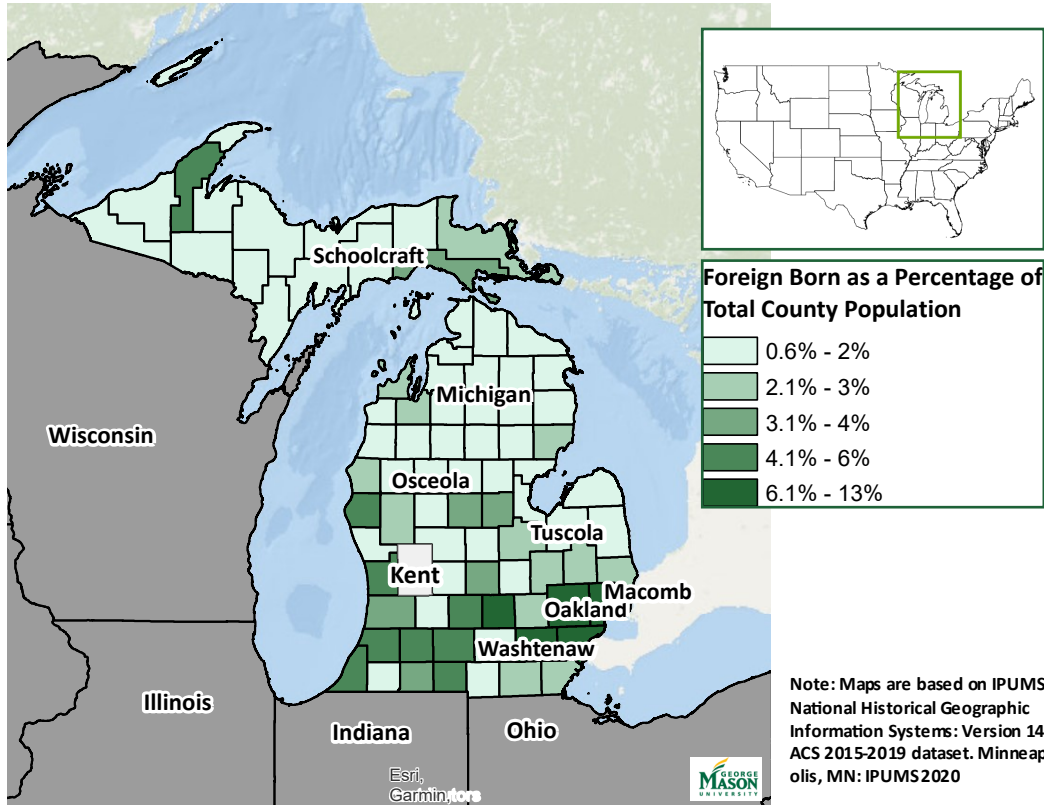


## Immigrants in Kent County, Michigan

**Figure 1. Immigrants in the State of Michigan**



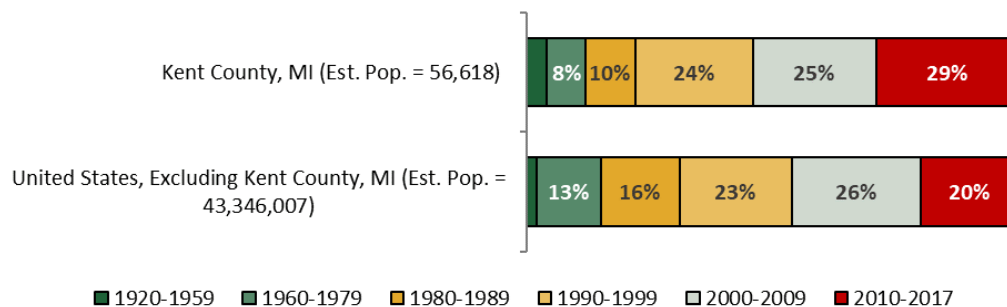
### 2019 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **44,032,500:** Approximate number of immigrants<sup>1</sup> living in the U.S. (14% of the population)
- **683,500:** Approximate number of immigrants living in Michigan (7% of the state's population)
- **57,400:** Approximate number of immigrants living in Kent County, MI (9% of the county's population)
- **18%:** Estimated increase in the number of immigrants living in Kent County, MI in the past 10 years
- **28th:** Rank of the state of Michigan among the 50 states and Washington, DC in terms of immigrants as a percentage of the state's population

### Distribution of Immigrants

Figure 1 shows where immigrants live in the state of Michigan. Immigrants make up the largest shares of the population in Oakland (13 percent), Washtenaw (13 percent), and Macomb (11 percent) Counties. Osceola (1 percent), Tuscola (.9 percent), and Schoolcraft (.6 percent) Counties reported the smallest shares of immigrant populations. Notable, Kent County ranks 6th in Michigan in terms of percentage of immigrants (8 percent).

