from Georgia - recently won her primary election for the House of Representatives. Jo Rae Perkins, a Senate candidate in Oregon, has taken an official "QAnon pledge."

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT X @NOWSIMPLIFIED  
SOURCE: NEW YORK TIMES, FOX NEWS

# Trump eats this shit up.

A few things Trump has said regarding QAnon:

*"They like me very much, which I appreciate."  
"I've heard these are people who love our country."*

And a special congratulations to big time QAnon follower Marjorie Taylor Greene on her primary win:



**Donald J. Trump** @realDonaldTrump · Aug 12

Congratulations to future Republican Star Marjorie Taylor Greene on a big Congressional primary win in Georgia against a very tough and smart opponent. Marjorie is strong on everything and never gives up - a real WINNER!

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT X @NOWSIMPLIFIED  
SOURCE: CNBC, TWITTER



# The GOP Response

While President Trump has made favorable comments about QAnon and its followers, not every GOP response has been positive.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy has denounced the movement, saying that "there is no place" in the GOP for QAnon.

Mike Pence is on a different page than POTUS: "I called it a conspiracy theory, I said I don't have time for it, I don't know anything about it."

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT X @NOWSIMPLIFIED  
SOURCE: CNBC, NEW YORK TIMES, POLITICO



**During the COVID-19 lockdowns,  
online activity around QAnon theories  
has increased substantially.**

Membership in some of the larger Facebook groups has grown by more than 600% in recent months.

*An internal Facebook study, as reported by NBC News, concluded that there were thousands of QAnon groups, with millions of members between them.*

Twitter recently announced it was limiting the reach of over 150,000 QAnon-associated accounts. YouTube has moderated QAnon videos and changed their recommendation algorithm to push users towards more reputable content. Facebook also banned about 900 pages and groups and 1,500 ads. The company also restricted the reach of over 10,000 Instagram pages and almost 2,000 Facebook groups.

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT X @NOWSIMPLIFIED  
SOURCE: THEVERGE, WSJ, NEW YORK TIMES, NBC NEWS,  
DIGITAL TREND

# The Danger

These conspiracy theories aren't just limited to message boards.  
*Believers have taken real action.*

One woman was arrested for publicly plotting to kill both Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton.

A man stalked and killed a New York mobster after being convinced that he was part of the deep state.

Another man entered a Washington D.C. restaurant with an AR-15 during the "Pizzagate" conspiracy.

For months, QAnon supporters have hijacked the popular #SaveTheChildren movement, a real fundraising campaign for anti-child-trafficking, to try and recruit new members through online and in-person events.

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT X @NOWSIMPLIFIED  
SOURCE: NEW YORK TIMES, DAILY BEAST, FORBES



# How to Combat Misinformation:

QAnon is fundamentally about powerful people abusing their power. It's understandable why the conspiracy draws in so many believers.

Combatting misinformation requires understanding. Believers aren't bad people just because they've fallen for a conspiracy theory. Facts are the best response to disinformation.

Stay alert to the information you see and call attention to disinformation. Rely on reputable sources. *And if you see someone claiming that Tom Hanks is up to no good, always second-guess it.*

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT X @NOWSIMPLIFIED



# Facts on U.S. immigrants, 2018

Statistical portrait of the foreign-born population in the United States

BY JYNNAH RADFORD AND LUIS NOE-BUSTAMANTE

KEY CHARTS

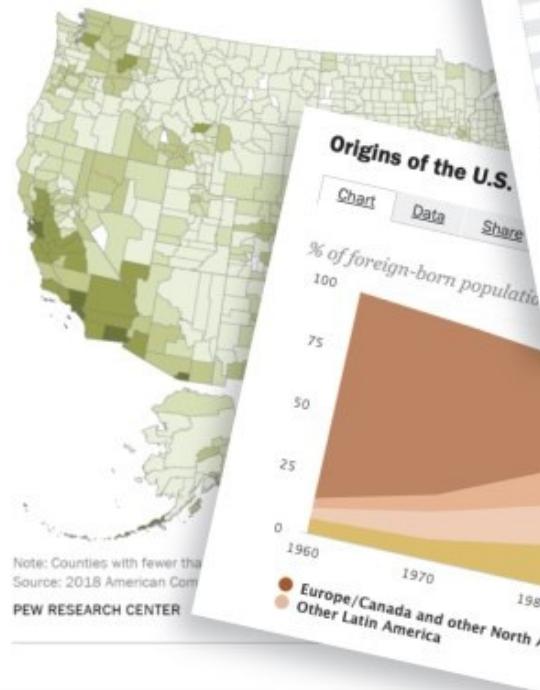
CURRENT DATA

TREND DATA

COUNTY MAPS

The nation's foreign-born population has become more dispersed over time. In 1990, about half of the foreign-born population lived in large cities. By 2018, large cities continue to have the highest concentrations of immigrants, but a larger share of the immigrant population lives in the top five counties: Los Angeles County, California; Harris County, Texas; Cook County, Ill.; Queens County, N.Y. In comparison, about one-quarter of the foreign-born population in 1990 lived in the top five counties at the time.

