

*Our Pathway to
a Brighter Future:*

OHIO'S NEW AMERICANS

2018

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our Pathway to a Brighter Future: OHIO'S NEW AMERICANS is the work of multiple people and organizations who have given generously of their time and treasure. We are grateful to all who had a hand in its production. The report is the result of a collaboration of funders coordinated through Philanthropy Ohio. It was written by Richey A. Piiparinen of the Center for Population Dynamics at Cleveland State University. Research and background were provided by Health Landscape of Cincinnati. Additional support was provided by Tammy Ringhiser and Matt Keister of the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation.

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Dear Philanthropic Community,

We have always been a vibrant, engaged and forward-looking group of funders. We seize opportunities to be positive change agents throughout our state in areas of education, health, welfare, and general support for people and causes that make a better Ohio for us all.

Now, we must focus on immigration and utilize our funding streams to nurture and support our newest Americans. Like immigrants throughout our history, today's newest Americans offer Ohio increased diversity, energy, labor, social capital, and dreams of a better life for all. We have a critical role to play in making those dreams come true.

We are pleased to share with you the following report. It highlights not only what Ohio's immigrants offer to us as a state, but what you as a philanthropist can to do to create a launching pad for these newest Americans, which will transport all those living in Ohio to a better future. Please enjoy the report and take action to be part of *Our Pathway to a Brighter Future: OHIO'S NEW AMERICANS*.

Sincerely,

The George Gund Foundation



"Nearly all Americans have ancestors who braved the oceans – liberty-loving risk takers in search of an ideal... Across the Pacific, across the Atlantic, they came from every point on the compass...with fear and vision, with sorrow and adventure, fleeing tyranny or terror, seeking haven, and all seeking hope...Immigration is not just a link to America's past; it's also a bridge to America's future."

President George H. W. Bush

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

Our Pathway to a Brighter Future: OHIO'S NEW AMERICANS explores Ohio's immigrant history and the lives of immigrants living here today. It relies on data collected by federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as information generated locally. The report does not represent the official views of any of the entities involved in its production.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ohio has a vibrant immigrant story. Throughout the state, immigrants contribute mightily to our communities and spur both economic and community growth. Ohio's immigrants invigorate our communities with new ideas, traditional values, and economic drive.

The Ohio immigrant journey, like the American immigrant journey, is a story of time and generations. Ohio's newest immigrants, especially those who arrive not speaking English well or who have uncertain legal status, face significant challenges. Acclimating to and succeeding in a new country takes time and the period of integration can translate into socioeconomic challenges.

Ohio's philanthropic community has the opportunity to strategically develop and support resources to launch Ohio's immigrants on the road to success for both themselves and Ohio. Growing our network of supportive services will enable Ohio's immigrants to acclimate, integrate, and flourish in American culture more quickly. Today, Ohio's immigrants lack adequate access to:

- educational opportunities for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)¹ including GED classes offered in Spanish;
- trustworthy and affordable legal services; and,
- accessible, reliable, and affordable healthcare including behavioral health, physical health, and oral health.

Ohio's immigrants drive cultural, economic, and social dynamism. By making them a focus of philanthropic priorities, we can launch them on the journey to help build our pathway to a brighter future.



42.1%
of Ohio's
immigrants have a
four-year degree.



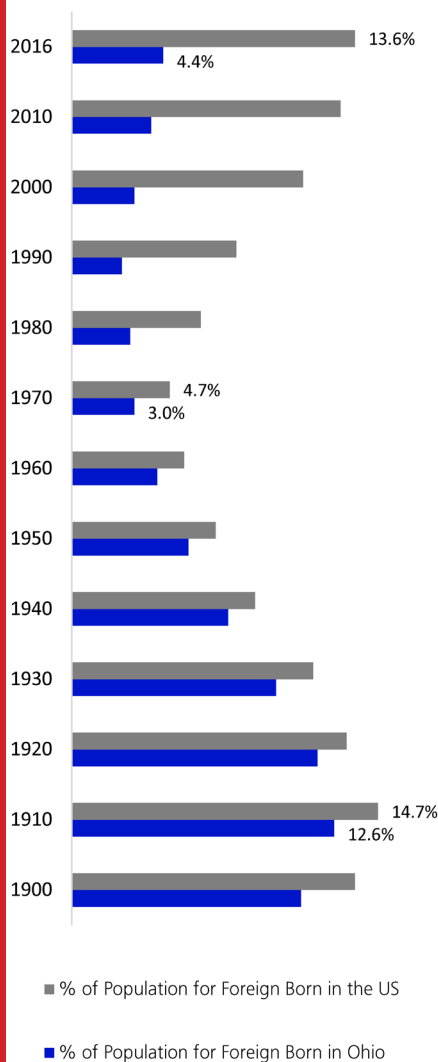
62.2%
of Ohio's
immigrants are
married with
children.



43.6%
of Ohio's
immigrants work
in the professional
sector.

Figure 1: Percentage of US and Ohio Population who are Foreign Born

Source: Migration Policy Institute Data Hub, ACS 1-year, 2016



II. INTRODUCTION



Factory workers in Mansfield, Ohio circa 1920. *Cleveland Memory Project*

"History in its broadest aspect is a record of man's migrations from one environment to another," notes the geographer Ellsworth Huntington. Migration, in turn, is a consequence of motivation, or that which "pulls" and "pushes" a person to or from a given place. The Industrial Revolution created a great "pull" to Ohio in the early 20th century, as Ohio was a place with jobs that needed filling. Immigrants played a critical role in filling those jobs, with over 50% of all U.S. manufacturing workers being first or second generation immigrants by 1920.² It is no coincidence, then, that the U.S. immigrant populations peaked in the industry-dominant early 20th century, with immigrants making up nearly 15% of the U.S. population in 1910. That figure was nearly equally high in Ohio (12.6%) (see Figure 1).

But just as industrialization and job growth acted as a "pull" to manufacturing-intensive regions, deindustrialization and job losses acted as a "push."

Concentrations of immigrants declined in both the United States and Ohio since 1920, dropping to 4.7% nationally and 3.0% in Ohio by 1970.

