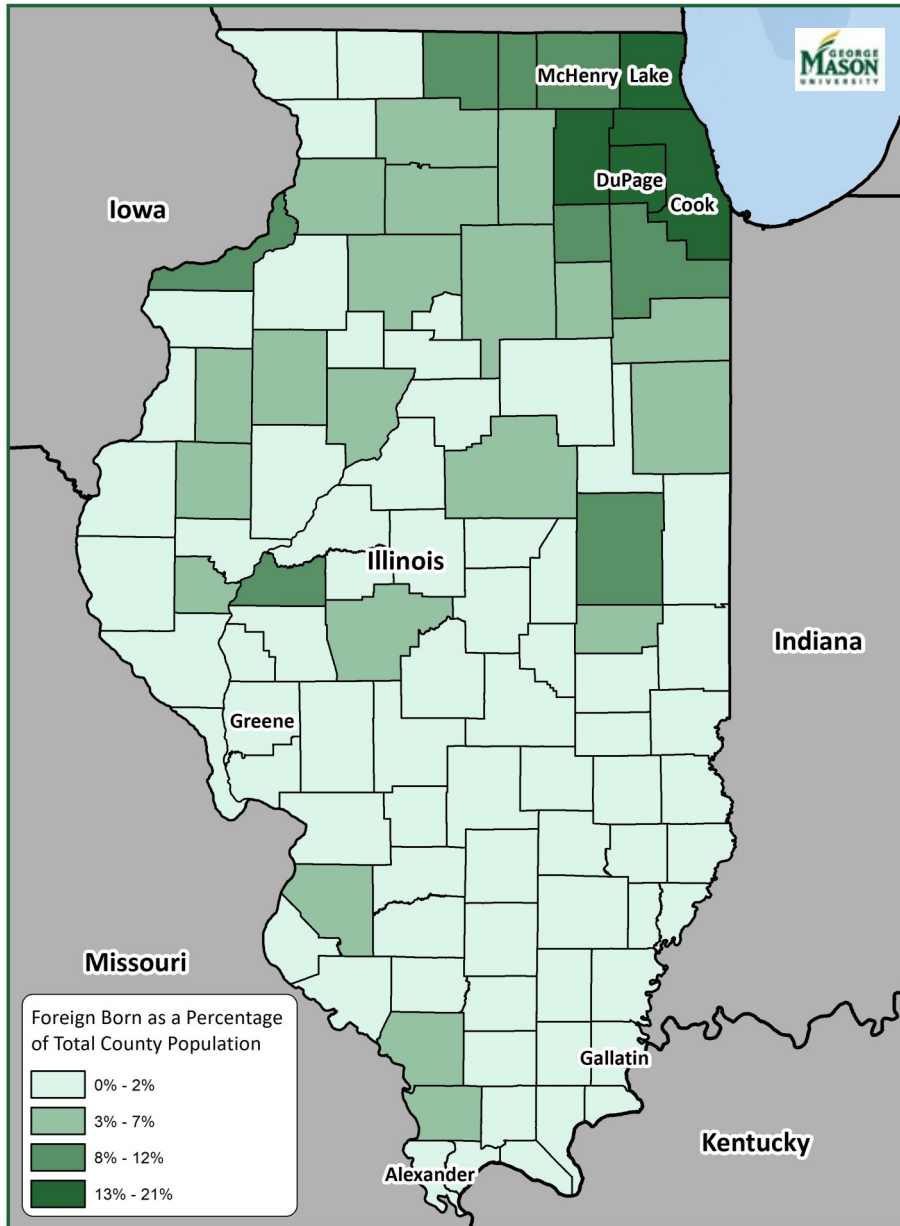


Immigrants in McHenry County, Illinois

Figure 1. Immigrants in Illinois



2020 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **44,411,750:** Approximate number of immigrants living in the U.S. (14% of the population)
- **1,779,060:** Approximate number of immigrants in Illinois (14% of the state’s population)
- **13th:** Rank of Illinois among the 50 states and the District of Columbia in terms of immigrants as a percentage of the state’s total population
- **28,250:** Approximate number of immigrants in McHenry County, Illinois (9% of the county’s population)

Distribution of Immigrants

The top three counties with the highest percentage of foreign-born residents are located in northeastern Illinois and include Cook (21%), DuPage (19%), and Lake Counties (19%). Additionally, immigrants make up 9% of McHenry County’s total population. These four counties are all located within the bounds of the Chicago metropolitan area, which has been an historically popular destination for international immigrants. Notably, Cook County includes the city of Chicago, which has a particularly rich history of immigration since the late 19th century. By contrast, the counties with the lowest share of immigrants are Alexander (0.27%), Gallatin (0.28%), and Greene (0.32%), which are three small counties in rural areas with few motivations for immigration.

