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Understanding the Impact of Immigration in Greater New Haven



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JANUARY 2015



“Immigrants are
giving The American
Dream life again.”

—Anonymous

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About this Report

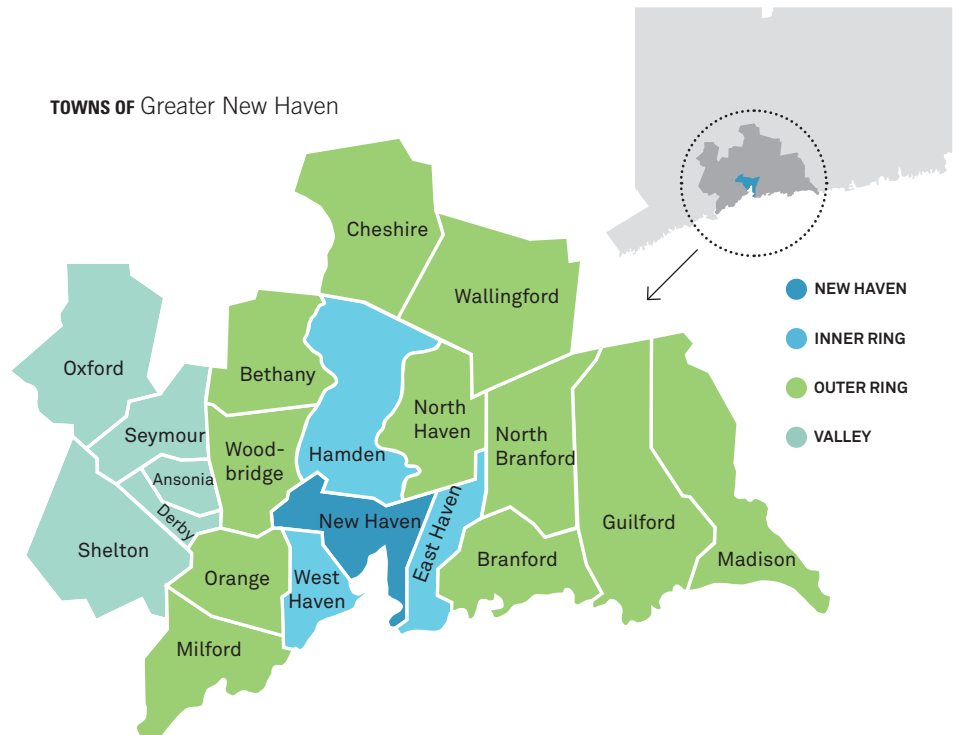
Understanding the Impact of Immigration in Greater New Haven explores how immigration impacts the development of both Greater New Haven and Connecticut. We use data collected by federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as information generated locally by DataHaven and The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. The report was written by Mary Buchanan and Mark Abraham of DataHaven, with assistance from staff at The Community Foundation, and should not be interpreted to represent the official views of DataHaven or The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. We recommend the following citation: Buchanan, Mary, and Mark Abraham. *Understanding the Impact of Immigration in Greater New Haven*. New Haven: The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, 2015.

Executive Summary:

- **1 in 8 residents of Greater New Haven is foreign-born,** originating from countries in all world regions. About half of all immigrants are naturalized US citizens; the other half are legal permanent residents, legal temporary residents, or undocumented immigrants.
- **Immigrants make Greater New Haven a resilient and diverse community.** They contribute millions of dollars in property taxes to municipal governments. Foreign-born people are more likely to own a small business than native-born Americans, and naturalized citizens are more likely to own homes than native-born people. Students of Greater New Haven public schools speak over 100 languages at home.
- Foreign-born people in Greater New Haven are **more likely to be employed** than native-born people. Among immigrants, there are more than twice as many high-skilled workers as low-skilled in the region.
- While the native-born population in Greater New Haven has barely increased since 2000, immigrants settling in the area have caused rapid population growth, making New Haven **the fastest-growing city in Connecticut** over this period.
- Although immigration is a complex issue, the Greater New Haven community widely agrees that foreign-born people contribute to the **economic, cultural, and social well-being of the region.**

Geography of Study

Although this report focuses primarily on immigration to Greater New Haven and the City of New Haven, we compare data from four geographic areas to demonstrate important trends. *Understanding the Impact of Immigration in Greater New Haven* analyzes figures for the United States, Connecticut, Greater New Haven,¹ and the City of New Haven. We select the information in each section based on availability and significance of indicators. For example, where data are unavailable specifically for Greater New Haven, we sometimes use state-level data; in other cases, we present neighborhood-level statistics. Except where specified differently, all Census data are taken from the 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, which contain the most recent Census data at a town-level.



¹ In this report, we define Greater New Haven as inclusive of the following 20 towns: New Haven; East Haven, Hamden, and West Haven (the Inner Ring); Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Guilford, Madison, Milford, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, and Woodbridge (the Outer Ring); and Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton (the Valley).

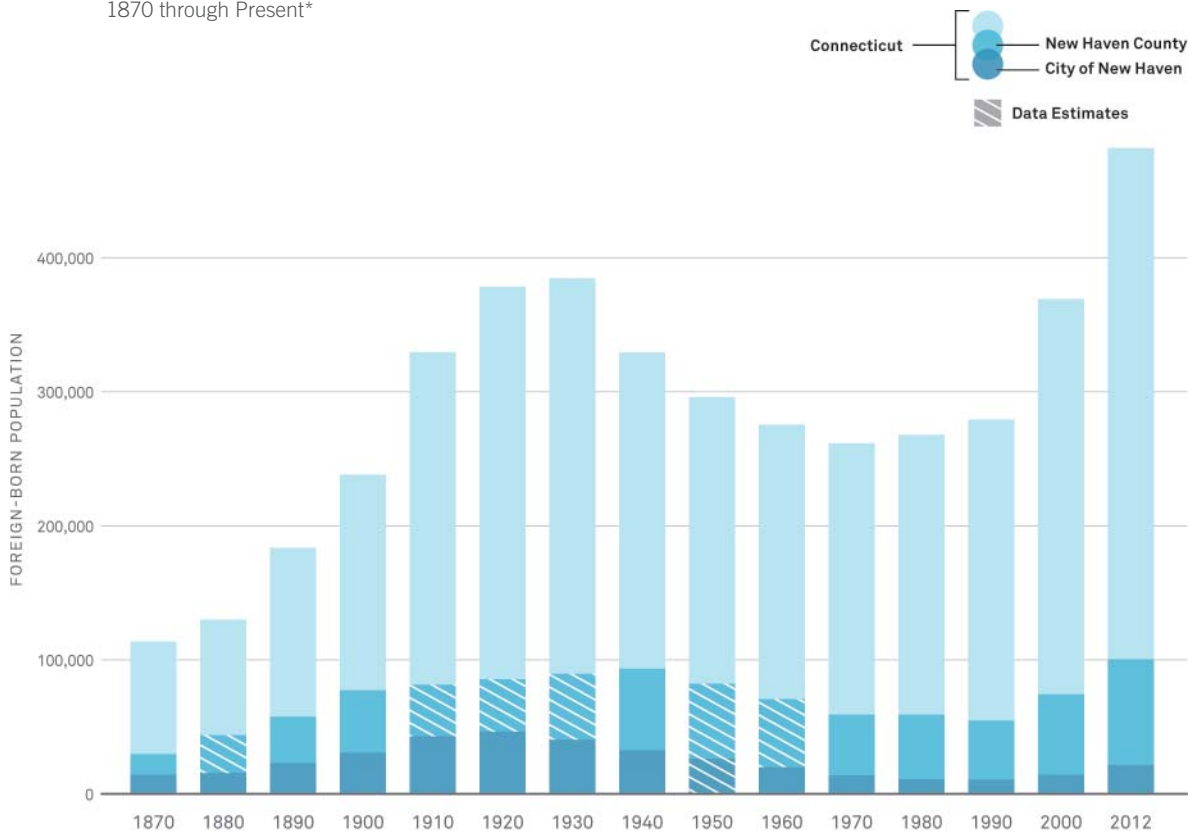
Introduction

Since Europeans first settled in the area in the early 1600s, foreign-born people have transformed our population, diversified our heritage and culture, and grown our economy. Presently a wave of immigration brings over a million foreign-born people to the United States every year—including thousands to Greater New Haven. The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven offers this report to help the general public, policymakers, and local leaders understand the impact of immigration on the area. Combining public data, local interviews, and field work related to immigration, this report is intended to inform discussions and community action.

HISTORICAL IMMIGRATION IN CONNECTICUT

Throughout our history, and especially around the turn of the twentieth century, great surges of European immigrants contributed to rapid population growth in New Haven and other Connecticut cities. However, the Great Depression, World War II, and immigration policy that limited incoming immigrants to quotas based on their origin constricted immigration during the mid-twentieth century. In 1965, a rewriting of immigration policy reversed two established nationwide trends: the dwindling number of foreign-born persons since the 1930s and the overwhelmingly Anglo-European ancestry of immigrants. Since the national policy took effect, New Haven and its surrounding suburbs have welcomed thousands of immigrants from around the world, closely mirroring the diversifying and expanding foreign-born population nationwide.

FIG. 01 Connecticut Foreign-born Population
1870 through Present*



SOURCE: DataHaven analysis of 1870 to 2008-2012 Census data available at census.gov.

* DataHaven estimated County and City foreign-born populations for decades for which Census data were unavailable. The diagonal lines indicate estimate years.

97 percent of respondents said that the issue of immigration is very or somewhat important to Connecticut.

Only **31 percent** of respondents thought they understood immigration policy extremely or fairly well.

- Respondents were united in the belief that immigration is important; however, many admitted that they were not well informed about the issue. We hope *Understanding the Impact of Immigration in Greater New Haven* will narrow the knowledge gap.
- Opinion was divided on the local impact of immigration. The majority of respondents commended immigrants for the diversity, investments, innovations they add to our society. However, some believed that immigrants, especially when they arrive without legal authorization, can be disruptive to our economy, traditional culture, and school system. A few interpreted that immigrants have little significant influence on Connecticut, or responded that since they have relatively few immigrant neighbors, they believed that immigration has little observable impact on their neighborhood.