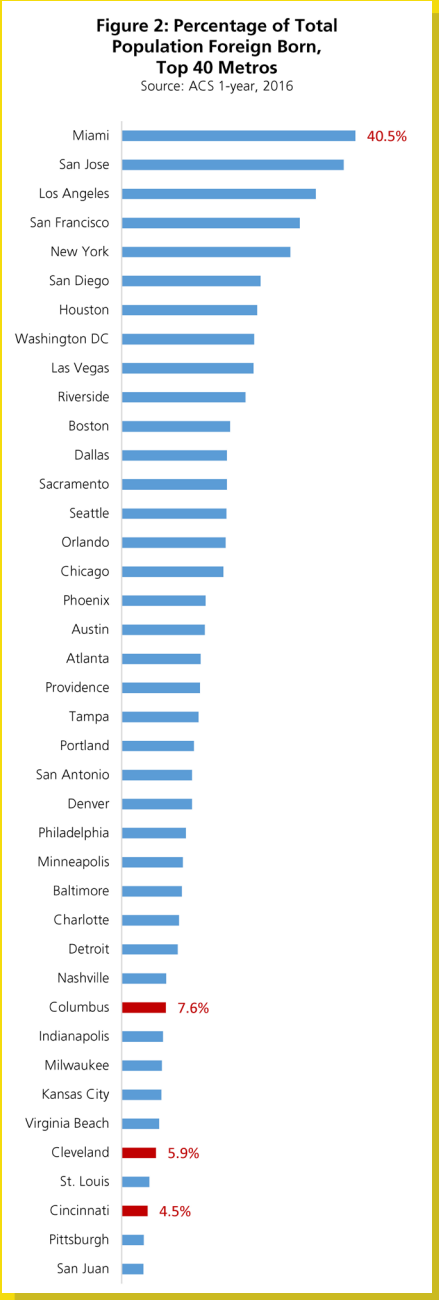
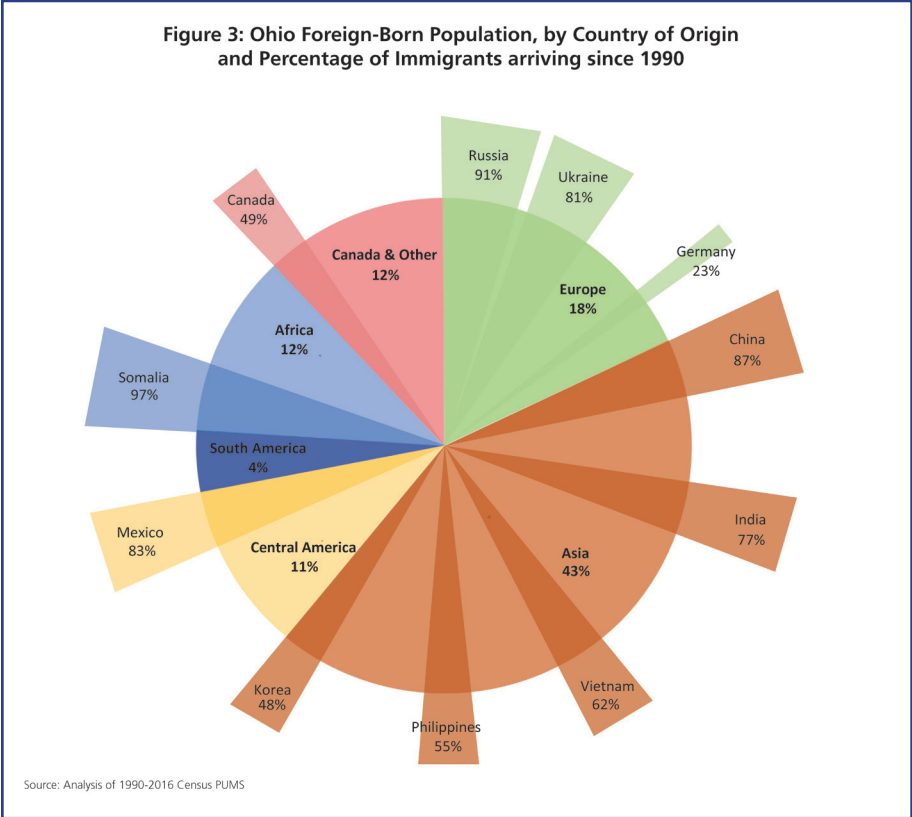
Table 1: Percentage of Foreign Born	
Source: ACS 1-year, 2016	
Top 5	
California	27.2%
New York	23.0%
New Jersey	22.5%
Florida	20.6%
Nevada	20.0%
Bottom 5	
Ohio	4.4%
Missouri	4.1%
Louisiana	4.1%
Kentucky	3.5%
Alabama	3.4%

Since 1970, Ohio has diverged from the rest of the United States in its ability to attract and maintain immigrants. Today, 13.6% of the U.S. population is composed of immigrants, compared to only 4.4% in Ohio. This is the largest divide between Ohio and the nation in modern history. In fact, Ohio's small percentage of immigrants ranks it in the bottom five nationally (see Table 1).

Ohio's low concentration of immigrants is also reflected in the state's largest metropolitan areas. Of the nation's Top 40 Metro Areas, Columbus (7.6%), Cleveland (5.9%), and Cincinnati (4.5%) rank between 31st and 38th in the percent of their populations that are foreign born (see Figure 2).

Despite “pulling” fewer immigrants into the state, Ohio nevertheless relies on its immigrants to counteract its population loss. Since 1998, Ohio's population has been almost stagnant, growing at only 0.15%, ranking Ohio 47th in the country.³ In addition, native-born Ohioans leave Ohio more than other native-born Americans move into Ohio. As a result, Ohio suffers a negative domestic net migration rate. Over the last six years, roughly 183,000 native-born people have moved out of Ohio. Conversely, nearly 113,000 more immigrants moved into Ohio than left it.⁴ Immigrants are thus helping to stabilize Ohio's population and are, in fact, a source of growth.

As noted earlier, Ohio's immigrants have changed over time. Today, it is instructive to look at immigrants who arrived before 1990 as contrasted to those who arrived after that year. Prior to 1990, Ohio's top sending countries were Germany and Canada with over three-quarters of Ohio's Germans (78%) and more than one-half of our Canadians (51%) arriving before 1990.⁵ Since 1990, the top three countries sending immigrants into Ohio are India, Mexico, and China. For each of these countries, a large majority of their immigrant population has arrived in Ohio since 1990 (see Figure 3). This shift is indicative of a general national migratory trend reflecting growing immigration from developing countries.



The shift in Ohio immigrants' geographic origins coincide with a shift in immigrant characteristics. Immigrants arriving to the United States and Ohio since 1990 fall into two groups: one group is generally more educated than previous waves of immigrants and, in fact, more educated than their native-born counterparts. The other group looks much more like traditional U.S. immigrants: they are people who come to the United States to make a better life and who often fill positions requiring less education and training.

Ohio's immigrants have changed from the days of the Industrial Revolution. Then, immigrants were an outcome of economic growth, their presence drawn by Ohio's need for labor. Today, Ohio's immigrants are a prerequisite for growth: in population, in innovation, in personal care and services, and in diversity of thought and ideas. Ohio's immigrants are what Ohio needs to build a pathway to a brighter future.

