

IMMIGRANT HEALTH IN COLORADO

POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS & INSURANCE STATUS

FEBRUARY 2018

IMMIGRANT CATEGORIES & PROGRAMS

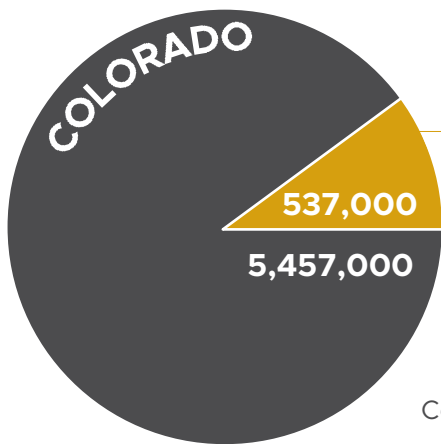
Before increasing health care coverage and/or access for immigrants, we must understand their demographics and documentation status.

Qualified Non-Citizen

- Lawful Permanent Residents/Green Card holders
- Asylees and Refugees
- Cuban/Haitian Entrants
- Paroled into the US for at least one year
- Conditional entrant granted before 1980
- Battered non-citizens and their families
- Victims of trafficking and their families
- Applicants for a victim of trafficking visa
- Granted withholding of deportation
- Member of a federally-recognized tribe
- American Indian born in Canada

Lawfully Present

- Qualified non-citizens with no waiting period
- Humanitarian circumstances
 - Temporary Protected Status
 - Special Juvenile Status
 - Asylum Applicants
 - Convention Against Torture
 - Victims of trafficking
- Valid non-immigrant visas
- Legal status conferred by other laws
 - Temporary resident status
 - LIFE Act
 - Family Unity individuals



10% of Coloradans were not born in the US¹

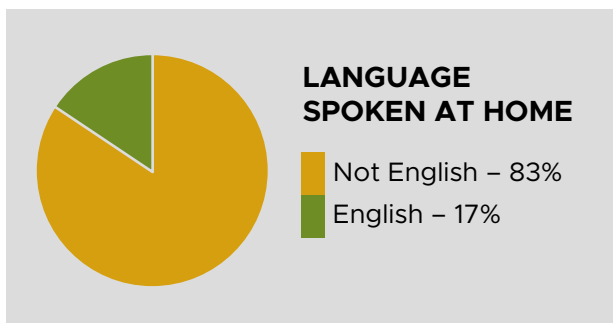
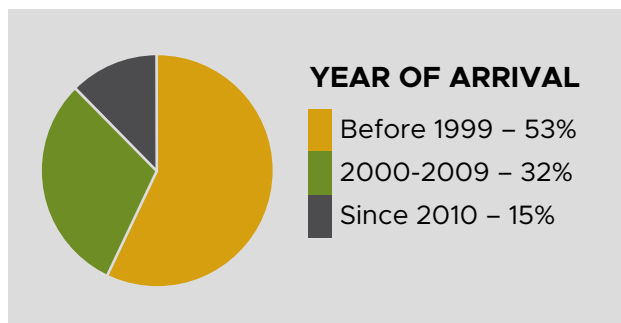
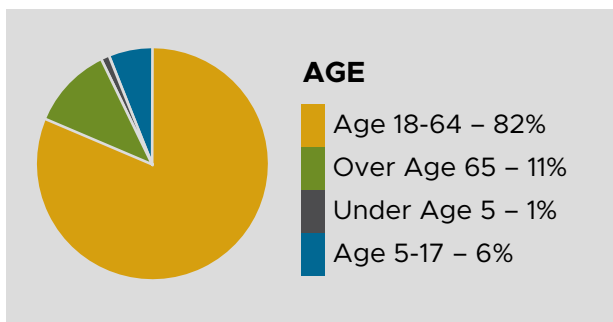
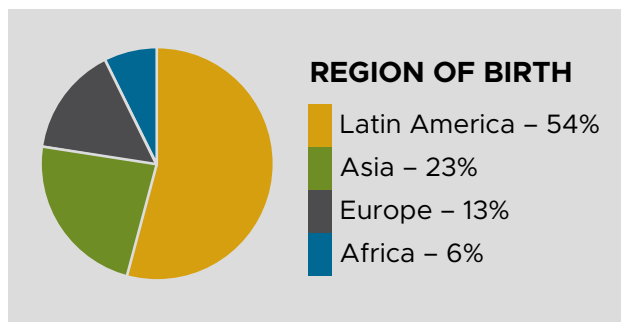
The number of foreign-born Coloradans went up by 45% from 2000-2015, compared to the 36% overall increase in the US.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Colorado’s immigrant population is largely from Latin America, but a sizeable percentage were also born in Asia. Of the foreign-born in Colorado, 61% are not U.S. citizens and 39% are naturalized citizens.

