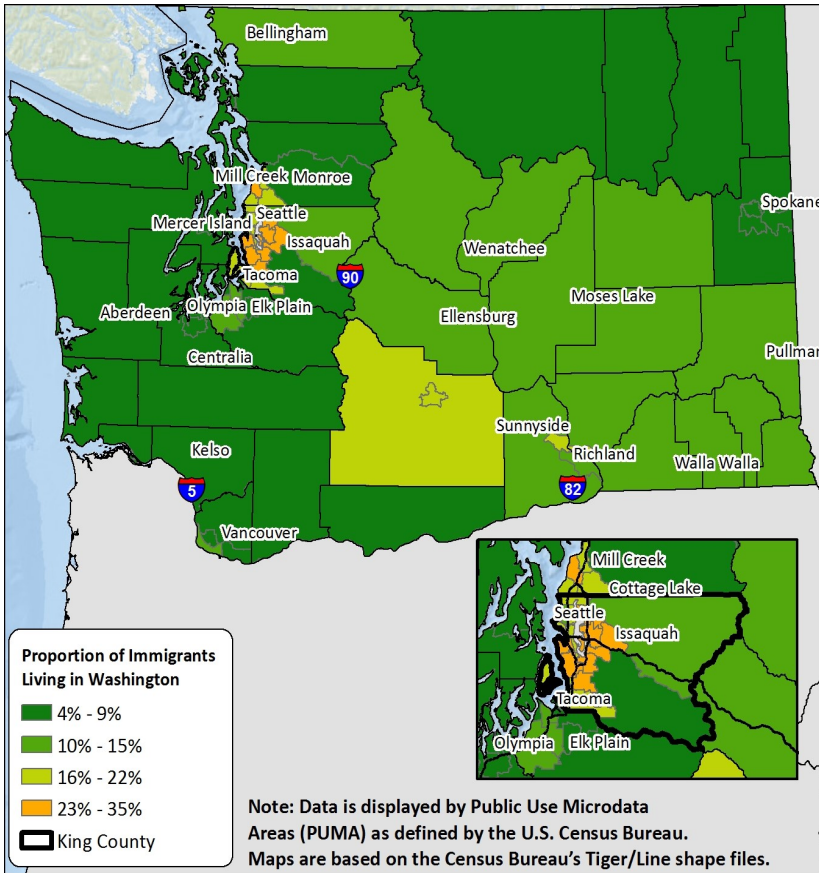


Immigrants in King County, WA and Washington State 2015

Figure 1. Distribution of Immigrants Living in Washington



As of 2015, an estimated 937,176 individuals living in Washington were foreign-born*, roughly 13 percent of the state's population. Nationally, immigrants also comprise 13 percent of the U.S. population. Washington ranks 14th among the 51 states (this includes Washington, DC) in terms of immigrant population. The western portion of King County including the city of Seattle and Sunnyside reported higher than average percentages of immigrants. However, the city of Elk Plain and the southwestern and northwestern part of the state reported lower percentages of immigrants (Figure 1).

Employment

In Washington, 63 percent of immigrants 16 years of age and older are employed compared to 62 percent of immigrants nationally (see Figure 2). Compared to native-born U.S. citizens, foreign-born individuals living in the U.S. and within Washington state reported higher employment rates. While native-born U.S. citizens in King County, WA reported slightly higher employment rates compared to immigrants living in King County, immigrants living in King County had higher employment rates compared to other immigrants in Washington state, immigrants in the U.S., as well as native-born U.S. citizens in Washington state and nationally.