OHIO'S UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT POPULATION



According to the most recent estimates, the undocumented population in the United States is approximately 11 million.¹ That number has been relatively stable since 2009 and has declined from a peak of approximately 12 million in 2007.² About 80% of the undocumented population come from the Americas, with almost 60% coming from Mexico.³ Only 27% of undocumented people have been in the United States for less than 5 years, while 44% have been in the United States for greater than 10 years.⁴

The most recent estimates place the undocumented population in Ohio at approximately 83,000, which is relatively unchanged from 2009.⁵ Almost 40% of undocumented Ohioans come from Mexico.⁶ Additionally, just over 10% hail from Central America, 25% are from Asia, and 13% migrated from Africa.⁷

¹ Passel, Jeffrey S. and D'Vera Cohn. 2016. *Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009*. Pew Research Center, September.

² Ibid.

³ Rosenblum, Marc R. & Ariel G. Ruiz Soto. (2015). *An Analysis of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States by Country and Region of Birth*. Migration Policy Institute. Accessed at <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/analysis-unauthorized-immigrants-united-states-country-and-region-birth>.

⁴ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/OH>.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

III. OHIO’S IMMIGRANT CONTRIBUTIONS

We live in an economic world. This is a reality not just for individuals, but for cities and states. What is decision-making for the person is policy-making for communities, and both are influenced by global trends. According to a UNESCO report, *Introduction to the Economy of the Knowledge Society*, the main driver of economic growth in the United States since the 1960s has changed from the production of goods to the production of ideas.⁶

“The globalized economy is about the networked flows of goods, services, capital and talent,” explains the Manhattan Institute’s Aaron Renn.⁷ “What hobbled so many post-Industrial cities’ ability to reinvent their economies is that they were not connected to these global flows.”⁸ Those places that have been most successful at making this transition from manufacturing to the production of ideas have been networked, largely thanks to immigration.

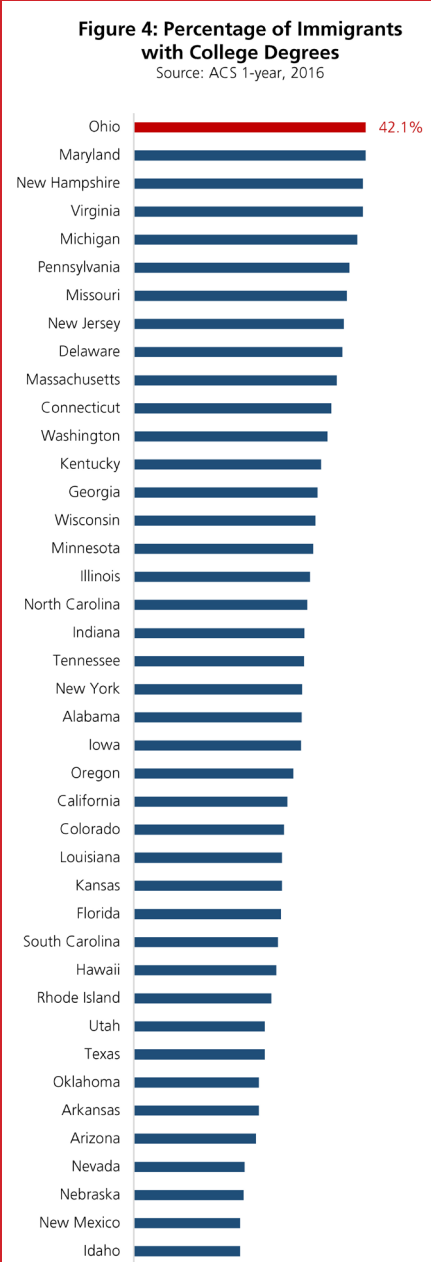
Ohio’s 513,592⁹ immigrants have an oversized impact in ensuring that Ohio is globally connected. A main predictor of economic growth is the level of human capital, as measured by the percent of the population that is college educated. Here, 42.1% of Ohio’s immigrants have a four-year degree or higher.¹⁰ That ties Ohio with Maryland as the most educated state in the nation for immigrants (see Figure 4).

42.1% of Ohio’s immigrants have a four-year degree or higher.

Only 26.7% of native-born Ohioans have a four-year degree or higher.¹¹ That difference in college educational attainment between Ohio’s immigrants and their native-born counterparts is 15.4 percentage points, the largest divide in the nation.

Similarly, Ohio’s largest cities compare favorably in the percentage of immigrants with a college degree. Among the largest 40 metro areas, Cincinnati is fifth (46.7%), Columbus is sixth (44.0%), and Cleveland ranks 11th (40.5%).¹² At the county level, all 13 counties analyzed had college educational attainment rates higher for immigrants than the native-born, led by Warren and Delaware Counties where nearly two-thirds of immigrants are college educated (see Table 2).

Table 2: Total, Education, and Labor Stats for Select Ohio Counties						
Source: ACS 5-Year, 2012-2016						
County (SEAT)	Total Foreign Born	Percent Foreign Born	Bachelor's or Higher Native Born	Bachelor's or Higher Foreign Born	In Labor Force Native Born	In Labor Force Foreign Born
Butler (Hamilton)	20,157	5.4%	28.8%	33.6%	64.5%	69.7%
Cuyahoga (Cleveland)	87,819	7.0%	29.9%	41.5%	63.5%	60.0%
Delaware (Delaware)	12,323	6.5%	51.3%	64.9%	69.8%	69.8%
Franklin (Columbus)	121,572	9.9%	38.0%	41.2%	69.6%	70.3%
Greene (Xenia)	7,793	4.7%	36.5%	57.4%	63.3%	56.3%
Hamilton (Cincinnati)	40,999	5.1%	34.9%	47.2%	66.0%	67.4%
Lake (Painesville)	12,421	5.4%	26.8%	30.3%	66.5%	62.1%
Lorain (Elyria)	8,823	2.9%	23.0%	37.6%	62.7%	55.3%
Lucas (Toledo)	15,264	3.5%	24.3%	42.2%	63.2%	60.3%
Montgomery (Dayton)	23,030	4.3%	25.5%	38.9%	61.8%	60.7%
Stark (Canton)	7,724	2.1%	22.4%	32.2%	63.4%	58.9%
Summit (Akron)	26,222	4.8%	30.2%	39.7%	64.4%	58.6%
Warren (Lebanon)	13,481	6.1%	38.6%	70.4%	65.7%	68.9%



18.7%
of Ohio's immigrants
experience poverty.