Children of immigrants are a special population. Of all Colorado children, 23% have at least one parent who is foreign-born, indicating “mixed-status” households, in which not all members have the same documentation status. The child or children may have citizenship by virtue of being born in the US or through some other method of achieving citizenship. And, 36% of low-income families—those earning less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level—have one or more foreign-born parents.²

Many immigrant families face language barriers. Nearly half of Colorado’s immigrants have Limited English Proficiency, or “speak English less than ‘very well.’”



1. “State Immigration Data Profile: Colorado.” Migration Policy Institute, data from the 2015 American Community Survey. Available at <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/CO/US>. Migration Policy Institute uses the term “foreign-born” to refer to people residing in the United States at the time of the population survey who were not U.S. citizens at birth. The foreign-born population includes naturalized U.S. citizens, lawful permanent immigrants (or green-card holders), refugees and asylees, certain legal nonimmigrants (including those on student, work, or some other temporary visas), and persons residing in the country without authorization.
2. American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. U.S. Census Bureau, 2014. Available at https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_S0501&prodType=table.
3. Colorado Office of Economic Security, Refugee Services. Available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-9dBwI5XFYdWHZRUIRlIai13Y3c/view>.

FEDERAL IMMIGRATION PROGRAMS

Refugees

A refugee is a person who has fled their home country due to a well-founded fear of persecution.

55,000

in Colorado since 1980³

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program

On September 5, 2017, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiated the “orderly phase out” of the program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).⁴ The Obama-era program allowed younger undocumented immigrants to live in the country without fear of deportation and was in effect since 2012 via an executive order.⁵ The program ending leaves the fates of 800,000 DREAMers in the country up in the air, with an estimated 17,000 in Colorado impacted by this decision. The Trump administration cited the program as unconstitutional, and did not extend it through executive order, and instead offered a partial delay to give Congress a chance to address the issue through comprehensive immigration reform.

17,000

in Colorado were enrolled⁶

Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) and Lawful Permanent Residents Program

Enacted November 2014 by executive action, eligible applicants:

- Have lived in the U.S. continuously since 1/1/2010;
- Were present in the U.S. on 11/20/2014 and at the time of the request;
- Had no lawful status on 11/20/2014;
- Have a child who is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident;
- Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more other misdemeanors, do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety, and are not an enforcement priority for removal.

38,000

in Colorado were eligible⁸

On June 15, 2017, DHS Secretary John Kelly signed a memorandum revoking the program.⁷ The program intended to offer a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrant parents whose children are either residents or citizens of the United States. Had DAPA been implemented, it is estimated that it could have applied to around 3.7 million immigrants in the U.S., with 38,000 residing in Colorado.

Similarly to DACA individuals, DAPA individuals would not have been eligible for Medicaid and CHIP, nor would they be eligible to purchase health coverage through a state- or federally-facilitated marketplace.⁵ However, since DAPA allows for work authorization, they can qualify for employer-based coverage.

4. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals 2017 Announcement. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, September 2017. Available at <https://www.uscis.gov/daca2017>.