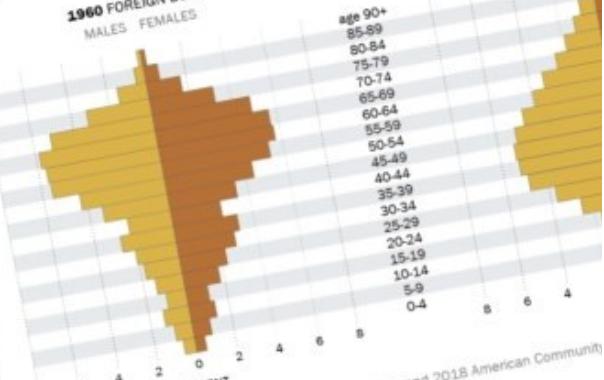
## Percent foreign born, by county, 2013-2018



## Foreign born age pyramids

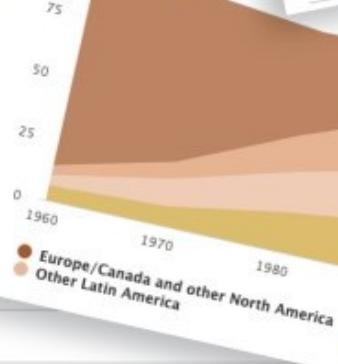
% of foreign-born population in each age group

1960 FOREIGN BORN  
MALES FEMALE



Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 1960 census and 2018 American Community Survey  
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

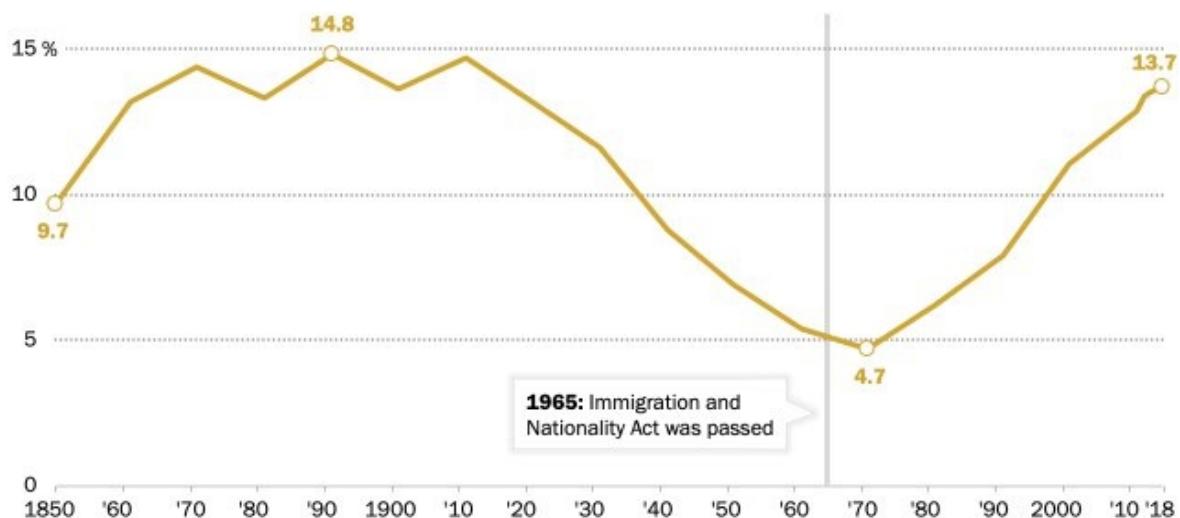
... who were born in ...



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## Immigrant share of U.S. population nears historic high

% of U.S. population that is foreign born



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850-2000" and Pew Research Center tabulations of 2010-2018 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

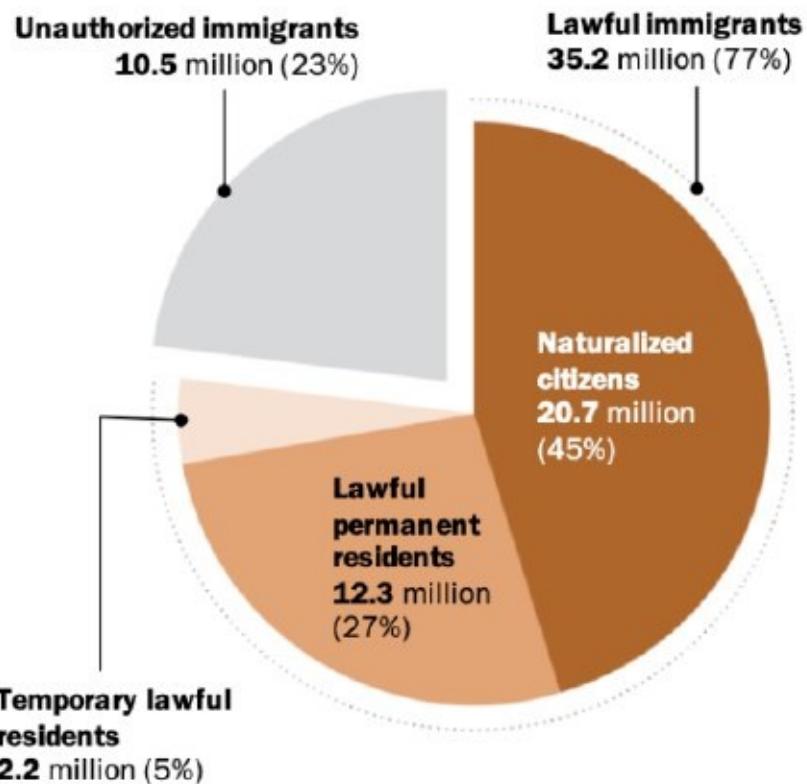
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## **Unauthorized immigrants are almost a quarter of U.S. foreign-born population**