Note: This data was prepared by George Mason University’s Institute for Immigration Research (IIR). 2023. This data is displayed at the county level. Maps are based on IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 16.0. ACS 2016-2020 dataset. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota. 2023.

All analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2016-2020 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.

Immigrants in McHenry County, Illinois

Figure 2. Age Among Immigrants

	Immigrants in McHenry County, IL	All Other Immigrants in Illinois
0 thru 4 years old	0%	1%
5 to 15 years old	2%	3%
16 to 24 years old	7%	7%
25 to 34 years old	14%	17%
35 to 44 years old	24%	21%
45 to 54 years old	22%	20%
55 to 64 years old	16%	15%
65 years and older	15%	16%
Estimated Immigrant Population	28,247	1,750,816
Median Age	46 years old	45 years old

Overall, Figure 2 shows that immigrants in McHenry County have a similar age distribution compared to all other immigrants in Illinois. The similar median age of 46 years old for immigrants in McHenry County and 45 years old for their counterparts in the rest of Illinois further demonstrates this trend. Nonetheless, Figure 2 data also shows that immigrants in McHenry County are slightly more likely to be 35 to 64 years old than all other immigrants in Illinois (62% to 56%). The fact that a greater share of immigrants in McHenry County arrived to the United States from 1930 to 1989 than all other immigrants in the state (37% to 31%) partially explains the variation in these two groups' age distributions.

Figure 3. Naturalization Rates Among Immigrants

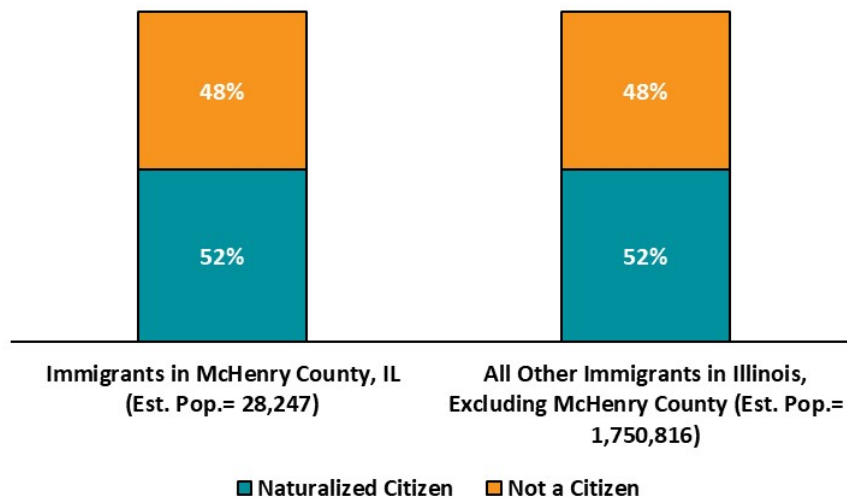


Figure 3 shows that immigrants in McHenry County, Illinois have identical naturalization rates to all other immigrants in the state (i.e., 52% are naturalized citizens in each group). This is surprising given immigrants' higher English proficiency in McHenry County than in the rest of the state (62% to 52%). The fact that immigrants in McHenry County have similar year of immigration trends as their counterparts in the rest of Illinois may partially explain the naturalization trends displayed in Figure 3. For example, immigrants in McHenry County have 1995 as their median year of immigration to the United States compared to 1997 for all other immigrants in Illinois. Additionally, 63% of immigrants in McHenry County arrived to the United States from 1990 to 2018, compared to 69% of all other immigrants in the state.

Immigrants in McHenry County, Illinois

Figure 4. Race and Hispanic Origin Among Immigrants

	Immigrants in McHenry County, Illinois	All Other Immigrants in Illinois
White	63%	45%
Asian	20%	27%
Black	3%	4%
Other Race	8%	18%
Two or More Races	6%	5%
Not Hispanic	56%	58%
Hispanic	44%	42%
Estimated Immigrant Population	28,247	1,750,816

As shown in Figure 4, immigrants in McHenry County are notably more likely to identify as white than all other immigrants in the state (63% to 45%). Compared to all other immigrants in the state, a larger share of immigrants in McHenry County are born in European countries. Poland (11%) and Germany (3%) are the second and fifth top countries of birth for immigrants in McHenry County, Illinois. By comparison, Poland (7%) is the third top country of birth for all other immigrants in Illinois and the only European nation that ranks among the top five countries of birth for this group. Immigrants in McHenry County are about as likely to identify as Hispanic as their counterparts elsewhere in the state (44% to 42%).

