

## A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States

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## Executive Summary

Unauthorized immigrants living in the United States are more geographically dispersed than in the past and are more likely than either U.S. born residents or legal immigrants to live in a household with a spouse and children. In addition, a growing share of the children of unauthorized immigrant parents—73%—were born in this country and are U.S. citizens.

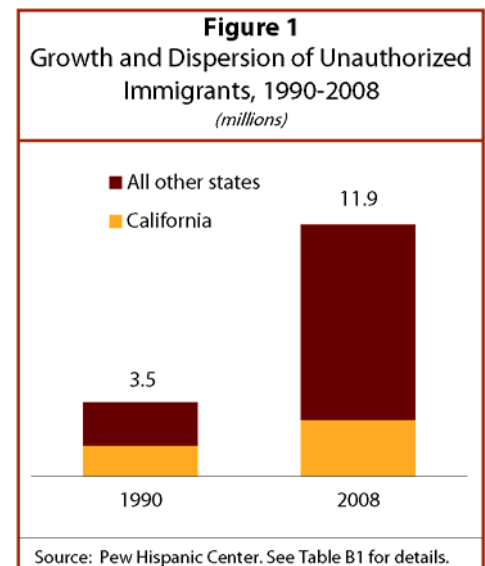
These are among the key findings of a new analysis by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center, which builds on previous work estimating the size and growth of the U.S. unauthorized immigrant population. A 2008 report by the Center estimated that 11.9 million unauthorized immigrants lived in the United States; it concluded that the undocumented immigrant population grew rapidly from 1990 to 2006 but has since stabilized.<sup>1</sup> In this new analysis, the Center estimates that the rapid growth of unauthorized immigrant workers also has halted; it finds that there were 8.3 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. labor force in March 2008.

Based on March 2008 data collected by the Census Bureau, the Center estimates that unauthorized immigrants are 4% of the nation's population and 5.4% of its workforce. Their children, both those who are unauthorized immigrants themselves and those who are U.S. citizens, make up 6.8% of the students enrolled in the nation's elementary and secondary schools.

About three-quarters (76%) of the nation's unauthorized immigrant population are Hispanics. The majority of undocumented immigrants (59%) are from Mexico, numbering 7 million. Significant regional sources of unauthorized immigrants include Asia (11%), Central America (11%), South America (7%), the Caribbean (4%) and the Middle East (less than 2%).

### State Settlement Patterns

Unauthorized immigrants are spread more broadly than in the past into states where relatively few had settled two decades ago. This is especially true in



<sup>1</sup> Jeffrey S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn. *Trends in Unauthorized Immigration: Undocumented Inflow Now Trails Legal Inflow*. Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center, October 2008.

Georgia, North Carolina and other southeastern states. Long-time immigrant destinations, including Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York and Texas, also have retained their appeal to undocumented migrants.

However, growth of this population has slowed in California. Although the Golden State still houses the largest number of undocumented migrants—2.7 million, or almost double the number in 1990—it is home to a markedly smaller proportion of them. Its 42% share in 1990 declined to 22% in 2008.

### Families and Children

Most unauthorized immigrant adults reside with immediate family members—spouses or children. About half of undocumented adults live with their own children under 18. Nearly half of unauthorized immigrant households (47%) consist of a couple with children. That is a greater share than for households of U.S.-born residents (21%) or legal immigrants (35%). This difference stems in large part from the relatively youthful composition of the unauthorized immigrant population.

Most children of unauthorized immigrants—73% in 2008—are U.S. citizens by birth. The number of U.S.-born children in mixed-status families (unauthorized immigrant parents and citizen children) has expanded rapidly in recent years, to 4 million in 2008 from 2.7 million in 2003. By contrast, the number of children who are unauthorized immigrants themselves (1.5 million in 2008) hardly changed in the five-year period and may have declined slightly since 2005.

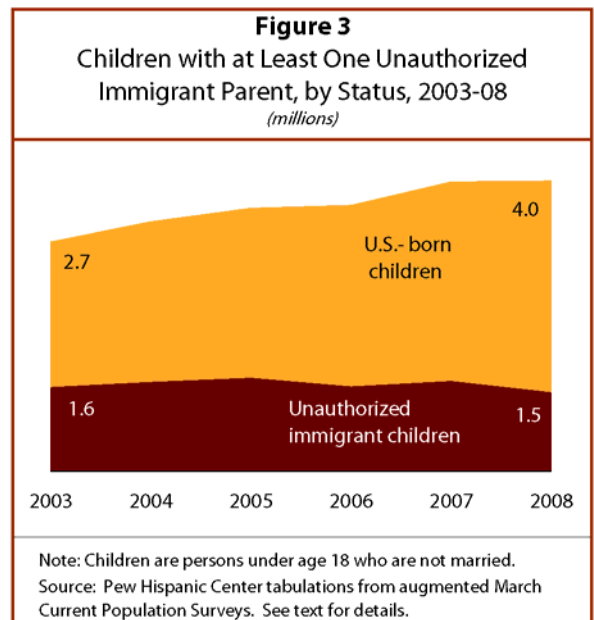
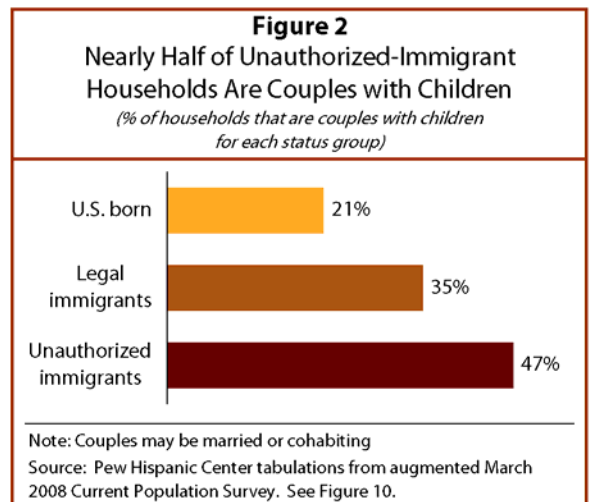
### Schools

Children of unauthorized immigrants are a growing share of students in kindergarten

**Table 1**  
States with Largest Unauthorized Immigrant Populations, 2008  
*(population in thousands)*

	Estimated Population	Range
<b>U.S. Total</b>	11,900	(11,400 - 12,400)
California	2,700	(2,500 - 2,850)
Texas	1,450	(1,300 - 1,550)
Florida	1,050	(950 - 1,150)
New York	925	(800 - 1,050)
New Jersey	550	(500 - 600)
Arizona	500	(475 - 550)
Georgia	475	(425 - 500)
Illinois	450	(375 - 525)
North Carolina	350	(300 - 400)
Virginia	300	(275 - 325)

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March Current Population Surveys for 2006-08. See Table B1



through grade 12. The Center, analyzing this group for the first time, estimates that 6.8% of K-12 students have at least one parent who was undocumented in 2008. In five states, about 10% or more of students are children of undocumented-immigrant parents. Most of these children, having been born in the United States, are U.S. citizens.

**Labor**

The nation’s labor force of 154 million people includes an estimated 8.3 million unauthorized immigrants. The 5.4% unauthorized-immigrant share of the labor force in 2008 rose rapidly from 4.3% in 2003, and has leveled off since 2007. The estimate for 2008 is not significantly different from 2007, so any assessment of recent trend is inconclusive because of the margin of error in these estimates.

Among states, the proportion of unauthorized workers varies widely: They constitute roughly 10% or more of the labor force in Arizona, California and Nevada, but less than 2.5% in most Midwest and Plains states. They are especially likely to hold low-skilled jobs and their share of some of those occupations has grown. In 2008, 17% of construction workers were undocumented, an increase from 10% in 2003. One in four farmworkers is an unauthorized immigrant.

The estimates reported here are based mainly on data from March Current Population Surveys, conducted by the Census Bureau, through 2008, augmented with legal status assignments and adjusted to correct for undercount; some estimates are from the 2000 and 1990 Censuses. The Census Bureau asks people where they were born but does not ask people their immigration status, so the estimate of the size of the population is derived by

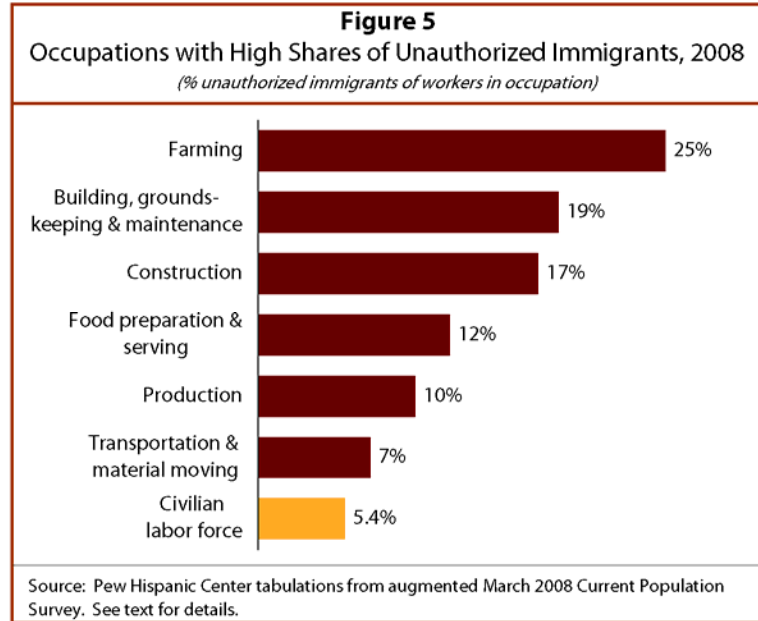
**Table 2**  
States with Largest Share of Unauthorized Immigrants in the Labor Force, 2008  
*(labor force in thousands)*

	Labor		
	Total	Unauthorized	
		Estimate	Share
<b>U.S. Total</b>	154,772	8,300	5.4%
Nevada	1,370	170	12.2%
California	18,824	1,850	9.9%
Arizona	3,103	300	9.8%
New Jersey	4,588	425	9.2%
Florida	9,231	750	8.2%
Texas	11,748	925	7.9%
District of Columbia	329	25	7.1%
New York	9,673	650	6.7%
Maryland	2,977	200	6.7%
Georgia	5,009	325	6.3%

Note: Unauthorized estimates are rounded; see Methodology appendix. Percentages computed from unrounded data.  
Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March Current Population Surveys for 2006-08. See Table B2



employing a widely accepted methodology that has been used in previous reports on this topic. Essentially, it subtracts the estimated legal-immigrant population from the total foreign-born population and treats the residual as an estimate of the unauthorized population. The information on characteristics of status groups is developed by assigning legal statuses to individual respondents who are likely to be legal or unauthorized using probabilistic methods designed to produce results agreeing with the residual estimates. [For more details, see Methodology appendix.]

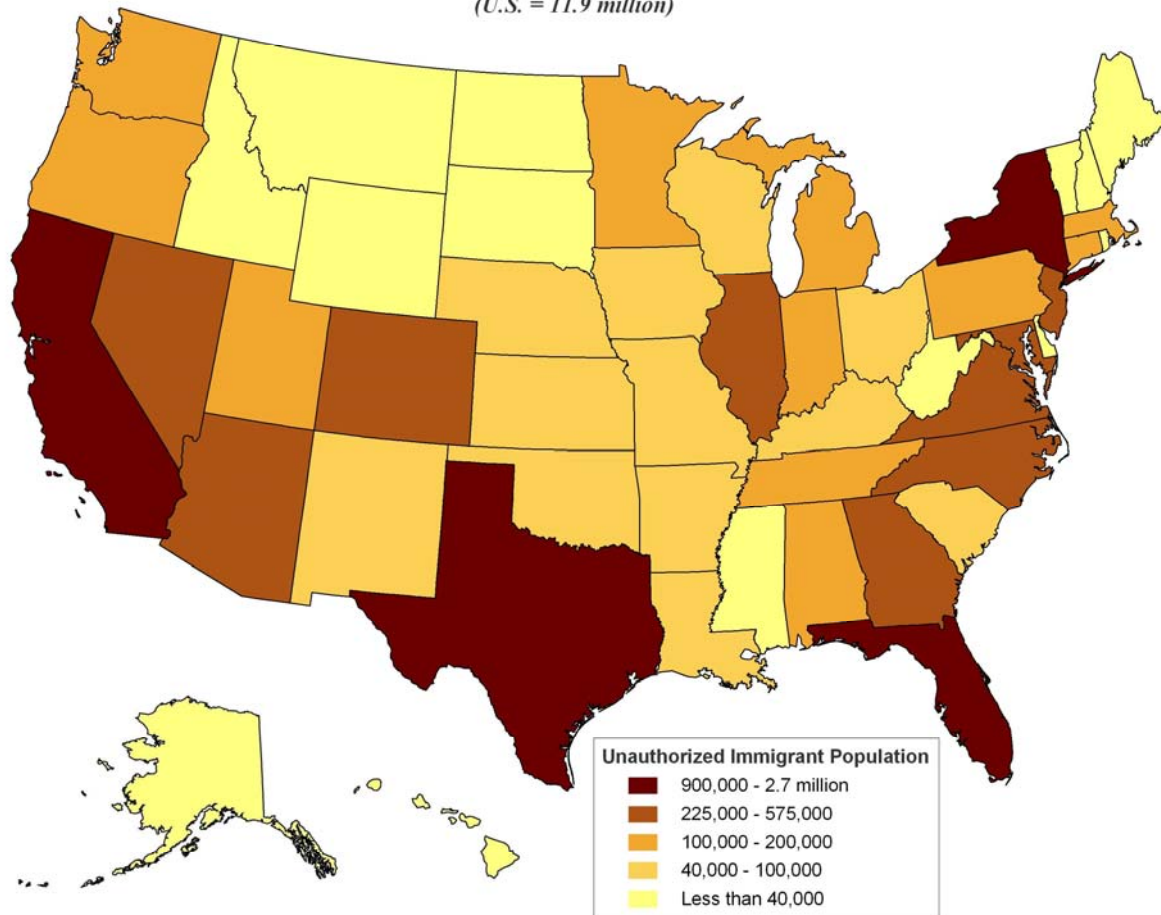


### Other Major Findings:

- Adult unauthorized immigrants are disproportionately likely to be poorly educated. Among unauthorized immigrants ages 25-64, 47% have less than a high school education. By contrast, only 8% of U.S.-born residents ages 25-64 have not graduated from high school.
- An analysis of college attendance finds that among unauthorized immigrants ages 18 to 24 who have graduated from high school, half (49%) are in college or have attended college. The comparable figure for U.S.-born residents is 71%.
- The 2007 median household income of unauthorized immigrants was \$36,000, well below the \$50,000 median household income for U.S.-born residents. In contrast to other immigrants, undocumented immigrants do not attain markedly higher incomes the longer they live in the United States.
- A third of the children of unauthorized immigrants and a fifth of adult unauthorized immigrants lives in poverty. This is nearly double the poverty rate for children of U.S.-born parents (18%) or for U.S.-born adults (10%).
- More than half of adult unauthorized immigrants (59%) had no health insurance during all of 2007. Among their children, nearly half of those

who are unauthorized immigrants (45%) were uninsured and 25% of those who were born in the U.S. were uninsured.

*Map 1. Estimated Unauthorized Immigrant Population by State, 2008  
(U.S. = 11.9 million)*



*Note: There are no states with unauthorized immigrant populations between 575,000 and 900,000.*



## About this Report

This report outlines the demographic characteristics of unauthorized immigrants living in the United States in March 2008 and offers comparisons with legal immigrants and U.S.-born residents. It also estimates the size of the unauthorized immigrant population and labor force for each state.

These unauthorized immigrants consist of residents of the United States who are not U.S. citizens, who do not hold current permanent resident visas or who have not been granted permission under a set of specific authorized temporary statuses for longer-term residence and work. The vast majority of undocumented immigrants either entered the country without valid documents or arrived with valid visas but stayed past their visa expiration date or otherwise violated the terms of their admission.

Also included in this group are some people who had entered without valid documents or violated the terms of their visas but later obtained temporary authorization to live and work in the United States. Among them are immigrants from certain countries holding temporary protected status (TPS) or people who have filed for asylum status but whose claims are unresolved. This group may account for as much as 10% of the unauthorized immigrant estimate. Many of these “quasi-legal” individuals could revert to unauthorized status.

## A Note on Terminology

“Foreign born” refers to an individual who is not a U.S. citizen at birth or, in other words, who is born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The terms “foreign born” and “immigrant” are used interchangeably.

“U.S. born” refers to an individual who is a U.S. citizen at birth, including people born in the United States, Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories, as well as those born elsewhere to parents who are U.S. citizens.