**Figure 2. Year of Immigration**



### Year of Immigration

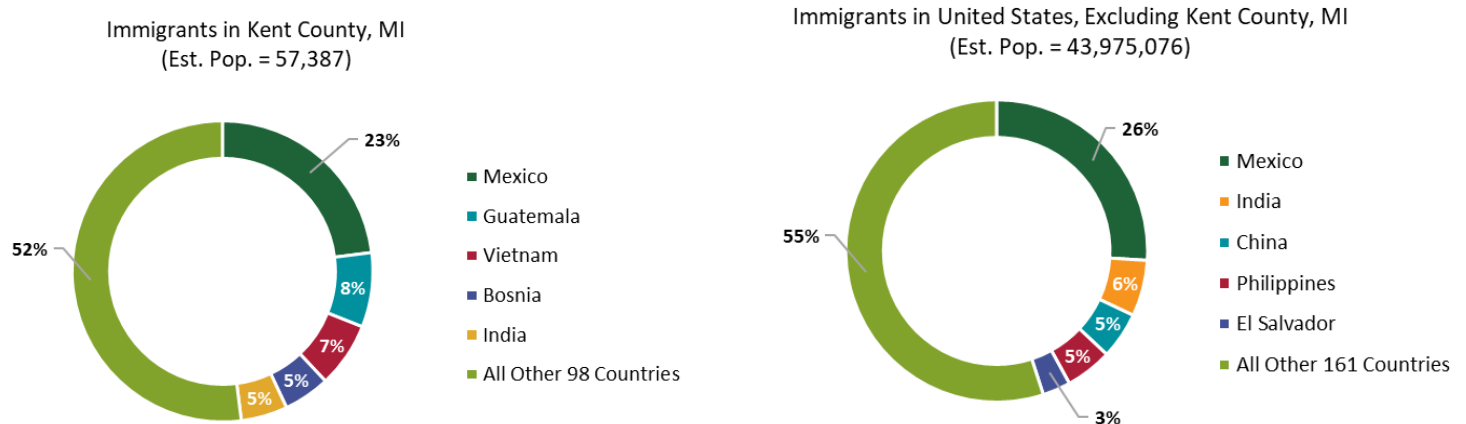
Figure 2 shows that 54 percent of the foreign born in Kent County arrived in the United States after 2000 compared to 46 percent of immigrants living in the rest of the United States. The median year of arrival for foreign-born individuals in Kent County is 2000 compared with 1998 for all other immigrants in the United States.

All analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2015-2019 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org), unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup>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.

## Immigrants in Kent County, Michigan

**Figure 3. Top Five Countries of Birth**



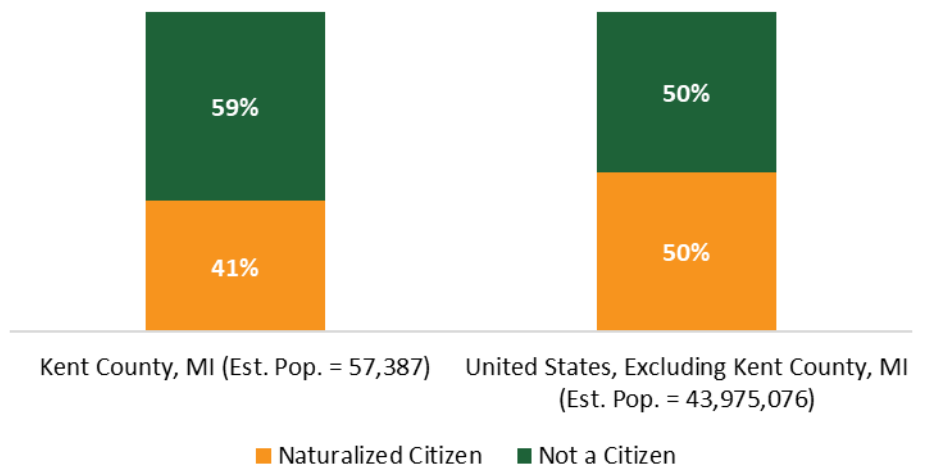
### Top Five Countries of Birth

Mexico is the top country of birth for immigrants in Kent County and in the rest of the United States, but the immigrant populations are quite different in terms of country of origin. Kent County has larger shares from Vietnam (7 percent) and Bosnia (5 percent), which likely represent refugee communities, as well as Guatemala (8 percent), none of which fall in the top five countries of origin for immigrants in the rest of the United States.