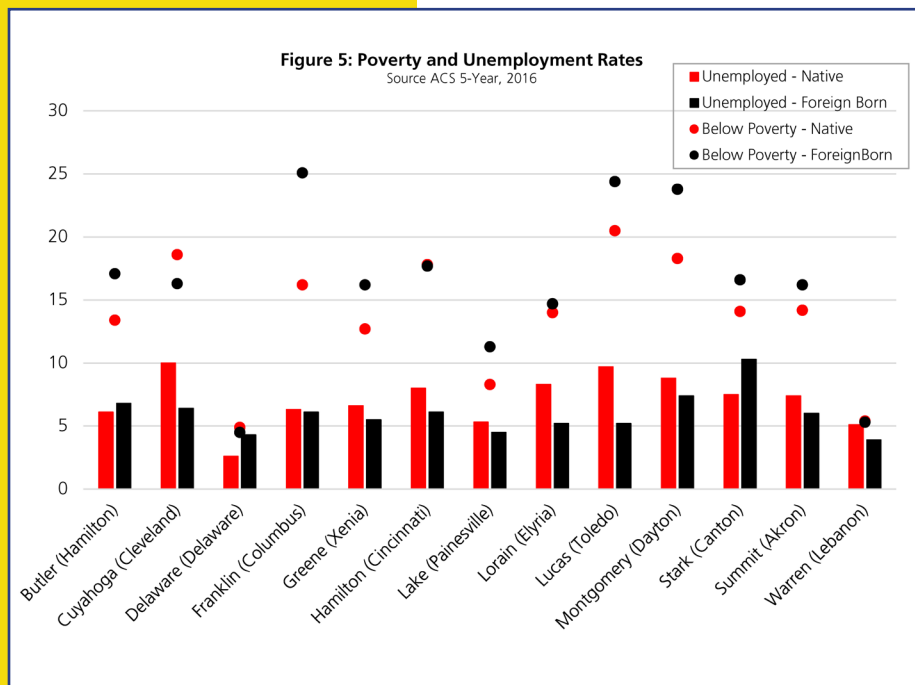
Despite the fact that unemployment rates are consistently higher for native-born, the poverty rate for Ohio's immigrants is 18.7%, higher than that of native-born Ohioans (14.4%).¹³ This pattern of higher poverty rates for immigrants, but higher unemployment rates for native-born Ohioans, generally holds true in both the state and its individual counties (see Figure 5).

Although it may seem counter-intuitive that Ohio's immigrants have both higher employment rates and higher rates of educational attainment than their native-born counterparts, they nevertheless experience higher poverty rates. This reality is a function of the time it takes to acclimate to a new country, customs, networks, and social mores; and the period of transition often translates to socioeconomic difficulties. Not surprisingly, poverty rates are higher for newly-arriving immigrants than for immigrants who have been here longer and who have adapted to the United States.

Though Ohio stands out when it comes to the proportion of immigrants who are college educated, it is part of a larger national shift. College-educated immigrants are drawn to the United States for the economic opportunity in areas where there are talent shortages, particularly science, technology, engineering, and math.¹⁴

Ohio's highly educated immigrants work primarily in management, business, science, and the arts—a diverse professional services sector that includes industries such as education, hospitals and other health facilities, computer systems services, and legal services.¹⁵ Specifically, 43.6% of Ohio's immigrants in the labor force work in the professional services sector, the third highest

concentration in the nation.¹⁶ Over seventeen percent (17.3%) work in production and transportation, ranking Ohio in the top 20 nationally.¹⁷



Dr. Manmohan Katapadi and his wife Preetha Katapadi at an awards ceremony honoring his medical practice, Ohio Heart Group.

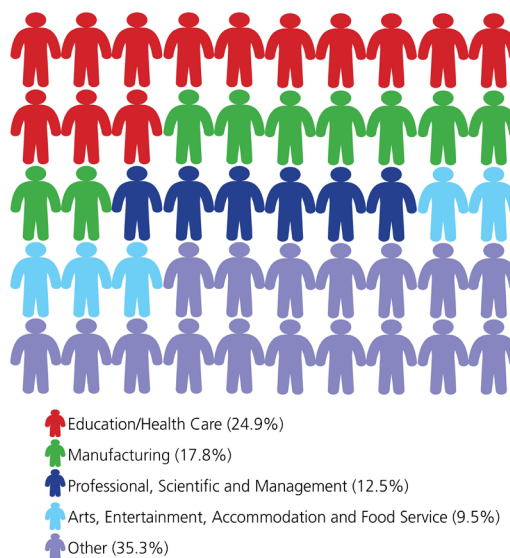
Dispatch photo used with permission

43.6%
of Ohio's immigrants
work in the professional
services sector.

More than other states, Ohio's immigrants teach and provide personal/medical care for Ohioans. Almost 25% of Ohio's immigrants "tend and mend" their fellow Ohioans, ranking ninth nationally (see Figure 6).

Access to healthcare is particularly critical in Ohio, which has fallen to 40th in the annual *America's Health Rankings* by the United Health Foundation.¹⁸ Ohio's declining health, coupled with its aging population, (16.3% of Ohioans are aged 65 and over, up from 13.4% in 2000)¹⁹ means that Ohio needs people to work in the personal/medical care fields. In fact, the occupation that is in most demand is personal care and home health. It is estimated that an additional 1.1 million personal and home health care providers will be needed in the United States by 2026.²⁰

Figure 6: Industry of Foreign-Born Workers
Source: ACS 1-year, 2016



4,000 DACA recipients in Ohio.

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is an immigration policy that allows people who were brought into the United States as children to identify themselves to the U.S. government as a person without legal status and in return, to obtain renewable, two-year periods of work authorization.¹

Nationally, approximately 800,000 young people have participated in the DACA program.² Currently, 689,800 have active DACA cases, with 4,000 of those young people residing in Ohio.³ However, the Migration Policy Institute estimates that up to an additional 9,000 young Ohioans could qualify for DACA relief.⁴

DACA recipients must meet specific conditions to qualify. They cannot have a felony or serious misdemeanor conviction and they must be enrolled in high school, have a high school diploma, or a GED. Most of these young people are 25 years old or younger and the majority are young women.⁵



¹ Deferred Action is a decision by the executive branch not to seek removal of an individual or group for a specified period of time. It allows recipients to remain in the United States and work legally. Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children, June 15, 2012, available at <https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/s1-exercising-prosecutorial-discretion-individuals-who-came-to-us-as-children.pdf>. In September 2017, the Trump Administration ended the DACA Program. The program is currently held open as a result of ongoing court action.

² <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/09/25/key-facts-about-unauthorized-immigrants-enrolled-in-daca/>.

³ https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/daca_population_data.pdf.

⁴ MPI research.

⁵ <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/09/25/key-facts-about-unauthorized-immigrants-enrolled-in-daca/>.