The terms “unauthorized immigrants” and “undocumented immigrants” are used interchangeably.

“Children” are people under age 18 who are not married. “Adults” are ages 18 and older.

“Children of unauthorized immigrants” or “children of unauthorized immigrant parents” are foreign-born children and U.S.-born children who live with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent.

In a “U.S.-born household,” both the householder and spouse or partner (if any) are born in the United States. In a “legal immigrant household,” either the

householder, spouse or partner (if any) or both are legal immigrants. In an “unauthorized immigrant household,” either the householder, spouse or partner (if any) or both are unauthorized immigrants.

“Spouse” includes unmarried partner unless otherwise noted; “couples” includes those both married and unmarried.

### About the Authors

Jeffrey S. Passel is a senior demographer at the Pew Hispanic Center. He is a nationally known expert on immigration to the United States and on the demography of racial and ethnic groups. In 2005, Dr. Passel was made a fellow of the American Statistical Association, which cited his outstanding contributions to the measurement of population composition and change. He formerly served as principal research associate at the Urban Institute’s Labor, Human Services and Population Center. From 1987 to 1989, he was assistant chief for population estimates and projections in the Population Division of the U.S. Census Bureau.

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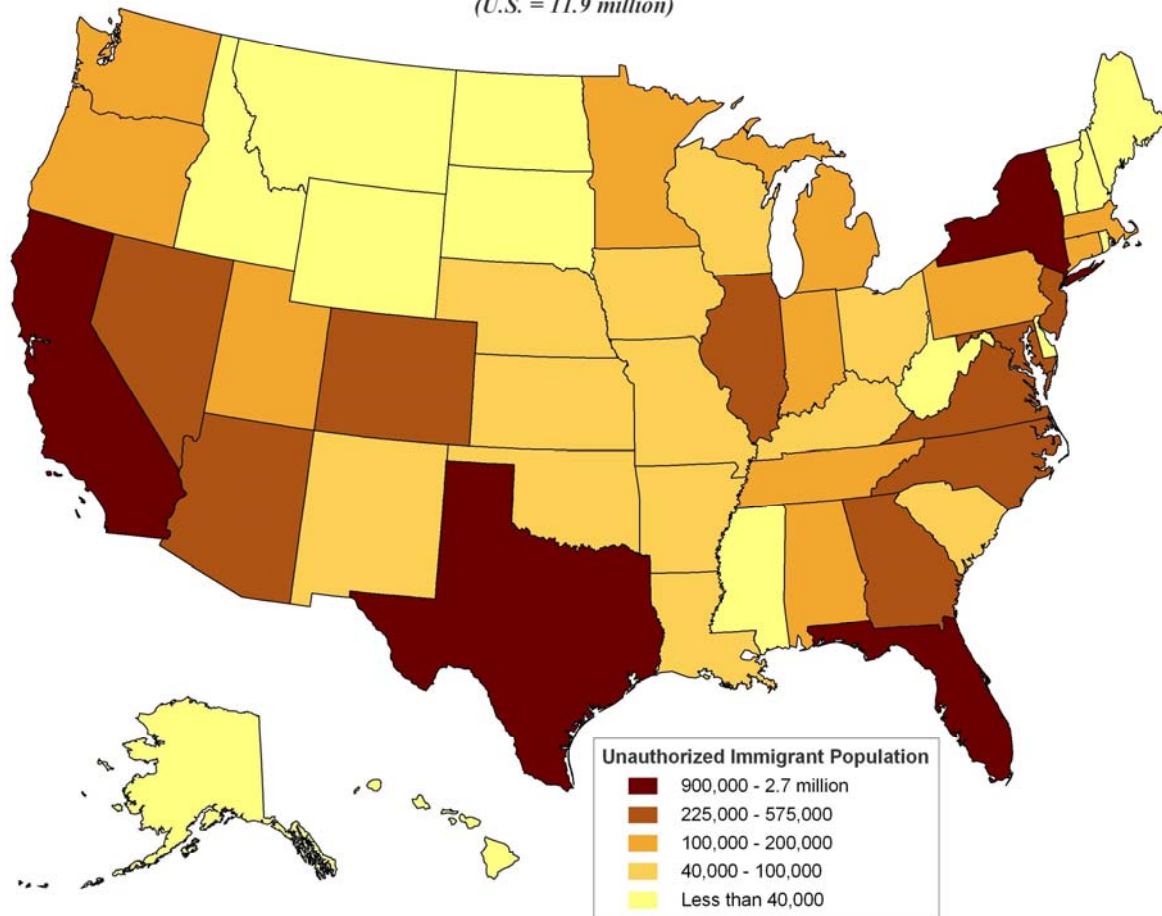
## Where Do They Live?

### States

About half of the nation's estimated 11.9 million unauthorized immigrants live in just four states: California, Texas, Florida and New York. Their undocumented populations range in size from about 900,000 to 2.7 million.

In another group of four states—New Jersey, Arizona, Georgia and Illinois—the populations of unauthorized immigrants hover around half a million. The top eight states house more than two-thirds of undocumented immigrants (68%).

*Map 1. Estimated Unauthorized Immigrant Population by State, 2008  
(U.S. = 11.9 million)*



*Note: There are no states with unauthorized immigrant populations between 575,000 and 900,000.*

However, this does not tell the whole story of the geographic dispersion of the unauthorized immigrant population. In recent years, California's growth has

slowed and a group of fast-growing, new-destination states has attracted many newcomers, both legal and undocumented, from abroad.

California, where 42% of unauthorized immigrants lived in 1990, housed 22% of that population in 2008. A grouping of 28 high-growth states in the mid-Atlantic, Midwest, Mountain and Southeast regions are now home to 32% of the unauthorized immigrant population, more than double their 14% share in 1990.

U.S. Total 11,900 (11,400 - 12,400)					
California	2,700	(2,500 - 2,850)	New Mexico	80	(75 - 85)
Texas	1,450	(1,300 - 1,550)	South Carolina	70	(60 - 85)
Florida	1,050	(950 - 1,150)	Kansas	70	(60 - 75)
New York	925	(800 - 1,050)	Louisiana	65	(50 - 80)
			Arkansas	60	(45 - 70)
New Jersey	550	(500 - 600)	Iowa	55	(45 - 65)
Arizona	500	(475 - 550)	Oklahoma	55	(45 - 60)
Georgia	475	(425 - 500)			
Illinois	450	(375 - 525)	Nebraska	45	(40 - 55)
			Missouri	45	(35 - 60)
North Carolina	350	(300 - 400)	Kentucky	45	(35 - 60)
Virginia	300	(275 - 325)	Mississippi	35	(30 - 45)
Maryland	250	(230 - 300)	Hawaii	35	(25 - 45)
Colorado	240	(220 - 250)	Idaho	35	(25 - 40)
Nevada	230	(210 - 240)			
			Delaware	30	(25 - 35)
Massachusetts	190	(160 - 220)	Dist. of Columbia	30	(25 - 30)
Washington	180	(140 - 210)	Rhode Island	30	(20 - 35)
Tennessee	150	(130 - 170)	New Hampshire	20	(15 - 25)
Oregon	150	(130 - 160)			
Pennsylvania	140	(110 - 160)	Wyoming	<10	(0 - 10)
			South Dakota	<10	(0 - 10)
Indiana	120	(110 - 130)	Alaska	<10	(0 - 10)
Minnesota	110	(100 - 130)	Vermont	<10	(0 - 10)
Michigan	110	(85 - 140)	Maine	<10	(0 - 10)
Utah	110	(100 - 120)	Montana	<10	(0 - 10)
Connecticut	110	(100 - 120)	North Dakota	<10	(0 - 10)
Alabama	100	(85 - 120)	West Virginia	<10	(0 - 10)
Ohio	95	(80 - 120)			
Wisconsin	85	(70 - 100)			

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March Current Population Surveys for 2006-08. See Table B1

Five other large states that have been traditional immigrant destinations—Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York and Texas—still house 37% of the unauthorized immigrant population, little different from 1990. [See Table B1 and Table B8]

Unauthorized immigrants are 4% of the nation's population, but states in the West, Southwest and on both coasts have higher shares. In 14 states, 4% or more

of the population are unauthorized immigrants. In 21 states, they constitute less than 2% of the population. [See Table B2 and Map A1]

Unauthorized immigrants are 30% of the nation's foreign-born population of more than 39 million people. In 29 states, they are a higher share of immigrants and in eight of them the unauthorized immigrant population is about half or more of all immigrants. The states where unauthorized immigrants are an above-average share of all immigrants tend to be relatively new immigrant destinations, such as Colorado, Nevada, Georgia and North Carolina. States with low shares either have had many immigrants arriving and staying over the years, such as New York, or still have relatively few, such as West Virginia. [See Map A2]

**Table 4**  
Foreign-born Population by Legal Status, 2008

	POPULATION	
	Millions	Percent
<b>Total foreign born</b>	39.9	100%
<b>Legal immigrants</b>	28.0	70%
Naturalized citizens	14.2	36%
Legal permanent resident aliens	12.3	31%
Legal temporary migrants	1.4	4%
<b>Unauthorized immigrants</b>	11.9	30%

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates and tabulations from augmented March 2008 Current Population Survey. See text for details.

### Metropolitan Residence

A much greater share of unauthorized immigrants than of the U.S.-born population lives in metropolitan areas. Approximately 94% of unauthorized immigrants live in metropolitan areas, compared with about 80% of the U.S.-born population. This difference arises because unauthorized immigrants are more concentrated in principal cities of metropolitan areas (47% live there) than are the U.S. born (29%).

# Demographic and Family Characteristics

## Gender and Age

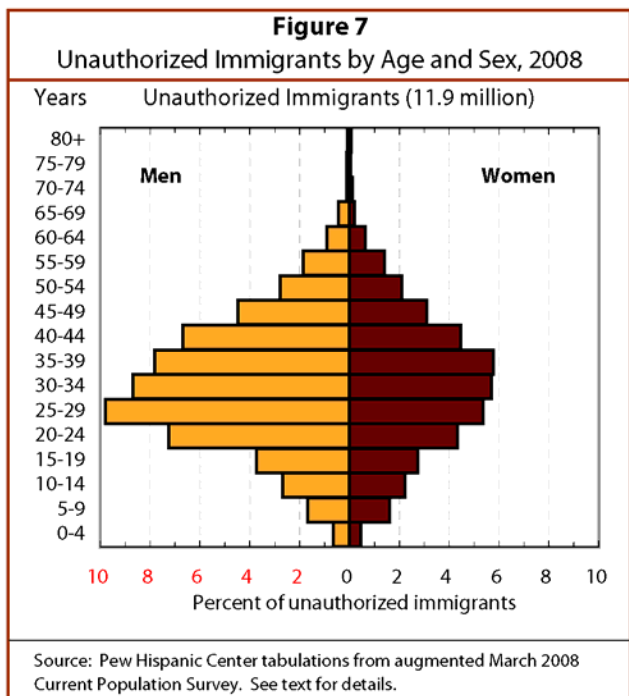
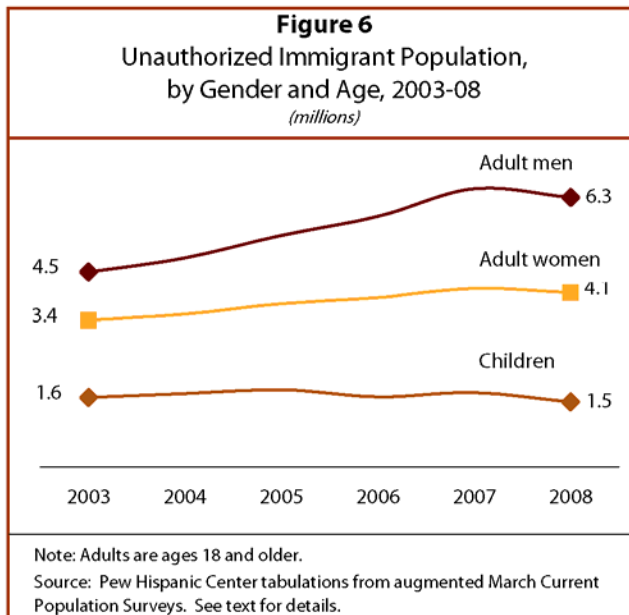
There were 6.3 million men, 4.1 million women and 1.5 million children under age 18 living in the United States as unauthorized immigrants in March 2008.

The number of men who are unauthorized immigrants has grown more rapidly than the number of women. There has been little change in the number of unauthorized immigrant children since 2003 and no discernable trend.

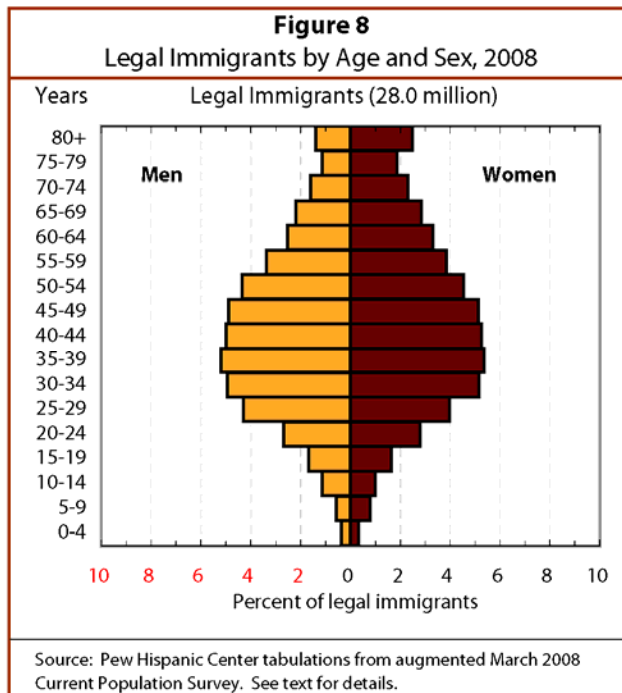
The age distribution of the unauthorized immigrant population is strikingly different from that of the legal immigrant or U.S.-born population.

Unauthorized immigrants are less evenly distributed by age, with considerably smaller shares of children than the U.S. born and smaller shares of the elderly than either legal immigrants or the U.S.-born population. Men ages 18-39 make up 35% of the undocumented immigrant population, compared with 14% among the U.S. born and 18% among legal immigrants.

Unauthorized immigrants are much less likely to be ages 65 and older (1.2%) than are U.S.-born residents (12%) or legal immigrants (16%).



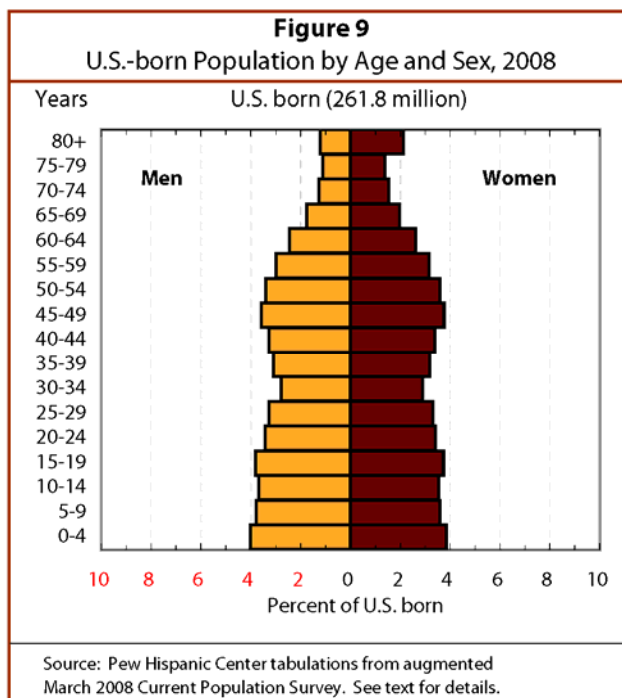
Children make up a smaller share of both immigrant groups than they do among the U.S. born—13% of unauthorized immigrants and 6% of legal immigrants, compared with 27% of the U.S. born. An important caveat here is that the vast majority of children of unauthorized immigrants (and legal immigrants) are born in the United States. Because most children of unauthorized immigrants are born here, a clearer picture of the demographic structure of unauthorized immigrants and their families emerges from an analysis of household/family structure and the living arrangements of individuals.



