

Profile of the Unauthorized Population: District of Columbia

Demographics	Estimate	% of Total
Unauthorized Population	21,000	100%
Top Countries of Birth		
El Salvador	7,000	34%
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
Regions of Birth		
Mexico and Central America	12,000	59%
Caribbean	-	-
South America	-	-
Europe/Canada/Oceania	2,000	11%
Asia	2,000	11%
Africa	2,000	9%
Years of U.S. Residence		
Less than 5	5,000	26%
5 to 9	5,000	22%
10 to 14	5,000	22%
15 to 19	3,000	15%
20 or more	3,000	14%

Age		
Under 16	-	-
16 to 24	3,000	15%
25 to 34	6,000	28%
35 to 44	6,000	28%
45 to 54	3,000	14%
55 and over	-	-
Gender		
Female	9,000	44%
Family		% of Total
Parental Status		
Population ages 15 and older	20,000	100%
Reside with at least one U.S.-citizen child under 18	4,000	21%
Reside with noncitizen children only under 18	-	-
Reside with no children	15,000	75%
Marital Status		
Population ages 15 and older	20,000	100%
Never married	11,000	55%
Married to a U.S. citizen	2,000	12%
Married to a legal permanent resident (LPR)	-	-
Married to non-U.S. citizen/non-LPR	3,000	15%
Divorced, separated, widowed	3,000	14%
Education and Language		% of Total
School Enrollment of Children and Youth		
Population ages 3 to 17	-	-
Enrolled	-	-
Not enrolled	-	-
Population ages 3 to 12	-	-

Enrolled	-	-
Not enrolled	-	-
Population ages 13 to 17	-	-
Enrolled	-	-
Not enrolled	-	-
Population ages 18 to 24	3,000	100%
Enrolled	2,000	70%
Not enrolled	-	-
Educational Attainment of Adults		
Population ages 25 and older	16,000	100%
0-5 grade	4,000	21%
6-8 grade	-	-
9-12 grade	-	-
High school diploma or equivalent	-	-
Some college or associate's degree	-	-
Bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree	6,000	35%
English Proficiency		
Population ages 5 and older	20,000	100%
Speak only English	3,000	14%
Speak English "very well"	6,000	28%
Speak English "well"	4,000	21%
Speak English "not well"/"not at all"	8,000	37%
Top 5 Languages Spoken at Home		
Population ages 5 and older	20,000	100%
Spanish	13,000	63%
English	3,000	14%
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-

Workforce	Estimate	% of Total
Labor Force Participation		
Civilian population ages 16 and older	19,000	100%
Employed	14,000	70%
Unemployed	-	-
Not in the labor force	5,000	25%
Top Industries of Employment		
Civilian employed population ages 16 and older	14,000	100%
Accommodation and food services, arts, entertainment, and recreation	4,000	27%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	3,000	19%
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
Economics		
Family Income		
Below 50% of the poverty level	3,000	13%
50-99% of the poverty level	-	-
100-149% of the poverty level	2,000	10%
150-199% of the poverty level	2,000	11%
At or above 200% of the poverty level	12,000	59%
Access to Health Insurance		
Uninsured	5,000	24%
Home Ownership*		
Homeowner	5,000	22%

Source: These 2019 data result from Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the pooled 2015-19 American Community Survey (ACS) and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program

Participation (SIPP), weighted to 2019 unauthorized immigrant population estimates provided by Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University.

Note: For U.S. and state estimates of the unauthorized population potentially eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, [click here](#).

Data-related notes

* “Homeowners” are unauthorized immigrants residing in homes that are owned, not rented.

+ Includes the following Colorado counties: Adams, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, and Jefferson, as well as portions of Arapahoe, Boulder, and Weld counties.

++ NECTAs refer to New England City and Town Areas, geographic entities defined by the U.S. Census Bureau for use as alternatives to counties in the six-state New England region.

Estimate for China includes Hong Kong but excludes Taiwan; estimate for Korea includes South Korea and North Korea.

“School Enrollment of Children and Youth” refers to unauthorized immigrants who reported attending school or college at any time in the three months prior to the survey.

For languages, “Chinese” includes Mandarin, Cantonese, and other Chinese languages; “English” includes English, Jamaican Creole, Krio, Pidgin Krio, and other English-based Creole languages; “French” includes French, Patois, and Cajun; “Pacific Island languages” includes Ilocano, Samoan, Hawaiian, Sebuano, Chamorro, Guamanian, Marshallese, Trukese, Tongan, and other Austronesian languages, but excludes Tagalog and Filipino, which are reported separately; “Portuguese” includes Portuguese and Cape Verdean Creole; “Sub-Saharan African” includes Swahili or other Bantu languages, Mande, Fulani, Kru, and other unspecified African languages; “Tagalog” includes Tagalog and Filipino.

For industries, “Other services” are miscellaneous services, not including the following services listed separately: (1) professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services; (2) educational services; (3) health and social services; and (4) accommodation and food services, arts, entertainment, and recreation.

“-” estimates are zero, not applicable, or not displayed due to small sample size.

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Methodology in Brief:

MPI’s method uses information from the SIPP to assign legal status to noncitizens in the ACS. In the SIPP, noncitizens report whether they currently have lawful permanent resident (LPR) status—i.e., a green card. Those without LPR status may be recent refugees, temporary visitors (e.g., international students or high-skilled H-1B workers), or unauthorized immigrants. Our method maps characteristics such as country of

birth, year of U.S. entry, age, gender, and educational attainment between the two surveys, and those noncitizens in the ACS who have characteristics similar to those reporting LPR status in the SIPP are coded as LPRs in the ACS. The remaining noncitizens—who are similar in characteristics to those not reporting LPR status in the SIPP—are classified as either unauthorized or legal temporary migrants, depending on whether they meet the qualifications for H-1B and the other temporary visa classifications. Estimates of unauthorized immigrants are weighted to match control totals (benchmarks) for immigrants from a set of origin countries and world regions. These control totals are calculated by subtracting the number of legal immigrants from the total of all immigrants for each country and region that are captured in the ACS data. The number of legal immigrants is estimated by adding up all legal admissions from each country and region in every year—using Department of Homeland Security administrative data—and then reducing this number to account for deaths and emigration of legal immigrants. Finally, the unauthorized immigrant population estimates are adjusted upward slightly to account for the undercount of this population in the ACS.

MPI's overall method was developed in consultation with James Bachmeier of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute. For more detail on the methods, see MPI, "[MPI Methodology for Assigning Legal Status to Noncitizen Respondents in U.S. Census Bureau Survey Data](#)." The control totals were developed by Van Hook. These estimates have the same sampling and coverage errors as any other survey-based estimates that rely on ACS and other Census Bureau data.

DEMOGRAPHICS

FAMILY

EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE

WORKFORCE

ECONOMICS





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