OHIO'S "BRAIN WASTE"

Although both Ohio and the country are experiencing historically high levels of skilled immigration, it remains a question whether the skills that today's immigrants bring are being fully utilized in the workforce. A recent analysis notes that one out of every four college-educated immigrants works in a low-skilled industry, a phenomenon known as "brain waste".¹ While Ohio experiences slightly lower levels of "brain waste" compared to the nation—with about 20% of its college-educated immigrants underemployed—the fiscal effects are significant, with half a billion lost in foregone earnings and an associated \$53 million in unrealized payroll tax receipts.² The rates of underemployment are particularly high for non-citizens, whether they are authorized or undocumented. Underemployment rates are also much higher for Ohio's black (39%) and Hispanic immigrants (27%) as opposed to Asians and whites, indicative of racial disparities not unlike those exhibited in native-born populations.³

Given that Ohio lags behind the nation in the percentage of native-born Ohioans who are college educated,⁴ the reality of "brain waste" is an important, if less understood, issue with which Ohio must grapple.

¹ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/untapped-talent-costs-brain-waste-among-highly-skilled-immigrants-united-states>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

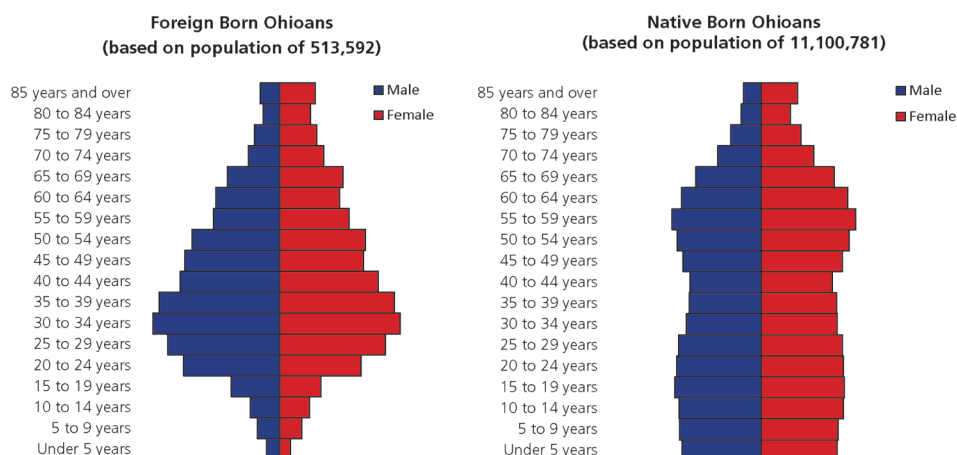
⁴ Source: American Community Survey 1-Year, 2016.



The workers who tend to fill personal care and home health jobs are women ages 25 to 64.²¹ However, such women among the native-born population are in short supply. As a result, we will experience a shortage of personal care and home health workers unless we have greater immigration. This is especially the case in Ohio, as the "bulge" in the age distribution for native-born Ohioans is from 50 to 65 (see Figure 7). By contrast, Ohio's immigrant "bulge" is in working-age adults, those aged 25 to 44. If there is one visual in the current analysis that says "Ohio needs immigrants," this is it.

Figure 7: Population Distribution for Foreign-Born and Native-Born Ohioans

Source: ACS 1-year, 2016



Not only do immigrants fill jobs that provide care and comfort because they are of prime working age, but immigrants also fill these jobs because the work is simultaneously demanding and lower paid. Home health aides, for instance, earn an average \$10.31 per hour in Ohio²² and their work often requires physically demanding labor like lifting a person on or off a bed. In addition, home health work can be emotionally draining. Thus, there is substantial evidence to demonstrate that immigrants fill the most physically and emotionally demanding jobs at least in part because the low pay and hard work is a disincentive to native-born workers.

A recent study by The American Economic Association, *Task Specialization, Immigration, and Wages*, demonstrates that immigrant employment in lower-skilled jobs is beneficial for native-born workers who advance from unskilled jobs into more skilled work.²³ Therefore, Ohio immigrants filling low-skilled jobs catapult native-born Ohioans into more skilled labor.

In fact, the potential problem facing Ohio is that too few immigrants are willing to perform unskilled labor, and, as a result, will not migrate into Ohio. At stake are the future caregivers for Ohio's older adults and children.

IV. IMMIGRANTS AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

A bright future for Ohio requires more than economic supply and demand and more than skilled and unskilled workers. Dynamic, successful communities all share a critical social element linked to how a community is networked, also known as "social capital." Social capital is defined as "those tangible assets [that] count for most in the daily lives of people: namely goodwill, fellowship, sympathy, and social intercourse among the individuals and families who make up a social unit."²⁴ Metaphorically, if the state of Ohio is the "quilt," social capital is the "thread."

Immigrants have long been recognized as an integral part of any community's interweaving, in part, because of the bonds that immigrants have *within* their own tight knit social networks. These social bonds—relationships with family, friends, or members of a given ethnic or cultural group—are key to economic mobility.²⁵

In fact, Ohio's immigrants have higher rates of family formation, with 62.2% of immigrant households being comprised of married couples with children.²⁶ Only 56.4% of native-born Ohioans live in households comprised of married-couples with children.²⁷ The differences in the numbers of married couple families between Ohio's immigrant and native-born families are particularly stark in Cuyahoga, Montgomery, Lucas, Summit, and Hamilton counties (see Table 3).

62.2% of Ohio's immigrants are married with children.

"More than any other nation on Earth, America has constantly drawn strength and spirit from wave after wave of immigrants. In each generation, they have proved to be the most restless, the most adventurous, the most innovative, the most industrious of people. Bearing different memories, honoring different heritages, they have strengthened our economy, enriched our culture, renewed our promise of freedom and opportunity for all..."

President Bill Clinton

Similarly, Ohio's immigrants are less likely to divorce or separate than native-born Ohio families. In fact, the 9.1% divorce rate of Ohio's immigrant households is the eighth lowest in the nation and significantly lower than the 14% rate for Ohio's native-born families.²⁸

Table 3: Percentage of Married Family Households		
Source: ACS 5-Year, 2012-2016		
County (SEAT)	Native: In Married-Couple Family	Foreign: In Married-Couple Family
Butler (Hamilton)	62.0%	59.6%
Cuyahoga (Cleveland)	47.2%	64.9%
Delaware (Delaware)	75.4%	84.0%
Franklin (Columbus)	49.5%	57.6%
Greene (Xenia)	60.6%	69.1%
Hamilton (Cincinnati)	50.0%	62.7%
Lake (Painesville)	62.6%	71.4%
Lorain (Elyria)	58.4%	65.0%
Lucas (Toledo)	48.9%	62.6%
Montgomery (Dayton)	50.2%	66.7%
Stark (Canton)	58.8%	60.5%
Summit (Akron)	56.1%	68.4%
Warren (Lebanon)	72.4%	84.2%

Optimum social capital is a balance. It is critical to have bonding and intimacy with people one already knows, but bonds within groups can be so tight so as to be harmful to development. For optimum social capital to exist, *bridging* between groups is vital. In order to thrive in their new community, immigrants strive to integrate. This, in turn, opens channels of information that provide access to opportunities and resources.