5. *Trump Administration Announces End of DACA Immigration Protection Program*. Denver Post, September 5, 2017. Available at <http://www.denverpost.com/2017/09/05/trump-congress-daca-immigration>.

6. Number of Form I-821D, “Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.” U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, March 2017. Available at https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/daca_performance_data_fy2017_qtr2.pdf.

7. *Trump Rolls Back DAPA*. The Atlantic, June 2017. Available at <https://www.theatlantic.com/news/archive/2017/06/trump-rolls-back-dapa-program/530571>.

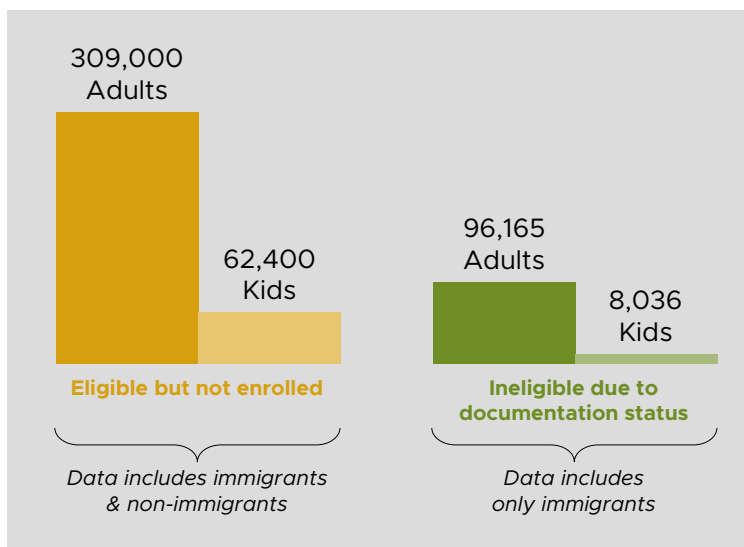
8. *As Many as 3.7 Million Unauthorized Immigrants Could Get Relief from Deportation under Anticipated New Deferred Action Program*. Migration Policy, November 19, 2014. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/mpi-many-37-million-unauthorized-immigrants-could-get-relief-deportation-under-anticipated-new>.

INSURANCE STATUS

Of Colorado's uninsured population in 2017, 252,000 (or 57%) were eligible for assistance to obtain health coverage: 130,000 through Medicaid or Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) and 122,000 through advanced premium tax credits. These individuals are considered Eligible But Not Enrolled (EBNE). Some, but not all of these individuals are immigrants with documentation.

An additional 104,201 of Colorado's uninsured, or 27% of the state's total uninsured, were immigrants without documentation.⁷ Across the United States, it is estimated that 25% of the people who will remain without health insurance, despite full implementation of the Affordable Care Act, will be immigrants without documentation, making up the nation's second largest population of uninsured individuals.⁸ The limitation in these data is that there were substantial increases in Coloradans (and potentially immigrants) gaining health coverage in 2014, so this number should be taken conservatively.

UNINSURED IMMIGRANTS



Of EBNE adults, 25% are Hispanic, and some Hispanics may face language barriers in enrollment or confusion regarding verification of lawful status. Of EBNE children, 41% are Hispanic and 18% have a parent who is an immigrant without lawful status. One-third of all uninsured immigrants without lawful status are concentrated in Arapahoe, Adams, and Denver counties.

Learn more:

- (1) <http://ckf.cchn.org/publications/fact-sheets-briefs-reports>
- (2) www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/research/colorados-eligible-not-enrolled-population-continues-decline

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

At Center for Health Progress, we believe our health care system should work for all Coloradans. So, we bring people together to ensure factors like race, income, and ZIP code don't determine a person's access to care and opportunity to live a healthy life. When we uncover commonsense solutions to these complex challenges, we get closer to ensuring our health care system works for everyone. **Because when our neighbors are healthy, our communities prosper, and Colorado is stronger.**

For more information or other resources on immigrant health in Colorado, contact Aubrey Hill, Director of Health Systems Change, at aubrey.hill@centerforhealthprogress.org.