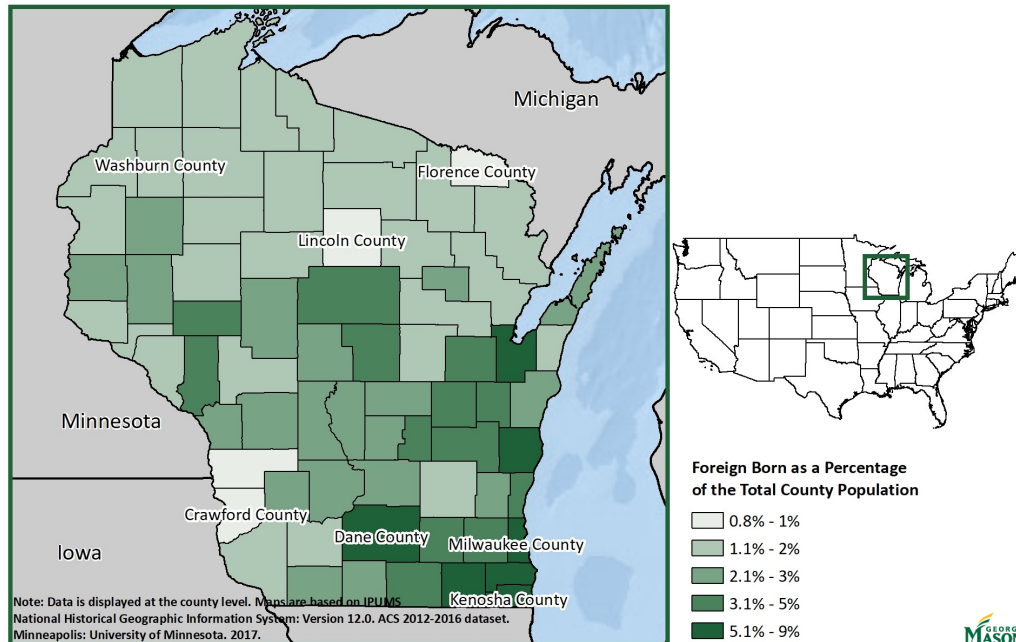


## Immigrants in Wisconsin

**Figure 1. Immigrants in Wisconsin**



### 2016 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **42,228,200:** Approximate number of immigrants\* living in the U.S. (13% of the population)
- **281,200:** Approximate number of immigrants living in Wisconsin (5% of the state's population)
- **34th:** Rank of the state of Wisconsin among the 50 states and Washington, D.C. in terms of immigrants as a percentage of the state's population

### Distribution of Immigrants in the State of Wisconsin

Figure 1 shows where immigrants live in the state of Wisconsin. Southeastern Wisconsin, including Kenosha County (9%), Dane County (8%), and Milwaukee County (6%), reported the highest percentages of immigrants. Immigrants make up the smallest shares of the population in Lincoln County, Florence County, and Crawford County.

### Country of Birth

Foreign-born individuals living in Wisconsin come from a variety of countries (Figure 2). Compared to all other immigrants living across the United States, there are larger shares of immigrants from Mexico, Laos, and Thailand living in Wisconsin.

**Figure 2. Top Five Countries of Birth Among Immigrants**

Wisconsin		United States	
Mexico	33%	Mexico	27%
India	7%	India	5%
Laos	6%	China	5%
China	5%	Philippines	5%
Thailand	4%	El Salvador	3%
144 Other Countries	45%	151 Other Countries	55%
<b>Estimated Immigrant Population</b>	<b>281,246</b>	<b>Estimated Immigrant Population</b>	<b>41,946,951</b>

All analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012-2016 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org), unless otherwise noted.

\*Please note that the terms "immigrant" and "foreign born" are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet. Foreign born refers to individuals who are not a U.S. citizen at birth or who were born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The foreign born may include naturalized U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, temporary residents, refugees and asylees, and others. Additionally, native born includes those who are U.S. citizens at birth, those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and those born abroad to a parent who is a U.S. citizen.