*Foreign-born population estimates, 2017*



Note: Figures for the total and subgroups differ from published U.S. Census Bureau totals because census data have been augmented and adjusted to account for undercount of the population. All numbers are rounded. Unauthorized immigrants include some with temporary protection from deportation under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS), as well as pending asylum cases.

Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented U.S. Census Bureau data.

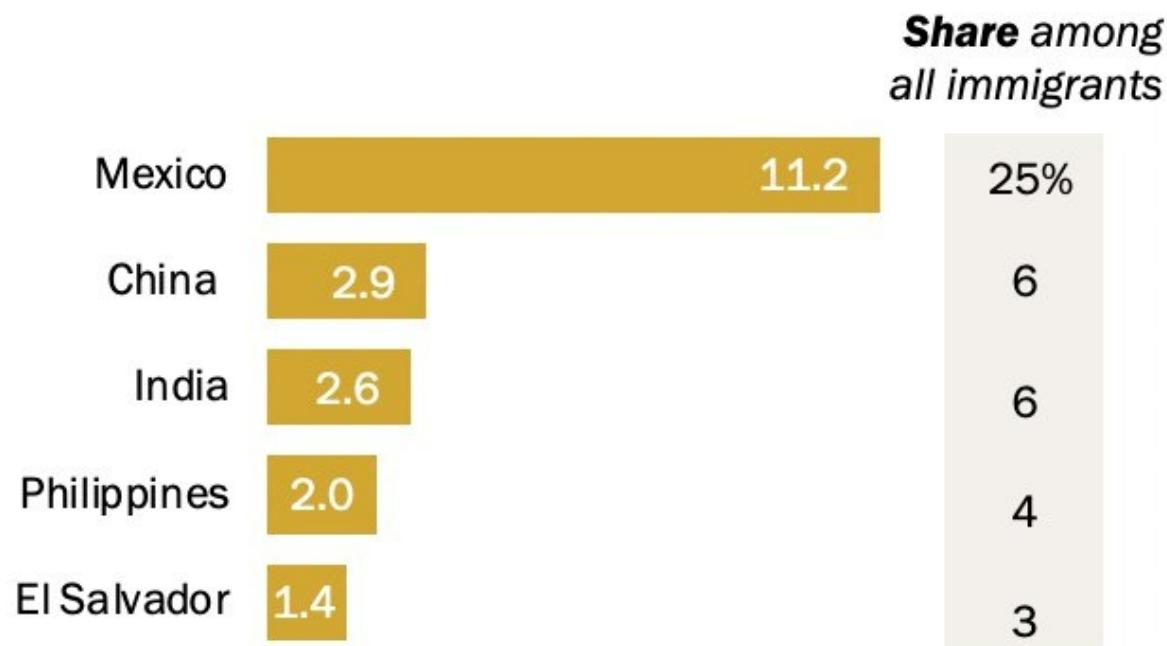
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## **Mexico, China and India are among top birthplaces for immigrants in the U.S.**

*Top five countries of birth for immigrants in the U.S. in 2018, in millions*



Note: China includes Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mongolia.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2018 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

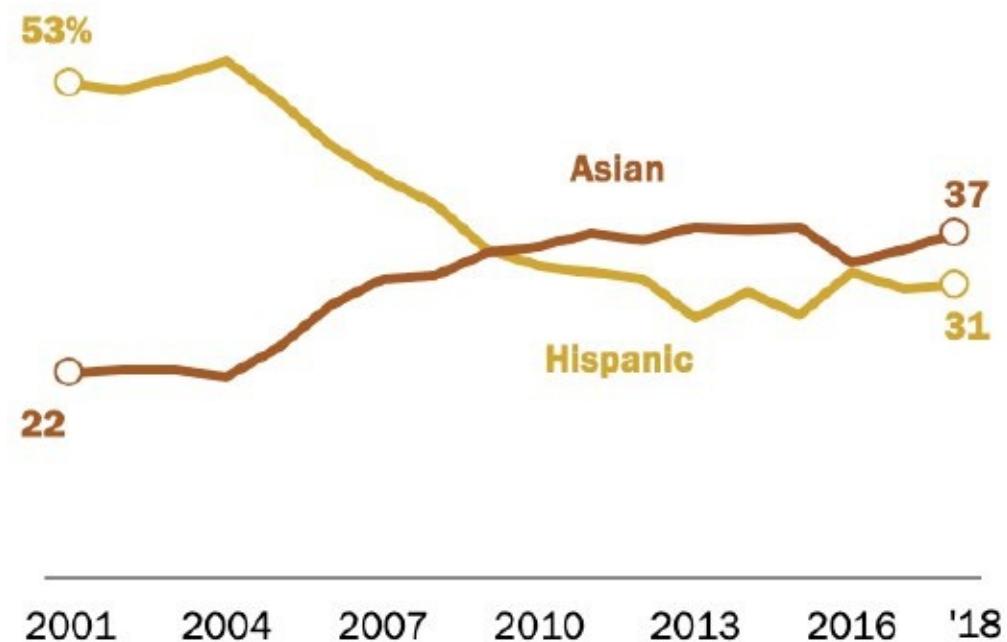
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## Among new immigrant arrivals, Asians outnumber Hispanics