Figure 2. Proportion Employed (Ages 16+)	King County, WA	Washington State	U.S.
Foreign-born	64%	63%	62%
Native-born U.S. Citizens	65%	59%	58%

Figure 3. Top Ten Occupational Groups among Immigrants Living in Washington

Occupational Group	Immigrants in King County, WA	Immigrants in Washington State	Immigrants in the U.S.
Computer and Mathematical	13%	7%	4%
Management, Business, Science, and Arts	10%	8%	8%
Food Preparation and Serving	8%	7%	8%
Office and Administrative Support	8%	8%	9%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	7%	7%	8%
Sales	7%	7%	8%
Production	6%	7%	8%
Transportation and Material Moving	6%	7%	7%
Personal Care and Service	6%	6%	5%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	5%	5%	5%
All Other Occupational Groups (n=15)	24%	31%	30%
Estimated Immigrant Population (Ages 16+)	262,714	555,613	24,537,954

Occupation

Immigrants living in Washington State were employed in various occupations. Figure 3 shows the top ten occupational groups among immigrants who are 16 years of age and older living in King County, Washington state, and in the U.S. Immigrants living in King County reported higher percentages of individuals employed in computer and mathematical occupations and in management, business, science, and arts occupations compared to immigrants in the state of Washington and in the U.S.

All analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2011-2015 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org.

*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 US 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. Please note that the terms "foreign-born" and "immigrant" are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet.

Immigrants in King County, WA and Washington State 2015

Poverty

Approximately 84 percent of immigrants living in King County, WA live at or above the poverty line (Figure 4). This is slightly higher compared to immigrants living in Washington state (83 percent) and immigrants living in the U.S. (81 percent).

Median Income

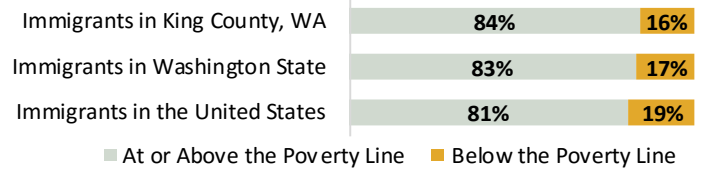
Full-time employed immigrants who are 16 years of age and older living in King County, WA reported higher median incomes (\$52,000) compared to immigrants in Washington State (\$41,047) and immigrants in the U.S. (\$36,580).

Industry

Figure 7 shows the top ten industry groups among immigrants living in Washington state. Immigrants living in King County reported higher percentages of individuals employed in professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services compared to immigrants living in the state of Washington and in the U.S. Additionally, immigrants in the U.S. reported larger percentages of individuals employed in construction compared to immigrants living in King County and Washington state.

Figure 4. Poverty Status among Immigrants

Living in Washington



Number of Children per Household

Figure 6 shows the number of children per immigrant and native-born households in King County, Washington state, and the U.S. While foreign-born households were more likely than native-born households to have two or more children, across the three geographic areas more than two-thirds of immigrant and native-born households have zero or one child.

Figure 6. Number of Children per Household in Washington

Geographic Area	Household Type	Number of Children				
		0	1	2	3	4+
King County, WA	Foreign-born	49%	21%	20%	7%	3%
	Native-born U.S. Citizens	68%	16%	12%	3%	1%
Washington State	Foreign-born	46%	20%	20%	9%	5%
	Native-born U.S. Citizens	65%	17%	12%	4%	2%
U.S.	Foreign-born	44%	21%	21%	10%	4%
	Native-born U.S. Citizens	63%	18%	13%	5%	1%

Figure 7. Top Ten Industry Groups among Immigrants Living in Washington

Industry Group	King County, WA	Washington State	Immigrants in the U.S.
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services	21%	15%	13%
Education, Health, and Social Services	18%	18%	19%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodations, and Food Services	13%	12%	12%
Manufacturing	10%	12%	12%
Retail Trade	10%	9%	10%
Construction	5%	6%	9%
Transportation and Warehousing	5%	5%	4%
Other Services	5%	4%	7%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	4%	4%	5%
Information and Communications	4%	2%	2%
All Other Industry Groups (n=6)	5%	13%	7%
Estimated Immigrant Population (Ages 16+)	262,714	555,613	24,537,954

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The IIR works to refocus the immigration conversation among academics, policy-makers and the public, including the business community and media, by producing and disseminating unbiased and objective, interdisciplinary academic research related to immigrants and immigration to the United States. The Institute for Immigration Research is a joint venture between George Mason University and the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Massachusetts. To learn more about the Institute for Immigration Research call (703) 993-5833, email iir@gmu.edu, or visit us online at iir.gmu.edu.