\*\*A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit. A native-born U.S. citizen household is defined as a household which is headed by a native-born U.S. citizen, regardless of the immigration status of the spouse. Conversely, an immigrant headed household is defined as a household which is headed by a foreign-born individual, regardless of the immigration status of the spouse. With regard to income, the total family income is used. This includes the total annual income of all family members in the household.

## Immigrants in Wisconsin

### Number of Children per Household\*\*

Immigrant headed households in Wisconsin are slightly more likely to report living with four or more children compared to all other immigrant headed households across the United States, as shown in Figure 3. Additionally, the average number of children living in an immigrant headed household in Wisconsin is 1.2, which is slightly greater than the average number of children living in all other immigrant headed households across the United States (1.1).

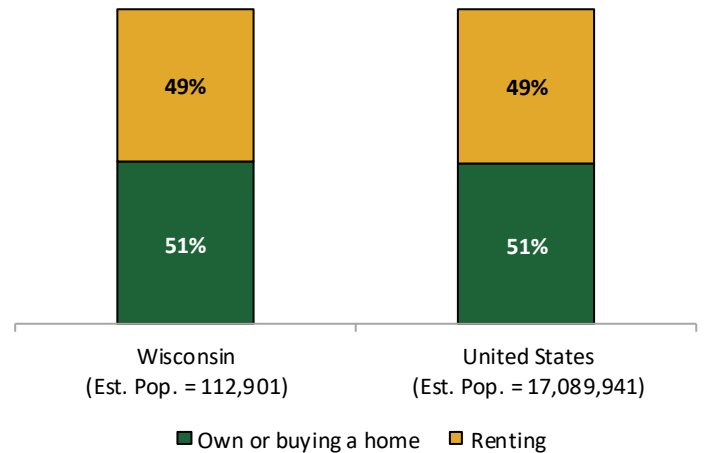
 **Figure 3. Number of Children per Immigrant Household**

	Wisconsin	United States
0 Children	45%	44%
1 Child	18%	21%
2 Children	19%	20%
3 Children	10%	10%
4+ children	8%	5%
<b>Estimated Immigrant Households</b>	<b>112,889</b>	<b>17,090,628</b>

### Homeownership

Figure 4 shows that foreign-born household heads in Wisconsin report identical rates of home ownership compared to all other immigrant headed households nationwide. Approximately one in two immigrant household heads living in Wisconsin report owning or are in the process of purchasing a home, a rate similar to the remainder of immigrant household heads living across the United States.

 **Figure 4. Rate of Homeownership Among Immigrant Household Heads**



### Educational Attainment

Figure 5 shows that immigrants living in Wisconsin reported higher rates of educational attainment compared to all other immigrants nationwide. Although foreign-born females in Wisconsin are more likely to have obtained a Bachelor's degree compared to immigrant males in Wisconsin, immigrant males are slightly more likely to have obtained a graduate, professional, or doctoral degree compared to their female counterparts. This pattern of educational attainment remains consistent with the remainder of immigrants across the United States.

 **Figure 5. Educational Attainment Among Immigrants**  
Foreign-Born Individuals, Age 25+

	Wisconsin			United States		
	Overall	Male	Female	Overall	Male	Female
No High School Diploma	28%	28%	27%	30%	30%	29%
High School Diploma	23%	23%	24%	22%	22%	22%
Some College or Associate's Degree	19%	19%	19%	19%	18%	20%
Bachelor's Degree	14%	13%	16%	17%	16%	18%
Graduate, Professional, or Doctoral Degree	16%	17%	14%	12%	14%	11%
<b>Estimated Immigrant Population (Age 25+)</b>	<b>226,492</b>	<b>113,323</b>	<b>113,169</b>	<b>36,377,870</b>	<b>17,520,333</b>	<b>18,857,537</b>

## Immigrants in Wisconsin

### Employment Status

Figure 6 shows that immigrants age 16 to 65 in Wisconsin report slightly higher rates of employment compared to all other immigrants living across the United States. Similar to all other immigrants in the United States, foreign-born males report higher rates of employment than foreign-born females in Wisconsin.

