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Immigrants in Pierce County, Washington

Figure 1. Immigrants in the State of Washington

Note: Data is displayed at the county level. Maps are based on IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 12.0. ACS 2012-2016 dataset. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota. 2017.

Foreign Born as a Percentage of the Total County Population

- 1.4% - 3%
- 3.1% - 6%
- 6.1% - 8%
- 8.1% - 15%
- 15.1% - 24%
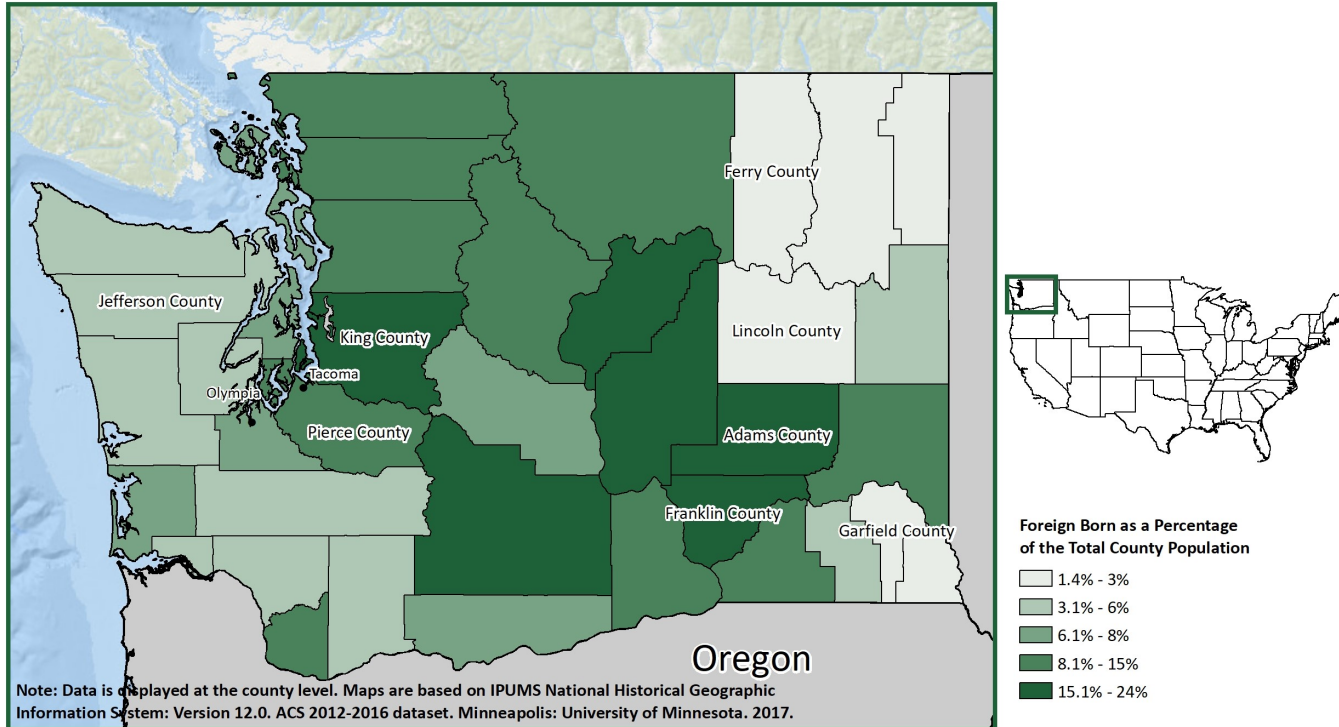
2016 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **42,228,200:** Approximate number of immigrants* living in the U.S. (13% of the population)

- **955,400:** Approximate number of immigrants living in the state of Washington (14% of the state's population)

- **80,400:** Approximate number of immigrants living in Pierce County, WA (10% of the county's population)

- **13th:** Rank of the state of Washington 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 Washington

Figure 1 shows where immigrants live in the state of Washington. Pierce County has a foreign-born population of 80,300, which represents 10 percent of the county's population. It represents the 16th largest county in Washington in terms of immigrants as a share of the county population. Adams County , Franklin County, and King County reported the highest shares of immigrants in the state of Washington. Adams County has an immigrant population of 4,500, or 24 percent of the population. Franklin County has a foreign-born population of 19,700, which accounts for 22 percent of the county's population. King County has an immigrant population of 448,300, which also accounts for 22 percent of the population. Immigrants make up the smallest shares of the population in Garfield County, Ferry County, and Lincoln County.
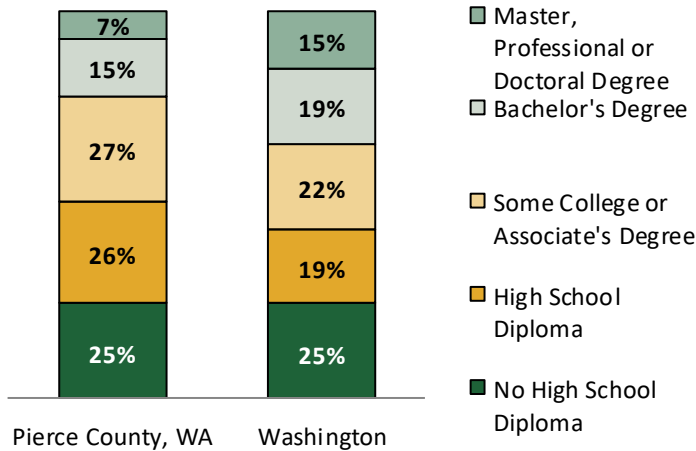
All analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012-2016 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org, unless otherwise noted.