*% of immigrants arriving in the U.S. in each year  
who are ...*



Note: Figures for 2001 to 2004 are based on the household population and do not include arrivals residing in group quarters. Data for 2017 represents slightly more than half of immigrants arriving during the year because the ACS data is collected through the year. Race and ethnicity based on self-reports. Asians include those who report being one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

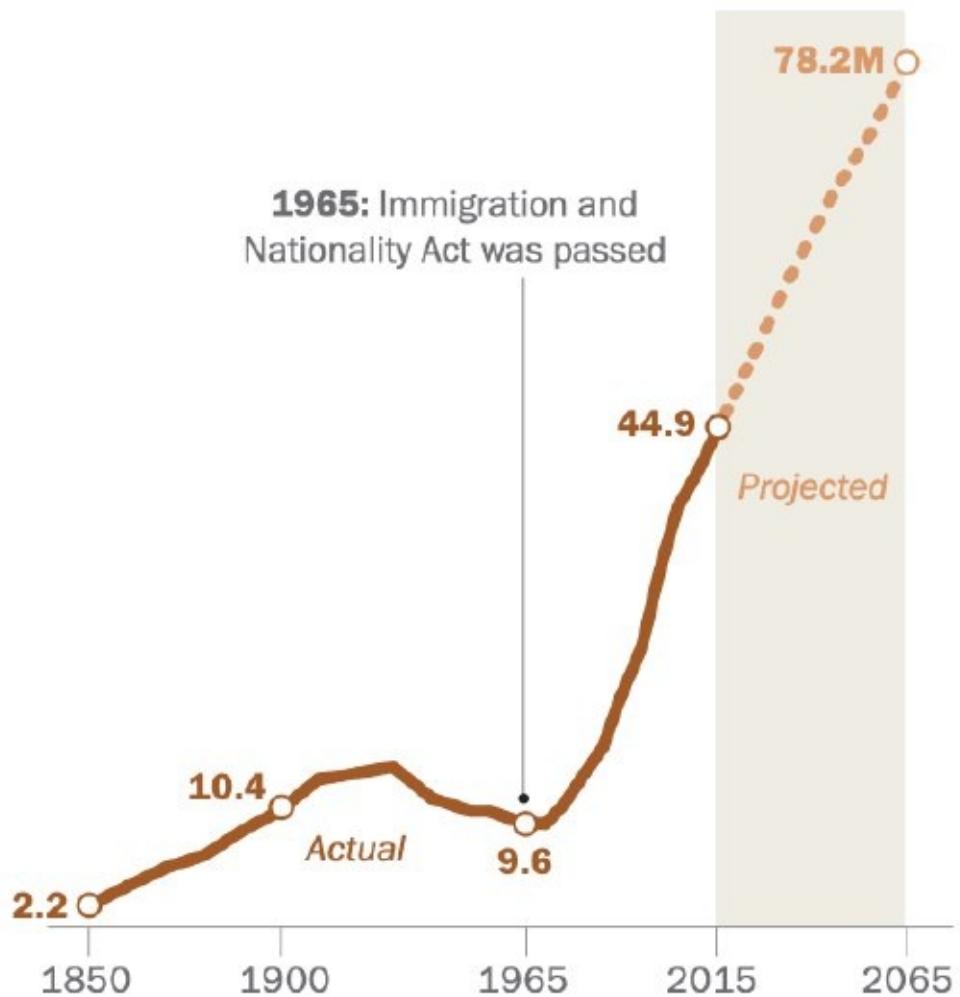
Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2001-2018 American Community Surveys (IPUMS).

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**U.S. foreign-born population reached  
45 million in 2015, projected to reach  
78 million by 2065**



Source: Gibson and Jung (2006) for 1850 to 1890; Edmonston and Passel (1994) estimates for 1900-1955; Pew Research Center estimates for 1960-2015 based on adjusted census data; Pew Research Center projections for 2015-2065.

