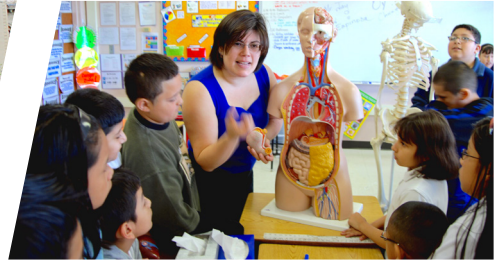




STATISTICS ON LATINOS
BY LATINO POLICY FORUM



PHOTOS: OLGA LOPEZ

Latino Policy Forum 10th Anniversary

IMMIGRATION

IMPACT STATEMENT

All individuals living in the United States, regardless of their country of origin, are recognized as valuable and contributing members of society and afforded equal opportunities. The Forum facilitates the involvement of our allies in advocacy and public decision-making on immigration-related issues at the local, state, and federal levels.

GOAL

To improve the quality of life for immigrants by achieving a just immigration reform, the Forum strengthens the network of immigrant rights leaders and community members across Illinois by providing leadership, education, analysis and advocacy.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Immigration has always been an important, and all too often controversial, item on the state and national level; and, in recent years it has become one of the nation's most important as well as most polarizing policy issues. As the national debates and controversies swirl, so too has immigration reform become a central concern for the families and the economy of Illinois. The Latino Policy Forum, since its inception, and long before it was atop the national policy agenda, has prioritized the need for immigration reform. Illinois is home to more than 1.8 million foreign-born residents and more than 800,000 are immigrants from Latin America. Over the past decade, Latinos have had the largest population growth in the state and are currently 17% of the total population and an estimated 35% are immigrants.

ANALYSIS, TRAINING AND ISSUE EDUCATION

Recognizing the importance of research and data for decision making the Latino Policy Forum has led and collaborated with a variety of partners to analyze and disseminate data on a number of immigration, economic, social, and political issues including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA), Temporary Visitor Driver's License (TVDL), preparedness planning for parents at risk of detention or deportation, and undocumented students' barriers to college affordability. Given the complexity of the issues, the Forum has been instrumental in reaching broad audiences through various media. The Forum innovatively partnered with Univision Chicago to create digital town halls to inform and reach tens of thousands of viewers on issues ranging from know-your-rights to the mental health effects of the crippling fears that families are confronted with when facing the possibility of deportation.

Through training, community engagement, and issue education formulated specifically for educators as well as community and civic leaders, the Forum developed materials and spotlighted invaluable resources for the ever-changing landscape of immigration policy. It has taken special care and attention to focus its efforts on families within school communities and Immigration *Acuerdo* members. More than 1,300 people have been reached through the Forum's Immigration training and at least 50 workshops have been conducted. During a three-year period, the Forum also trained 63 immigrant advocates on immigration policy and skill building for collective action through its *Promotores de Inmigración* program. The Forum developed and widely distributed a bilingual resource list of services and programs for Latino families in Illinois to make use of the array of services and support available, including food pantries, emergency housing services, mental health providers and legal resources. Acknowledging the stress, uncertainty and fear surrounding detentions and deportations, the Forum identified, analyzed, and disseminated best practices for emergency preparedness should a family be detained or deported. In addition to education and training, at the state and local levels, the Forum advocates and advances legislative and administrative policy changes aimed at strengthening protections for immigrants