### Household Living Arrangements

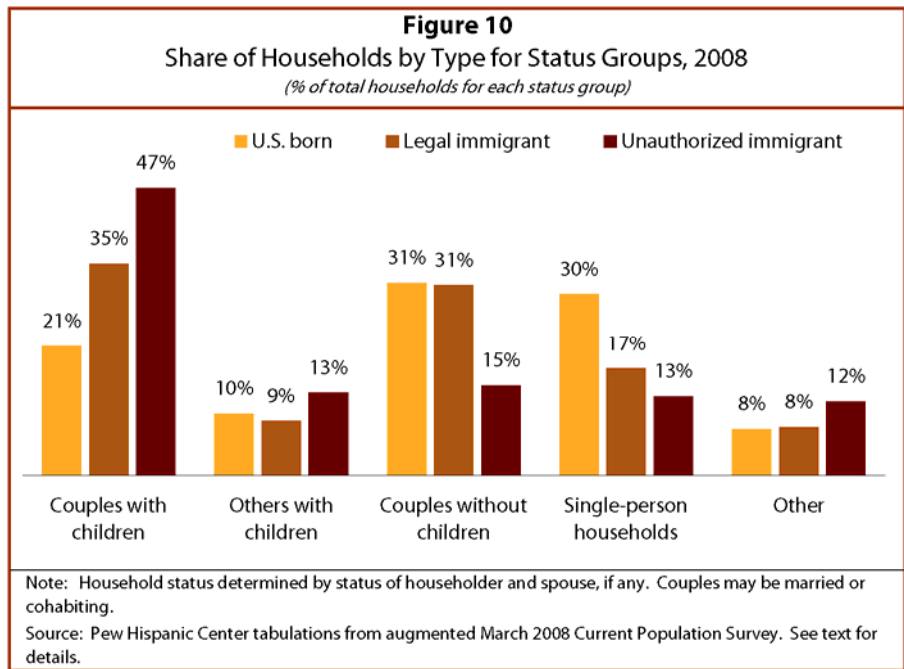
Three-quarters of the households headed by unauthorized immigrants consist of married or cohabiting couples with children; married or cohabiting couples without children; and other adults with children, mainly single parents. Compared with U.S.-born or legal immigrant households, unauthorized immigrant households are more likely to be made up of couples with children. A major reason for this difference is that the relative youth of the unauthorized immigrant adult population leads to a greater prevalence of couples as well as couples with children (notwithstanding an overrepresentation of young men).

Nearly half (47%) of unauthorized immigrant households consist of couples with children, compared with 35% of legal immigrant households and only 21% of U.S.-born households. Couples without children account for 15% of unauthorized immigrant households and 31% of both legal immigrant and U.S.-born households. Single-person households are 13% of unauthorized immigrant





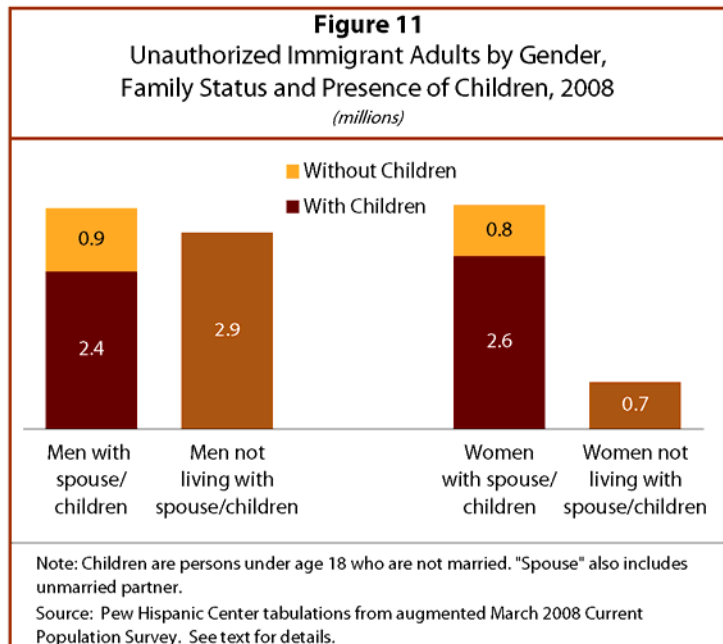
households, 17% of legal immigrant households and 30% of U.S.-born households.



### Living Arrangements of Individuals

The living circumstances of individuals echo the pattern seen for households. Among adults who are unauthorized immigrants, nearly two-thirds—6.7 million—live with a spouse or a cohabiting partner (either with or without children). The share is higher for women (83%) than for men (53%). Most of this group (5.1 million) live with a spouse.

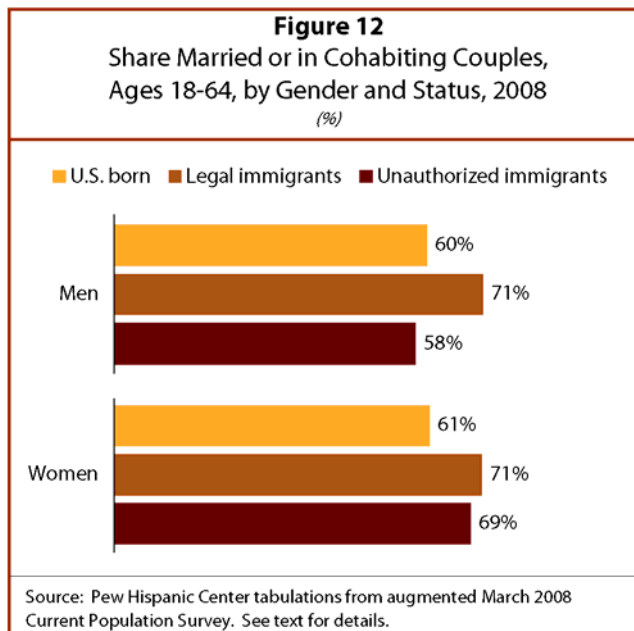
Most of these unauthorized immigrants who live with a spouse or cohabiting partner—4.3 million—also live with their children under 18. This means that nearly half of all adult unauthorized immigrants (48%) live with their children. However, the share of adult women living with their children (64%) is substantially higher than the share of men (38%) among unauthorized immigrants. Nearly all 1.5 million unauthorized



immigrant children live with their parents.

There are 3.6 million unauthorized immigrants who do not live with a spouse, partner or children.<sup>2</sup> These “unpartnered adults without children” are 35% of unauthorized adult immigrants, a share unchanged since 2005. Nearly half of men (47%) fit this description, as do 17% of women. The number of men in this group has increased since 2003; the number of women has not.

Comparing undocumented immigrants with others, men ages 18-64 who are unauthorized immigrants are about as likely to live with a spouse or partner (58%) as are U.S.-born men (60%), but they are less likely to do so than other foreign-born men (71%). Among women ages 18-64 who are unauthorized immigrants, 69% live with a spouse or partner, which is about the same as other foreign-born immigrants (71%) but higher than the 61% share among the U.S. born.

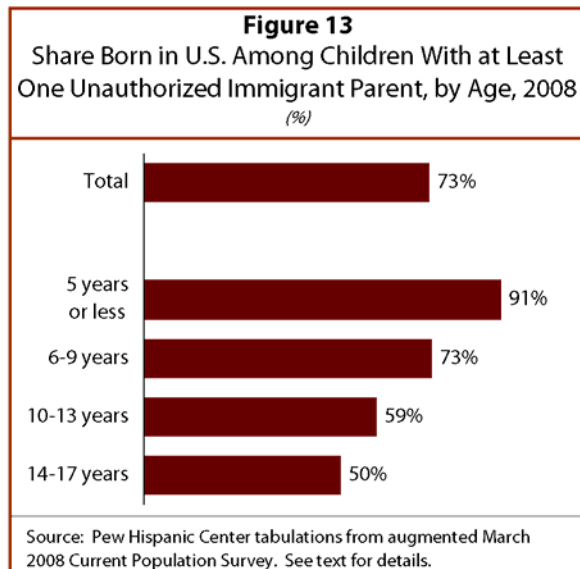


### Children of Unauthorized Immigrants

The number of children of unauthorized immigrants increased by 1.2 million from 2003 to 2008, despite the fact that the number of unauthorized immigrants under age 18 has remained roughly constant. The growth has been children born in the United States.

In 2003, of the 4.3 million children of unauthorized immigrants, 2.7 million, or 63%, were born in the United States. In 2008, of the 5.5 million children of unauthorized immigrants, 4 million, or 73%, were born in the United States.

Because of the underlying dynamics of immigration and childbearing, the youngest children of unauthorized immigrants are considerably more likely than older ones to be U.S. citizens. Among children under age



<sup>2</sup> Some in this group have spouses or children living elsewhere.

6 whose parents are unauthorized immigrants, 91% were born in the U.S.; among those ages 14 to 17, 50% are U.S. born.

The vast majority of all children with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent live in two-parent families (80%). This is similar to the share of children of other immigrants who do so (84%) and higher than the share of children with U.S.-born parents (71%).

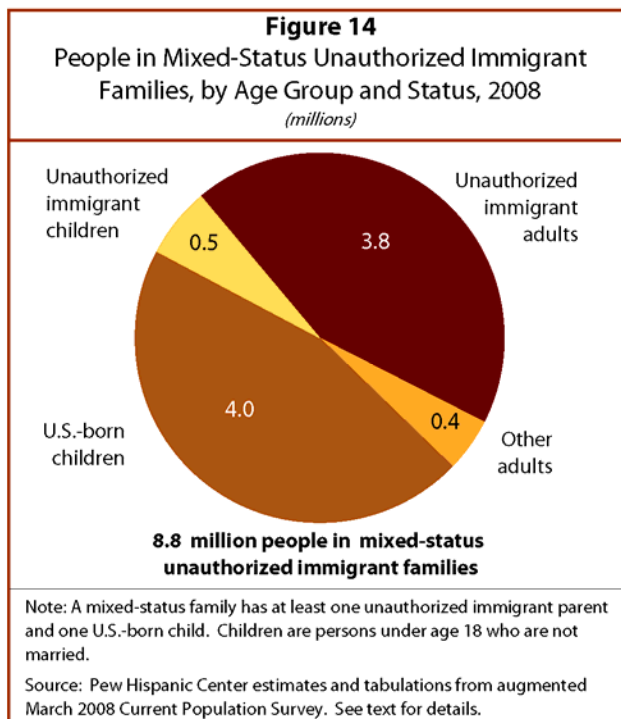
### “Mixed-Status” Families: Unauthorized Immigrant Parents and U.S. Citizen Children

Mixed-status family groups—that is, families with unauthorized immigrants and their U.S. citizen children—consist of 8.8 million people. Of these, 3.8 million are unauthorized immigrant adults and half a million are unauthorized immigrant children. The rest are U.S. citizens (mainly children) and legal immigrants.

Since 2003, the number of children (both U.S. born and unauthorized) in these mixed-status families has increased to 4.5 million from 3.3 million. This increase is attributable almost entirely to the increasing number of U.S. citizen children living with undocumented parents. The number of children in mixed-status families who are themselves unauthorized immigrants has remained constant.

The number of people in mixed-status families has grown in concert with the increasing unauthorized immigrant population. The 8.8 million people in these families are a slight majority (53%) of the nation’s 16.6 million unauthorized immigrants and their family members. [See Figure C1] This share has hovered between 50% and 53% since 2003. The share of children of unauthorized immigrants who are in mixed-status families has increased, though. In 2008, the 4.5 million children in mixed-status families represented 82% of the 5.5 million children of unauthorized immigrants—an increase from 76% in the 2003–05 period. [See figure C1]

Looked at another way, 3.8 million unauthorized immigrants are parents of children who are U.S. citizens. They represent 37% of adult unauthorized immigrants, a figure that has remained essentially unchanged since 2003.

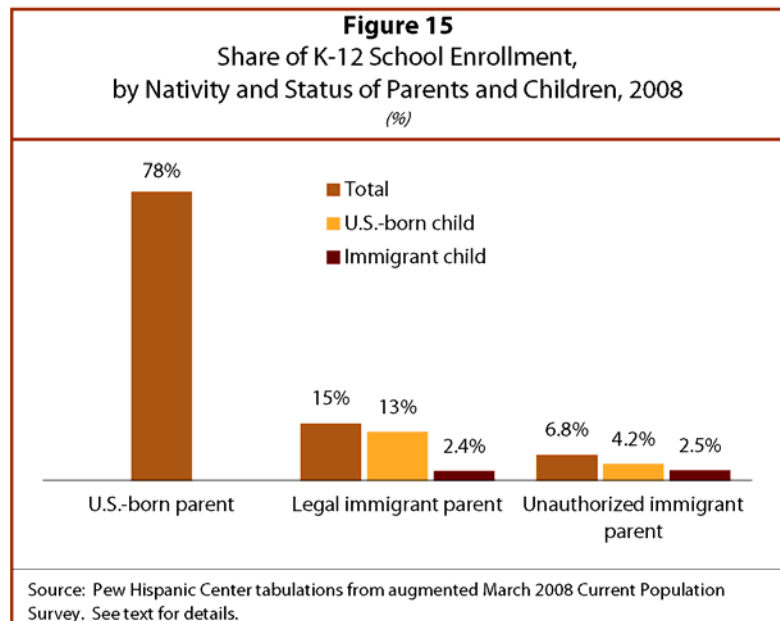


## Social and Economic Characteristics

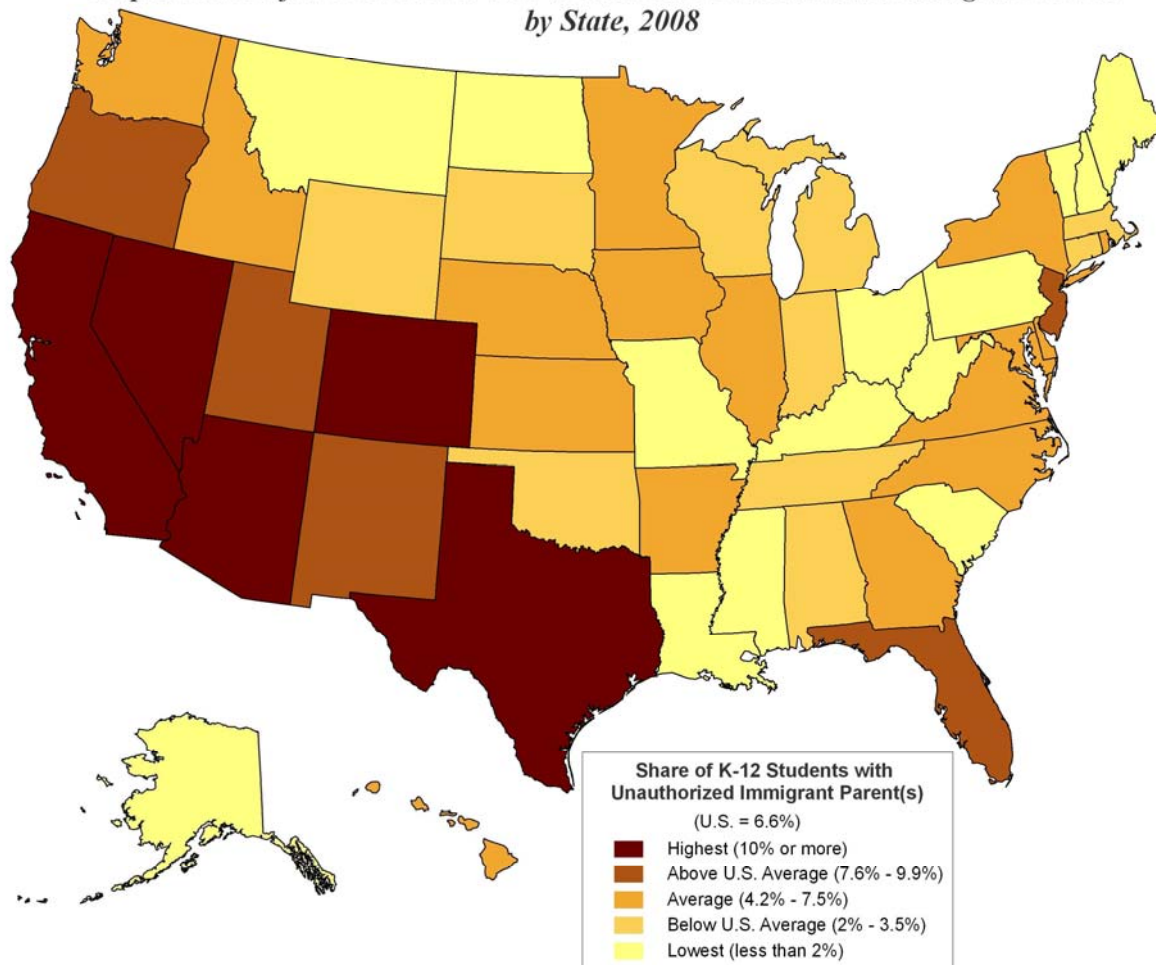
### Elementary and Secondary Education (K-12)

Children of unauthorized immigrants are 6.8% of students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12. That share has grown from 5.4% in 2003. Students with U.S.-born parents account for 78% of school-age children; those with legal immigrant parents account for the remaining 15%.