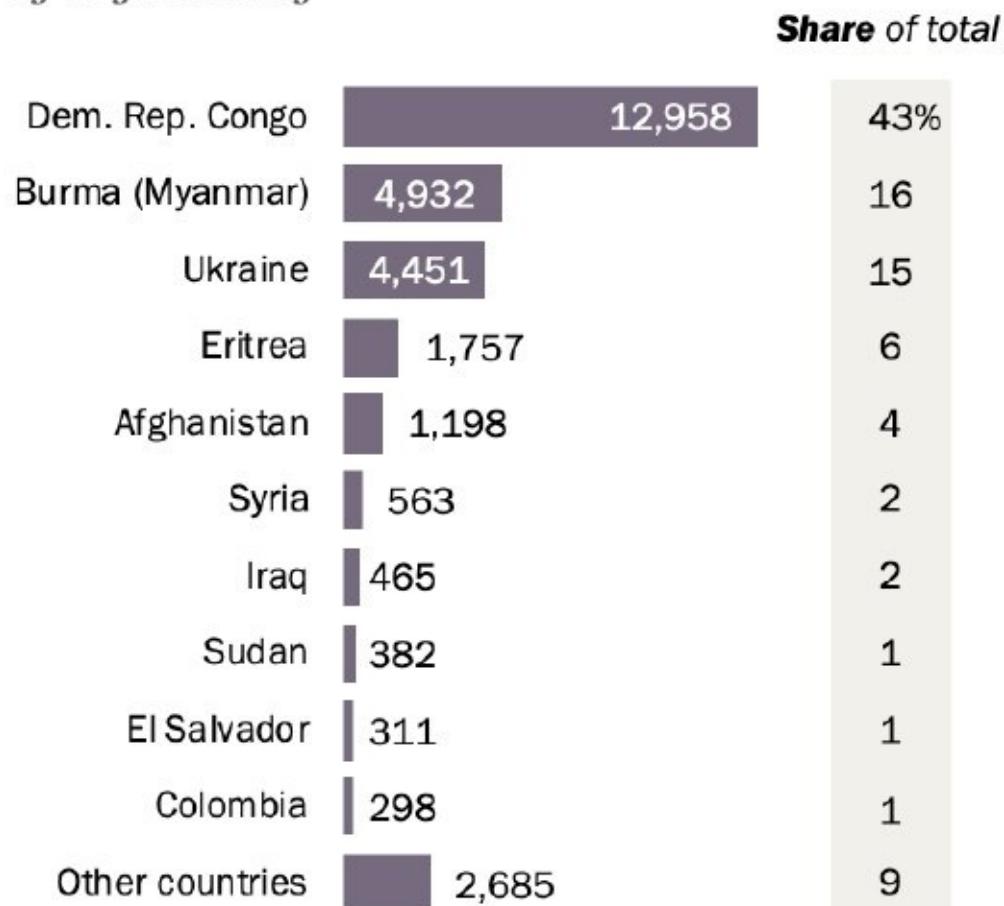
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## More than half of U.S. refugees in 2019 were from D.R. Congo and Burma

*Number of refugees entering the U.S. in fiscal 2019,  
by origin country*



Note: Data do not include special immigrant visas and certain humanitarian parole entrants.

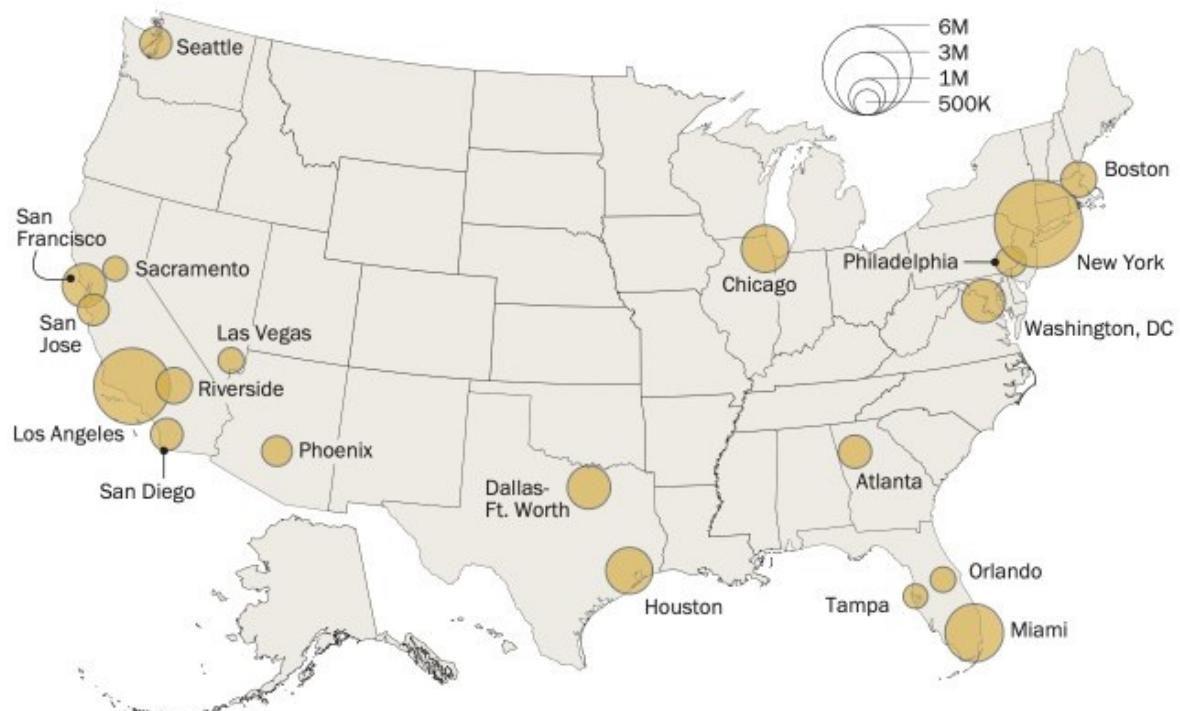
Source: U.S. State Department's Refugee Processing Center accessed October 2019.