“There are lots of different kinds of immigration—different skill levels and different backgrounds, different countries of origin, etc. As far as I can tell, they all help the culture and economy of Connecticut.”

—Anonymous

“Uncontrolled, illegal immigration is a bad thing. This is a source of crime... and a drain on State, Municipal, and Social services.”

—Anonymous

86 percent of respondents said that Connecticut is very or somewhat welcoming to immigrants.

PERCEPTIONS OF IMMIGRATION: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven explored local public opinion on immigration by interviewing key stakeholders and administering an online survey to its constituents. Questions were based on previous national surveys on immigration¹ and will help inform the design of the 2015 Connecticut Wellbeing Survey. Refer to page 19 for a discussion of survey methodology and additional results.

- Most survey participants agreed that our region is fairly welcoming to its foreign-born population. Many respondents noted that local policies, assisting agencies, and the attitudes of residents contribute to a more hospitable atmosphere in New Haven than in surrounding towns or cities.

Definitions

- **FOREIGN-BORN** or **IMMIGRANT**: Any person living in the United States who was not an American citizen at birth. This refers to anyone born outside of the United States to non-American parents, including naturalized citizens, legal non-citizen residents, and undocumented immigrants.
- **NATIVE-BORN**: Any person living in the United States who was either born in the US or born abroad to at least one American parent. Puerto Rico, Guam, and U.S. Island Areas are US territories and considered to be part of the country. Therefore, persons born in these areas are native-born. All native-born people are American citizens.
- **NATURALIZED CITIZEN**: Any foreign-born person who earns American citizenship through the naturalization process, in which he fulfills the requirements for citizenship established by the US government.
- **NON-CITIZEN**: Any foreign-born person living in the United States who is not a naturalized citizen. This includes those who are authorized to live in the US, either permanently or temporarily, as well as those who are not legal residents of the country. In Connecticut less than half of non-citizens are undocumented immigrants.
- **UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT** or **UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANT**: Sometimes referred to as illegal immigrant. Any non-citizen who is not a legal resident of the United States.
- **REFUGEE** and **ASYLEE**: A refugee leaves his country for another because he is persecuted or fears persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group. An asylee meets the definition of a refugee but is already in the US when he applies for asylum status. Refugees and asylees have legal status in the United States.
- **ORIGIN**: Or place of birth. The world region or country in which an immigrant was born.

Data Profile

Compare the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics for the following groups, across four geographic regions.²

TOTAL POPULATION

- Approximately 1 in every 8 Americans and 1 in 8 Greater New Haven residents is an immigrant.
- Immigrants are more racially diverse than the native-born population. In Greater New Haven, more than 1 in 3 people who identify as Asian or Hispanic are foreign born, versus 1 in 17 people who identify as white.
- A smaller percent of immigrants are under 18 years, compared to native-born people.
- On average, immigrants have lower annual individual incomesⁱⁱ than native-born people and are less likely to have earned a high school degree. But immigrants in Greater New Haven are also more likely to have earned a bachelor's degree, indicating a distinction between high-skill and low-skill immigrants. See page 16 for more information.

16 percent of respondents correctly answered that 87 percent of Connecticut residents in 2012 were native-born. **75 percent** of respondents thought that between 65 to 85 percent of Connecticut's population in 2012 was native-born.

FIG. 02 General Characteristics

Total Population, 2008-2012

DEMOGRAPHICS

	UNITED STATES			CONNECTICUT			GREATER NEW HAVEN			CITY OF NEW HAVEN		
	Total	Native-born	Foreign-born	Total	NB	FB	Total	NB	FB	Total	NB	FB
Total population	309,138,711	269,354,406	39,784,305	3,572,213	3,090,333	481,880	638,627	563,957	74,670	129,898	108,251	21,647
Percent of total	—	87%	13%	—	87%	14%	—	88%	12%	—	83%	17%
Percent change since 2000	10%	8%	28%	5%	2%	30%	4%	1%	37%	5%	-1%	51%
Non-Hispanic White ¹	64%	70%	19%	71%	77%	37%	71%	75%	35%	32%	35%	20%
Black or African American	13%	13%	8%	10%	9%	15%	12%	12%	12%	35%	38%	18%
Asian	5%	2%	25%	4%	1%	21%	4%	1%	26%	5%	1%	22%
Hispanic or Latino	16%	12%	47%	13%	11%	26%	12%	10%	26%	26%	24%	39%
Under 18 years	24%	26%	7%	23%	25%	7%	22%	24%	7%	23%	26%	6%
18 to 44 years	37%	35%	50%	35%	33%	48%	36%	34%	51%	48%	45%	66%
45 to 64 years	26%	26%	30%	28%	28%	31%	28%	28%	28%	20%	20%	19%
65 years and over	13%	13%	13%	14%	14%	14%	15%	15%	14%	9%	9%	8%
With health insurance ²	85%	88%	67%	91%	94%	76%	92%	94%	77%	86%	91%	63%
Average family size (people)	3.21	3.09	3.81	3.12	3.07	3.39	—	—	—	3.25	3.22	3.35

INCOME

Population 15 years and over	248,042,237	210,154,835	37,887,402	2,911,421	2,454,318	457,103	527,623	456,483	71,140	105,579	84,894	20,685
Income below \$25,000	41%	41%	43%	36%	35%	38%	36%	36%	37%	48%	49%	45%
Income at least \$75,000	11%	11%	10%	17%	17%	14%	16%	16%	15%	8%	8%	8%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Population 25 years and over	204,336,017	170,748,250	33,587,767	2,431,340	2,023,497	407,843	436,029	373,112	62,917	79,149	61,926	17,223
Less than HS diploma	14%	11%	32%	11%	9%	21%	10%	9%	19%	20%	18%	25%
Bachelor's degree or higher	29%	29%	28%	36%	37%	33%	37%	36%	40%	33%	30%	41%

FAMILY AND POVERTY

	UNITED STATES	CONNECTICUT	GREATER NEW HAVEN	CITY OF NEW HAVEN
Population under 18 years	73,979,859	812,212	132,801	29,493
Living with 2 parents	66%	69%	68%	38%
1 or more foreign-born parents	24%	23%	21%	24%
1 or more foreign-born parents and living with 2 parents	18%	18%	16%	15%
Under 18 years, poverty status determined ³	70,458,032	783,752	132,801	27,699
Living under the poverty level	20%	13%	14%	36%
Living under the poverty level and 1 or more foreign-born parents	6%	3%	3%	7%

- About 1 in 4 children nationally and locally has at least one foreign-born parent. Children with at least one foreign-born parent are somewhat more likely to be living in poverty, except in the City of New Haven, where native-born children are more likely to live in poverty.

SOURCE: DataHaven analysis of 2000 and 2008-2012 Census data, available at census.gov.

¹ Percentages do not total 100. Some ACS race categories are not displayed. Further, "Hispanic or Latino" indicates ethnicity, while "Non-Hispanic White," "Black or African American," and "Asian" indicate race. Respondents who identified as Hispanic or Latino in ethnicity and Black or African American or Asian in race are counted twice. The same applies for race and ethnicity indicators of the foreign-born population in Figure 3.

² Percent with health insurance of the "uninstitutionalized population" for each population group. The "uninstitutionalized population" is the civilian population who are not inmates in institutions and who are not on active duty in the Armed forces. The same applies for the "with health insurance" indicator of the foreign-born population in Figure 3.

³ The US Census Bureau determines poverty status for those not residing as inmates in institutions; living in college dormitories; or under age 15 and not related by birth, marriage, or adoption to a Census reference person. The same applies for the "poverty status determined" indicator of the foreign-born population in Figure 3.

² DataHaven analyzed these data for other towns and geographies in Connecticut. Contact us for more information.

FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION

- In Greater New Haven, there are slightly more non-citizens (including those who are authorized to live in the United States as well as those who are not legal residents) than naturalized citizens.
- Naturalized citizens demonstrate higher socioeconomic characteristics than non-citizens. They are less likely to live in poverty, and they are much more likely to have health insurance.

- Only about 1 in 10 naturalized citizens entered the US after 2000. On average, naturalized citizens are more than ten years older than non-citizens.
- Naturalized citizens are more likely to have been born in Europe or Asia, compared to non-citizens who are most likely to have been born in the Caribbean or in Central or South America.

FIG. 03 Immigrant Characteristics
Foreign-born Population, 2008-2012

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

	UNITED STATES			CONNECTICUT			GREATER NEW HAVEN			CITY OF NEW HAVEN		
	Foreign-born Total	Naturalized Citizen	Non-citizen	Total	Nat. Cit.	Non-cit.	Total	Nat. Cit.	Non-cit.	Total	Nat. Cit.	Non-cit.
Total foreign-born population	39,784,305	17,639,207	22,145,098	481,880	226,263	255,617	74,670	34,869	39,801	21,647	5,594	16,053
Percent of total foreign-born	—	44%	56%	—	47%	53%	—	47%	53%	—	26%	74%
Percent change since 2000	28%	41%	19%	30%	26%	35%	37%	29%	45%	51%	18%	67%
Non-Hispanic White	19%	25%	14%	37%	46%	29%	35%	47%	25%	20%	29%	16%
Black or African American	8%	9%	7%	15%	16%	14%	12%	12%	11%	18%	28%	15%
Asian	25%	32%	19%	21%	21%	20%	26%	24%	27%	22%	23%	21%
Hispanic or Latino	47%	32%	59%	26%	17%	35%	26%	15%	35%	39%	17%	47%
Median age (years)	41.5	49.6	35.8	42.4	50.2	35.9	42.2	49.3	37.2	33.8	47.2	31.8
Living in poverty	18%	11%	24%	12%	7%	16%	12%	6%	17%	21%	14%	23%
With health insurance	67%	84%	53%	76%	91%	63%	77%	92%	64%	63%	89%	54%
Average family size (people)	3.81	3.66	3.98	3.39	3.32	3.49	—	—	—	3.35	3.18	3.44
Population 25 years and over	33,587,767	16,229,218	17,358,549	407,843	205,973	201,870	—	—	—	17,223	4,894	12,329
Bachelor's degree or higher	28%	34%	32%	33%	35%	31%	—	—	—	41%	49%	38%

