New Americans in Cameron County
A Snapshot of Demographic and Economic Characteristics of Immigrants in the Metro Area

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

100,706
Immigrant Residents, 2018

POPULATION

32,648
Immigrants who were Naturalized U.S. Citizens, 2018

32.4%
Naturalized Share of Immigrants, 2018

5,395
DACA-Eligible Immigrants, 2018

5.4%
DACA-Eligible Share of Immigrants, 2018

34,388
Undocumented Immigrants, 2018

34.1%
Undocumented Share of Immigrants, 2018

LANGUAGE

Top Two Languages Immigrants Spoke at Home Other than English

SPANISH 90.8%

FILIPINO, TAGALOG 0.8%

53.1% of immigrants, or 53,473, living in the county had limited English language proficiency. Among them, the top language spoken at home other than English was:

— SPANISH (99.2%)
FRONTLINE WORKERS

Immigrants serve in essential industries and carry out vital roles that keep the country functioning. In the county, immigrants are working in frontline and essential industries during the Covid-19 crisis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Immigrants</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Share of Workforce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6,752</td>
<td>FOOD SECTOR(^2)</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,122</td>
<td>HEALTHCARE</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,444</td>
<td>TRANSPORTATION &amp; WAREHOUSING(^3)</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

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

121,912

Number of Residents without Health Insurance, 2018

48,761

Number of Immigrant Residents without Health Insurance, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Entrepreneurs</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Share of Entrepreneurs who are Immigrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,204</td>
<td>CONSTRUCTION</td>
<td>72.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,023</td>
<td>GENERAL SERVICES(^4)</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,132</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL &amp; BUSINESS SERVICES(^5)</td>
<td>54.3%</td>
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HOUSING CONDITIONS

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

Among immigrant households in 2018...
- 65.1% Owned their own Homes (28,628)
- 34.9% were Renters (15,365)

Among U.S.-born households in 2018...
- 66.9% Owned their own Homes (52,969)
- 33.1% were Renters (26,221)

ENTREPRENEURS

While all Americans are struggling to adapt to their new reality in a time of economic shutdown, entrepreneurs within particularly vulnerable industries in the county face severe challenges posed by the crisis.

1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2018 and figures refer to Cameron County, Texas.

2 The food sector includes agriculture, food processing, food wholesale trade, grocery stores and supermarkets, and restaurants and food services.

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

4 General services include personal services (e.g., laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.

5 Most of these industries include professions that require a degree or a license, such as legal services, accounting, scientific research, consulting services, etc.