Enrollment levels of children of unauthorized immigrants vary considerably from state to state. In five states—Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada and Texas—at least one-in-ten students in grades kindergarten through 12 have parents who are unauthorized immigrants. But in more than a dozen states, mainly those that have experienced little growth in immigration, less than one-in-fifty students (less than 2%) live with parents who are unauthorized immigrants.



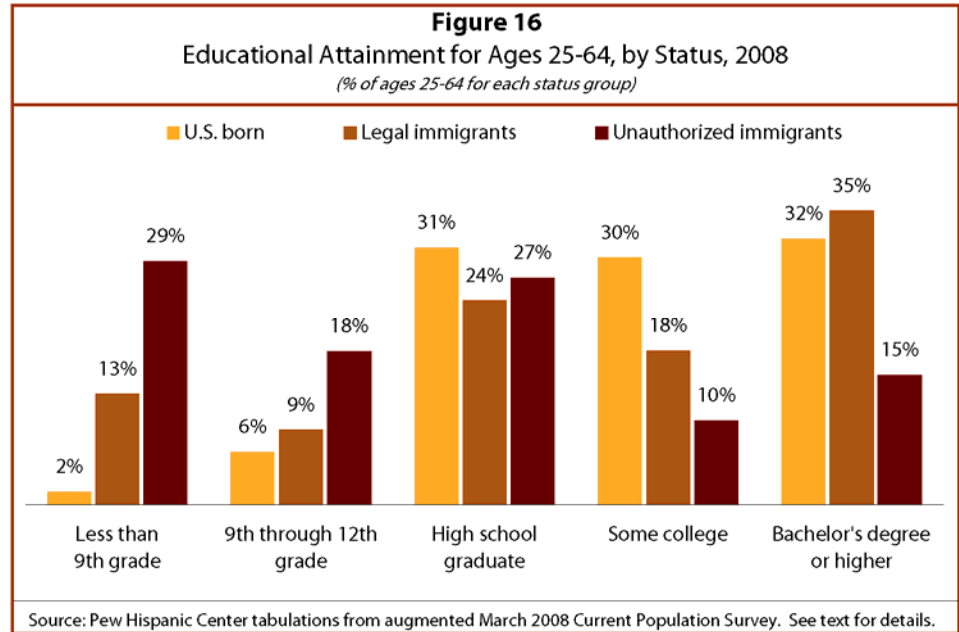
*Map 2. Share of K-12 Students with at Least One Unauthorized Immigrant Parent by State, 2008*



## Educational Attainment

The education profile of adults who are unauthorized immigrants differs markedly from that of U.S.-born adults and from that of other immigrants because unauthorized immigrant adults ages 25-64 are disproportionately likely to have very low education levels.

Nearly three-in-ten (29%) have less than a ninth-grade education; an additional 18% have some high school education but have not completed high school. The proportion of unauthorized immigrants with either less than a ninth-grade education or less than a high school education is roughly double the share of legal foreign-born residents with those educational levels. It is far greater than the share of U.S.-born adults—only 2% of those ages 25-64 have less than a ninth-grade education, and only 6% have additional years in high school, but no diploma.



Unauthorized immigrants are considerably less likely than both other immigrants and U.S.-born residents to have achieved at least a high school diploma. Among adults ages 25-64 who are unauthorized immigrants, 27% have finished high school and gone no further. The corresponding figure for legal immigrants is slightly lower at 24%; the U.S. born are slightly higher at 31%. But there are very large differences among the groups in the share that go beyond high school.

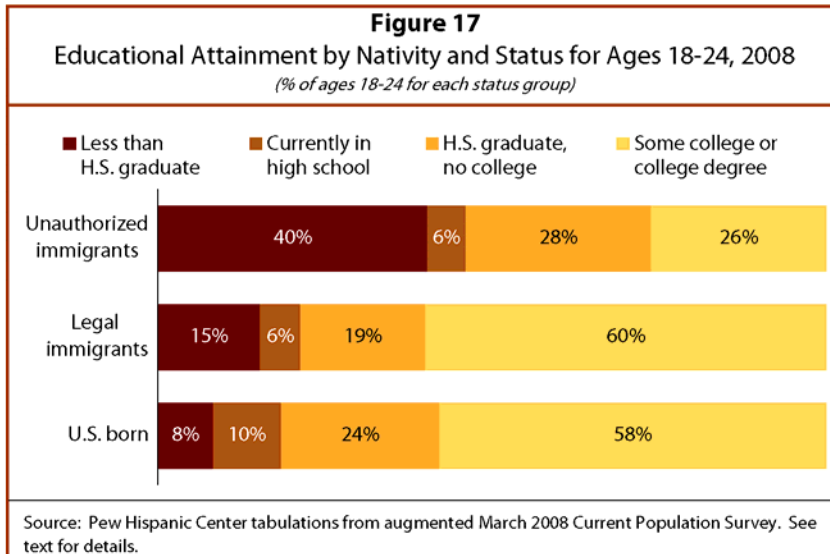
Most U.S.-born adults ages 25-64 (61%) and legal immigrants (54%) have attended college or graduated from college, compared with only one-in-four unauthorized immigrants.

Another way to look at the education distribution is that 22% of U.S. residents ages 25-64 with less than a high school education are unauthorized immigrants—a rate that is five times the proportion of unauthorized immigrants in the adult population. The share of unauthorized immigrants is even higher—35%—among those with less than a ninth-grade education.

### Educational Attainment of Younger Adults

Among unauthorized immigrants ages 18-24, a large share has not completed high school (40%)—much more than among legal immigrants (15%) or U.S.-born residents (8%).

However, closer analysis indicates that a younger age of arrival in the United States by an unauthorized immigrant increases the likelihood of higher educational attainment. Of those who arrived at age 14 or older, 46% have not completed high school, compared with 28% of those who arrived before age 14. Among high school graduates ages 18-24 who



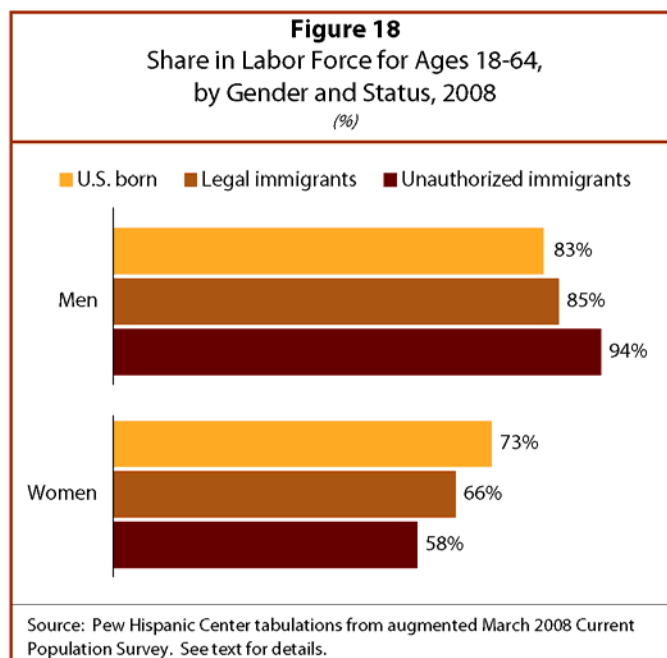
are unauthorized immigrants, 49% are in college or have attended college. But among those in this age and status group who arrived at ages 14 or older, 42% are in college or have attended college. Among those who arrived before age 14, 61% are in college or have attended college.

While this “college continuation rate” is higher for unauthorized immigrants who arrive as young children, it is still considerably lower than the rate for legal immigrants (76%) or U.S.-born residents (71%).

### Labor Force

About 8.3 million undocumented immigrants were in the labor force in 2008, a 5.4% share. The number and share of unauthorized migrants in the workforce increased steadily through 2007. The estimate for 2008 is not significantly different from 2007, so any assessment of recent trend is inconclusive because of the margin of error in these estimates.

Among undocumented immigrants ages 18-64, men are more likely to be in the labor force than are men who are legal immigrants or who were born in the U.S. Among men of working age, 94% of undocumented immigrants are in the labor force,



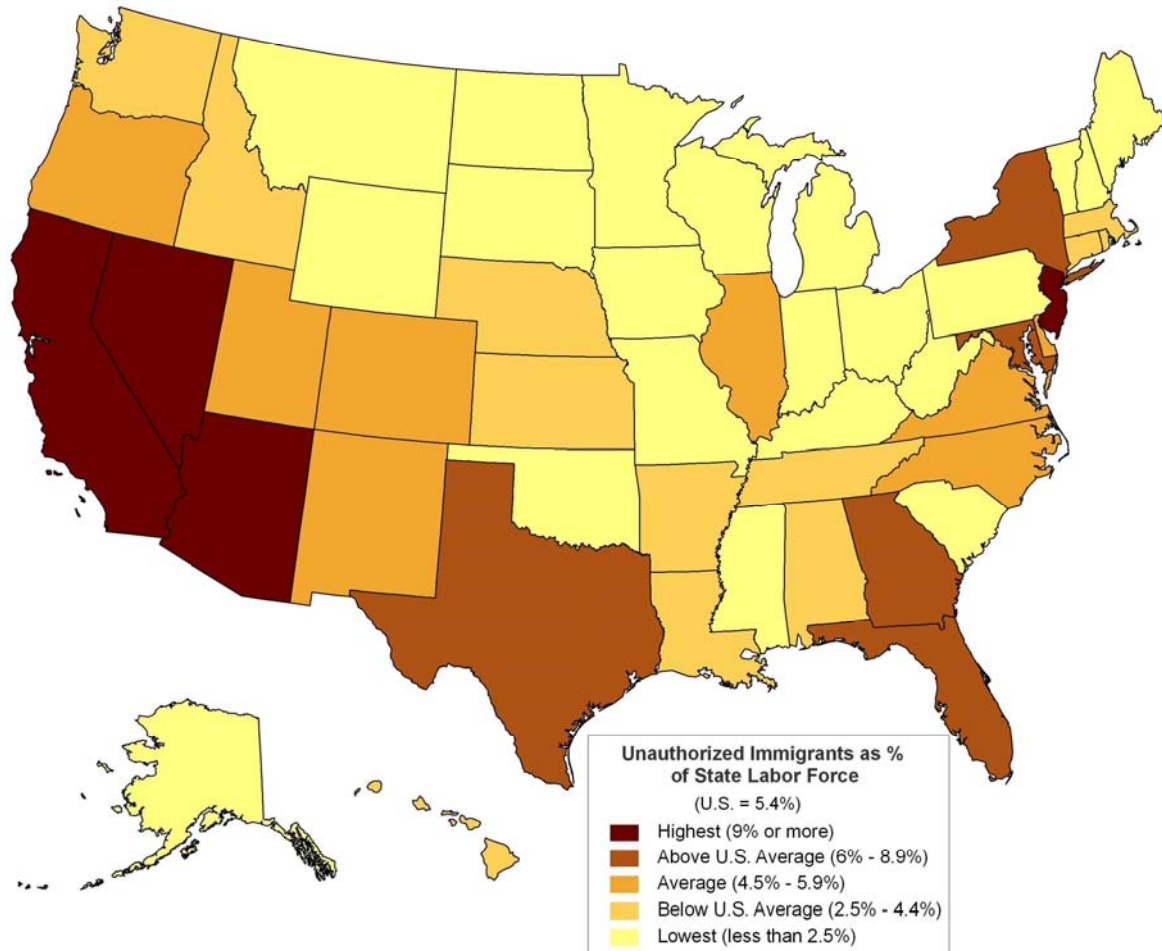


compared with 85% of legal immigrant men and 83% of U.S.-born men.

The opposite is true for women. Only 58% of working-age women who are undocumented immigrants are in the labor force, well below the share of women who are U.S. born (73%) or legal immigrants (66%). The major reason for this is that a higher share of women who are unauthorized immigrants say they are not working because they are raising children at home—29%, compared with 16% of other immigrants and 8% of U.S.-born women.

The unauthorized immigrant share of the labor force varies by state. At the high end, approximately one-in-ten workers in Nevada, California and Arizona is an unauthorized immigrant. Most states, however, are below average in the share of unauthorized immigrants in their labor force with 36 states having less than one-in-twenty workers who are unauthorized immigrants. In five states—Maine, Montana, North Dakota, West Virginia and Vermont—they represent less than one-in-a-hundred workers. [See Table B2]

*Map 3. Unauthorized Immigrant Workers as Share of Labor Force by State, 2008*



Although they are more likely to be in the labor force than other groups, undocumented immigrant men were more likely to be unemployed (6.5%) than either U.S.-born or legal immigrant workers (each 5.6%) in March 2008. This represents a change from the pattern in recent years: In March 2005, for example, unauthorized immigrant men had a lower unemployment rate (4.5%) than did U.S.-born workers (5.9%) or legal immigrant workers (4.9%).

Disproportionately likely to be less educated than other groups, unauthorized immigrants also are more likely to hold low-skilled jobs and less likely to be in white-collar occupations. Consequently, undocumented immigrants are overrepresented in several sectors of the economy, including agriculture, construction, leisure/hospitality and services.

Among unauthorized immigrants in the labor force, 30% are service workers and 21% are construction workers. An additional 15% are production and installation workers. Fully two-thirds (66%) of unauthorized immigrant workers have occupations in these three broad categories; by contrast, only 31% of U.S.-born workers have such occupations.

A similar pattern appears in an analysis of the share of undocumented members of the labor force who are in particular industries—21% are in the construction industry and 20% in the services sector of the economy. An additional 17% are in the leisure and hospitality industry. The proportion of unauthorized immigrants in these industry groups (58%) is higher than the proportion of U.S.-born workers (31%) who are.

**Table 5**  
Comparing Occupations of U.S.-born and Unauthorized Immigrant Workers, 2008  
*(% of total workers for each status group)*

Major Occupation Group	U.S. born	Unauthorized immigrants
<b>Total for Status Group</b>	100%	100%
Services	16%	<b>30%</b>
Construction and extraction	5%	<b>21%</b>
Production, installation and repair	9%	<b>15%</b>
Transportation and material moving	6%	<b>8%</b>
Farming, fishing and forestry	1%	<b>4%</b>
Sales & office and administrative support	26%	13%
Professional, management, business and finance	36%	9%

Note: Based on civilian labor force with a reported occupation; **boldface** indicates over-representation of unauthorized immigrants.  
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from augmented March 2008 Current Population Survey. See text for details.

**Table 6**  
Comparing Industries of U.S.-born and Unauthorized Immigrant Workers, 2008  
*(% of total workers for each status group)*

Major Industry Group	U.S. born	Unauthorized immigrants
<b>Total for Status Group</b>	100%	100%
Construction	7%	<b>21%</b>
Professional, business & other services	15%	<b>20%</b>
Leisure & hospitality	9%	<b>17%</b>
Manufacturing	11%	<b>13%</b>
Agriculture, forestry, etc. & mining	2%	<b>4%</b>
Wholesale & retail trade	15%	11%
Education/health services, financial activities, information & public administration	37%	10%
Transportation & utilities	5%	4%

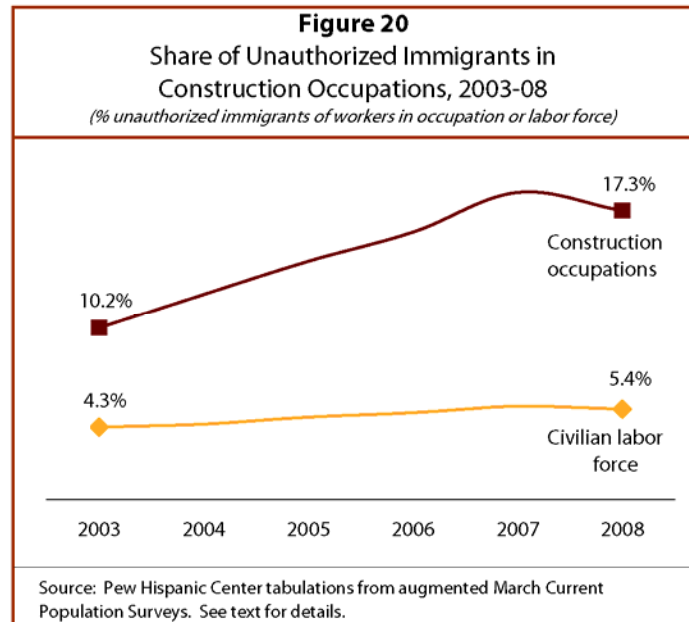
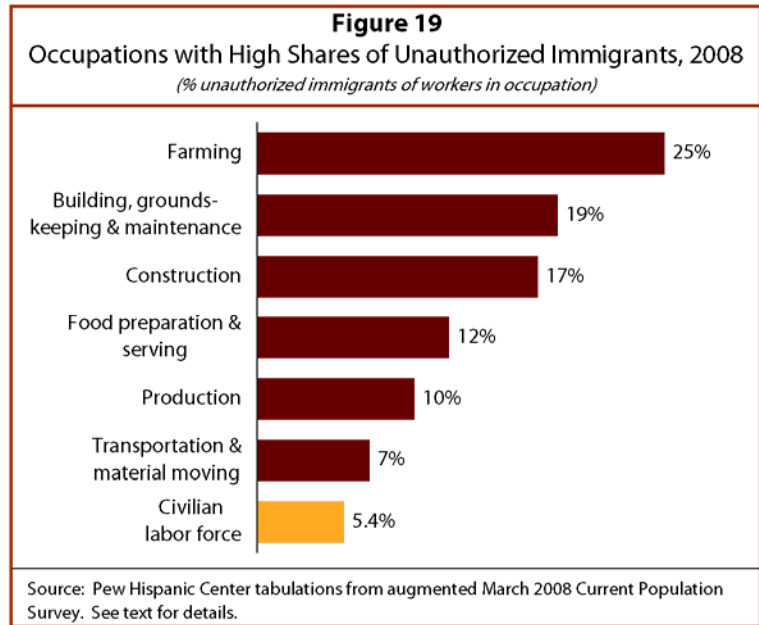
Note: Based on civilian labor force with a reported industry; **boldface** indicates over-representation of unauthorized immigrants.  
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from augmented March 2008 Current Population Survey. See text for details.

