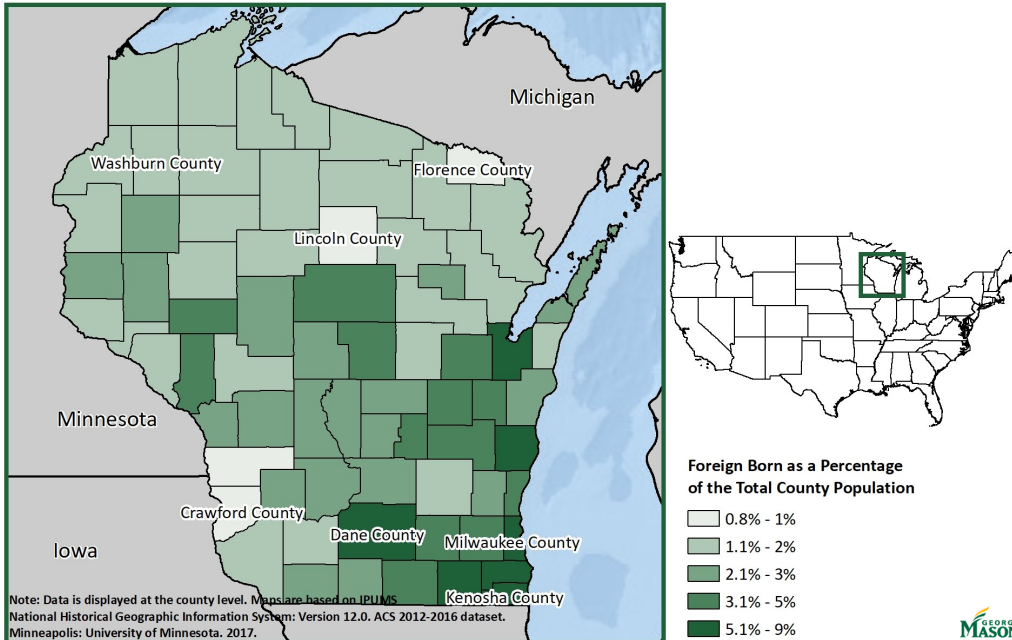


Immigrants in Wisconsin

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 in 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%
Estimated Immigrant Population	281,246	Estimated Immigrant Population	41,946,951

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, 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 Immigrant-headed 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).

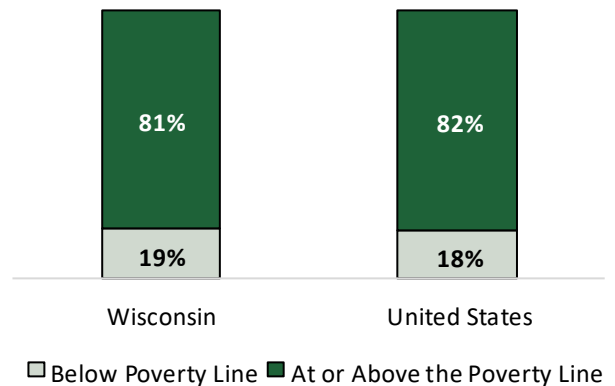
 **Figure 3. Number of Children per Immigrant-headed Household**

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

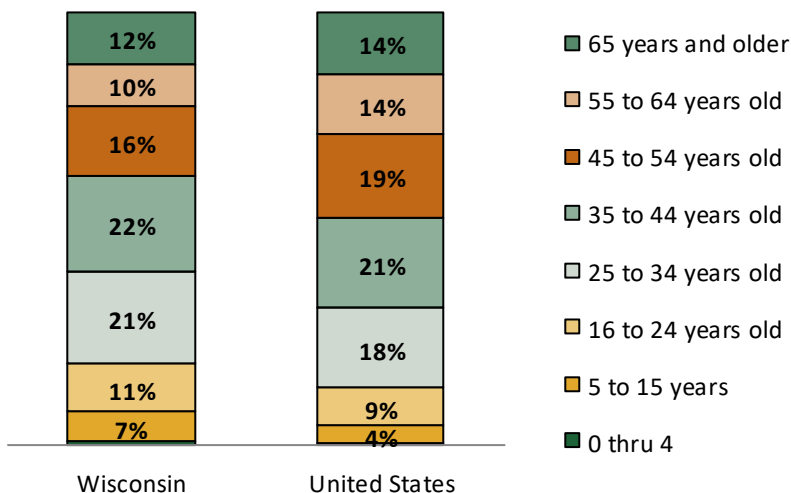
Poverty

Figure 4 shows that compared to immigrants living in Wisconsin, there are very slightly larger shares of immigrants living at or above the poverty line in the United States.

 **Figure 4. Poverty Status Among Immigrants**



 **Figure 5. Age Distribution Among Immigrants**



Age

Figure 5 shows that two out of five immigrants living in Wisconsin are ages 34 or younger. The median age of immigrants living in Wisconsin is the same as that of all other immigrants in the United States (39). However, 40 percent of immigrants in Wisconsin are ages 34 or younger compared to 32 percent in the US. Twenty-two percent of immigrants in Wisconsin are 55 or older compared to 28 percent in the US.

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 in 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. However, foreign-born females in Wisconsin are more likely to be employed than other foreign-born females in the United States.

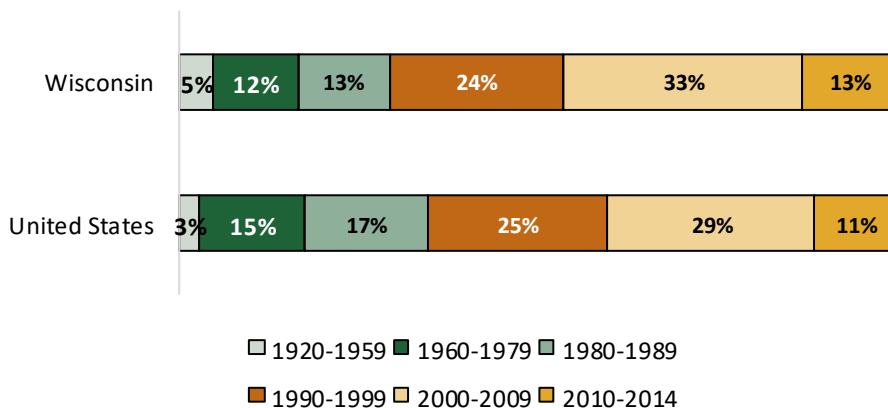
 **Figure 6. Employment Status Among Immigrants**
Foreign-Born Individuals, Age 16—65

	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%
Estimated Immigrant Population (Age 16+)	228,666	117,908	110,758	34,454,512	17,125,632	17,328,880

Labor Force Participation

It is important to note that while immigrant males and females in Wisconsin report similar rates of employment, 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. Year of immigration Among Immigrants**



Year of Immigration

Immigrants living in Wisconsin are more likely to report arriving in the United States more recently compared to all other immigrants in the United States. Forty-six percent of immigrants living in Wisconsin arrived in the United States since 2000 compared to 40 percent of all other immigrants living in the United States.

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, or visit us online at iir.gmu.edu.