Just as bridging social capital can be good for individuals, it is also good for a city or state. Bridging gaps between groups spurs heterogeneity of thought that is imperative in today's knowledge economy and which improves the likelihood of success.

MARIA, THE THOUGHTS OF A DACA RECIPIENT



Maria, a 21-year-old college student from Columbus, is a current DACA recipient. She openly explains to anyone who asks, "The U.S. is my home. I love this country. It is where I grew up...I have pledged allegiance to this flag since childhood."

Maria explains that her mother brought her to the United States when her mother was pregnant with Maria's younger sister because "The United States is opportunity." Maria's mother wanted her children to have "...a better chance than she did." Maria reports that her mother "...hasn't stopped working since she arrived."

Despite the abundant obstacles Maria has faced on account of her undocumented immigration status, she sees the United States as "abounding with opportunity."

Currently, Maria is studying neuroscience and psychology. She also works at a hospital and participated last summer in conducting research with a professor. She reports that her daily life is "busy, stressed, and sleep-deprived, but I wouldn't give this up for anything."

Right now, Maria reports being "fearful on a day-to-day basis of how easily my status and my future can change with any decision by our current administration." Nevertheless, she is ardent that "not once have I questioned my loyalty and my love to this country. There is no other way to describe how I feel other than to say that this is where I belong. I am an American."

Any particular geographic area cannot be composed of particularly homogeneous groups if it hopes to link the social capital created by different groups. Here, the concept of “birthplace diversity” is helpful. Birthplace diversity is the extent to which people living in a community are the same people as those who were born into that community. Ohio, for example, is the third most homogeneous state in the nation, trailing only Louisiana and Michigan. Seventy-five percent of Ohio’s residents were born in Ohio.²⁹

Not surprisingly, Ohio’s major metropolitan areas are similarly homogeneous. Seventy-five percent of Clevelanders were born in Ohio, making the Cleveland region rank 37th nationally in birthplace diversity.³⁰ Out of the country’s largest metropolitan areas, Columbus (71%) and Cincinnati (68%) ranked 35th and 32nd, respectively, landing them among the United States’ least diverse cities (see Figure 8).

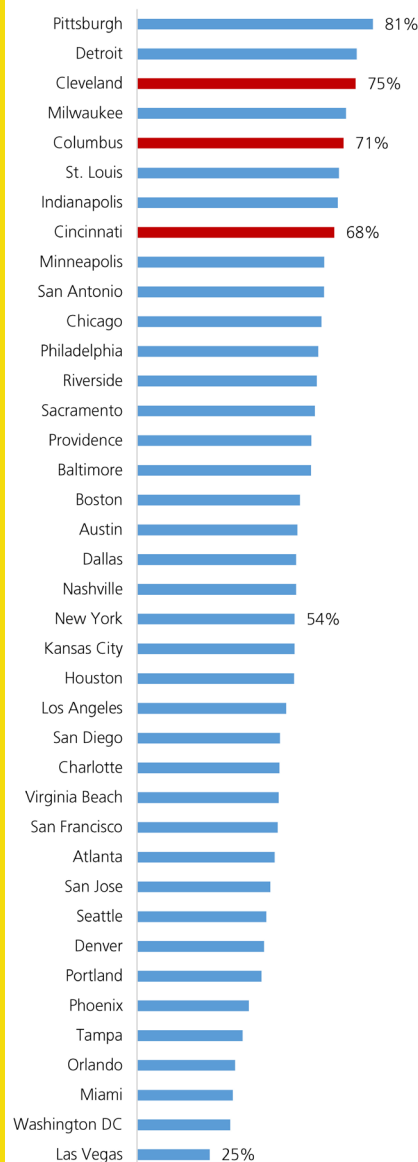
Low birthplace diversity can foster cul-de-sacs of globalization, according to geographer Jim Russell.³¹ Like any cul-de-sac, movement and information into and out of any geographic place can be cut off as a result of limited ingress and egress. As a result, social capital stagnates and parochialism arises in its place. Parochialism, as Sean Safford confirms, often has economic consequences. Safford’s seminal book on Youngstown, Ohio, called *Why the Garden Club Couldn’t Save Youngstown* found that the region’s high rates of civic parochialism was a determining factor in its inability to evolve economically from the collapse of the steel industry.³²

Tough economic times often exacerbate the impact of parochialism, creating echoing effects as a community’s job losses create financial hardships that in turn increase stressors that erode familial bonds. Immigrants provide demonstrated positive (if unsung) impact on such challenges. Immigrants not only strengthen Ohio’s community fabric through their own tight-knit networks, but they also bring birthplace diversity to help Ohio and its cities and communities evolve economically. As noted earlier, immigrants improve job prospects for native-born Ohioans, which means less financial hardship, which in turn means stronger family ties. Thus, Ohio’s immigrants help us build a better path to a brighter future for all Ohioans.

V. THE NEED FOR MORE RESOURCES: PHILANTHROPIC OPPORTUNITIES

Ohio’s immigrant story, like all immigrant stories, is a tale of time and generations. The longer an immigrant population resides in Ohio, the more successful they become. “The newly arrived have much higher rates of poverty and near-poverty than natives,” explains an analysis from the Center for Immigration Studies, “but the longer the immigrants have lived in the country, the lower their poverty or near-poverty.”³³ In Ohio, the poverty rate for immigrants who arrived prior to 2000 is 11%, compared to 30.8% for those who entered after 2010.³⁴

Figure 8: Percentage of City Residents Born In-State
Source: ACS 1-Year, 2016



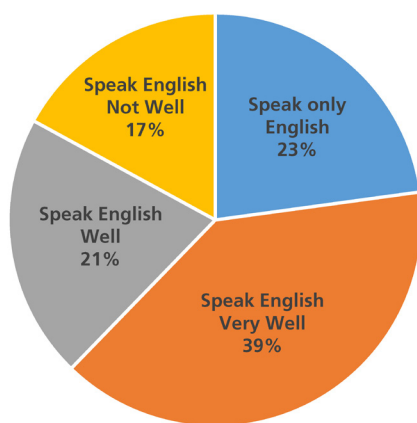
Lessening economic hardship occurs with social capital gains and with access to education, particularly education in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). The ability to speak English well affects economic mobility. A recent Brookings report shows that the limited English-proficient immigrant population

earned 22% to 40% less than their English-proficient counterparts.³⁵ "In essence, the language barrier can create a poverty trap for families and a loss of human capital for communities," notes a paper from the Center for American Progress that calls for a "two generation" approach to solving the issue.³⁶

"Given the fact that the majority of labor-force growth in the United States over the next four decades is projected to come from immigrants and their children, investing in these two populations is critical to the success of not only these families but also the U.S. [and Ohio] economy."³⁷ Thus, one of the most important things Ohio can do is develop and deploy a robust supportive service network to expedite our newest immigrants' acculturation. A larger and more committed effort around this immigrant engagement and support should focus on those most in need: our newest immigrant populations and those who speak English the least well.