### Occupation

As a result of the concentration of unauthorized immigrants working in certain occupations, there are some occupations where they also represent a high proportion of workers. For example, 25% of farmworkers are undocumented immigrants, as are 19% of building, groundskeeping and maintenance workers, and 17% of construction workers. Unauthorized immigrants also are overrepresented as a share of food preparation workers and servers (12%), production workers (10%) and transportation and material moving workers (7%). [See Table B5 for estimates by major occupation groups]

Construction occupations are a group in which the participation of unauthorized immigrants has grown substantially in recent years. The 17% share of construction occupations held by unauthorized immigrants represents a notable increase since 2003, when 10% of construction workers were unauthorized immigrants.

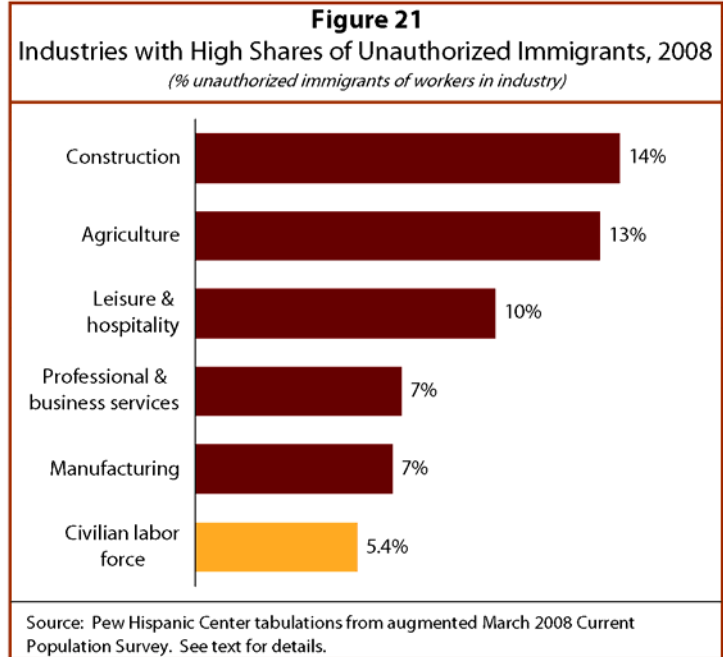
Within these broader occupation categories are specific detailed occupations in which unauthorized immigrants are highly concentrated. They are especially likely to hold certain low-skilled jobs—for example, undocumented immigrants are 40% of brickmasons, and they make up nearly that high a share of drywall installers (37%). They also are 28% of dishwashers, 27% of maids and housekeepers, and 21% of parking lot attendants. [See Table B3]



### Industry

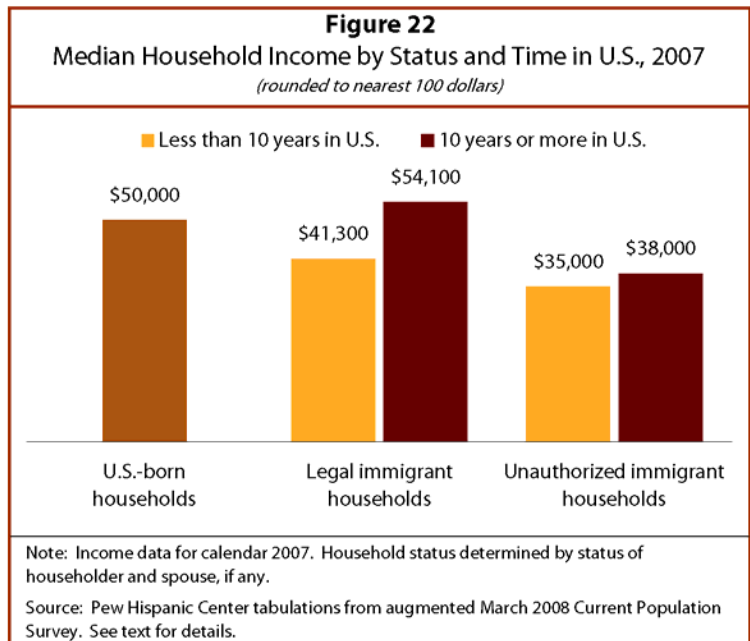
The concentration of unauthorized immigrants working in certain industries also means that they represent a high share of workers in those industries. They are 14% of construction industry workers, 13% of agriculture industry workers and 10% of the leisure and hospitality sector. Unauthorized immigrant workers also are a higher share of workers in the services and manufacturing sectors than they are in the civilian workforce overall. [See Table B6]

In some subsets of each major industry, unauthorized immigrant workers are an even larger share of the workforce. They represent 28% of workers in the landscaping industry, 23% of those in private household employment and 20% of those in the dry cleaning and laundry industry. [See Table B4]



### Income

Low levels of education and low-skilled occupations lead to undocumented immigrants having lower household incomes than either other immigrants or U.S.-born Americans. In 2007, the median annual household income of unauthorized immigrants was \$36,000, compared with \$50,000 for people born in the United States. These differences in household income are particularly notable because the unauthorized immigrant households have more workers per household on average (1.75) than U.S.-born households (1.23).



Unauthorized immigrants also have lower median household incomes than do other immigrants. They do not make notable gains, as other immigrants do, the longer they have been in the United States. As a group, their median income barely rises even after they have been in the United States for more than a decade; the median income of legal immigrant households, by contrast, rises by nearly a third. [See Table B7]

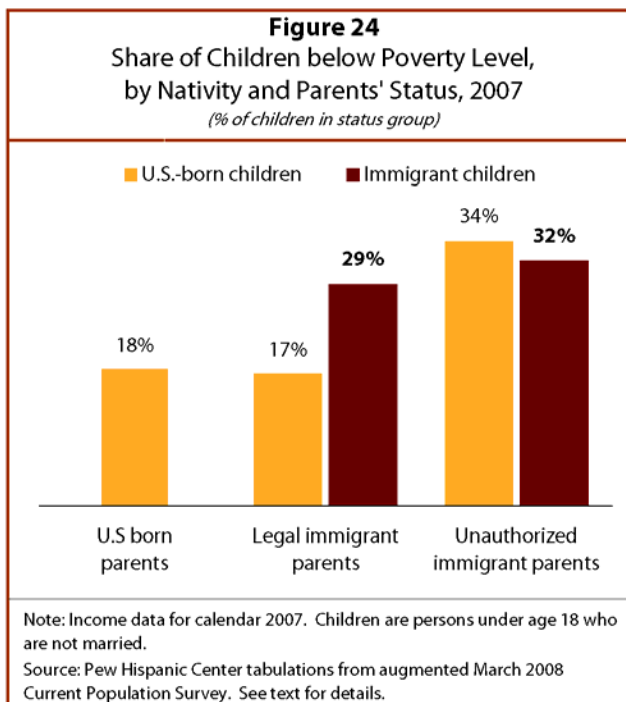
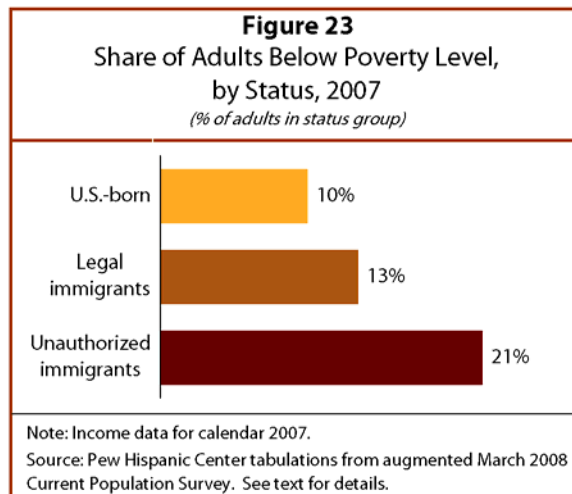
### Poverty

Poverty rates are much higher among unauthorized immigrants than for either U.S.-born or legal immigrant residents. Among adults who are unauthorized immigrants, one-in-five (21%) is poor. In contrast, the poverty rate is 13% for legal immigrant adults and 10% for U.S.-born adults.

Among children whose parents are unauthorized immigrants, one-in-three is poor. The rate for children of unauthorized immigrants is similar whether the children are unauthorized immigrants (32%) or U.S. born (34%).

By contrast, there is a marked difference in poverty by nativity among children of legal immigrants. The poverty rate is higher for legal immigrant children born abroad (29%) than for the children of legal immigrants born in the United States (17%). For children of U.S.-born parents, 18% are in poverty, a figure not substantially different from the rate for U.S.-born children of legal immigrants.

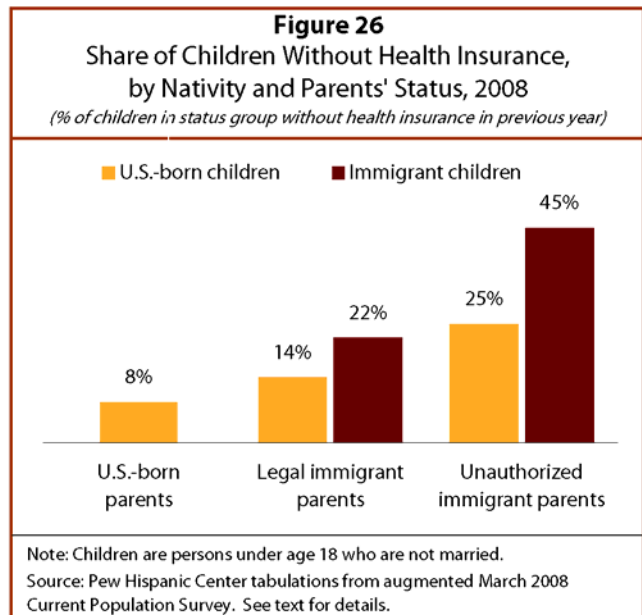
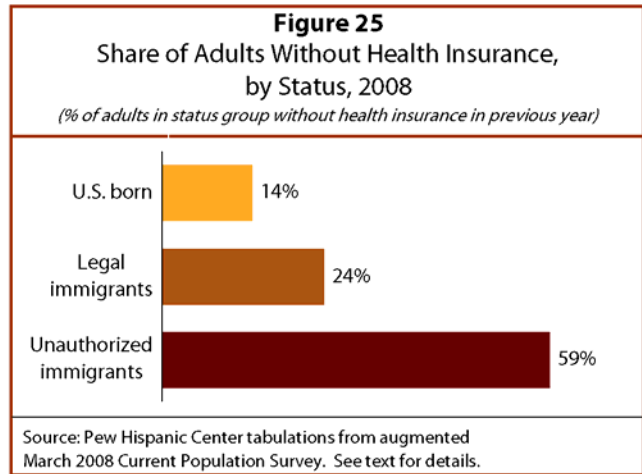
Unauthorized immigrants are notably overrepresented in the poverty population. Undocumented immigrants and their U.S.-born children account for 11% of people with incomes below the poverty level. This is twice their representation in the total population (5.5%).



### Health Insurance

Most undocumented adults (59%) had no health insurance during all of 2007, more than double the uninsured share among legal immigrants and four times the uninsured share among U.S.-born adults. The children of unauthorized immigrant adults are less likely than their parents to lack insurance, but their uninsured rate is still substantially higher than that of U.S.-born children.

Among unauthorized immigrant children whose parents are undocumented immigrants, nearly half (45%) do not have health insurance. Among U.S.-born children whose parents are unauthorized immigrants, 25% are uninsured. These large differences by nativity for health insurance coverage contrast sharply with the similar poverty rates by nativity for children of unauthorized immigrants. By comparison, both groups are more likely to be uninsured than are children of U.S.-born parents, 8% of whom lack health insurance.





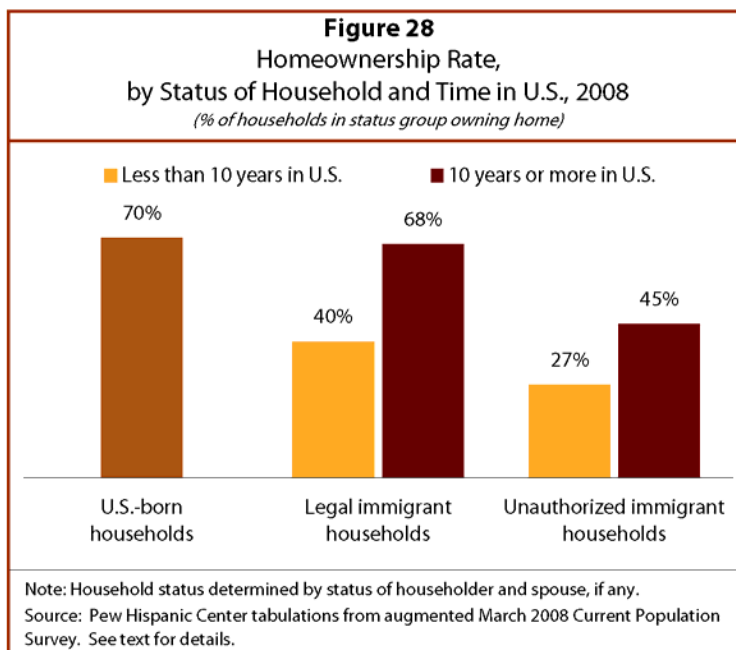
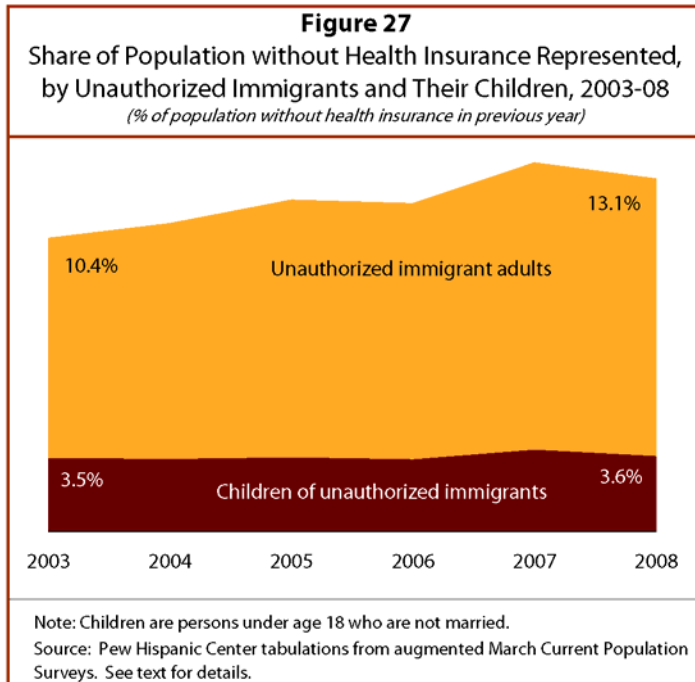
Because of these high proportion without health insurance, unauthorized immigrants and their children account for one-in-six Americans without health insurance (17%)—more than three times their representation in the population. This share has increased since 2003, when the undocumented and their children were about one-in-seven of the uninsured (14%).