**Figure 4. Naturalization Rates Among Immigrants**

### Naturalization Rate

Figure 4 indicates that immigrants in Kent County, MI are less likely to be naturalized citizens compared to immigrants in the United States at large. As shown in the figure, 41 percent of immigrants are naturalized citizens in Kent County compared to 50 percent of all immigrants in the United States.



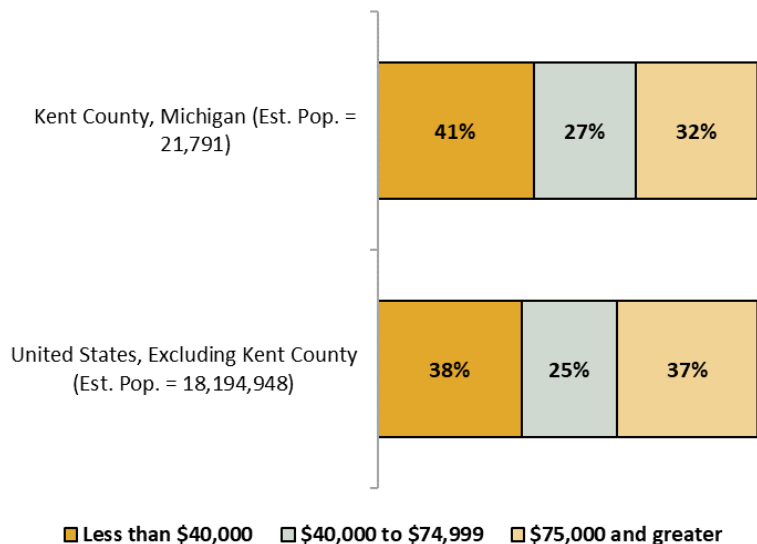
## Immigrants in Kent County, Michigan

### Figure 5. Race and Ethnicity<sup>2</sup>

With respect to race, Figure 6 shows that immigrants in Kent County, MI are less likely to identify as White (41%) or Asian (26 percent) compared with immigrants in the rest of the United States, but slightly more likely to identify as Other Race (19 percent), Black (10 percent), or having Two or More Races (3%) than immigrants in other parts of the United States. With respect to ethnicity, immigrants in Kent County are less likely to identify as Hispanic (39 percent) compared with immigrants nationally (44%).

	Immigrants in Kent County, MI	Immigrants in the United States, excluding Kent County, MI
White	41%	46%
Asian	26%	27%
Black	11%	10%
Other Race	19%	15%
Two or More Races	3%	2%
Not Hispanic	61%	56%
Hispanic	39%	44%
<b>Estimated Immigrant Population</b>	<b>57,387</b>	<b>43,975,076</b>

### Figure 6. Family Income<sup>3</sup> Head of Household, Age 16+



#### Family Income

Overall, immigrant families in Kent County, MI are more likely to earn below \$75,000 (68 percent) than immigrant families in other parts of the United States (62 percent). In looking at specific income brackets, Figure 5 also shows that Kent County immigrant families are both more likely to earn less than \$40,000 and between \$40,000 and \$74,999 compared with immigrant families elsewhere in the United States. The median family income of immigrant-headed households in Kent County is \$50,000 compared to \$53,960 for all other immigrant-headed households in the United States.

<sup>2</sup>IIR fact sheets are created following standard definitions established by the U.S. Census Bureau. Please consult <https://www.census.gov/topics/> for clarification as to important distinctions such as those between industry and occupation or between race and ethnicity.

<sup>3</sup>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.



## Institute for Immigration Research

The IIR's mission is to produce valid, reliable, and objective multidisciplinary research on immigrants and immigration to the United States and to disseminate this information through peer-reviewed academic journals, as well as in print and digital formats that make this research easily accessible to policy-makers, the media, the business community, and the general public. The Institute for Immigration Research is a joint venture between George Mason University and the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, MA.

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