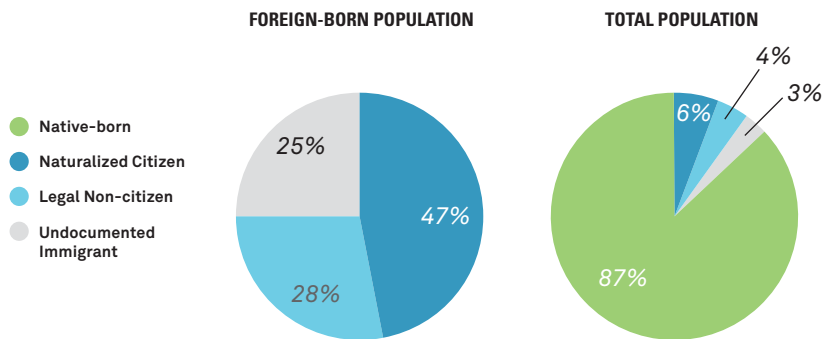
IMMIGRANT CHARACTERISTICS

	UNITED STATES			CONNECTICUT			GREATER NEW HAVEN			CITY OF NEW HAVEN		
	Foreign-born Total	Naturalized Citizen	Non-citizen	Total	Nat. Cit.	Non-cit.	Total	Nat. Cit.	Non-cit.	Total	Nat. Cit.	Non-cit.
Total foreign-born population	39,784,305	17,639,207	22,145,098	481,880	226,263	255,617	74,670	34,869	39,801	21,647	5,594	16,053
Entered the US after 2000	34%	11%	53%	36%	11%	59%	38%	9%	64%	56%	11%	72%
Entered the US before 1990	39%	63%	20%	39%	63%	17%	37%	62%	16%	21%	58%	8%
Origin, Europe	12%	17%	8%	28%	37%	20%	28%	39%	19%	14%	25%	11%
Asia	29%	37%	22%	23%	24%	22%	29%	28%	30%	24%	27%	23%
Central America & Caribbean	46%	32%	57%	26%	21%	31%	22%	14%	29%	41%	31%	45%
South America	7%	7%	7%	15%	11%	19%	13%	11%	14%	13%	9%	14%
Canada & other areas	7%	7%	7%	8%	7%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	7%

SOURCE: DataHaven analysis of 2000 and 2008-2012 Census data, available at census.gov

FIG. 04 Connecticut Population Estimates

By Immigrant Status, 2008-2012



SOURCE: DataHaven analysis of 2008-2012 Census data available at census.gov and Pew Research Center 2010 estimates available at pewhispanic.org.

Population figure for Connecticut undocumented immigrants based on Pew Research Center 2010 estimate that undocumented immigrants are 3.4 percent of total Connecticut population.

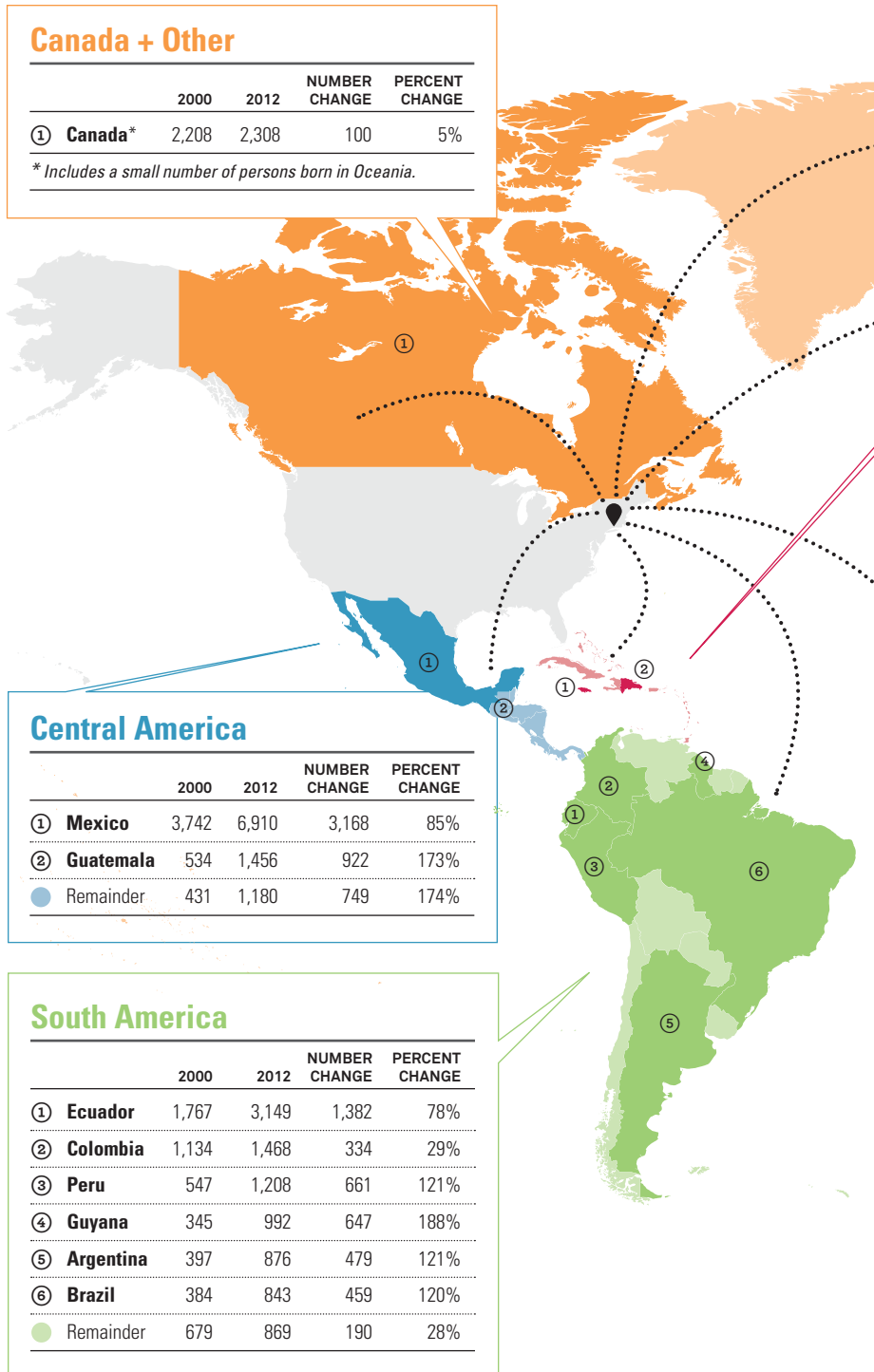
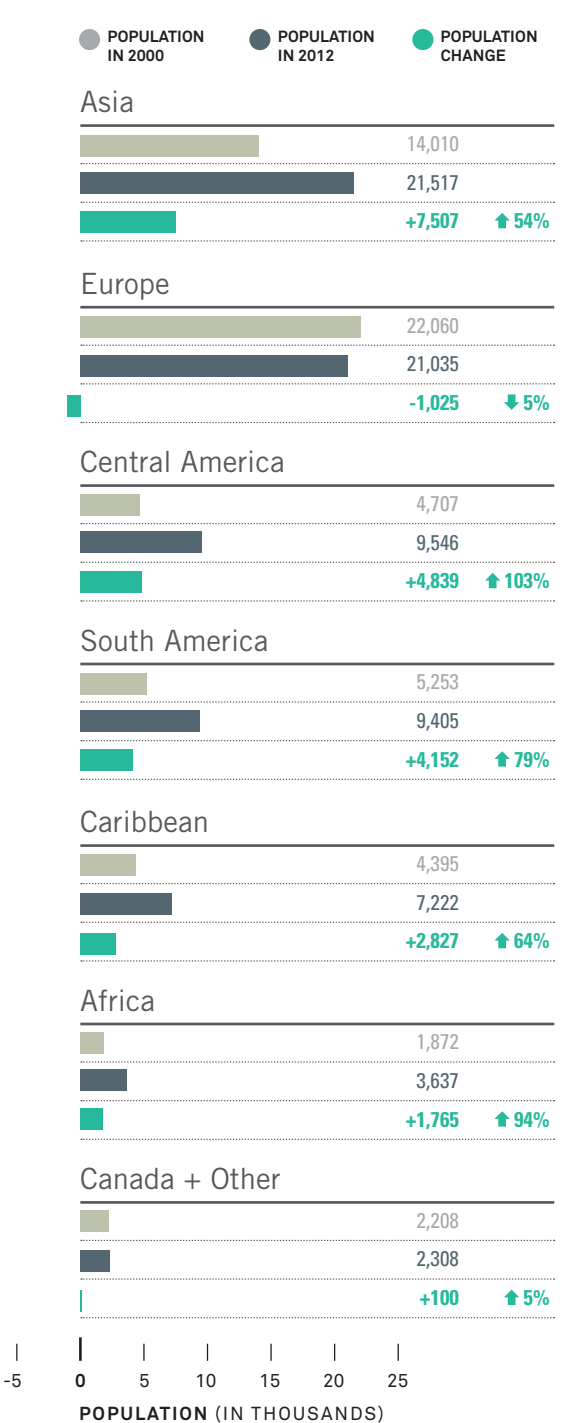
- There is no exact population figure for undocumented immigrants, although the vast majority is counted within Census population totals. The American Community Survey undercounts the undocumented immigrant population by roughly 10 to 20 percent. Therefore, population figures for non-citizens in this report do not reflect the uncounted undocumented immigrant population.ⁱⁱⁱ
- In 2013 there were an estimated 11.3 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States, or about 3.6 percent of the population.^{iv} DataHaven estimates that 14,430 undocumented immigrants live in Greater New Haven.^v

12 percent of respondents correctly answered that about 3.4 percent of Connecticut residents are undocumented immigrants.^{vi} The remaining **88 percent** of participants guessed that undocumented immigrants represent from 6 to 35 percent of Connecticut's total population.