### Homeownership and Mobility

Unauthorized immigrants are far less likely than other U.S. residents to own their own homes. Only 35% of unauthorized immigrant households are homeowners, half the rate of U.S.-born households. This difference is explained in part by legal status and in part by the greater affluence and older age structure of U.S.-born residents, who are better able to afford homes.

But even among undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for a decade or more, only 45% own their own homes. Longtime legal immigrants, on the other hand, are about as likely as U.S.-born households to be homeowners.

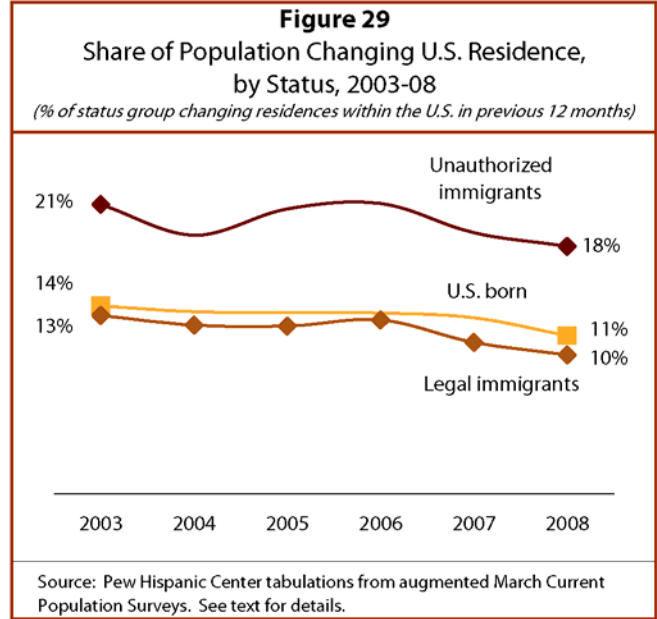
Undocumented immigrants are more likely to move, especially locally, than other immigrants or the U.S. born—18% of undocumented people changed residence in 2007-08, compared with 10% for other foreign-born Americans and 11% of U.S.-born residents. This difference is





mainly a function of a much greater tendency among unauthorized immigrants to move locally (within states). These short-distance moves occur with much greater frequency among renters than homeowners.

The mobility rate has been declining for all U.S. residents, including unauthorized immigrants. In 2002-03, 21% of unauthorized immigrants changed residence.



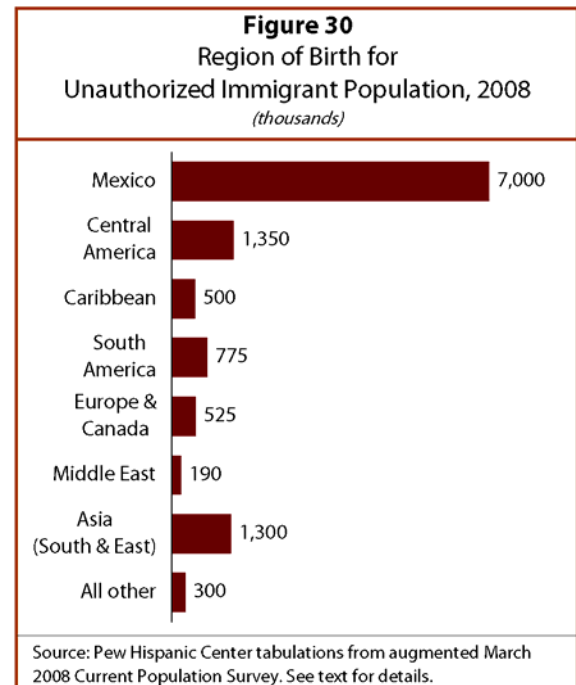
## Origins of Unauthorized Immigrants: A Focus on Mexico

Mexico is the source of by far the largest number of unauthorized immigrants, accounting for 7 million of the 11.9 million unauthorized immigrants in 2008. This 59% share has remained roughly constant over the past three decades. Other parts of Latin America send a significant share of the total, with 1.3 million (11%) coming from Central America, 775,000 (7%) from South America, and 500,000 (4%) from the Caribbean. South and East Asia is another large source, sending 1.3 million (11%), whereas the Middle East accounts for 190,000, or less than 2%.

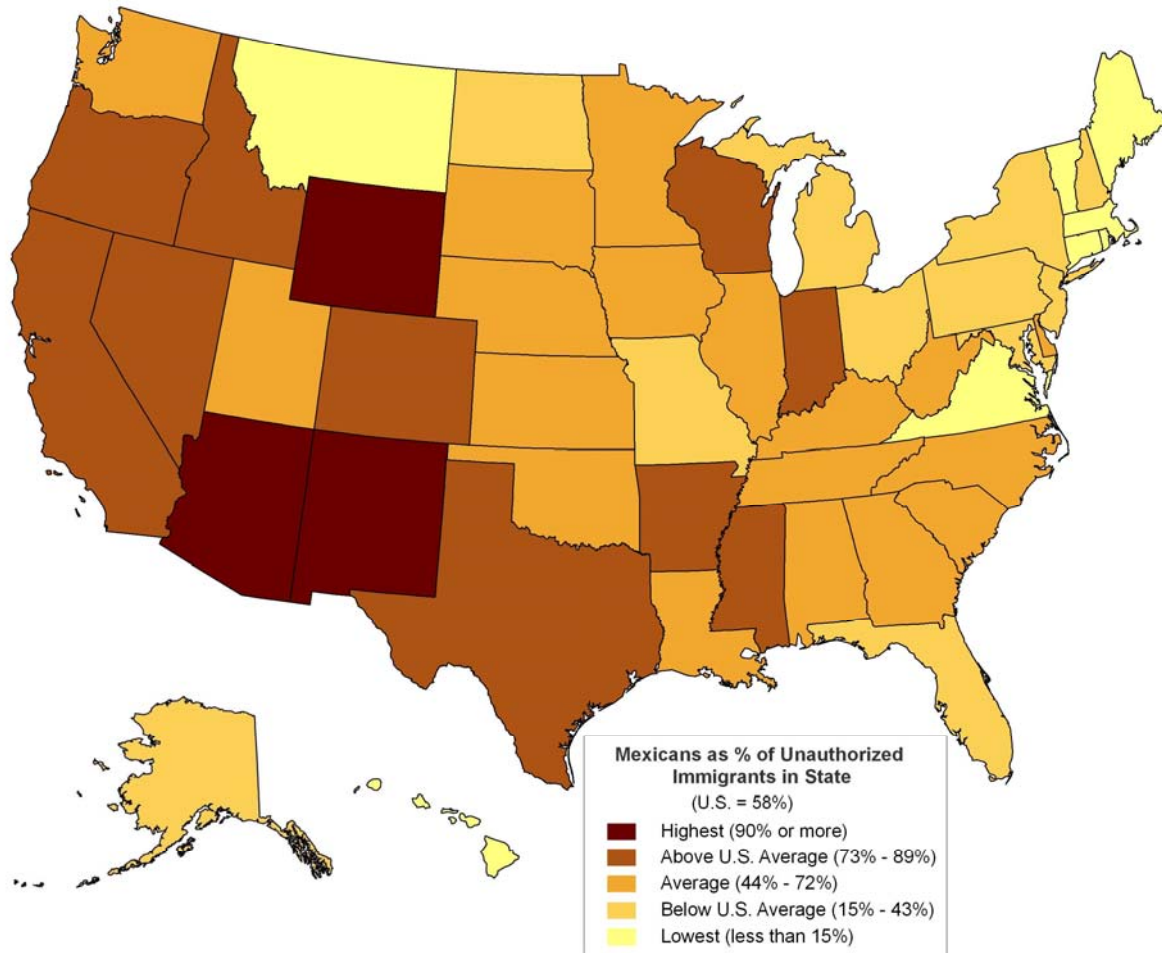
Unauthorized Mexican immigrants are somewhat more concentrated than all unauthorized immigrants, accounting for high proportions of the unauthorized immigrant population in a few states. Thirteen states—a mix of traditional border destinations and new settlement areas, mainly in the West and Southwest—have high shares of Mexicans in the unauthorized immigrant population (73% or more). In three states (Arizona, New Mexico and Wyoming), Mexicans represent more than nine-in-ten unauthorized immigrants.

The proportion of Mexicans in the unauthorized immigrant population shrinks in the northeastern quadrant of the country. Mexicans are substantially underrepresented (less than 43% of undocumented immigrants) in 20 states and the District of Columbia. The remaining 18 states with average representation of unauthorized immigrants tend to be the new-destination states in the Southeast and Plains.

Mexicans are more likely than are other unauthorized immigrants to have children. Looking at the share of U.S.-born children of unauthorized immigrants, 74% have Mexican parents, which is greater than the 59% Mexican share of the unauthorized immigrant population. In addition, their children are more likely to be born in the United States: 77% are, compared with 62% of children of other undocumented immigrants. [See Figure C2]



*Map 4. Share of Mexicans among Unauthorized Immigrants by State, 2008*



Mexican-born undocumented immigrants also are less educated and have lower incomes than other unauthorized immigrants. Among adults ages 25-64, only 4% hold a college degree, compared with 30% of all other unauthorized immigrants. In addition, 64% have not completed high school, compared with 25% of other unauthorized immigrants.

The median household income for Mexican unauthorized immigrants was \$32,000 in 2007, compared with \$45,000 for all other unauthorized immigrants. This is explained in part by the jobs they hold, but also by the fact that only 50% of unauthorized immigrant women who were born in Mexico and are ages 18-64 are in the labor force, compared with 69% of all other women who are unauthorized immigrants. There is little difference in the labor force participation of working-age men from Mexico who are unauthorized immigrants (95%) compared with those from other countries (91%).

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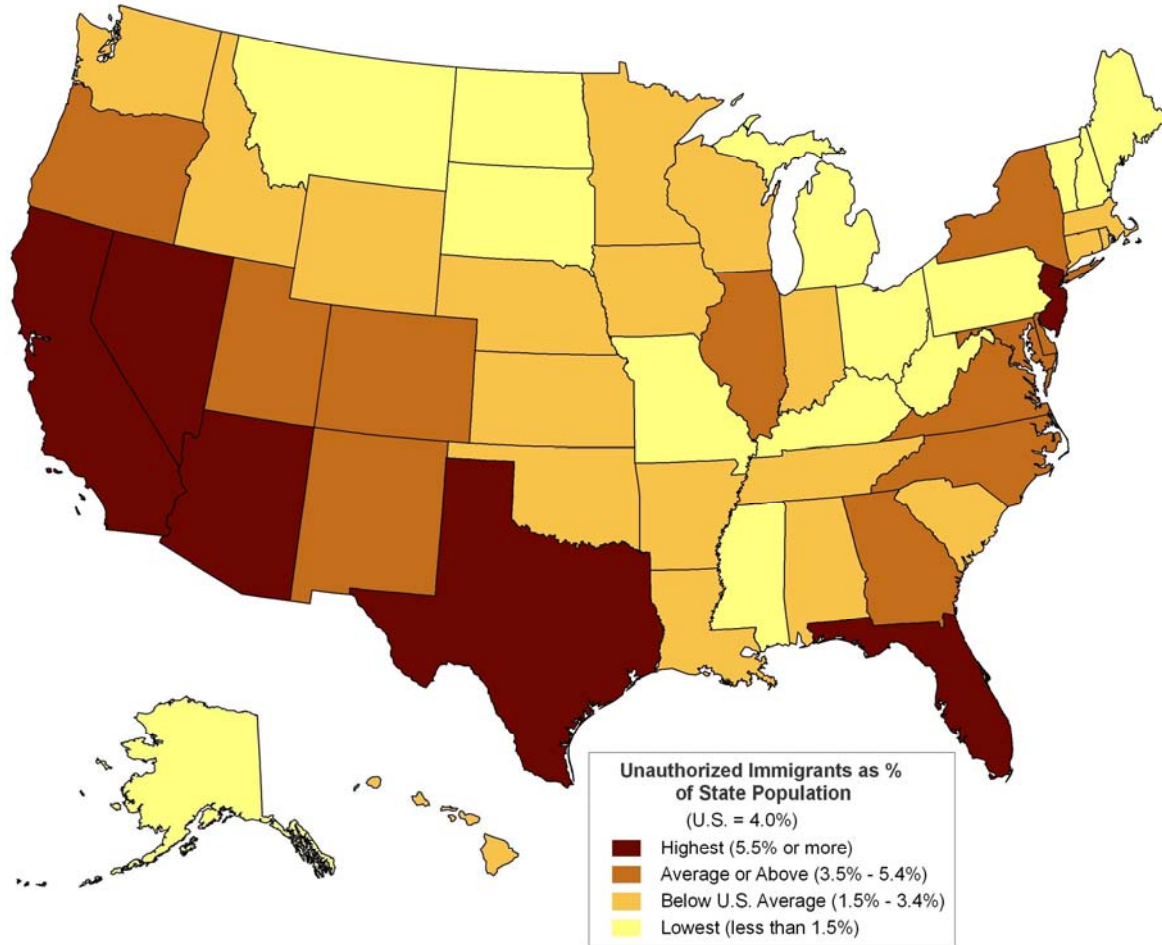
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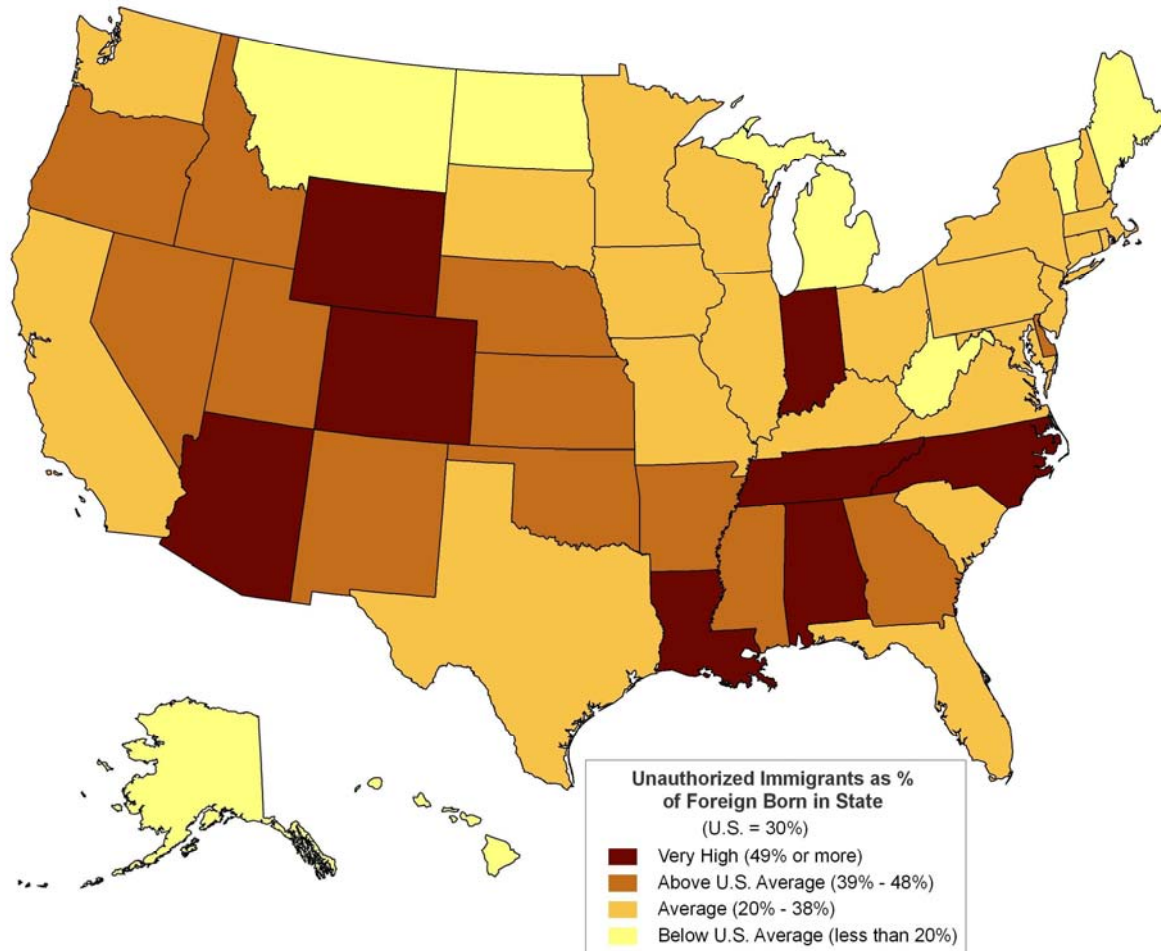