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## 20 metropolitan areas with the largest number of immigrants in 2018



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2018 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).

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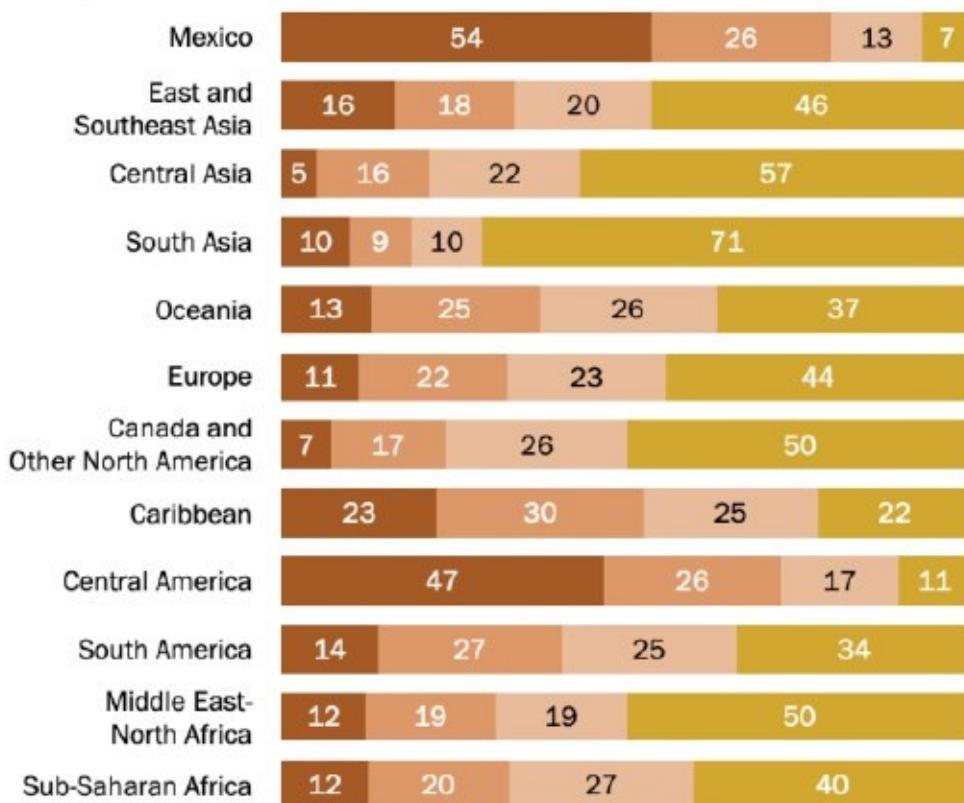
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## Educational attainment among U.S. immigrants, 2018

% among those ages 25 and older



Foreign born birthplace:



Note: "Some college" includes those with two-year degrees. "High school graduate" includes those with a high school diploma or its equivalent, such as a GED certificate. Middle East consists of Southwest Asia and North Africa.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2018 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

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Key findings about U.S. immigrants [source](#)

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[telegra.ph/Key-findings-about-US-immigrants-08-26](https://telegra.ph/Key-findings-about-US-immigrants-08-26)

Telegraph

Key findings about U.S. immigrants

The United States has more immigrants than any other country in the world. Today, more than 40 million people living in the U.S. were born in another country, accounting for about one-fifth of the world's migrants. The population of immigrants is also very...

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If last night's shooter in Kenosha were Black, we'd be getting wall-to-wall detailed coverage about it. We won't get that because the shooter is white & there's video of police cavorting with the armed white men. It's only "outside agitators" when it's people protesting racism. [source](#)

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Cell phone footage shows Kenosha police telling armed insurrectionists, "We appreciate you guys. We really do," and giving them bottles of water. Shortly after this video was taken, one of these men shot and killed two protesters and wounded another. [source](#)

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If you're more upset about the athletes boycotting than you are about the death, division, and discrimination in our society...your priorities are wrong. [source](#)

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It's not enough just to say the words "Black lives matter." We have to make it true—by ending systemic racism and dismantling white supremacy in our

institutions, our systems, and in every aspect of our society. [source](#)

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# Key findings about U.S. immigrants

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Immigrants listen to a speech as they wait to become U.S. citizens at a naturalization ceremony in Los Angeles. (Mark Ralston/AFP/Getty Images)

The United States has more immigrants than any other country in the world. Today, more than 40 million people living in the U.S. were born in another country, accounting for about one-fifth of the world's migrants. The population of immigrants is also very diverse, with just about every country in the world represented among U.S. immigrants.



**[View interactive charts  
and detailed tables on  
U.S. immigrants.](#)**

Pew Research Center regularly publishes statistical portraits of the nation's foreign-born population, which include historical trends since 1960. Based on these portraits, here are answers to some key questions about the U.S. immigrant population.