FIG. 05 Greater New Haven's Immigrant Population

Change from 2000 through 2012, by country and region of birth

Greater New Haven is attracting immigrants from a wide range of countries throughout the world, with the greatest increases in numerical terms attributable to immigration from Mexico, India, China, Jamaica, and Ecuador. Populations from places such as Guyana, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Thailand, and Middle and East Africa appear to be growing most rapidly in proportion to the size of previously-existing immigrant communities from those areas. Due to the imprecision of Census estimates, specific countries or regions of origin are only identified in this graphic if the population living in Greater New Haven from that country or region was estimated to be at least 700 persons.³



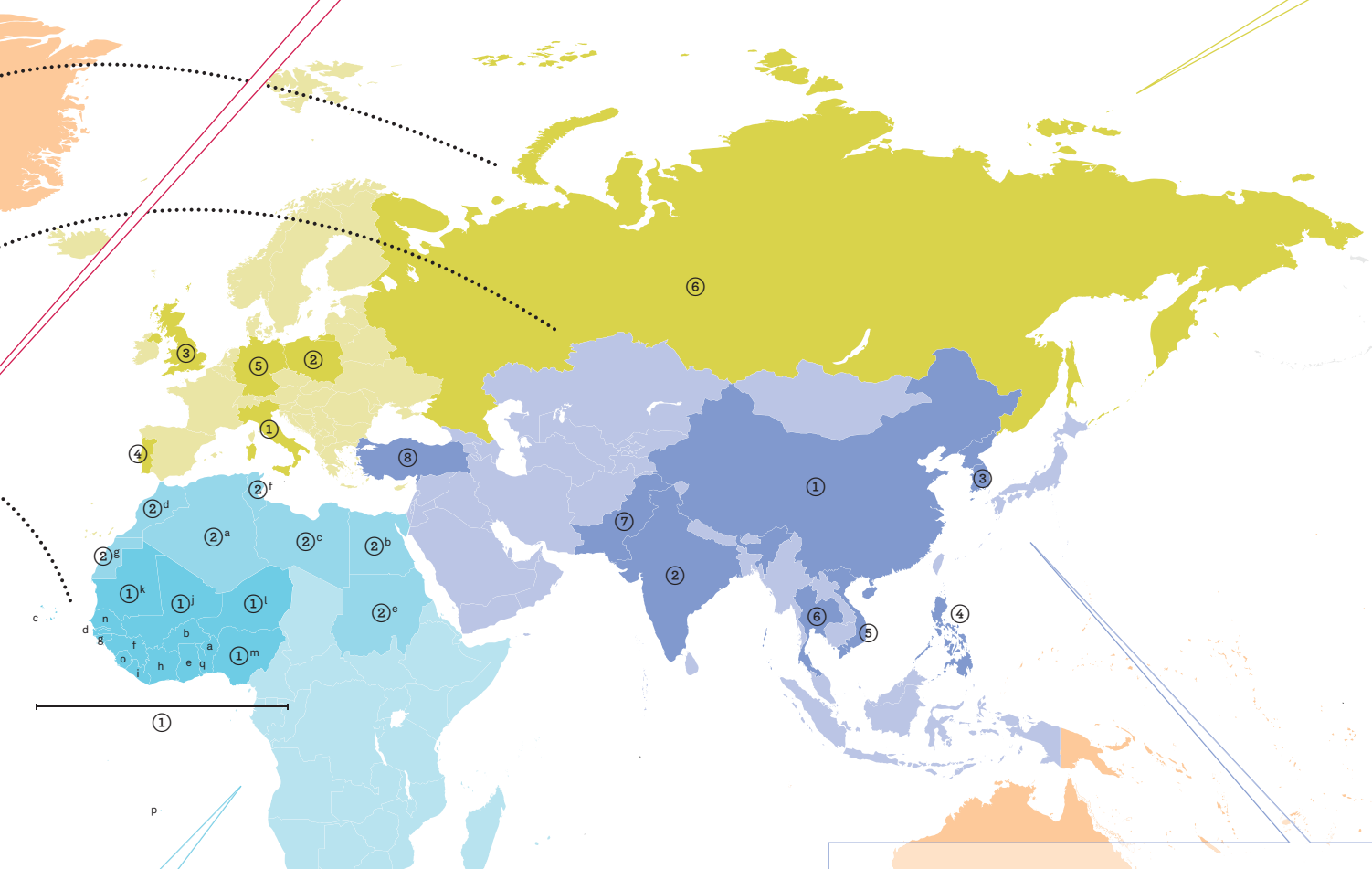
³ DataHaven analysis of 2000 and 2008-2012 Census data available at census.gov.

Caribbean

	2000	2012	NUMBER CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
① Jamaica	2,068	3,600	1,532	74%
② Dominican Republic	641	1,687	1,046	163%
● Remainder	1,686	1,935	249	15%

Europe

	2000	2012	NUMBER CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
① Italy	5,013	3,990	-1,023	-20%
② Poland	3,359	3,397	38	1%
③ United Kingdom	2,428	2,460	32	1%
④ Portugal	1,553	1,648	95	6%
⑤ Germany	2,068	1,473	-595	-29%
⑥ Russia	1,058	1,317	259	24%
● Remainder	6,581	6,750	169	3%



Africa*

	2000	2012	NUMBER CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
① West African countries†	943	1,300	357	38%
② North African countries‡	364	851	487	134%
● Remainder	565	1,486	921	163%

* Although Greater New Haven does not have more than 700 residents from a single country in Africa, many African immigrant communities in our region are rapidly growing.

† West Africa includes Benin^a, Burkina Faso^b, Cape Verde^c, Gambia^d, Ghana^e, Guinea^f, Guinea-Bissau^g, Ivory Coast^h, Liberiaⁱ, Mali^j, Mauritania^k, Niger^l, Nigeria^m, Senegalⁿ, Sierra Leone^o, St Helena^p, and Togo^q.

‡ North Africa includes Algeria^a, Egypt^b, Libya^c, Morocco^d, Sudan^e, Tunisia^f, and Western Sahara^g.

Asia

	2000	2012	NUMBER CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
① China	3,394	5,686	2,292	68%
② India	2,878	5,607	2,729	95%
③ Korea	1,454	1,763	309	21%
④ Philippines	948	1,501	553	58%
⑤ Vietnam	814	916	102	13%
⑥ Thailand	222	812	590	266%
⑦ Pakistan	680	782	102	15%
⑧ Turkey	569	735	166	29%
● Remainder	3,051	3,715	664	22%

A Changing Population

GREATER NEW HAVEN: IMMIGRATION AND POPULATION CHANGE

Because of immigration, the places where we live and work are experiencing a significant net growth in population. The foreign-born populations in Greater New Haven and the City of New Haven have steadily risen since 2000, but at the same time, the native-born populations have stagnated. Learn more about the importance of population growth on page 16.

- From 2000 to 2012, Greater New Haven's population as a whole increased by more than 27,000 people. Of that growth, about 75 percent (20,165) were foreign-born residents. About half of immigrants in Greater New Haven are naturalized citizens.
- Within the region, 12 percent of residents (18,025 people) in the Inner Ring suburbs and 9 percent of residents (23,967 people) in the Outer Ring suburbs are foreign-born (see page 3 for geographic definitions). In the five towns that comprise the Valley region, 11 percent of residents (11,031 people) are foreign-born. Of immigrants living in the Valley, about 62 percent are naturalized citizens.
- Over the same time period, the City of New Haven experienced a net influx of 6,272 people, making it the fastest-growing city or town in Connecticut. Over this time, it lost 1,025 native-born residents but gained 7,297 foreign-born residents—many concentrated within the neighborhoods highlighted below. Currently, an estimated 17 percent of residents (21,647 people) are foreign-born—more than double the figures reported in the 1990 Census. About 25 percent of immigrants in New Haven are naturalized citizens.

CITY OF NEW HAVEN: NEIGHBORHOOD POPULATION GROWTH, 1970-2012

Over the past several decades, the impact of immigration has been particularly felt within the City of New Haven's rebounding neighborhoods.

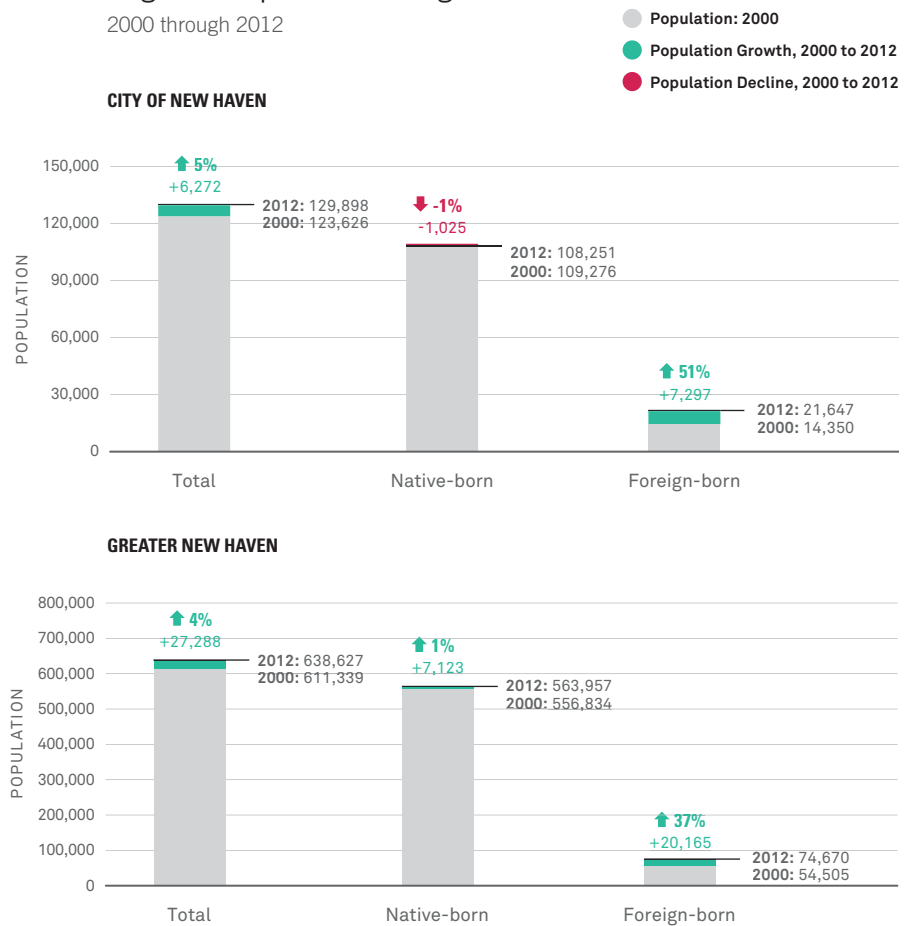
- From 1970 to 1990, the foreign-born population in most New Haven neighborhoods remained flat or declined, and these neighborhoods suffered from overall population decline—similar to other central city neighborhoods in post-industrial cities.
- Since 1990, the foreign-born population in many city neighborhoods has rebounded sharply, particularly in areas such as Edgewood, West River, Fair Haven, and the Hill. These areas have seen a large influx of population and business overall.