## Appendix A: Additional Maps

*Map A1. Unauthorized Immigrant Share of Population by State, 2008*



Map A2. Unauthorized Immigrants as Share of Foreign Born by State, 2008



## Appendix B: Additional Tables

State	Unauthorized Immigrants in 2008		Earlier Years		
	Estimate	Range of Estimate	2005	2000	1990
<b>Total</b>	11,900	11,400 - 12,400	11,100	8,375	3,525
Alabama	100	85 - 120	40	25	5
Alaska	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5
Arizona	500	475 - 550	450	300	90
Arkansas	60	45 - 70	45	30	5
California	2,700	2,500 - 2,850	2,650	2,300	1,500
Colorado	240	220 - 250	240	160	30
Connecticut	110	100 - 120	90	75	20
Delaware	30	25 - 35	25	15	5
District of Columbia	30	25 - 30	25	25	15
Florida	1,050	950 - 1,150	925	575	240
Georgia	475	425 - 500	425	250	35
Hawaii	35	25 - 45	35	25	5
Idaho	35	25 - 40	40	25	10
Illinois	450	375 - 525	425	475	200
Indiana	120	110 - 130	85	65	10
Iowa	55	45 - 65	55	25	5
Kansas	70	60 - 75	60	55	15
Kentucky	45	35 - 60	50	20	5
Louisiana	65	50 - 80	35	20	15
Maine	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5
Maryland	250	230 - 300	240	120	35
Massachusetts	190	160 - 220	220	150	55
Michigan	110	85 - 140	120	95	25
Minnesota	110	100 - 130	100	55	15
Mississippi	35	30 - 45	40	10	5
Missouri	45	35 - 60	45	30	10
Montana	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5
Nebraska	45	40 - 55	45	30	5
Nevada	230	210 - 240	190	140	25
New Hampshire	20	15 - 25	15	<10	<5
New Jersey	550	500 - 600	400	325	95
New Mexico	80	75 - 85	70	55	20
New York	925	800 - 1,050	625	725	350
North Carolina	350	300 - 400	375	210	25
North Dakota	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5
Ohio	95	80 - 120	100	55	10
Oklahoma	55	45 - 60	60	50	15
Oregon	150	130 - 160	140	110	25
Pennsylvania	140	110 - 160	150	85	25
Rhode Island	30	20 - 35	35	20	10
South Carolina	70	60 - 85	55	45	5
South Dakota	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5
Tennessee	150	130 - 170	140	50	10
Texas	1,450	1,300 - 1,550	1,450	1,100	450
Utah	110	100 - 120	95	65	15
Vermont	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5
Virginia	300	275 - 325	275	150	50
Washington	180	140 - 210	210	160	40
West Virginia	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5
Wisconsin	85	70 - 100	95	50	10
Wyoming	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5

Note: Unauthorized population estimates (rounded) based on average of 2006-2008 estimates. Range is based on trend line for 2000-2008 estimates.

Sources: Pew Hispanic Center estimates for 2008 based on augmented March Current Population Surveys for 2006-08; see Passel and Cohn (2008) and text. Estimates for 1990 from Warren (2003) of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service. Estimates for 2000 based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from Census 2000 5-Percent Public-Use Microdata Sample (PUMS); see Passel et al. 2004. Estimates for 2005 derived from Pew Hispanic Center Factsheet, "Estimates of the Unauthorized Migrant Population for States based on the March 2005 CPS" of April 26, 2006 (<http://pewhispanic.org/factsheets/factsheet.php?FactsheetID=17>).

**Table B2**  
**Number and Share of Unauthorized Immigrants**  
**for Labor Force and Total Population, by State, 2008**  
*(population in thousands)*

State	Labor Force			Population		
	Total	Unauthorized Immigrants		Total	Unauthorized Immigrants	
		Estimate	Share		Estimate	Share
<b>Total</b>	154,772	8,300	5.4%	301,197	11,901	4.0%
Alabama	2,169	80	3.6%	4,587	100	2.3%
Alaska	361	<10	<1.5%	674	<10	<1.0%
Arizona	3,103	300	9.8%	6,455	500	7.9%
Arkansas	1,413	40	2.8%	2,836	60	2.1%
California	18,824	1,850	9.9%	36,817	2,700	7.3%
Colorado	2,770	150	5.4%	4,913	240	4.8%
Connecticut	1,893	80	4.2%	3,502	110	3.1%
Delaware	457	20	4.7%	869	30	3.6%
District of Columbia	329	25	7.1%	582	30	5.0%
Florida	9,231	750	8.2%	18,341	1,050	5.7%
Georgia	5,009	325	6.3%	9,554	475	4.9%
Hawaii	666	25	4.0%	1,265	35	2.8%
Idaho	744	25	3.1%	1,501	35	2.3%
Illinois	6,805	325	4.7%	12,755	450	3.6%
Indiana	3,217	75	2.4%	6,281	120	1.9%
Iowa	1,684	35	2.1%	2,963	55	1.9%
Kansas	1,480	40	2.8%	2,730	70	2.5%
Kentucky	1,991	25	1.3%	4,216	45	1.1%
Louisiana	1,939	60	3.1%	4,201	65	1.6%
Maine	710	<10	<0.5%	1,314	<10	<0.5%
Maryland	2,977	200	6.7%	5,611	250	4.7%
Massachusetts	3,335	140	4.3%	6,367	190	3.0%
Michigan	5,004	65	1.3%	9,917	110	1.1%
Minnesota	2,953	70	2.3%	5,208	110	2.2%
Mississippi	1,417	25	1.8%	2,914	35	1.3%
Missouri	2,993	25	0.8%	5,775	45	0.8%
Montana	507	<10	<0.5%	939	<10	<0.5%
Nebraska	1,006	30	2.8%	1,766	45	2.7%
Nevada	1,370	170	12.2%	2,581	230	8.8%
New Hampshire	766	15	1.7%	1,318	20	1.3%
New Jersey	4,588	425	9.2%	8,691	550	6.4%
New Mexico	929	40	4.5%	1,956	80	4.0%
New York	9,673	650	6.7%	19,352	925	4.8%
North Carolina	4,682	250	5.3%	9,284	350	3.8%
North Dakota	365	<10	<1.0%	615	<10	<0.5%
Ohio	5,900	65	1.1%	11,295	95	0.9%
Oklahoma	1,714	40	2.2%	3,560	55	1.5%
Oregon	1,933	100	5.4%	3,757	150	3.9%
Pennsylvania	6,336	100	1.5%	12,329	140	1.1%
Rhode Island	561	20	3.6%	1,048	30	2.8%
South Carolina	2,210	50	2.2%	4,390	70	1.6%
South Dakota	455	<10	<1.5%	789	<10	<1.0%
Tennessee	3,055	110	3.6%	6,175	150	2.4%
Texas	11,748	925	7.9%	23,867	1,450	6.0%
Utah	1,379	80	5.8%	2,680	110	4.1%
Vermont	343	<10	<0.5%	613	<10	<1.0%
Virginia	4,117	210	5.1%	7,720	300	4.0%
Washington	3,464	120	3.5%	6,540	180	2.7%
West Virginia	822	<10	<0.5%	1,796	<10	<0.5%
Wisconsin	3,081	55	1.8%	5,468	85	1.6%
Wyoming	292	<10	<2.0%	521	<10	1.5%

Note: Unauthorized population estimates (rounded) based on average of 2006-08 estimates. Total population and labor force for 2008 are the sum of the estimated unauthorized figure based on 2006-08 average plus the native-born and legal foreign-born figures from the augmented March 2008 CPS. Percentages computed from unrounded figures.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations based on augmented March Current Population Surveys for 2006-08. See Passel and Cohn (2008) and text.

**Table B3**  
Detailed Occupations with High Shares of Unauthorized Immigrants, 2008  
(thousands)

Detailed Occupation	Total Workers	Unauthorized Immigrants		U.S.-born Share	Legal Immigrant Share
		Workers	Share		
<b>Total, Civilian Labor Force (with an occupation)</b>	154,135	8,258	5%	84%	11%
Brickmasons, blockmasons and stonemasons (6220)	325	131	40%	45%	15%
Drywall installers, ceiling tile installers and tapers (6330)	255	94	37%	43%	20%
Roofers (6510)	246	76	31%	52%	17%
Miscellaneous agricultural workers (6050)	910	269	30%	50%	20%
Helpers, construction trades (6600)	184	52	28%	64%	8%
Dishwashers (4140)	364	101	28%	62%	10%
Construction laborers (6260)	2,055	556	27%	54%	19%
Maids and housekeeping cleaners (4230)	1,555	417	27%	49%	24%
Cement masons, concrete finishers and terrazzo workers (6250)	109	29	27%	53%	20%
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders (8800)	369	96	26%	55%	19%
Grounds maintenance workers (4250)	1,413	356	25%	60%	15%
Packers and packagers, hand (9640)	504	119	24%	59%	18%
Butchers and other meat, poultry and fish processing workers (7810)	305	71	23%	57%	20%
Carpet, floor, and tile installers and finishers (6240)	306	68	22%	63%	14%
Painters, construction and maintenance (6420)	791	173	22%	60%	18%
Parking lot attendants (9350)	100	21	21%	60%	18%
Chefs and head cooks (4000)	377	75	20%	63%	17%
Sewing machine operators (8320)	248	49	20%	55%	26%
Refuse and recyclable material collectors (9720)	112	22	19%	71%	10%
Cooks (4020)	2,219	427	19%	69%	12%
Other "unauthorized" occupations**	34,979	3,130	9%	78%	13%
All other occupations	106,407	1,928	2%	89%	9%

Note: Occupations included in this table have at least 100,000 workers nationally and more than three times the national share of unauthorized immigrant workers. Four-digit occupation codes in parentheses.

\*\* "Unauthorized" occupations have a higher percentage of workers who are unauthorized immigrants than the national average but do not qualify for a separate listing.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from augmented March 2008 Current Population Survey. See text for details.

Detailed Industry	Total Workers	Unauthorized Immigrants		U.S.born Share	Legal Immigrant Share
		Workers	Share		
<b>Total, Civilian Labor Force (with an industry)</b>	154,135	8,258	5.4%	83.8%	10.3%
Landscaping services (7770)	1,412	392	28%	58%	14%
Private households (9290)	808	185	23%	53%	24%
Cut and sew apparel manufacturing (1680)	313	71	23%	46%	31%
Crop production (0170)	1,036	204	20%	62%	18%
Drycleaning and laundry services (9070)	416	81	20%	56%	24%
Animal slaughtering and processing (1180)	485	91	19%	62%	19%
Not specified manufacturing industries (3990)	219	41	19%	69%	12%
Services to buildings and dwellings (7690)	1,539	286	19%	65%	17%
Bakeries, except retail (1270)	218	38	17%	66%	17%
Support activities for agriculture and forestry (0290)	176	30	17%	70%	13%
Car washes (8780)	205	34	17%	69%	14%
Construction (0770)	12,408	1,749	14%	74%	12%
Taxi and limousine service (6190)	277	38	14%	46%	41%
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty food manufacturing (1090)	164	22	13%	77%	10%
Traveler accommodation (8660)	1,547	193	12%	68%	19%
Restaurants and other food services (8680)	8,992	1,088	12%	78%	10%
Sugar and confectionery products (1080)	101	12	12%	66%	23%
Specialty food stores (4980)	266	30	11%	79%	10%
Recyclable material, merchant wholesalers (4280)	148	16	11%	80%	9%
Other "unauthorized" industries **	18,124	1,372	8%	80%	12%
All other industries	105,281	2,285	2%	88%	10%

Note: Industries included in this table have at least 100,000 workers nationally and more than double the national share of unauthorized immigrant workers. Four-digit industry codes in parentheses.

\*\* "Unauthorized" industries have a higher percentage of workers who are unauthorized immigrants than the national average but do not qualify for a separate listing.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from augmented March 2008 Current Population Survey. See text for details.



**Table B5**  
Major Occupation Groups, by Nativity and Status, 2008  
(thousands)

Major Occupation Group	Total	U.S. born	Legal Immigrants	Unauthorized immigrants
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>				
<b>Total, Civilian Labor Force (with an occupation)</b>	154,135	129,116	16,761	8,258
Management, business and finance	22,129	19,672	2,115	341
Professional and related	31,478	27,325	3,710	443
Services	26,108	20,434	3,200	2,474
Sales and related	17,325	15,145	1,592	588
Office and administrative support	20,604	18,524	1,632	448
Farming, fishing and forestry	1,196	682	214	300
Construction and extraction	10,200	7,086	1,351	1,763
Installation, maintenance and repair	5,299	4,576	469	255
Production	9,999	7,663	1,368	969
Transportation and material moving	9,797	8,010	1,111	677
<b>Percentage of Occupation</b>				
<b>Total, Civilian Labor Force (with an occupation)</b>	100%	83.8%	10.9%	5.4%
Management, business and finance	100%	<b>88.9%</b>	9.6%	1.5%
Professional and related	100%	<b>86.8%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	1.4%
Services	100%	78.3%	<b>12.3%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>
Sales and related	100%	<b>87.4%</b>	9.2%	3.4%
Office and administrative support	100%	<b>89.9%</b>	7.9%	2.2%
Farming, fishing and forestry	100%	57.0%	<b>17.9%</b>	<b>25.1%</b>
Construction and extraction	100%	69.5%	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>17.3%</b>
Installation, maintenance and repair	100%	<b>86.3%</b>	8.8%	4.8%
Production	100%	76.6%	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>9.7%</b>
Transportation and material moving	100%	81.8%	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
<b>Percentage of Status Group</b>				
<b>Total, Civilian Labor Force (with an occupation)</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%
Management, business and finance	14.4%	<b>15.2%</b>	12.6%	4.1%
Professional and related	20.4%	<b>21.2%</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	5.4%
Services	16.9%	15.8%	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>30.0%</b>
Sales and related	11.2%	<b>11.7%</b>	9.5%	7.1%
Office and administrative support	13.4%	<b>14.3%</b>	9.7%	5.4%
Farming, fishing and forestry	0.8%	0.5%	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
Construction and extraction	6.6%	5.5%	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>21.3%</b>
Installation, maintenance and repair	3.4%	<b>3.5%</b>	2.8%	3.1%
Production	6.5%	5.9%	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>11.7%</b>
Transportation and material moving	6.4%	6.2%	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>

Note: Figures in **boldface** exceed overall percentage representation.  
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from augmented March 2008 Current Population Surveys. See text for details.



**Table B6**  
Major Industry Groups, by Nativity and Status, 2008  
(thousands)

Major Industry Group	Total	U.S. born	Legal Immigrants	Unauthorized immigrants
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>				
<b>Total, Civilian Labor Force (with an industry)</b>	154,135	129,116	16,761	8,258
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	2,339	1,770	255	314
Mining	755	695	41	18
Construction	12,408	9,161	1,497	1,749
Manufacturing	16,911	13,707	2,100	1,104
Wholesale & retail trade	21,894	18,846	2,102	946
Transportation & utilities	8,289	7,072	928	289
Information	3,678	3,235	370	73
Financial activities	10,523	9,243	1,053	226
Professional & business services	16,889	13,886	1,904	1,099
Education & health services	32,371	28,323	3,541	507
Leisure & hospitality	13,882	11,017	1,483	1,381
Other services	7,257	5,713	993	551
Public administration	6,942	6,447	494	(x)
<b>Share of Industry</b>				
<b>Total, Civilian Labor Force (with an industry)</b>	100%	83.8%	10.9%	5.4%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	100%	75.7%	<b>10.9%</b>	<b>13.4%</b>
Mining	100%	<b>92.1%</b>	5.5%	2.4%
Construction	100%	73.8%	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>
Manufacturing	100%	81.1%	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
Wholesale & retail trade	100%	<b>86.1%</b>	9.6%	4.3%
Transportation & utilities	100%	<b>85.3%</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	3.5%
Information	100%	<b>88.0%</b>	10.1%	2.0%
Financial activities	100%	<b>87.8%</b>	10.0%	2.1%
Professional & business services	100%	82.2%	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
Education & health services	100%	<b>87.5%</b>	<b>10.9%</b>	1.6%
Leisure & hospitality	100%	79.4%	10.7%	<b>10.0%</b>
Other services	100%	78.7%	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>
Public administration	100%	<b>92.9%</b>	7.1%	(x)
<b>Share of Status Group</b>				
<b>Total, Civilian Labor Force (with an industry)</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	1.5%	1.4%	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
Mining	0.5%	<b>0.5%</b>	0.2%	0.2%
Construction	8.0%	7.1%	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>21.2%</b>
Manufacturing	11.0%	10.6%	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>13.4%</b>
Wholesale & retail trade	14.2%	<b>14.6%</b>	12.5%	11.5%
Transportation & utilities	5.4%	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	3.5%
Information	2.4%	<b>2.5%</b>	2.2%	0.9%
Financial activities	6.8%	<b>7.2%</b>	6.3%	2.7%
Professional & business services	11.0%	10.8%	<b>11.4%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>
Education & health services	21.0%	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>21.1%</b>	6.1%
Leisure & hospitality	9.0%	8.5%	8.8%	<b>16.7%</b>
Other services	4.7%	4.4%	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
Public administration	4.5%	<b>5.0%</b>	2.9%	(x)

Note: Figures in **boldface** exceed overall percentage representation. (x) -- Not applicable.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from augmented March 2008 Current Population Surveys. See text for details.