## **How many people in the U.S. are immigrants?**

The U.S. foreign-born population reached a record 44.8 million in 2018. Since 1965, when U.S. immigration laws replaced a national quota system, the number of immigrants living in the U.S. has more than quadrupled. Immigrants today account for 13.7% of the U.S. population, nearly triple the share (4.8%) in 1970. However, today's immigrant share remains below the record 14.8% share in 1890, when 9.2 million immigrants lived in the U.S.



## **What is the legal status of immigrants in the U.S.?**



Most immigrants (77%) are in the country legally, while almost a quarter are unauthorized, according to new Pew Research Center estimates based on census data adjusted for undercount. In 2017, 45% were naturalized U.S. citizens.

Some 27% of immigrants were permanent residents and 5% were temporary residents in 2017. Another 23% of all immigrants were unauthorized immigrants. From 1990 to 2007, the unauthorized immigrant population more than tripled in size – from 3.5 million to a record high of 12.2 million in 2007. By 2017, that number had declined by 1.7 million, or 14%. There were 10.5 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. in 2017, accounting for 3.2% of the nation’s population.

The decline in the unauthorized immigrant population is due largely to a fall in the number from Mexico – the single largest group of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. Between 2007 and 2017, this group decreased by 2 million. Meanwhile, there was a rise in the number from Central America and Asia.

## **Do all lawful immigrants choose to become U.S. citizens?**

Not all lawful permanent residents choose to pursue U.S. citizenship. Those who wish to do so may apply after meeting certain requirements, including having lived in the U.S. for five years. In fiscal year 2019, about 800,000 immigrants applied for naturalization. The number of naturalization applications has climbed in recent years, though the annual totals remain below the 1.4 million applications filed in 2007.

Generally, most immigrants eligible for naturalization apply to become citizens. However, Mexican lawful immigrants have the lowest naturalization rate overall. Language and personal barriers, lack of interest and financial barriers are among the top reasons for choosing not to naturalize cited by Mexican-born green card holders, according to a 2015 Pew Research Center survey.

## **Where do immigrants come from?**



Mexico is the top origin country of the U.S. immigrant population. In 2018, roughly 11.2 million immigrants living in the U.S. were from there, accounting for 25% of all U.S. immigrants. The next largest origin groups were those from China (6%), India (6%), the Philippines (4%) and El Salvador (3%).

By region of birth, immigrants from Asia combined accounted for 28% of all immigrants, close to the share of immigrants from Mexico (25%). Other regions make up smaller shares: Europe, Canada and other North America (13%), the Caribbean (10%), Central America (8%), South America (7%), the Middle East and North Africa (4%) and sub-Saharan Africa (5%).

## **Who is arriving today?**



More than 1 million immigrants arrive in the U.S. each year. In 2018, the top country of origin for new immigrants coming into the U.S. was China, with 149,000 people, followed by India (129,000), Mexico (120,000) and the Philippines (46,000).

By race and ethnicity, more Asian immigrants than Hispanic immigrants have arrived in the U.S. in most years since 2010. Immigration from Latin America slowed following the Great Recession, particularly for Mexico, which has seen both decreasing flows into the United States and large flows back to Mexico in recent years.

Asians are projected to become the largest immigrant group in the U.S. by 2055, surpassing Hispanics. Pew Research Center estimates indicate that in 2065, those who identify as Asian will make up some 38% of all immigrants; as Hispanic, 31%; White, 20%; and Black, 9%.

## **Is the immigrant population growing?**



New immigrant arrivals have fallen, mainly due to a decrease in the number of unauthorized immigrants coming to the U.S. The drop in the unauthorized immigrant population can primarily be attributed to more Mexican immigrants leaving the U.S. than coming in.

Looking forward, immigrants and their descendants are projected to account for 88% of U.S. population growth through 2065, assuming current immigration trends continue. In addition to new arrivals, U.S. births to immigrant parents will be important to future growth in the country's population. In 2018, the percentage of women giving birth in the past year was higher among immigrants (7.5%) than among the U.S. born (5.7%). While U.S.-born women gave birth to more than 3 million children that year, immigrant women gave birth to about 760,000.

## **How many immigrants have come to the U.S. as refugees?**



Since the creation of the federal Refugee Resettlement Program in 1980, about 3 million refugees have been resettled in the U.S. – more than any other country.

In fiscal 2019, a total of 30,000 refugees were resettled in the U.S. The largest origin group of refugees was the Democratic Republic of the Congo, followed by Burma (Myanmar), Ukraine, Eritrea and Afghanistan. Among all refugees admitted in fiscal year 2019, 4,900 are Muslims (16%) and 23,800 are Christians (79%). Texas, Washington, New York and California resettled more than a quarter of all refugees admitted in fiscal 2018.

## **Where do most U.S. immigrants live?**

Nearly half (45%) of the nation's 44.4 million immigrants live in just three states: California (24%), Texas (11%) and Florida (10%). California had the largest immigrant population of any state in 2018, at 10.6 million. Texas, Florida and New York had more than 4 million immigrants each.

In terms of regions, about two-thirds of immigrants lived in the West (34%) and South (34%). Roughly one-fifth lived in the Northeast (21%) and 11% were in the Midwest.

In 2018, most immigrants lived in just 20 major metropolitan areas, with the largest populations in the New York, Los Angeles and Miami metro areas. These top 20 metro areas were home to 28.7 million immigrants, or 64% of the nation's total foreign-born population. Most of the nation's unauthorized immigrant population lived in these top metro areas as well.



