

New Americans in Cameron County



State & Local



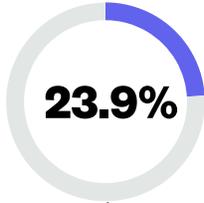
A Snapshot of Demographic and Economic Characteristics of Immigrants in the Metro Area¹

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



Immigrant Share of Population, 2018

POPULATION

32,648

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



Naturalized Share of Immigrants, 2018

5,395

DACA-Eligible Immigrants, 2018



DACA-Eligible Share of Immigrants, 2018

34,388

Undocumented Immigrants, 2018



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%**)

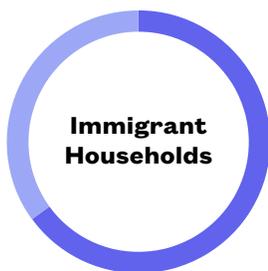
FRONTLINE WORKERS

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.

Number of Immigrants	Industry	Share of Workforce
6,752	FOOD SECTOR ²	34.1%
7,122	HEALTHCARE	30.1%
1,444	TRANSPORTATION & WAREHOUSING ³	28.7%

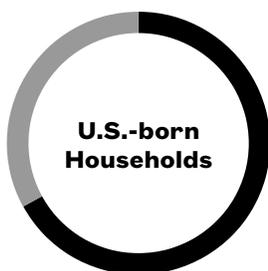
HOUSING CONDITIONS

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)

- 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.

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



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.**

Number of Entrepreneurs	Industry	Share of Entrepreneurs who are Immigrants
3,204	CONSTRUCTION	72.4%
3,023	GENERAL SERVICES ⁴	63.6%
4,132	PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES ⁵	54.3%

- 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.