

# New Americans in Detroit

## A Snapshot of Demographic and Economic Characteristics of Immigrants in the Metro Area<sup>1</sup>

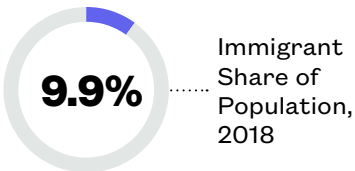


Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, local leaders in communities across the country have been working tirelessly to ensure that all community members have access to the services and support they need. The immigrant population is both essential to our country's rapid response efforts and especially vulnerable to gaps in our social safety nets. Understanding this population will help better inform local leaders as they aim to implement inclusive emergency response policies.

### OVERVIEW

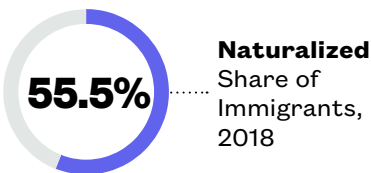
# 426,551

Immigrant Residents, 2018



# 236,738

Immigrants who were **Naturalized** U.S. Citizens, 2018



### POPULATION

# 7,458

**DACA**-Eligible Immigrants, 2018



**DACA**-Eligible Share of Immigrants, 2018

That's less than the national share of **2.7%**.

# 60,813

Immigrants who were Likely **Refugees**, 2018<sup>2</sup>



Share of Immigrants who were Likely **Refugees**, 2018

That's significantly higher than the national share of **5.6%**.

# 75,413

**Undocumented** Immigrants, 2018



**Undocumented** Share of Immigrants, 2018

That's less than the national share of **24.4%**.

### SPENDING POWER & TAX CONTRIBUTIONS<sup>3</sup>

Given their income, immigrants contributed significantly to state and local taxes, including property, sales, and excise taxes levied by state and local governments.

# \$17.0B

Immigrant Household Income, 2018

# \$12.3B

Total Spending Power

**State & Local Taxes Paid** **\$1.4B<sup>4</sup>**

**Federal Taxes Paid** **\$3.3B<sup>5</sup>**

**Total Taxes Paid** **\$4.7B**

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2018 and figures refer to the Detroit Metropolitan Statistical Area, Michigan.

<sup>2</sup> New American Economy. 2017. "From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America."

<sup>3</sup> Our calculation is based on data from the 1-year sample of the 2018 American Community Survey.

<sup>4</sup> Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2018. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."

## LANGUAGE

### Top Five Languages Immigrants Spoke at Home Other than English

ARABIC	19.3%
HINDI & RELATED	11.9%
SPANISH	11.2%
DRAVIDIAN <sup>6</sup>	4.6%
CHINESE	4.3%

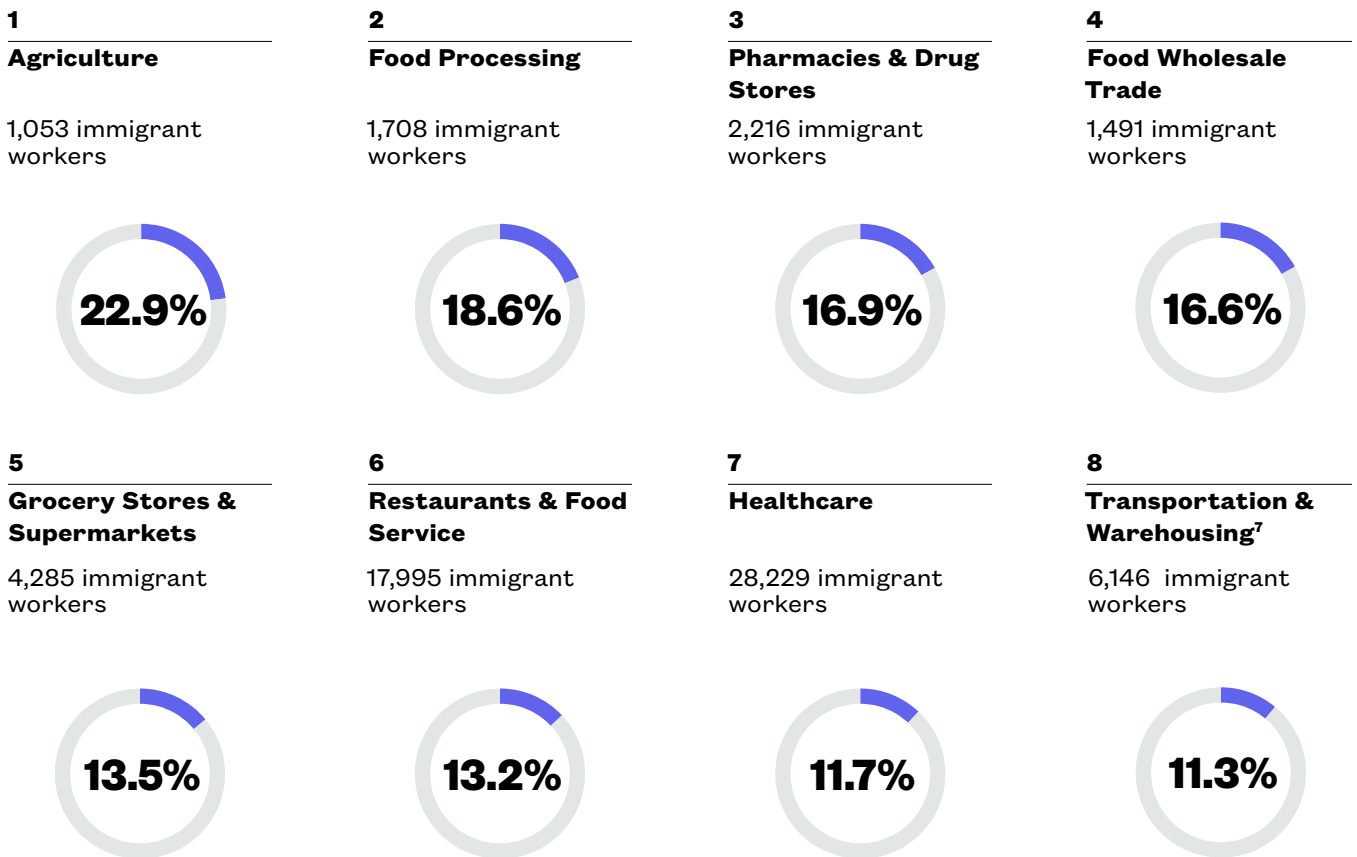
17.2% of immigrants, or **73,264**, living in the metro area had limited English language proficiency. Among them, the top five languages spoken at home other than English were:

- ARABIC (**29.9%**)
- SPANISH (**22.7%**)
- HINDI & RELATED (**10.8%**)
- CHINESE (**5.8%**)
- ALBANIAN (**3.3%**)

## FRONTLINE WORKERS

Immigrants serve in essential industries and carry out vital roles that keep the country functioning. Immigrants in the metro area are working in these frontline and essential industries during the Covid-19 crisis:

■ Share of workers who are immigrants



5 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2019. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2016."

6 Dravidian is a group of languages mostly spoken in South Asia.

7 These industries include rail, water, truck, and pipeline transportation, bus and public transit, postal service, couriers and messengers, warehousing and storage.

## ENTREPRENEURS

While all Americans are struggling to adapt to their new reality in a time of economic shutdown, entrepreneurs<sup>8</sup> within particularly vulnerable industries in the metro area face severe challenges posed by the crisis.

Industry	Total Number of Entrepreneurs	Number of Immigrant Entrepreneurs	Share of Entrepreneurs who are Immigrants
CONSTRUCTION	23,138	2,505	<b>10.8%</b>
RETAIL TRADE	12,550	2,397	<b>19.1%</b>
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES <sup>9</sup>	35,951	4,299	<b>12.0%</b>
HEALTHCARE	10,145	2,380	<b>23.5%</b>
HOSPITALITY <sup>10</sup>	5,168	1,936	<b>37.5%</b>
GENERAL SERVICES	18,891	3,619	<b>19.2%</b>
MANUFACTURING	7,259	N/A <sup>11</sup>	<b>11.2%</b>

## HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

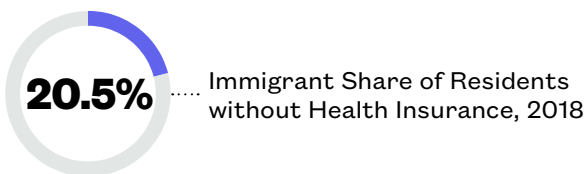
Access to healthcare and medical services remains critical during this pandemic.

# 259,610

Number of Residents without Health Insurance, 2018

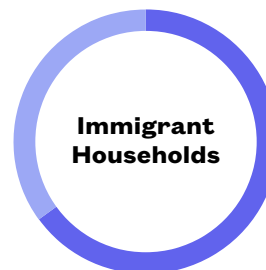
# 53,213

Number of Immigrant Residents without Health Insurance, 2018



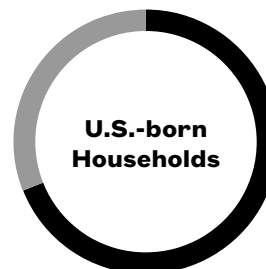
## HOUSING CONDITIONS

The COVID-19 economic upheaval has highlighted the need for stable housing.



**Among immigrant households in 2018...**

- **65.4%** Owned their own Homes (118,948)
- **34.6%** were Renters (62,951)



**Among U.S.-born households in 2018...**

- **68.8%** Owned their own Homes (1,038,557)
- **31.2%** were Renters (471,401)

<sup>8</sup> According to New American Economy's report *New Americans in Wayne County (2019)*, there were a total of 7,961 immigrant entrepreneurs in Wayne County, Michigan making up 16.3% of business owners in 2017. While 6% of the U.S.-born population in the county were entrepreneurs, 9.7% of foreign-born residents worked for their own businesses. Immigrant entrepreneurs generated \$145.3 million in business income in 2017.

<sup>9</sup> Most of these industries include professions that require a degree or a license, such as legal services, accounting, scientific research, consulting services, etc.

<sup>10</sup> Hospitality includes accommodation and food services industries, such as hotels, camps, restaurants, and bars.

<sup>11</sup> The sample size for immigrant entrepreneurs in this the Manufacturing industry is too small.