## How do immigrants compare with the U.S. population overall in education?



Immigrants in the U.S. as a whole have lower levels of education than the U.S.-born population. In 2018, immigrants were over three times as likely as the U.S. born to have not completed high school (27% vs. 8%). However, immigrants were just as likely as the U.S. born to have a bachelor's degree or more (32% and 33%, respectively).

Educational attainment varies among the nation's immigrant groups, particularly across immigrants from different regions of the world. Immigrants from Mexico and Central America are less likely to be high school graduates than the U.S. born (54% and 47%, respectively, do not have a high school diploma, vs. 8% of U.S. born). On the other hand, immigrants from every region *except* Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America were as likely as or more likely than U.S.-born residents to have a bachelor's or advanced degree.

Among all immigrants, those from South Asia (71%) were the most likely to have a bachelor's degree or more. Immigrants from Mexico (7%) and Central America (11%) were the least likely to have a bachelor's or higher.

## How many immigrants are working in the U.S.?



In 2017, about 29 million immigrants were working or looking for work in the U.S., making up some 17% of the total civilian labor force. Lawful immigrants made up the majority of the immigrant workforce, at 21.2 million. An additional 7.6 million immigrant workers are unauthorized immigrants, less than the total of the previous year and notably less than in 2007, when they were 8.2 million. They alone account for 4.6% of the civilian labor force, a dip from their peak of 5.4% in 2007. During the same period, the overall U.S. workforce grew, as did the number of U.S.-born workers and lawful immigrant workers.

Immigrants are projected to drive future growth in the U.S. working-age population through at least 2035. As the Baby Boom generation heads into

retirement, immigrants and their children are expected to offset a decline in the working-age population by adding about 18 million people of working age between 2015 and 2035.

## **How well do immigrants speak English?**



Among immigrants ages 5 and older in 2018, half (53%) are proficient English speakers – either speaking English very well (37%) or only speaking English at home (17%).

Immigrants from Mexico have the lowest rates of English proficiency (34%), followed by those from Central America (35%), East and Southeast Asia (50%) and South America (56%). Immigrants from Canada (96%), Oceania (82%), Europe (75%) and sub-Saharan Africa (74%) have the highest rates of English proficiency.

The longer immigrants have lived in the U.S., the greater the likelihood they are English proficient. Some 47% of immigrants living in the U.S. five years or less are proficient. By contrast, more than half (57%) of immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for 20 years or more are proficient English speakers.

Among immigrants ages 5 and older, Spanish is the most commonly spoken language. Some 42% of immigrants in the U.S. speak Spanish at home. The top five languages spoken at home among immigrants outside of Spanish are English only (17%), followed by Chinese (6%), Hindi (5%), Filipino/Tagalog (4%) and French (3%).

## **How many immigrants have been deported recently?**

Around 337,000 immigrants were deported from the U.S. in fiscal 2018, up since 2017. Overall, the Obama administration deported about 3 million immigrants between 2009 and 2016, a significantly higher number than the 2 million immigrants deported by the Bush administration between 2001 and 2008. In 2017, the Trump administration deported 295,000 immigrants, the lowest total since 2006.

Immigrants convicted of a crime made up the less than half of deportations in

2018, the most recent year for which statistics by criminal status are available. Of the 337,000 immigrants deported in 2018, some 44% had criminal convictions and 56% were not convicted of a crime. From 2001 to 2018, a majority (60%) of immigrants deported have not been convicted of a crime.



## **How many immigrant apprehensions take place at the U.S.-Mexico border?**

The number of apprehensions at the U.S.-Mexico border has doubled from fiscal 2018 to fiscal 2019, from 396,579 in fiscal 2018 to 851,508 in fiscal 2019. Today, there are more apprehensions of non-Mexicans than Mexicans at the border. In fiscal 2019, apprehensions of Central Americans at the border exceeded those of Mexicans for the fourth consecutive year. The first time Mexicans did not make up the bulk of Border Patrol apprehensions was in 2014.

## **How do Americans view immigrants and immigration?**



While immigration has been at the forefront of a national political debate, the U.S. public holds a range of views about immigrants living in the country. Overall, a majority of Americans have positive views about immigrants. About two-thirds of Americans (66%) say immigrants strengthen the country “because of their hard work and talents,” while about a quarter (24%) say immigrants burden the country by taking jobs, housing and health care.

Yet these views vary starkly by political affiliation. Among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, 88% think immigrants strengthen the country with their hard work and talents, and just 8% say they are a burden. Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, 41% say immigrants strengthen the country, while 44% say they burden it.

Americans were divided on future levels of immigration. A quarter said legal immigration to the U.S. should be decreased (24%), while one-third (38%) said immigration should be kept at its present level and almost another third (32%) said immigration should be increased.

*Note: This is an update of a post originally published May 3, 2017, and written*

*by Gustavo López, a former research analyst focusing on Hispanics, immigration and demographics; and Kristen Bialik, a former research assistant.*

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*is a research analyst focusing on global migration and demography research at Pew Research Center. POSTS BIO EMAIL*

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