



FACT SHEET – IMMIGRATION IN MASSACHUSETTS MOVIE – “THE VISITOR”

Immigration in Massachusetts

As of 2006, the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) estimates indicate that the immigrant population of Massachusetts is 938,590 which equates to approximately 14.5% of the state's total population.

The majority of immigrants are from:

- China (10%), including Hong Kong and Taiwan
- the former Soviet Union (8%);
- Dominican Republic (8%)
- Haiti (6%)
- India (5%)
- Vietnam (5%).

67.8% of all immigrant settlements in Massachusetts are comprised of an average of 31 different nationalities, ranking the state as the seventh most popular location for immigrants.

There has been an increase in the foreign-born population both through new [immigrant](#) residents in the state as well as through the children born to immigrants. It is estimated the immigrant population and immigrant births are adding nearly 49,400 persons to Massachusetts each year, equating to 29.2% of the state's overall population increase.

The 2000 Census reports that 772,983 immigrants reside in Massachusetts, marking the state home to the 15th highest immigrant population in the US. This is an increase of 34.7% over the 1990 foreign-born population figure, recorded at 573,733 immigrants. This increase is significantly higher than the 2.5% increase in the native-born population for the state of Massachusetts. An indication of the change in the immigrant population in Massachusetts may be seen from the 2000 Census. Data indicate that the share of non-English speakers at home increased to 18.6%, up from 15.2% recorded in 1990. Additionally, 41.2% of those who said they spoke a language other than English at home also said they spoke English less than very well.

Massachusetts's [naturalization](#) rate of 45.7% is slightly higher than the national average of 40.1%, based upon data recorded during the 2000 Census. The data collected in the 2000 Census shows a significant drop in the 43.7% naturalization rate recorded in 1990, indicating an influx of new immigrants including undocumented immigrants.

Population (2008 CB estimate):	6,497,967
Population (2000 Census):	6,349,097
Foreign-Born Population (2008 FAIR est.):	960,230
Foreign-Born Population (2000 Census):	772,983
Share Foreign-Born (2008 FAIR est.):	14.8%
Share Foreign-Born (2000):	12.2%
Immigrant Stock (2000 CB est.):	1,708,000
Share Immigrant Stock (2000 est.):	26.9%
Naturalized U.S. Citizens (2006 Census):	430,545
Share Naturalized (2006):	47.4%
Legal Immigrant Admission (DHS 1997-2006):	250,028
Refugee Admission (DHS 1997-2006):	15,714
Undocumented Alien Population (2008 FAIR est.):	225,000
Projected 2050 Population - (2006 FAIR)	10,663,863

Type	Population	Percent
■ Citizen by birth	21,520	96.01%
■ Naturalized immigrant	534	2.38%
■ Not a citizen	360	1.61%

(Source: www.justia.com)

A study was compiled by Professor Andrew Sum of Northeastern University's Center for Labor Market Studies with the backing of the Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth (MassINC), a local think-tank for economic issues. Data from this study indicate that the majority of the Massachusetts immigrant workforce has only attained a high school level of education. Immigrant family households were thirty-three percent

headed by unmarried females, and approximately forty-one percent of the immigrant family householders did not hold a high school degree.

Undocumented Immigrants in Massachusetts

Estimates of the number of undocumented immigrants vary.

- As of 2007, FAIR estimates the state's undocumented immigrant population to be around 250,000 persons, or almost four percent of the state's overall population. This is part of an overall estimate of the U.S. undocumented immigrant population of about 13 million persons.
- The Immigration and Naturalization Service (now dissolved into the Department of Homeland Security) estimated in February 2003 that the resident undocumented immigrant population in Massachusetts was 87,000 as of January 2000.
- The Pew Hispanic Center estimates the undocumented immigrant population of the state at 150,000 to 250,000 as of 2005

Other Massachusetts Information of Interest

Other data of interest about the immigrant population in Massachusetts:

- Massachusetts receives an average of 1,800 [refugees](#) per year
- The Center for Immigrant Studies estimates that 12.7% of mothers of children ages 4 and below are immigrants, and 32.4% of foreign-born children live near or below the poverty level.

(Source: www.usimmigrationsupport.org)

Immigration is fueling population growth in Massachusetts, as it is around the country. In some areas, immigrant settlement accounts for particularly large portions of the population. In Lawrence and Somerville, almost one in three residents are immigrants, up from one in five in 1990. In Randolph, more than one in five residents (22 percent) are immigrants, up from 12 percent in 1990

Cost of Undocumented Immigrants – The Debate

Statistics abound purportedly showing that undocumented immigrants cost the American taxpayer significant amounts of money for governmental and medical services they receive. The contrary view is summarized in a 2006 research paper by Professor Francine Lipman of the Chapman University School of Law of the University of California. Ms. Chapman summarizes her findings as follows:

Americans believe that undocumented immigrants are exploiting the United States economy. The widespread belief is that "illegal aliens" cost more in government services than they contribute to the economy. This belief is undeniably false. "[E]very empirical study of illegals' economic impact demonstrates the opposite . . . : undocumented actually contribute more to public coffers in taxes than they cost in social services." Moreover, undocumented immigrants contribute to the U.S. economy through their investments and consumption of goods and services; filling millions of "essential worker" positions resulting in subsidiary job creation, increased productivity, and lower costs of goods and services; and unrequited contributions to Social Security, Medicare and unemployment insurance programs. Seventy-four percent of economists surveyed have concluded that undocumented immigrants have had a positive impact and 11% have concluded that undocumented immigrants have a neutral impact on the U.S. economy.