**Table B7**  
Household Income Statistics, by Nativity and Status, 2008

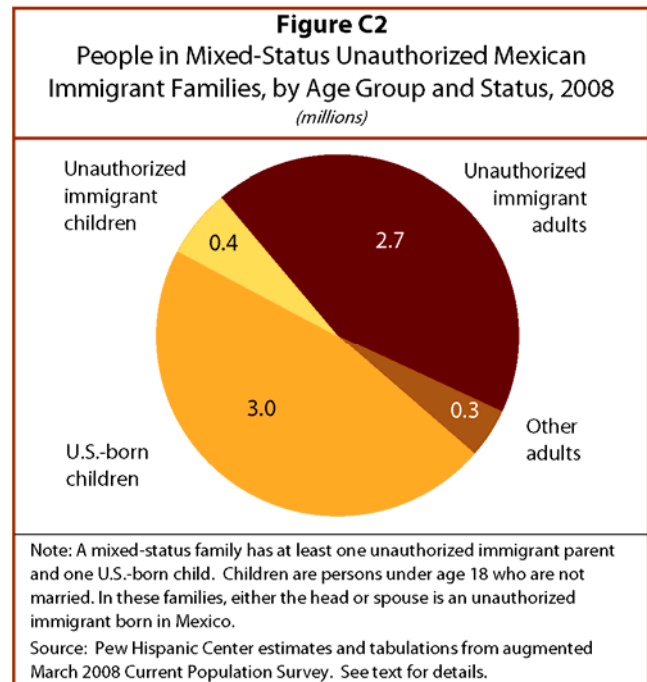
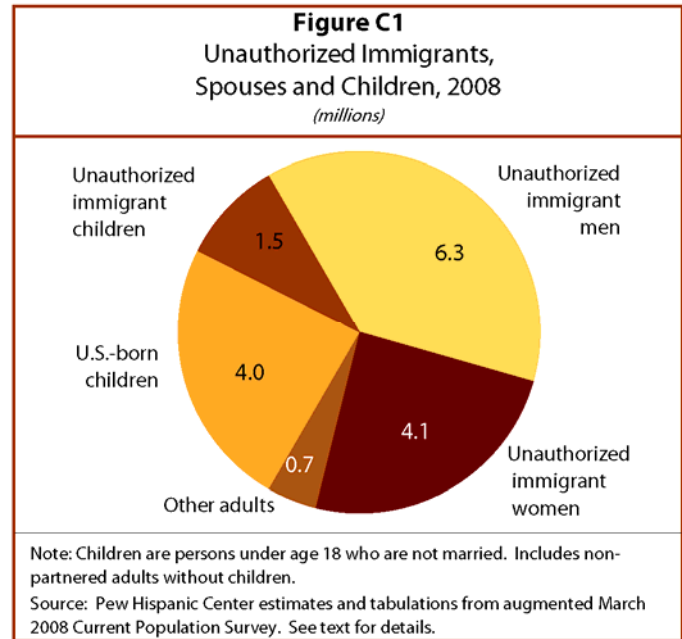
Type of Household and Period of Entry	Median House-hold Income	Mean House-hold Size	Median Income per Person	Mean Workers per Household	Median Income per Worker	Number of Households (thousands)
<b>Value of Measure</b>						
All Households	50,000	2.51	22,200	1.28	34,600	117,669
U.S.-born Households	50,000	2.39	23,300	1.23	35,300	98,456
Immigrant Households	47,100	3.11	16,700	1.51	30,000	19,213
More than 10 years in the U.S.	50,100	3.10	17,800	1.48	31,800	14,602
10 years or less in the U.S.	38,000	3.13	13,500	1.60	23,700	4,611
Unauthorized Immigrant Households	36,000	3.51	11,900	1.75	22,500	4,680
More than 10 years in the U.S.	38,000	3.69	11,600	1.74	24,000	2,491
10 years or less in the U.S.	35,000	3.30	12,300	1.77	21,000	2,189
Legal Immigrant Households	52,000	2.98	18,800	1.43	33,600	14,533
More than 10 years in the U.S.	54,100	2.98	19,500	1.42	35,000	12,111
10 years or less in the U.S.	41,300	2.98	15,000	1.45	27,200	2,422
<b>Ratio to U.S.-born Households (=100)</b>						<b>Share</b>
All Households	100	105	95	104	98	100%
U.S.-born Households	100	100	100	100	100	84%
Immigrant Households	94	130	71	122	85	16%
More than 10 years in the U.S.	100	130	76	120	90	12%
10 years or less in the U.S.	76	131	58	130	67	4%
Unauthorized Immigrant Households	72	146	51	143	64	<b>4%</b>
More than 10 years in the U.S.	76	154	50	142	68	<b>2%</b>
10 years or less in the U.S.	70	138	53	144	59	<b>2%</b>
Legal Immigrant Households	104	125	81	116	95	12%
More than 10 years in the U.S.	108	125	84	116	99	10%
10 years or less in the U.S.	83	124	64	118	77	2%
Note: Income figures are 2007 household income. Status of household is determined by the status of the head and spouse (if any). Medians rounded to nearest \$100; ratios computed from unrounded figures.						
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from augmented March 2008 Current Population Survey. See text for details.						

	2008	2005	2000	1990
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>11,100</b>	<b>8,375</b>	<b>3,525</b>
California	2,700	2,650	2,300	1,500
Other Traditional Destinations	4,400	3,850	3,200	1,350
<b>Recent Growth Areas</b>	<b>3,850</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>500</b>
Southeastern States	1,350	1,200	650	110
Capital Area	600	550	300	100
Midwest/Appalachia	700	700	425	100
Mountain States	1,200	1,100	750	190
<b>Smaller Populations</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>210</b>
New England	350	350	275	90
Plains	275	275	190	50
Western States	350	400	300	70
<b>Share of U.S. Total</b>				
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
California	22%	24%	28%	42%
Other Traditional Destinations	37%	35%	38%	38%
<b>Recent Growth Areas</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>14%</b>
Southeastern States	11%	11%	8%	3%
Capital Area	5%	5%	3%	3%
Midwest/Appalachia	6%	6%	5%	3%
Mountain States	10%	10%	9%	5%
<b>Smaller Populations</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>6%</b>
New England	3%	3%	3%	3%
Plains	2%	2%	2%	1%
Western States	3%	4%	4%	2%

Note: Traditional destinations: FL, IL, NJ, NY, TX;  
Southeastern States: NC, SC, GA, KY, TN, AL, MS, AR, LA;  
Capital Area: MD, DC, VA;  
Midwest/Appalachia: OH, IN, MI, WI, MN, PA, DE, WV;  
Mountain States: MT, ID, WY, CO, NM, AZ, UT, NV;  
New England: ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT;  
Plains: IA, MO, ND, SD, NE, KS, OK;  
Western States: WA, OR, AK, HI.

All numbers rounded independently; percentages computed from unrounded figures.  
See text for definitions, details, and rounding rules. See Table 1 for sources

## Appendix C: Additional Figures



## Appendix D: Methodology

### Unauthorized Immigrants—Overview

The data presented in this report on unauthorized and legal immigrants were developed through a multistage estimation process, principally using March Supplements to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly survey of about 55,000 households conducted jointly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau; the sample is expanded to about 80,000 households for the March supplement.

The first stage in the estimation process uses CPS data as a basis for estimating the number of legal and unauthorized immigrants included in the survey and the total number in the country using a residual estimation methodology, described in detail in previous reports and papers (especially Passel and Cohn 2008; Passel 2007).

Then, the March CPS Supplements are augmented to assign a specific legal status (one option is unauthorized immigrant) to each foreign-born survey respondent and to adjust the survey weights to account for immigrants missing from the survey. These augmented files serve as a basis for the detailed tabulations of the family, social, economic and geographic characteristics presented here. The data and methods for the overall process were developed initially at the Urban Institute by Passel and Clark (especially 1998) and were extended by work of Passel, Bean and Van Hook (2004) and by subsequent work at the Pew Hispanic Center.

The residual method compares the number of immigrants in the CPS with an independently derived demographic estimate of legal foreign-born residents. The difference between the survey total and the estimated legal foreign-born population is an estimate of unauthorized immigrants included in the survey. Variants of the residual method have been widely used and are generally accepted as the best current estimates. The initial estimates here are calculated separately for age-gender groups in six states (California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois and New Jersey) and the balance of the country and for 35 countries or groups of countries by period of arrival in the United States.

The next step adjusts the estimates of legal and unauthorized immigrants counted in the survey for omissions. The basic information on coverage is drawn principally from comparisons with Mexican data, U.S. mortality data and specialized surveys conducted at the time of the 2000 Census (Bean et al. 1998; Capps et al. 2002; Marcelli and Ong 2002). These adjustments increase the estimate of the legal foreign-born population, generally by 1-3%, and of the unauthorized immigrant population by 10-15%. For 2008, these procedures

yielded an estimate of 11.9 million unauthorized immigrants in the United States with 7 million from Mexico (Passel and Cohn 2008).

### Status Assignments—Legal and Unauthorized Immigrants

Individual respondents are assigned a status as a legal or unauthorized immigrant based on the individual's demographic, social, economic and geographic characteristics so the resulting number of immigrants in various categories agrees with the totals from the residual estimates. The assignment procedure employs a variety of methods, assumptions and data sources.

First, all immigrants entering the U.S. before 1980 are assumed to be legal immigrants. Then, the CPS data are corrected for known over-reporting of naturalized citizenship on the part of recently arrived immigrants (Passel et al. 1997) and all remaining naturalized citizens from countries other than Mexico and those in Central America are assigned as legal. Persons entering the U.S. as refugees are identified on the basis of country of birth and year of immigration to align with known admissions of refugees and asylees (persons granted asylum). Then, individuals holding certain kinds of temporary visas (including students, diplomats and “high-tech guest workers”) are identified in the survey and each is assigned a specific legal temporary migration status using information on country of birth, date of entry, occupation, education and certain family characteristics. Finally, some individuals are assigned as legal immigrants because they are in certain occupations (e.g., police officer, lawyer, military occupation, federal job) that require legal status or because they are receiving public benefits (e.g., welfare or food stamps) that are limited to legal immigrants. As result of these steps, the foreign-born population is divided between individuals with “definitely legal” status (including long-term residents, naturalized citizens, refugees and asylees, legal temporary migrants, and some legal permanent residents) and a group of “potentially unauthorized” migrants.

The number of potentially unauthorized migrants exceeds the estimated number of unauthorized migrants (from the residual estimates) by 20-35%. So, to have a result consistent with the residual estimate of legal and unauthorized immigrants, probabilistic methods are employed to assign legal or unauthorized status to these potentially unauthorized individuals. This last step also involves a check to ensure that the legal statuses of family members are consistent; for example, all family members entering the country at the same time are assumed to have the same legal status. The entire process requires several iterations to produce estimates that agree with the demographically derived population totals. At the end, the final estimates agree with the residual estimates for the six individual states noted earlier and for the balance of the country; for Mexican-born and other legal and unauthorized immigrants in each area; and for children, working-age men and working-age women within each category. Finally, the survey weights for the

foreign-born are adjusted upward so the tabulated figures agree with the analytic, demographic estimates of the total number of legal and unauthorized migrants developed in the very first step.

This methodology obviously requires a number of assumptions and is applied to survey data from a sample (albeit a large one). The resulting estimates, such as those presented here, are subject to both sampling and non-sampling error. Accordingly, small differences should not be treated as significant or substantive. Sampling error intervals have been developed for the national estimates of all unauthorized immigrants and totals by country or region of birth. These estimates were presented in Passel and Cohn (2008).

### State-level Estimates

Principally because of concerns relating to the relatively small sample sizes for the foreign-born in some states, all of the state-level estimates presented in this report (total population, labor force, Mexican unauthorized immigrants and K-12 school enrollment) are based on averages from the 2006-08 surveys adjusted to agree with 2008 totals. Error ranges for the size of the unauthorized immigrant population in each state are based on both sampling variability and trend lines of the state-specific estimates for 2000-08.

All state-level estimates for unauthorized immigrant populations are presented as rounded numbers to avoid the appearance of unwarranted precision in the estimates. No estimates smaller than 10,000 are shown. Estimates in the range of 10,000-100,000 are rounded to the nearest 5,000; estimates in the range of 100,000-250,000 to the nearest 10,000; estimates smaller than 1 million to the nearest 25,000; and estimates larger than that to the nearest 50,000. The same rounding conventions are applied to estimates for 2005 (based on averages of 2004-06) and for 2000.

### CPS Weights

Because of significant revisions in the Census Bureau's methods for estimating population introduced with the 2008 CPS, it was necessary to correct the population weights used in the CPS. Without this reweighting, some potentially large differences over time in both numbers and characteristics of unauthorized immigrants could be due entirely to the altered population estimates and not to any real changes in the population. To control for this source of variation, new CPS weights consistent with the revised population figures were produced for 2003-07. (Revisions for 2001 and 2002 are still in production.) See Passel and Cohn (2008) for more discussion of this weighting issue.



## Country of Birth

Some modifications in the original CPS countries of birth were introduced to ensure that all foreign-born respondents could be assigned to a specific country or region of birth. See Passel and Cohn (2008) for a detailed treatment of how persons with unknown country of birth were assigned to specific countries.

The estimates of the unauthorized population shown in this report divide the world into regions. “Latin America” is defined to include Mexico, Central America, Caribbean countries and South America. “Europe” includes Russia and all of the newly independent countries that were part of the former Soviet Union, even though some of the countries are geographically in Asia. This grouping is designed to maintain maximum consistency over time and with the administrative data series used. While all of these countries are separately identified in immigration statistics since their independence, they do not appear in immigration statistics of the 1980s and most are not identified as countries of birth in the CPS.

Because more detailed information is available on country of birth than in our earlier report (Passel and Cohn 2008), the remaining groupings are slightly different from those previously published. “Middle East” as defined here includes countries of southwest Asia from Turkey and Cyprus in the north and west to Iran in the east to the Arabian Peninsula in the south; it also includes countries of North Africa (Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Western Sahara). Note that the Middle East does not include Afghanistan or Pakistan. “South and East Asia” is the rest of Asia from Afghanistan and Pakistan eastward. “Other” consists of sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania; in addition, the few respondents not assigned to any other area are categorized as being from “Other.”

## K-12 School Enrollment

The March CPS collects information on school enrollment only for U.S. residents ages 16-24. The figures cited in the text for enrollment in grades kindergarten through 12 were obtained by combining the enrollment data from the CPS for ages 16-19 with new estimates for younger ages. K-12 enrollment rates, in public and private schools, were obtained from the American Community Survey (ACS), which is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau and does collect such information. Rates specific to each state, for immigrants and the U.S. born, and for ages 3-5 and 6-15 from the ACS were applied to CPS population data by age, states, and nativity of parents and children to obtain the final estimates of K-12 enrollment.

## Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Residence

All individuals in the country live in either a metropolitan area or a nonmetropolitan area. However, to protect the privacy of respondents who live in metropolitan or nonmetropolitan areas with small populations, the Census Bureau

does not report whether the respondent lives in a metropolitan area or a nonmetropolitan area for about 14% of the population included in the CPS. Thus, in the CPS, the entire population is divided into three area groups—metropolitan, nonmetropolitan and “not identified”—rather than just metropolitan and nonmetropolitan.

A comparison of the CPS data for people who can be identified as metropolitan or nonmetropolitan residents with the official Census Bureau population estimates for all metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas finds that the shares of the two areas are similar. This suggests that the remaining CPS cases (those people who cannot be assigned metropolitan or nonmetropolitan residence) follow the same pattern. Thus, the vast majority of people living in “not identified” areas actually live in smaller metropolitan areas—areas that are below the population threshold that would permit them to be identified in the CPS. Accordingly, the metropolitan proportions reported in this analysis were estimated based on the 86% of CPS cases that could be assigned as either metropolitan or nonmetropolitan.