"I live in Fair Haven, which boasts a healthy immigrant population that lives there, owns real estate, brings culture, and owns and operates businesses."

—Anonymous

FIG. 06 Regional Population Change

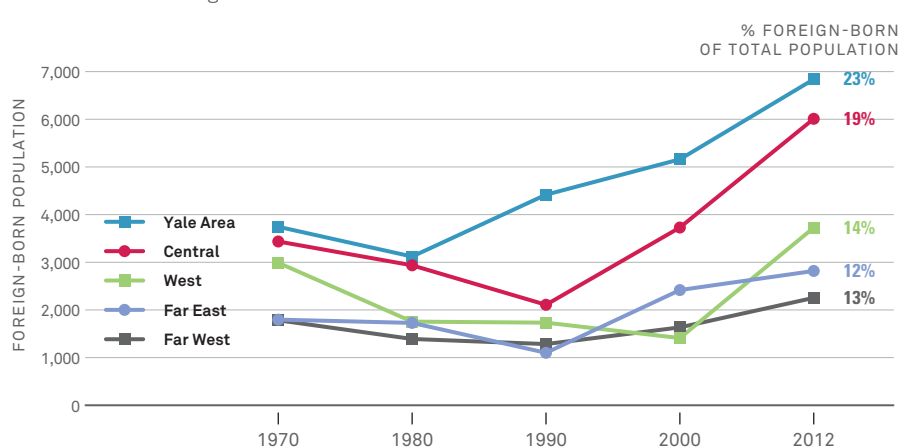
2000 through 2012



SOURCE: DataHaven analysis of 2008-2012 Census data, available at census.gov.

FIG. 07 New Haven Foreign-born Population, by Neighborhood Group

1970 through 2012



SOURCE: DataHaven analysis of 1970 to 2008-2012 Tract-level Census data provided by Neighborhood Change Database 1970-2000 and census.gov.

Yale Area includes Downtown/Dwight, East Rock, Wooster Square. **Central** is Hill and Fair Haven. **West** is composed of Dixwell, Newhallville, Beaver Hills, Edgewood, and West River. **Far East** is East Shore, Annex, Fair Haven Heights, and Quinnipiac Meadows. **Far West** includes Westville, Amity, and West Rock.

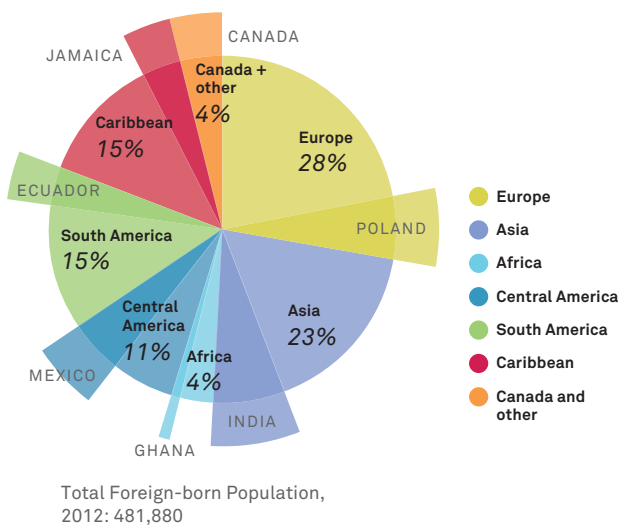
CONNECTICUT: SHIFTING DIVERSITY

With each decade, the composition of Connecticut's immigrant population has dramatically changed, mirroring trends in the US, Greater New Haven, and the City of New Haven. The Connecticut foreign-born population indicates the increasing diversity of immigration to our area, when examined by decade of arrival in the US.

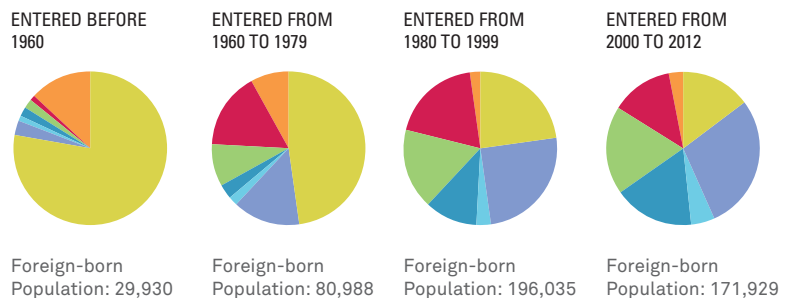
- **In size:**
 - More than 35 percent entered the US in 2000 or later.
 - About 39 percent entered the US at any time before 1990.
- **In diversity:**
 - 78 percent of Connecticut's immigrant population that entered the US before 1960 was born in Europe. Among immigrants who arrived at this time, less than 4 percent came each from Asia, Africa, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.
 - Among Connecticut's immigrant population entering the US since 2000, only 15 percent are Europeans. 29 percent were born in Asia, and 19 percent come from South America.

FIG. 08 Connecticut Foreign-born Population, by Origin and Period of Arrival
2008-2012

TOTAL, BY ORIGIN

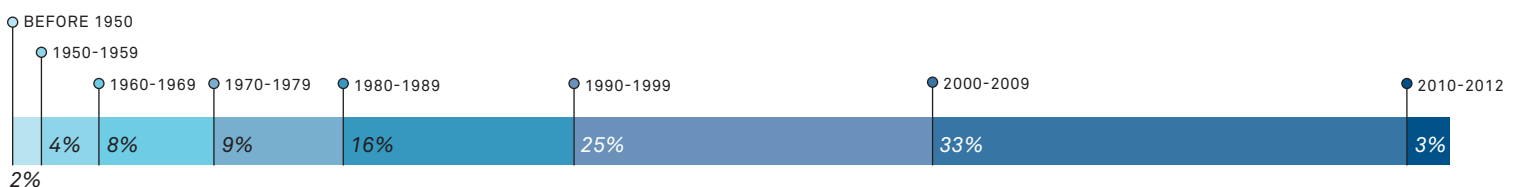


BY PERIOD OF ARRIVAL



SOURCE: DataHaven analysis of 2008-2012 Census PUMS, available at census.gov.

FIG. 09 Connecticut Foreign-born Population, by Period of Arrival
2008-2012



SOURCE: DataHaven analysis of 2008-2012 Census PUMS, available at census.gov.

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

The population of undocumented immigrants in the United States peaked in 2007 to an estimated 12 million, but has since declined to approximately 11.3 million in 2013.^{vii} The number of undocumented immigrants living in Greater New Haven is quite small relative to the total population (see Figure 4 on page 7).

Nationally, the majority of undocumented immigrants (62 percent) are long-term residents of ten years or longer. Like the foreign born population as a whole, most undocumented immigrant adults are employed, comprising a disproportionately large share of the labor force relative to their overall size.^{viii}

Many people ask why undocumented immigrants would not wait in line to immigrate through legal channels. The path to legal permanent residency is complicated, and most undocumented immigrants are either excluded from this process altogether or would be on a waiting list that lasts from ten years to many decades.^{ix}

In the absence of Federal Immigration reform, the state and region have worked locally to integrate undocumented residents. At the state level, legislation approved driver's licenses and in-state tuition rates to public colleges and universities for this population. At the municipal level, New Haven created the Elm City ID card, a system that provides legal identification for undocumented residents and that has been replicated in at least nine other cities including New York and San Francisco.

Community Impact

The foreign-born population is also rising at the neighborhood level. Immigrants make our communities more resilient by participating in local real estate, culture, and business.

“I live in an immigrant neighborhood... [Immigrants] are homeowners, renters, small business owners, customers, students, parents, etc. They give our neighborhood its identity as one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the state.”—Anonymous

REAL ESTATE

Owning a home indicates financial and social investment in the community. Homeowners pay property taxes, which support the local government and school system. They are also more likely than renters to engage in civic life by joining community organizations or voting in local elections.^x

- In general, naturalized US citizens have higher rates of homeownership than native-born people.
- Although native-born people are more likely to own homes than foreign-born people overall, including naturalized and non-citizens, the gap between the two groups has narrowed over the past decade.
- Lower rates of homeownership among non-citizens are in part due to their shorter length of residency in the US; however, immigrant renters represent “a large reservoir of potential future homeownership demand.”^{xi}

Foreign-born residents often revitalize neighborhoods that are otherwise experiencing population loss, occupying housing units as homeowners or as renters. In older cities and suburbs, a lower neighborhood vacancy rate can have local benefits, including lower crime rates, higher property values, and fewer maintenance costs to local government.^{xii}

“[Immigrants] provide economic stimulation to marginalized neighborhoods in New Haven... Hispanic immigrants are ‘saving’ neighborhoods like Fair Haven in New Haven from economic decay and crime.”