Figure 9: English Proficiency of Foreign Born

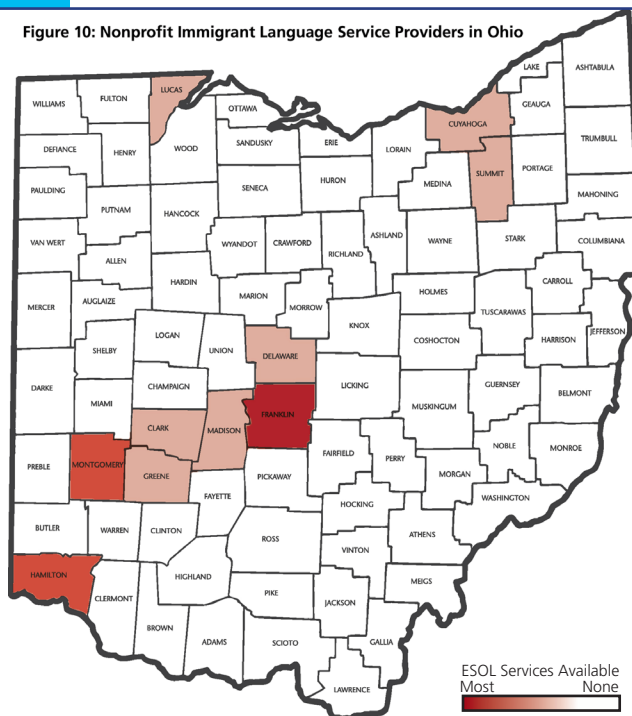
Source: ACS 5-year, 2012-2016



LANGUAGE SKILLS

Ohio lacks ESOL resources. While 17% of Ohio's immigrants (roughly 87,000) cannot speak English very well (see Figure 9), a majority of Ohio counties have no adult ESOL services at all (see Figure 10). Growing the state's ESOL

Figure 10: Nonprofit Immigrant Language Service Providers in Ohio



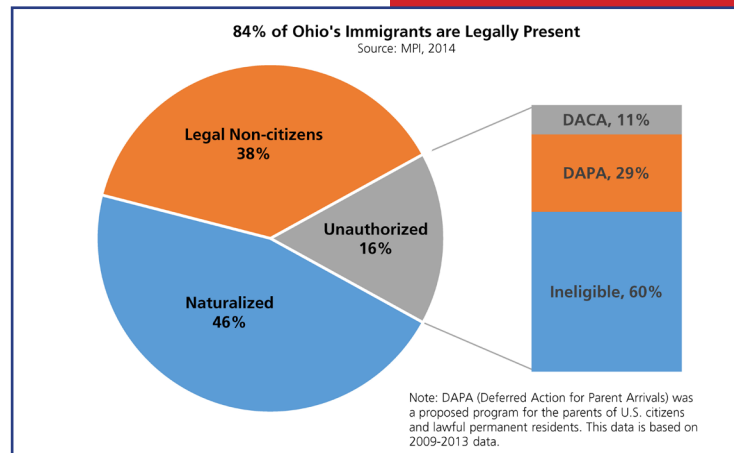
* The Ohio Department of Education provides some ESOL services to students enrolled in K-12.

infrastructure must be a priority. Ohio's ESOL infrastructure is concentrated in Franklin County. There is also a smattering of nonprofit ESOL services in Montgomery and Hamilton counties. Additionally, there is a dearth of long-standing, reliable, affordable GED classes in Spanish, despite the fact the GED test is available in Spanish.³⁸ Without the ability to learn or improve their English or to demonstrate their high school proficiency through a Spanish GED test, almost 1 in 5 Ohio immigrants will struggle to advance to more skilled employment and, as a result, struggle to achieve the American Dream.

LEGAL SERVICES

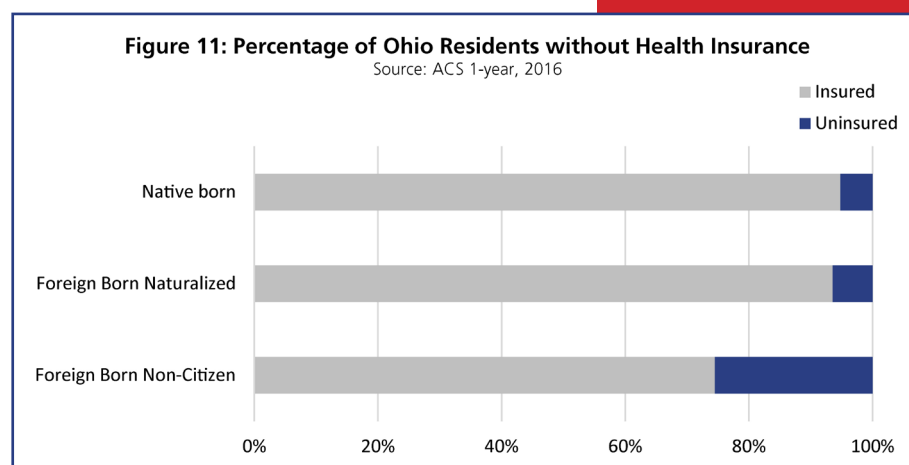
There is a national crisis in legal services. The Legal Services Corporation recently found in its *2017 Justice Gap Report* that “86% of the civil legal problems reported by low-income Americans received inadequate or no legal help.” Similarly, legal aid in Ohio is forced to turn away three people for every Ohioan it serves as a result of chronic under-funding. A similar scarcity of legal services for immigrants exists in Ohio. There are fewer than 35 immigration lawyers in the entire state available to handle immigration cases regardless of an immigrant’s ability to pay a lawyer or their lack of current legal status.³⁹

A recent study in the University of Pennsylvania Law Review, *A National Study of Access to Counsel in Immigration Court*, found only 37% of all immigrants and 14% of detained immigrants had counsel in their deportation cases.⁴⁰ What is critically important to note, however, is that those with counsel were ten times more likely to win their cases. No access to trustworthy and affordable legal services for the thousands of Ohio’s immigrants whose legal status is uncertain means not only risk of exploitation and abuse, but also stress and worry that inhibits their ability to thrive. These realities speak to the importance of closing the immigration legal service gap in Ohio. Thousands of immigrant Ohioans’ lives, as well as their immigrant dreams, are at stake.



HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Beyond education and access to legal services, another social determinant of poverty is access to healthcare in all of its forms: physical health, mental health, and oral health. In Ohio, there is a significant gap between insured native-born and naturalized Ohioans and non-citizen immigrants. Over one-quarter (25.5%) of the foreign-born, non-citizens are uninsured, compared to 5.2% for the native-born and 6.5% for naturalized immigrants (see Figure 11). Though the percentage of uninsured is down from 36.8% for non-citizens since 2011, that rate of change was slower than for the native-born and the naturalized citizens.⁴¹



Nationally, Ohio lags behind other states when it comes to healthcare access, particularly for undocumented Ohioans. A 2015 analysis by the University of California Global Health Institute ranked Ohio last in the nation in the support of policies that affect the health of the undocumented.⁴² Ohio is among a handful of states that does not provide public health insurance to undocumented children and pregnant women. Ohio also excludes undocumented individuals from the calculation of eligibility for SNAP benefits.⁴³ Many of Ohio's immigrants, particularly its refugees and asylees, have experienced trauma and need culturally competent mental health services in order to successfully integrate. Creating meaningful access to affordable and trustworthy physical, mental, and oral health services must be a top priority for Ohio's philanthropic community if it is to help Ohio maximize the contributions of its immigrant populations.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Ohio has a rich immigrant history and a diverse immigrant population. Ohio's immigrants are building a new and better life for themselves and their families. As this report demonstrates, they share our common values and create social capital that improves opportunities for all Ohioans.

Ohio's immigrants are both motivated and optimistic and they spur economic and community growth, as this report shows. However, services to help Ohio's immigrants successfully acclimate are lacking. By funding support services to expedite Ohio immigrants' integration into our communities through language, legal, and health services, we brighten the future for all Ohioans.

The prosperity of Ohio's immigrants improves the prosperity of native-born Ohioans. Immigration to the United States and to Ohio is a path of upward mobility, especially for less-skilled immigrants. The human desire for betterment is enduring, so Ohio needs to imagine its immigrant services support infrastructure as a launchpad, not a safety net.

Philanthropy should seek out and fund:

- adult ESOL services and Spanish GED services throughout the state;
- legal services that are affordable and available regardless of legal status; and,
- a full-range of healthcare services that are available regardless of legal status and that address physical, mental, and oral health.

If we, Ohio's philanthropic community, are committed change agents, then we must build this pathway to a brighter future by making Ohio's immigrants English proficient, legally stable, and healthy. In that way, we can all prosper together.

- ¹ Instruction for English-language learners may be known historically as English as a second language (ESL), but more currently as English as a foreign language (EFL) or English as an additional language (EAL) or English for speakers of other languages (ESOL).
- ² Hirschman C, Mogford E., *Immigration and the American Industrial Revolution From 1880 to 1920*. Social science research. 2009;38 (4):897-920. doi:10.1016/j.ssresearch.2009.04.001.
- ³ http://www.clustermapping.us/data/report/region/scorecard#/state/39/1998/2016/total_population_gr.
- ⁴ Census Population Estimates 2016.
- ⁵ PUMS 2016.
- ⁶ David, P. A. and Foray, D. (2002), *An introduction to the Economy of the Knowledge Society*. International Social Science Journal, 54: 9–23. doi:10.1111/1468-2451.00355.
- ⁷ Renn, Aaron (Sept. 2016), What Cities Need in the Global Economy, Governing the States and Localities, <http://www.governing.com/columns/eco-engines/gov-immigrants-global-economy.html>.
- ⁸ Ibid.
- ⁹ ACS 2016 1-year.
- ¹⁰ Ibid.
- ¹¹ Ibid.
- ¹² Ibid.
- ¹³ Ibid.
- ¹⁴ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/college-educated-immigrants-united-states>.
- ¹⁵ ACS 2016 1-year. ACS captures employment as either employment identified occupations or as employment in specific industries.
- ¹⁶ ACS 2016 1-year.
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ <https://www.americahealthrankings.org/learn/reports/2016-annual-report>, p.6.
- ¹⁹ ACS 2016 1-year and 2000 Census.
- ²⁰ https://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_table_102.htm.
- ²¹ PUMS 2016.
- ²² <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes311011.htm>.
- ²³ Peri, Giovanni, and Chad Sparber. 2009. *Task Specialization, Immigration, and Wages*. American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 1(3): 135-69.
- ²⁴ Putnam, Robert D. (2000). *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. New York: Simon & Schuster. p. 19. ISBN 0-7432-0304-6.
- ²⁵ https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/03/06/the-terrible-loneliness-of-growing-up-poor-in-robert-putnams-america/?utm_term=.078f4043b9d3.
- ²⁶ ACS 2016 1-year.
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ Ibid.
- ²⁹ Ibid.
- ³⁰ Ibid.
- ³¹ <http://www.governing.com/columns/eco-engines/gov-immigrants-global-economy.html>.
- ³² Sean Safford. *Why the Garden Club Couldn't Save Youngstown: The Transformation of the Rust Belt*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009.
- ³³ <https://cis.org/Immigrants-United-States-Profile-Americas-ForeignBorn-Population>.
- ³⁴ ACS 2016 1-year.
- ³⁵ <https://cis.org/Immigrants-United-States-Profile-Americas-ForeignBorn-Population>.
- ³⁶ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education-k-12/reports/2015/05/06/112074/the-case-for-a-two-generation-approach-for-educating-english-language-learners/>.
- ³⁷ Ibid.
- ³⁸ Independent research by the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc., February 2018, available by contacting mail@olaf.org.
- ³⁹ Ibid.
- ⁴⁰ Ingrid V. Eagly & Steven Shafer *A National Study of Access to Counsel in Immigration Court*, 164 U. Pa. L. Rev. 1 (2015). Available at: http://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/penn_law_review/vol164/iss1/2.
- ⁴¹ ACS 2016 1-year, ACS 2011 1-year.
- ⁴² Rodríguez, Michael, A., Young, Maria-Elena, Wallace, Steven P. *Creating conditions to support healthy people: State policies that affect the health of undocumented immigrants and their families*. Los Angeles, California. University of California Global Health Institute. (2015).
- ⁴³ Ibid.

Note: American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates for immigrant populations were not available for Alaska, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

*OUR PATHWAY TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE:
OHIO'S NEW AMERICANS WAS FUNDED
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