[1]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.
[2]All other immigrants in the United States excludes Pierce County, WA
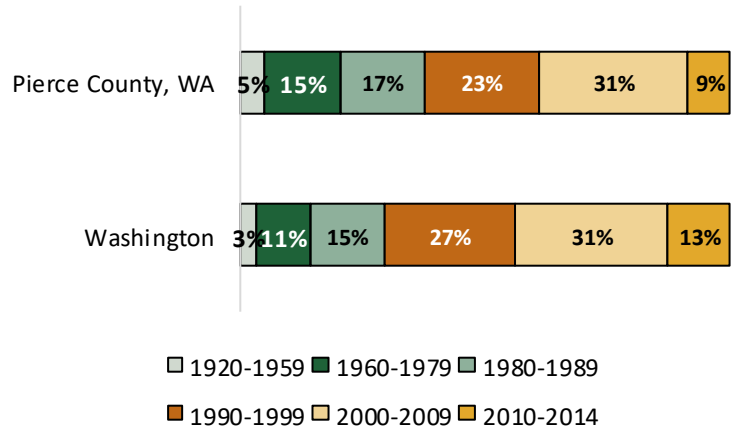
Immigrants in Pierce County, Washington

Figure 2. Educational Attainment Among Immigrants
Foreign-Born Individuals, Age 25+

Legend:
- Master, Professional or Doctoral Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Some College or Associate's Degree
- High School Diploma
- No High School Diploma

Educational Attainment

Figure 2 shows that immigrants living in Pierce County, WA reported lower rates of educational attainment compared to all other immigrants in Washington. Immigrants in Washington are much more likely to have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher (34 percent) compared to immigrants in Pierce County, WA (22 percent).

Figure 3. Year of Immigration Among Immigrants

Legend:
- 1920-1959
- 1960-1979
- 1980-1989
- 1990-1999
- 2000-2009
- 2010-2014

Year of Immigration

Immigrants in Pierce County, WA reported arriving United States slightly earlier compared to all other immigrants in Washington. Forty percent of immigrants living in Pierce County, WA arrived in the United States since 2000 compared to 44 percent of all other immigrants living Washington.

Figure 4. English Proficiency
Foreign-Born Individuals, Age 5+

Legend:
- Proficient in English
- Not Proficient in English
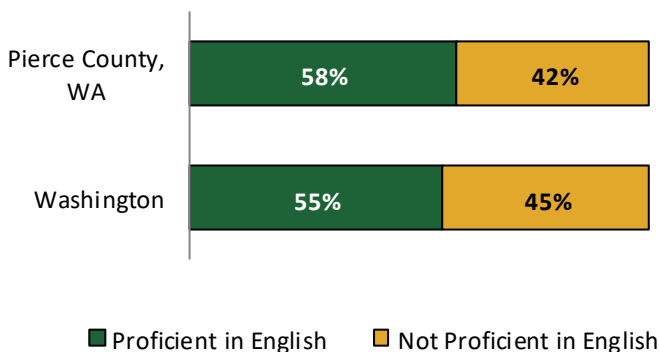
English Proficiency

Figure 4 shows immigrants living in Pierce County reported higher English proficiency rate compared to all other immigrants living in Washington State. Approximately 58 percent immigrants living in Pierce County are proficient in English (speaks only English or speaks English very well).

Figure 5. Poverty Status Among Immigrants

	Pierce County, WA	Washington
Below Poverty Line	17%	16%
At or Above the Poverty Line	83%	84%
Estimated Immigrant Population	**79,433**	**866,192**

Poverty

Immigrants living in Pierce County, WA are slightly more likely to report living below the poverty line (17 percent) compared to all other immigrants in Washington (16 percent).

Immigrants in Pierce County, Washington

Figure 6. Race and Ethnicity Among Immigrants

	Pierce County, WA	Washington
Asian (non-Hispanic)	40%	38%
White (non-Hispanic)	26%	24%
White (Hispanic)	13%	16%
Other Race (Hispanic)	13%	13%
Black (non-Hispanic)	4%	5%
Two or more races (non-Hispanic)	2%	1%
Other Race (non-Hispanic)	<1%	<1%
Two or more races (Hispanic)	<1%	<1%
Estimated Immigrant Population	80,346	875,010

Race and Ethnicity

Approximately 40 percent of the immigrants living in Pierce County identified as Asian compared to 38% of all other immigrants in the state of Washington. Approximately 26 percent of immigrants in Pierce County identified as Hispanic, compared to 29 percent of all other immigrants in Washington.