—Mr. David Casagrande, New Haven native

CULTURE

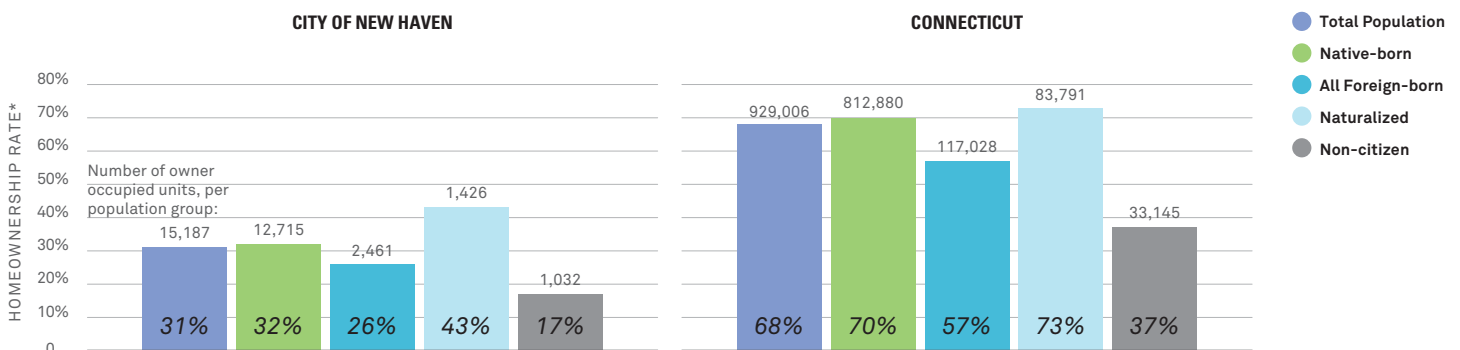
Immigration brings with it foreign traditions that enrich American culture. Foreign-born influence shapes many local cultural elements, including cuisine, music, art, dance, language, and literature. In addition to owning businesses, immigrants in Greater New Haven establish institutes, found organizations, and sponsor or participate in festivals that serve as cultural outlets for the entire community. The following are just some of the heritage-focused groups and events in Greater New Haven:

- Afro-American Cultural Center at Yale
- Annual Italian Festival Celebration, New Haven
- Annual Shoreline Jewish Festival
- Arte, Inc
- Connecticut Irish American Historical Society
- East Rock Institute (formerly Korea Institute)
- Ethnic Heritage Center
- Greater New Haven St. Patrick’s Day Parade
- International Festival of Arts & Ideas
- Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven
- JUNTA for Progressive Action
- Knights of Columbus
- Yale-China Association
- Yale Muslim Student Association
- Yale University Hillel

76 percent of survey respondents said increased diversity due to immigration helps the existing culture in Connecticut.

“[Immigrants] rich cultural heritage enriches our community with festivals, music, and dance.”—Anonymous

FIG. 10 Home Ownership and Immigrant Status
2008-2012



SOURCE: DataHaven analysis of 2008-2012 Census data, available at census.gov.

* Percentage of all householders in each group who are homeowners.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Local small businesses improve neighborhood vitality and walkability, brightening the streetscape and offering services to residents and visitors. Immigrants sustain the small business sector. Nationwide, they represent 18 percent of all small business owners, despite making up just 13 percent of the total population.^{xiii} Foreign-born owned businesses may offer unique products that are otherwise unavailable, and they are paramount in establishing a neighborhood’s reputation for cultural diversity. To read about how immigrant businesses impact the economy, go to page 16.

“Immigrants within my community have opened up businesses which make my neighborhood feel like home.” —Anonymous

Study Area: Ninth Square

From July to August 2014, DataHaven surveyed New Haven businesses located on Chapel Street between Church and State and on Orange Street between Court and George.

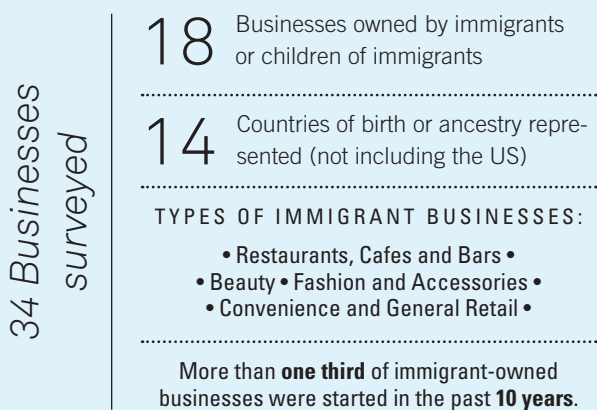
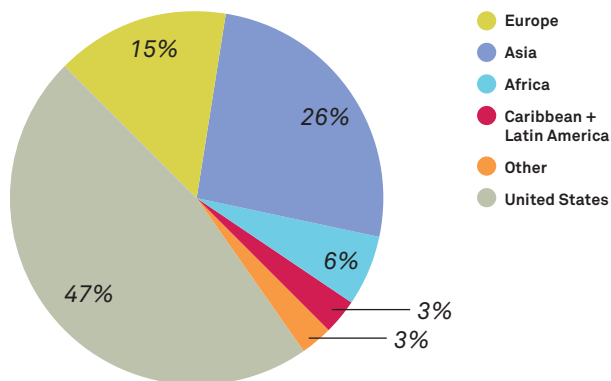


FIG. 11 Origin of Small Business Owners in the Ninth Square
Summer 2014



SOURCE: Summer 2014 DataHaven survey of Ninth Square businesses.

Foreign Ancestry totals include the ancestry of children of immigrants who were born in the United States.

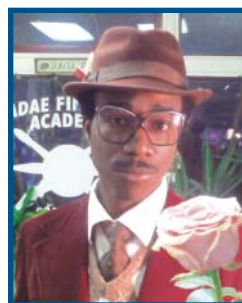


A Closer Look: New Haven’s Ninth Square

Downtown New Haven is the vibrant center of our region. The lively atmosphere is fueled by small businesses, such as those in the Ninth Square. An area that frequently hosts cultural events and late-night activities, the Ninth Square is home to many foreign-born owned businesses. The Ninth Square is just one example of where immigration brings variety and energy to Greater New Haven through commerce; throughout the region immigrant-owned restaurants, shops, and businesses flourish.

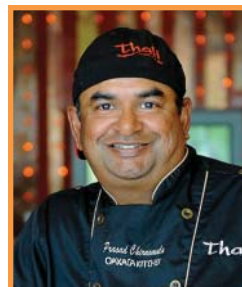


Why did you choose to open your business in New Haven?



Mr. Kwadwo Adae, Owner of Adae Fine Art Academy
[of Ghanaian origin]

“There is much kindness and camaraderie between business owners... We all want each other to do well. New Haven is a nurturing community for the arts—visual, culinary, musical—there is culture here to find.”



Mr. Prasad Chirnomula, Owner of Thali Restaurant
[from India]

“A cosmopolitan city, a dining destination. A university town with different ethnicities, students, faculty and visitors and tourists. A city that helps bring business to local businesses.”

EDUCATION

LOCAL SCHOOLS

The immigrant community influences area schools. In 2012, 24 percent of children in the City of New Haven and 21 percent in Greater New Haven had at least one foreign-born parent. In 2013, 25 percent of students in New Haven Public Schools and 13 percent of students in all Greater New Haven public schools spoke a language besides English at home.^{xv} In the region, the non-English student body is rising even as the number of English-speaking students slows, sustaining public school enrollment.

Immigrants and children of immigrants modify the ethnic, racial, and social composition of schools. The variety exposes all students to different values and experiences, which prepare them to work in diverse environments and live with tolerance later in life.^{xvi} In a study of a diverse suburban Boston school district, students said that they were highly comfortable interacting with members of other racial and ethnic groups and discussing social issues. They also said that school diversity improved their ability to work effectively with others from different backgrounds.^{xvii}

Language education has grown with the immigrant community.

“[Immigration] teaches our kids that the US way is not the only way to think about the world. Diversity teaches tolerance, enriches classrooms, and helps reduce fear of things ‘foreign.’” —Anonymous

“A diversity of classmates... prepares [our kids] for work in the globalized world. It can be a challenge... when the parents don’t speak English, but most immigrants are eager to participate as best they can.” —Anonymous

HIGHER EDUCATION

84 percent of respondents believed that immigrants in Connecticut contribute a lot or contribute some to innovations in technology, businesses, health, science, and art.

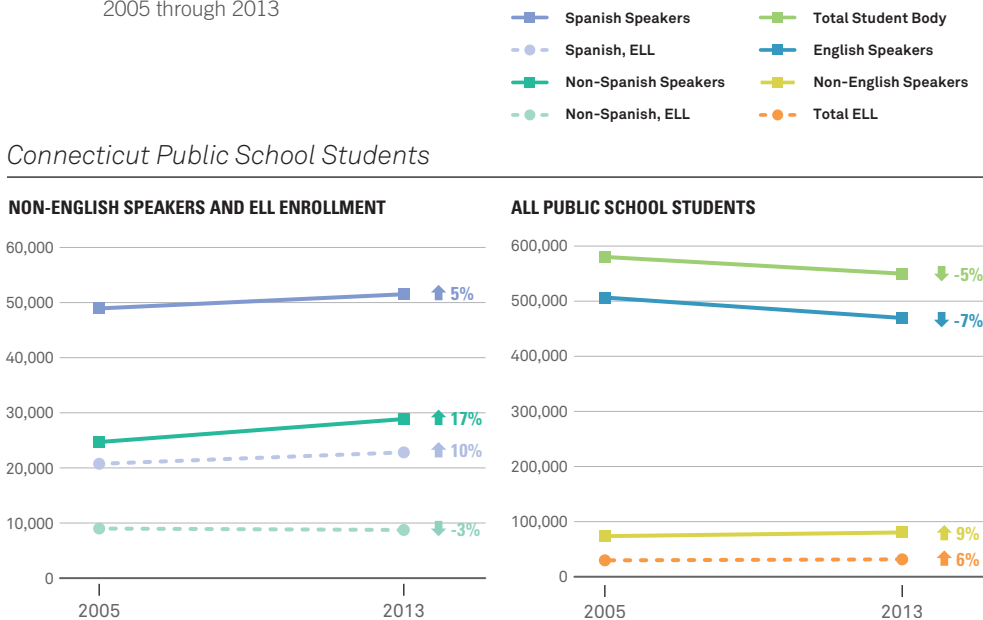
Institutes of higher learning in Greater New Haven⁴ attracted over 3,800 students from abroad over the 2012-13 academic year.^{xviii} International affiliates at universities bring important cultural, intellectual, and professional contributions to their schools and the community at large.