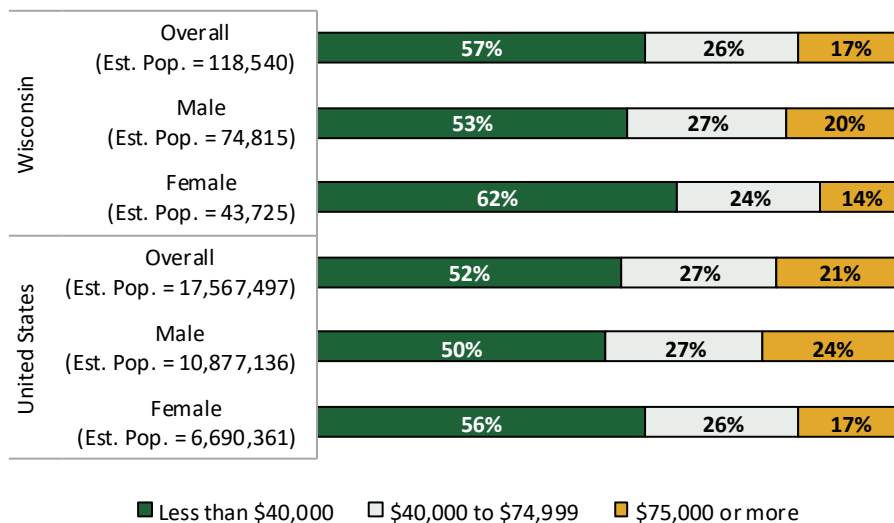
 **Figure 6. Employment Status Among Immigrants**  
Foreign-Born Individuals, Age 16—65

	Wisconsin			United States		
	Overall	Male	Female	Overall	Male	Female
Employed	72%	81%	62%	70%	80%	59%
Unemployed	4%	4%	3%	5%	5%	5%
Not in the Labor Force	25%	15%	35%	25%	15%	36%
<b>Estimated Immigrant Population (Age 16+)</b>	<b>228,666</b>	<b>117,908</b>	<b>110,758</b>	<b>34,454,512</b>	<b>17,125,632</b>	<b>17,328,880</b>

### Labor Force Participation

It is important to note that foreign-born females are more than twice as likely to report not being in the labor force compared to their male counterparts (Figure 6). While approximately 15 percent of immigrant males report being outside of the labor force, nearly 35 percent of foreign-born females indicate not being a part of the labor force. These proportions are similar to all other immigrants in the U.S.

 **Figure 7. Personal Income Among Immigrants**  
Foreign-Born Individuals in the Labor Force and Employed Full-Time, Age 16+



### Personal Income

Full-time employed immigrants living in Wisconsin are slightly less likely to earn \$40,000 or more compared to all other foreign-born individuals living across the United States (Figure 7). Immigrants living in Wisconsin also reported lower median personal incomes (\$35,483) compared to immigrants living across the United States (\$37,468). Foreign-born females living in Wisconsin are significantly less likely to earn \$40,000 or more compared to foreign-born males. In fact, immigrant females in Wisconsin report earning 85 cents for every dollar earned by foreign-born males.

#### ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR IMMIGRATION RESEARCH

The IIR works to refocus the immigration conversation among academics, policy-makers and the public, including the business community and media, by producing and disseminating unbiased and objective, interdisciplinary academic research related to immigrants and immigration to the United States. The Institute for Immigration Research is a joint venture between George Mason University and the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Massachusetts. To learn more about the Institute for Immigration Research call (703) 993-5833, email [iir@gmu.edu](mailto:iir@gmu.edu), or visit us online at [iir.gmu.edu](http://iir.gmu.edu).