Figure 5. Employment Status Among Immigrants

In the Labor Force, Ages 16-65

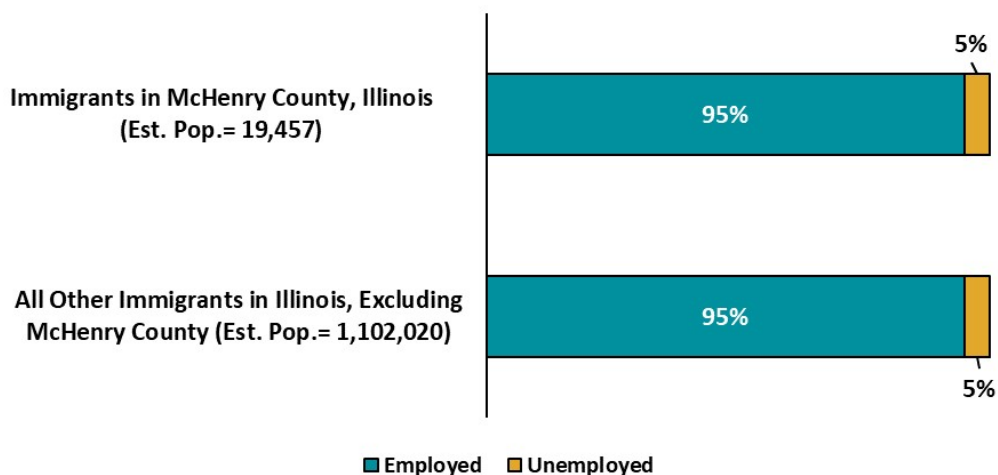


Figure 5 shows that immigrants in McHenry County and in the rest of Illinois are equally likely to be employed (95%). The fact that these two groups have similar occupational characteristics may partially explain this trend. For example, immigrants in McHenry County have the same top occupation (i.e., service occupations) as immigrants across the state. Specifically, 24% of immigrants in McHenry County and 21% of all other immigrants in the state work in service occupations (see Figure 6).

Immigrants in McHenry County, Illinois

Figure 6. Occupation Among Immigrants

In the Labor Force, Employed, Ages 16-65

Immigrants in McHenry County, Illinois		All Other Immigrants in Illinois	
Service Occupations	24%	Service Occupations	21%
Production Occupations	14%	Management, Business, and Financial Occupations	13%
Management, Business, and Financial Occupations	11%	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	11%
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	9%	Production Occupations	11%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	8%	Computer, Engineering, and Science Occupations	9%
8 Other Occupational Groups	34%	8 Other Occupational Groups	35%
Estimated Immigrant Population	18,513	Estimated Immigrant Population	1,052,914

Figure 6 shows that immigrants in McHenry County and elsewhere in the state of Illinois have the same top occupation (i.e., service occupations) and are employed at similar rates in these occupations (24% to 21%). The most notable difference in Figure 6 is in the fifth top occupation listed for immigrants in McHenry County and all other immigrants in the state. Immigrants in McHenry County have healthcare practitioners and technical occupations (8%) as their fifth top occupation, while all other immigrants in the state have computer, engineering, and science occupations (9%) in fifth place.

Figure 7. Number of Children in Immigrant Headed Households

Household head

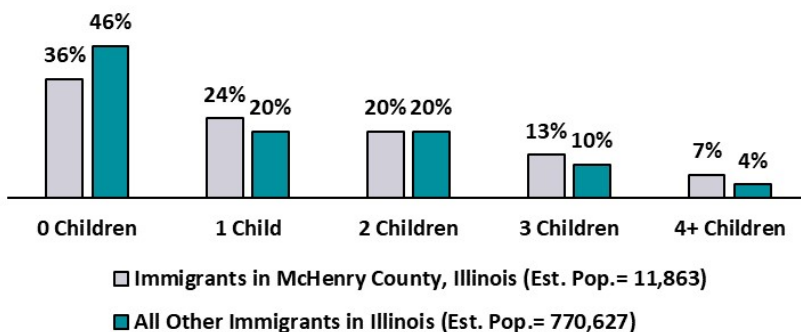


Figure 7 shows that immigrants in McHenry County are overall more likely to have 1 or more children than all other immigrants in the state (64% to 54%). Immigrants in McHenry County are more likely to be married and have a higher household income than their counterparts in other parts of Illinois, factors which may partially explain this trend. Specifically, 67% of immigrants in the county are married compared to 61% of all other immigrants in Illinois. Furthermore, the median household income of immigrants in McHenry County is \$72,158 compared to \$64,942 for all other immigrants in the state. Overall, being married and having a higher household income could better position immigrants in McHenry County to support larger families than immigrants elsewhere in Illinois.

For factsheets that examine populations at the household level, please note that 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. For fact sheets that examine total household income, please note that the total annual income of all members in the household is included in the analysis.

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.

Immigrants in McHenry County, Illinois



Institute for Immigration Research

Immigration Data on Demand (iDod)

The goal of iDod is to connect people with customized data about immigrants in particular regions or sectors of interest. This data provides insights into the vital contributions immigrants make to the economy and society.

The Institute for Immigration Research (IIR)

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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