Financial assistance for higher education is available to foreign-born students who are New Haven residents, regardless of immigration status, through the New Haven Promise scholarship program. Supported by New Haven Public Schools, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, and Yale University, New Haven Promise provides scholarships that pay up to full tuition at public colleges or universities for New Haven Public School graduates who have met minimum academic, attendance, and community service requirements.

“The more brains & viewpoints the more likely Connecticut is to increase innovation and efficiency.” —Anonymous

⁴ Greater New Haven institutes included in this study are Albertus Magnus College, Gateway Community College, Quinnipiac University, Southern Connecticut State University, University of New Haven, and Yale University.

FIG. 12 Public School Students: Primary Language and ELL Enrollment
2005 through 2013



Connecticut Language Profile

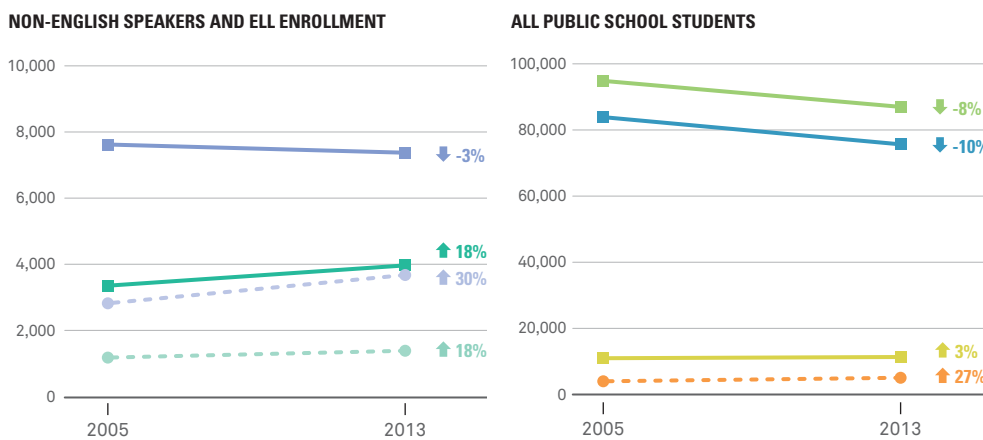
Number of Languages Spoken
NON-ENGLISH

- 2005: 158
- 2013: 176
- Percent change: 11%

Most Spoken Primary Languages
NON-ENGLISH, BY NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, 2013

- Spanish: 51,510
- Portuguese: 2,994
- Polish: 2,273
- Mandarin: 2,198
- Creole-Haitian: 1,800

Greater New Haven Public School Students



Greater New Haven Language Profile

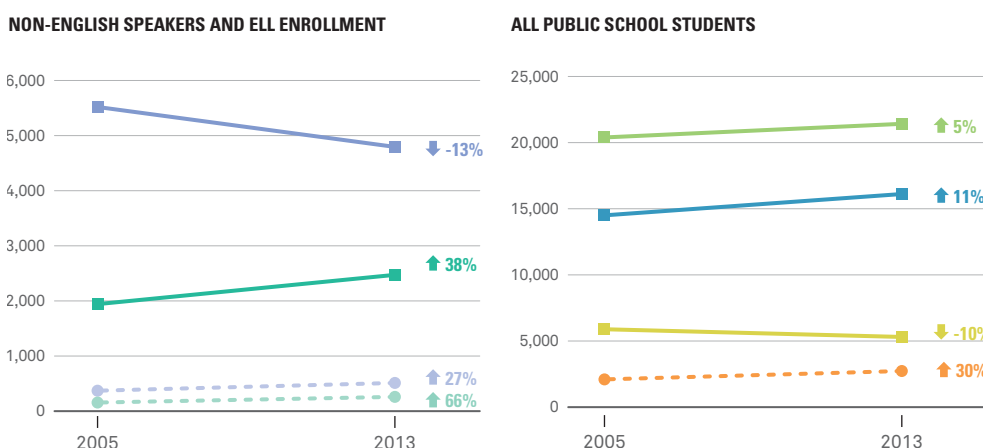
Number of Languages Spoken
NON-ENGLISH

- 2005: 100
- 2013: 112
- Percent change: 12%

Most Spoken Primary Languages
NON-ENGLISH, BY NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, 2013

- Spanish: 7,373
- Mandarin: 453
- Arabic: 442
- Urdu: 252
- Polish: 227

City of New Haven Public School Students



City of New Haven Language Profile

Number of Languages Spoken
NON-ENGLISH

- 2005: 50
- 2013: 59
- Percent change: 18%

Most Spoken Primary Languages
NON-ENGLISH, BY NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, 2013

- Spanish: 4,795
- Arabic: 131
- Mandarin: 59
- French: 57
- Swahili: 28

SOURCE: DataHaven analysis of Connecticut State Department of Education data, 2005-2013.

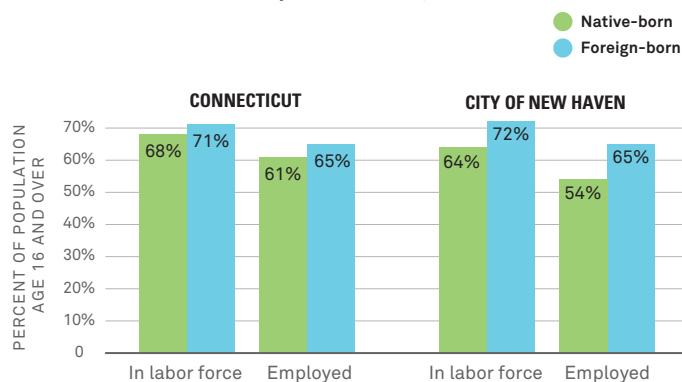
Economic Impact

LABOR FORCE

Population growth supplies the labor force⁵ with workers. Labor force expansion helps the economy, causing it to increase productivity and output.^{xx} Greater New Haven and the City of New Haven have experienced net growth in population due to immigration. Further, immigrants are more likely to be in the labor force and to be employed than native-born citizens. In 2012 in the City of New Haven, 72 percent of foreign-born people and 64 percent of native-born people ages 16 and over were in the labor force; 65 percent of immigrants and 54 percent of native citizens were employed.

FIG. 13 Labor Force Participation

Connecticut and City of New Haven, 2008-2012



SOURCE: DataHaven analysis of 2008-2012 Census data, available at census.gov.

The immigrant labor force is multi-skilled, and each skill group is essential to the economy. High-skilled work requires advanced knowledge, often technical or abstract and resulting from higher education. High-skilled, foreign-born workers contribute to the technical, biomedical, financial, and academic fields. Low-skilled work is labor-intensive and does not generally require advanced education or specific skills. These jobs—in construction, manufacturing, agriculture, and service sectors—are usually low-paying but are vital to keeping businesses in operation. High-skilled and low-skilled immigrants expand the labor force in the industries in which they work, creating job and wage growth for all workers, including and foreign-born laborers.^{xx}

The immigrant population of Greater New Haven is highly-skilled, compared to other areas. Using methodology from a Brookings Institution study,^{xxi} DataHaven determined that in Greater New Haven, there are more than twice as many high-skilled as low-skilled immigrants. In the City of New Haven, there are more than three high-skilled for every two low-skilled foreign workers. In the United States as a whole, there is slightly less than one high-skilled for every low-skilled immigrant worker.

67 percent of respondents said immigration helps Connecticut's economy.

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Foreign-born residents contribute to the economy in a number of ways in addition to employment. They pay income, property, and sales tax to local, state, and federal governments. Immigrants are consumers whose living expenses and other purchases support small business and larger corporations. Further, they link the local economy to their home economies, potentially increasing trade and creating new markets for domestic businesses.

Like other immigrants, undocumented immigrants also pay sales and excise taxes, as well as property taxes either directly on their homes or indirectly as renters. At least half are paying income taxes despite lacking legal status. Some estimates show that allowing undocumented immigrants to work legally in the United States would increase state and local tax revenues in Connecticut by 28 million dollars annually.^{xxii}

FIG. 14 Selected Economic Contributions

Foreign-born Population, 2012

	CONNECTICUT	GREATER NEW HAVEN	CITY OF NEW HAVEN
Income Tax¹			
Federal income tax	\$905,630,021	—	—
State income tax	\$730,963,353	—	—
Property Tax²			
Property tax	\$609,010,989	—	—
Educational Expenses			
Net educational expenses	\$339,937,000	\$141,243,000	\$92,157,000
Net Tuition and Fees	55%	57%	59%
Net Living expenses ³ including dependents	45%	43%	41%
Jobs created or supported	3,875	1,854	1,504

SOURCE: DataHaven Analysis of 2008-2012 Census PUMS, available at Census.gov and 2011-2012 NAFSA data, available at nafsa.org.

¹ The calculations reported for income taxes assume all married couples filed taxes together. If all married couples filed taxes separately, the estimate for total taxes collected would be \$1,291,639,910 in federal income tax and \$786,154,630 in state income tax.

² The total estimate of property taxes paid in Connecticut divided by the ACS 2008-2012 estimate of homeowners who are foreign-born.

³ Assumes students and their dependents live in the same geographic area where they attend school.