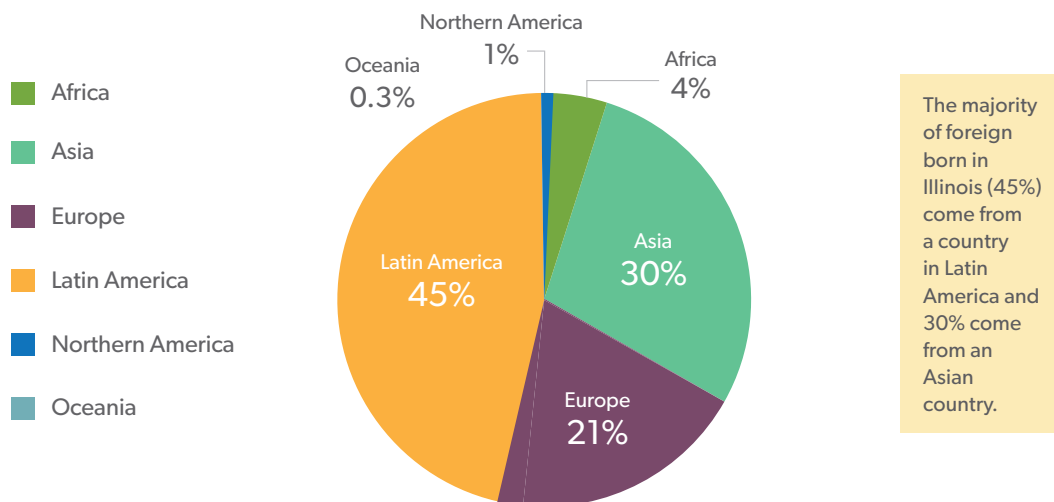
PARTNERSHIPS FOR IMMIGRANT PROTECTIONS

Acknowledging the value of coalitions and community partnerships the Forum has convened community partners and leaders through its *Acuerdo* network. In the area of immigration there are 19 essential organizations who contribute to the Forum's success. They provide leadership, input, and are key allies in developing the policy agenda and advocacy strategies. The Forum has also forged alliances with additional stakeholders who have emerged from an array of advocacy organizations, such as Alianza Americas, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, and the Legal Council for Health Justice. These partnerships promote broad-based advocacy campaigns such as the Campaign for a Welcoming Illinois and Illinois Campaign to Protect Our Children and Families to provide communities with the most salient data, best practices and most effective action directives. Nationally, the Forum has collaborated with UnidosUS (the largest Latino civil rights organization in the country) to organize annual briefings with the Illinois Congressional delegation.

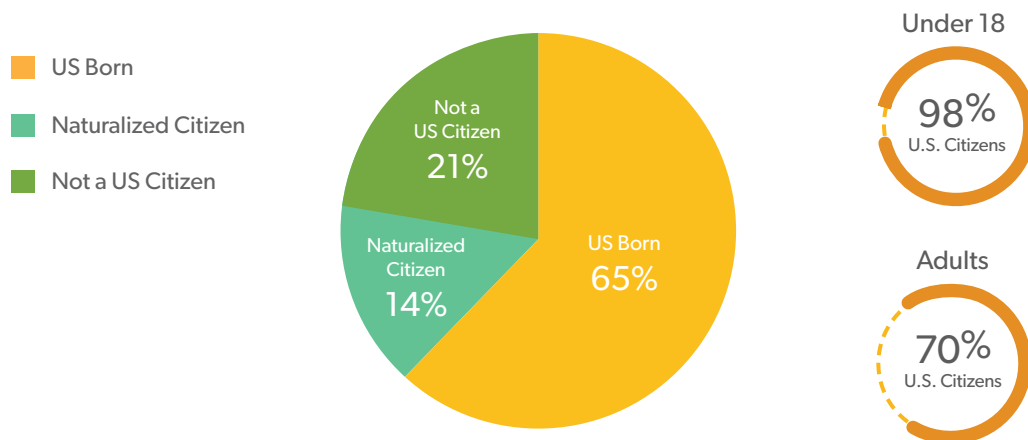
NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- With Allies, advocated for the passage of the Illinois TRUST Act, which enhances cooperation and communication between local police and immigration enforcement, the Immigrant Tenant Protection Act, and funding for the Illinois Welcoming Centers
- Increased road safety by collaborating with partners to secure Temporary Visitor Driver's Licenses for foreign-born people with visa-status as well as those without.
- Worked with the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to strengthen the protocols delineating the care for children of parents who are detained or deported
- Collaborated with the City Clerk's Office of Community Concerns to create the Chicago CityKey
- Collaborated with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to provide data analysis to the region's mayors to help municipalities formulate local responses to policies such as DACA, DAPA and the Trust Act
- Participated in the *Illinois Campaign to Protect Our Children and Families* to advocate for the immediate overturn of the federal policy that separated families at the southern border
- Co-founded *Protecting Immigrant Families-Illinois* (PIF-IL), which is an unprecedented coalition of diverse Illinois organizations speaking out against the expansion of the Public Charge to unfairly roadblock immigrants from gaining permanent citizenship
- Published *Sol: Latinos and Immigration*, which shares the facts on immigrant contributions and apprehensions.

Proportion of Foreign Born In Illinois by Region of Origin, 2016



Percent of Latinos in Illinois by Citizenship Status, 2017



ABOUT SOL

SOL is a series of periodic policy briefs that combines data with insightful analysis from the Latino Policy Forum. The series will provide a unique snapshot of the growth, influence and challenges of the local Latino community, for use by community leaders, urban planners, elected officials, journalists, and anyone interested in building a shared future for all of Illinois.

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