ABOUT THE FOREIGN BORN IN WASHINGTON STATE

Who are the FOREIGN BORN?

First generation immigrants and refugees who are lawful permanent residents, naturalized citizens, or undocumented workers are included in this category, as are visa-holding workers who reside in the United States on a temporary basis.

A historical part of our identity...

...A GROWING PART OF OUR WORKFORCE

14.2%
The percentage of Washington’s foreign-born civilian workforce, in 2005

7.1%
The percentage of foreign-born civilian workers in WA, in 1990

750,258
The foreign-born population in WA, age 5 and older, in 2005, or 12.2% of the total

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Both highly educated and poorly educated

TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF THE FOREIGN BORN IN WASHINGTON*, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
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</table>

* Top region of origin: Asia, with 39%
“Learning to speak, read and write in the English language is the most important integration challenge that faces the 1.8 million immigrants who now arrive in the United States each year.”

Need for INSTRUCTION ▼

Number of Washington adults enrolled in U.S. citizenship classes

814

Number of Washington adults who receive ESL instruction with state or federal funding

31,160

Estimated number of adults who NEED ENGLISH INSTRUCTION

376,322

CITIZENSHIP INSTRUCTION MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN INCOME AND POVERTY ▼

Percentage of People Living Below 150% of Poverty Level*

Native Born 18.6%

Naturalized Citizen 18.1%

Noncitizen 36.8%

* For a family of three, a 2005 household income below $23,135

SOURCES:


(5) Sledge, J., Program Manager, Citizenship Services and Outreach Project, DSHS, State of Washington (personal communication, December 31, 2007)


For more information or to find a literacy program near you, contact us at:

www.literacyNOW.info or 1-888-444-5744