“Low-skilled does not equate to low-importance. Low-skilled workers support the economy by helping businesses run. Even if they are sending most of their wages to their families, they are... supporting local businesses in some way just by living.”—Ms. Wendy Garcia, New Haven resident

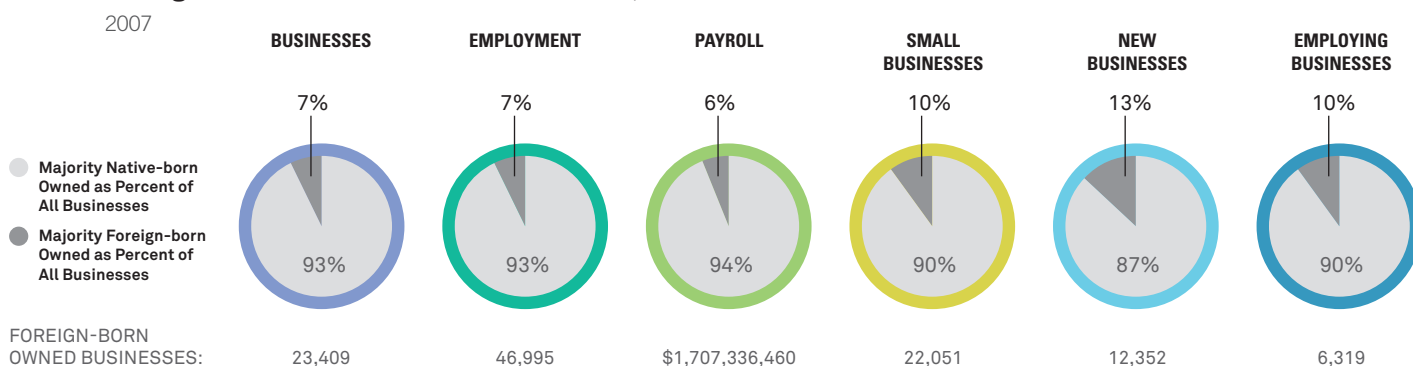
IMMIGRANT-OWNED BUSINESS

According to the Survey of Business Owners, there were 23,409 immigrant-owned businesses,⁶ or 7 percent of all businesses, in Connecticut in 2007. These businesses collectively employed nearly 47,000 full and part-time workers, paid \$1.7 billion in salaries, and earned nearly \$17 billion in annual receipts.

⁵ The Census definition of the labor force is all people ages 16 and over who were employed, or who are able to work and actively looked for work during the last 4 weeks.

⁶ The Census Bureau defines Immigrant-owned businesses as those with majority foreign-born ownership, where 51 percent or more of the business is owned by a foreign-born person or persons.

FIG. 15 Immigrant-owned Business Contributions, Share of all Connecticut Businesses



SOURCE: DataHaven analysis of Census 2007 Survey of Business Owners PUMS, available at census.gov.

Many immigrant businesses have characteristics that support economic vitality. Nationwide, small businesses employ about half of the private workforce and earn about half of the nonfarm private GDP. Further, they provide the local market with diversity of goods and services. Immigrant business owners in Connecticut are more likely to operate independent small businesses⁷ than native-born owners: in 2007, 94 percent of immigrant-owned firms were independent small businesses, compared to 68 percent of all native born-owned businesses. New businesses propel job growth and innovation^{xviii}, and immigrants are more likely to start a business than native citizens. Fifty-three percent of foreign-born owned businesses were new (es-

81 percent of respondents said immigrant-owned businesses were very or somewhat important to the economy of their town or city.

tablished between 2000 and 2007), compared to 28 percent of native-born owned businesses. Immigrant-owned businesses were also more likely to be employers: 27 percent of foreign-born compared to 20 percent of native born-owned businesses provided jobs.^{xvii}

HEALTH CARE

Through their contributions in the form of payroll taxes, immigrants contribute tens of billions of dollars more to the U.S. health care system than they take out in the form of benefits. This is in part because they are less likely to, or in some cases unable to, collect on available health benefits when compared to native-born residents. For example, in 2009, immigrants made 15 percent of all contributions to the national Medicare Trust Fund, which supports Medicare payments to hospitals and institutions, but were responsible for only 8 percent of its expenditures.^{xv}

At a national level, researchers have found that immigrants live longer, have healthier babies, and have far fewer mental health issues than native-born residents of the United States.^{xvi} Depending on their socioeconomic status and other factors, many immigrants living in Greater New Haven face the same barriers to achieving their full health potential that impact our communities more broadly—

including a lack of health insurance or affordable care, literacy-related barriers, or gaps in access to physical activity, nutritious food, and healthy home and work environments.

WORKING IN THE US AS AN IMMIGRANT

To work legally in the United States, immigrants must get permission from the federal government. Long-term residents may obtain legal permanent residency (also known as a green card) or naturalized citizenship, both of which allow immigrants to live and work permanently in the US. Those who desire short-term or temporary employment must apply for work visas according to their skill level and desired type of work. Work visas are limited in each category, and not all who apply are granted visas. The demand for work visas, especially for low-skilled work, is significantly greater than the supply. International students at American schools can work part-time or full-time for a limited period under the conditions of their student visas.

Immigrants may be limited in their work opportunities compared to native-born people, even taking into account legal status, skill level, and origin. Some positions, such as most government work, require

68 percent thought economic opportunities available to immigrants in their town or city were “fair” or “poor.”

84 percent thought obtaining the correct visa for employment in the US was “very difficult” or “somewhat difficult.”

US citizenship. Sometimes, foreign-born people may not be eligible for positions that they could hold in their home countries, because their education or credentials do not transfer to the United States job market. Low-skilled immigrants may take physically demanding jobs that are largely unfilled by native-born workers.^{xvii} Due to their status, undocumented immigrants are highly at risk for labor law abuse, such as wage theft.^{xviii}

“The economic opportunities vary widely depending on the background of the immigrants... For people with little or no formal education in the US, the economic opportunities are much more limited.”

—Anonymous

⁷ In this study, an independent small business is defined as a firm employing less than 500 workers and not operating as a franchise.

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- ^{xxx} Butcher, Kristin and Piehl, Anne. (2008). "Crime, Corrections, and California." San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California. Accessed September 17, 2014 at <http://www.datacenter.org/reports/Immigration+CJ+JJ.pdf>
- ^{xxxi} US Citizenship and Immigration Services. Green Card. Accessed September 19, 2014 at <http://www.uscis.gov/greencard>.
- ^{xxxii} American Immigration Center. (2011). How Long Does the US Citizenship Process Take? Accessed September 18, 2014 at <http://www.us-immigration.com/us-immigration-news/us-citizenship/how-long-does-the-us-citizenship-process-take/>

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION *for* GREATER NEW HAVEN 2014 IMMIGRATION SURVEY

Methodology:

The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven's constituents were invited to complete the survey, either online or on the telephone. The survey collection period was from August 28 to September 11, 2014.

579 respondents in the Greater New Haven Area:

- **33 percent male and 65 percent female**
- **7 percent of Hispanic or Latino origin**
- **8 percent foreign-born**



Refer to cfgnh.org/immigrationsurvey for the full survey questionnaire.

ADDITIONAL RESULTS:

Respondents were divided on the impact of immigration on the school system. **35 percent** said immigration helped; **28 percent** said it hurt; and **36 percent** were unsure of the impact. While many respondents referenced the benefits of immigration discussed earlier, others recognized some negative effects to the school system: increased education costs, due to growing student bodies and required service provision for ELL students; lower overall standardized test scores among ELL students; and lack of involvement of parents in school life due to communication and cultural barriers.

Respondents were unsure about the impact of immigration on public safety. **9 percent** said immigration made their town safer, **14 percent** said less safe, and **77 percent** were not sure or thought immigration had no impact. According to research, foreign-born people, including undocumented immigrants, are less likely to commit crime than native-born people.^{xxx} In California, for example, American men have an incarceration rate 2.5 times higher than foreign-born men.^{xxx} The same study notes that legal immigrants are screened for criminal history before being admitted and likely are not prone to criminal behavior, at least before arrival in the US. Undocumented immigrants tend not to participate in criminal activity, because an encounter with officials could lead to their deportation. On the other hand, some survey respondents noted that undocumented immigrants are targeted victims of crime because they tend to avoid law enforcement and therefore may not report incidents.

73 percent of respondents said they were mostly dissatisfied with immigration policy in the United States. The results of another survey question suggest why respondents were dissatisfied: regarding resources such as legal assistance, language services, health, and educational opportunities, **17 percent** thought Connecticut immigrants receive too much support from the government, while **53 percent** thought they do not receive enough support.

89 percent of respondents thought that obtaining legal permanent residency in the US was very or somewhat difficult. Most commonly, immigrants are sponsored for green cards through family, jobs, or refugee or asylee status, although immigrants can file for legal permanent residency without these connections.^{xxxi} Residents may apply for naturalization after a minimum of five years of legal permanent residency (or three years if their spouse is a US citizen). The naturalization process takes at minimum six months to a year.^{xxxii}



The Community Foundation
for Greater New Haven

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Our community's future...
What inspires you?

Strategies for Improvement

The Community Foundation believes that recent immigrants are critical assets and is committed to the ongoing work of making Greater New Haven a welcoming community. Helping immigrants thrive and fully participate in the community is in everyone's interest. Work that removes barriers to full social, economic, and civic participation of immigrants not only helps them reach their individual potentials, but also brings the benefits of economic growth and cultural diversity to the community as a whole. Building on its long history of supporting organizations working with immigrants and their families, The Community Foundation is making immigrant integration a strategic focus with the goal that immigrants in Greater New Haven, including undocumented, will achieve greater civic and economic participation and success thereby becoming more fully integrated members of a more welcoming community.

We hope that this report inspires you to join us in recognizing and supporting the contribution of immigrants to Greater New Haven.

Here are a few suggestions of how you can learn more, share your thoughts, and take action:

- 1) Share this report with others in person and on social media.
- 2) Share your thoughts about the topic and this report at www.cfgnh.org/immigrationsurvey.
- 3) Learn more about federal, state and local policies on immigration here: www.immigrationpolicy.org.
- 4) Learn about and give to local nonprofits that provide assistance with legal processes, job placement, literacy training, school registration, and other services that help immigrants at www.giveGreater.org.[®]