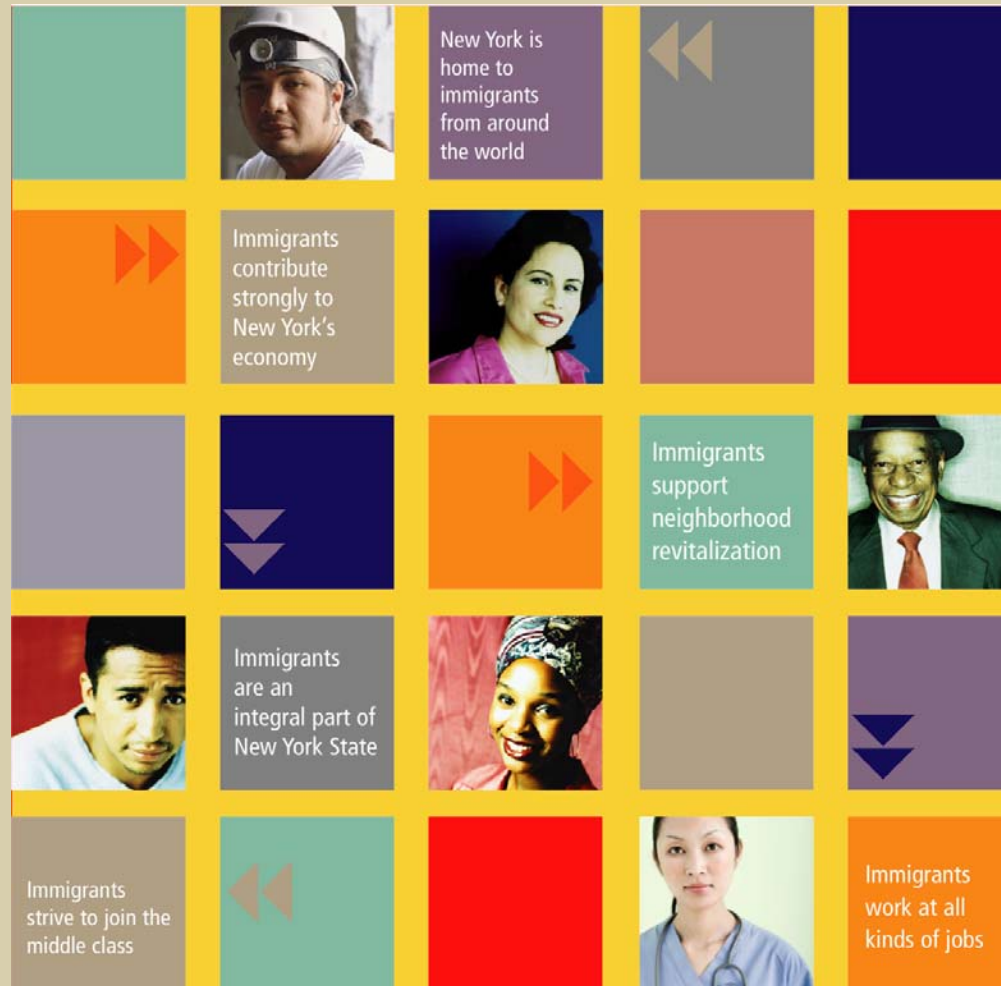


# *Fiscal Policy Institute*



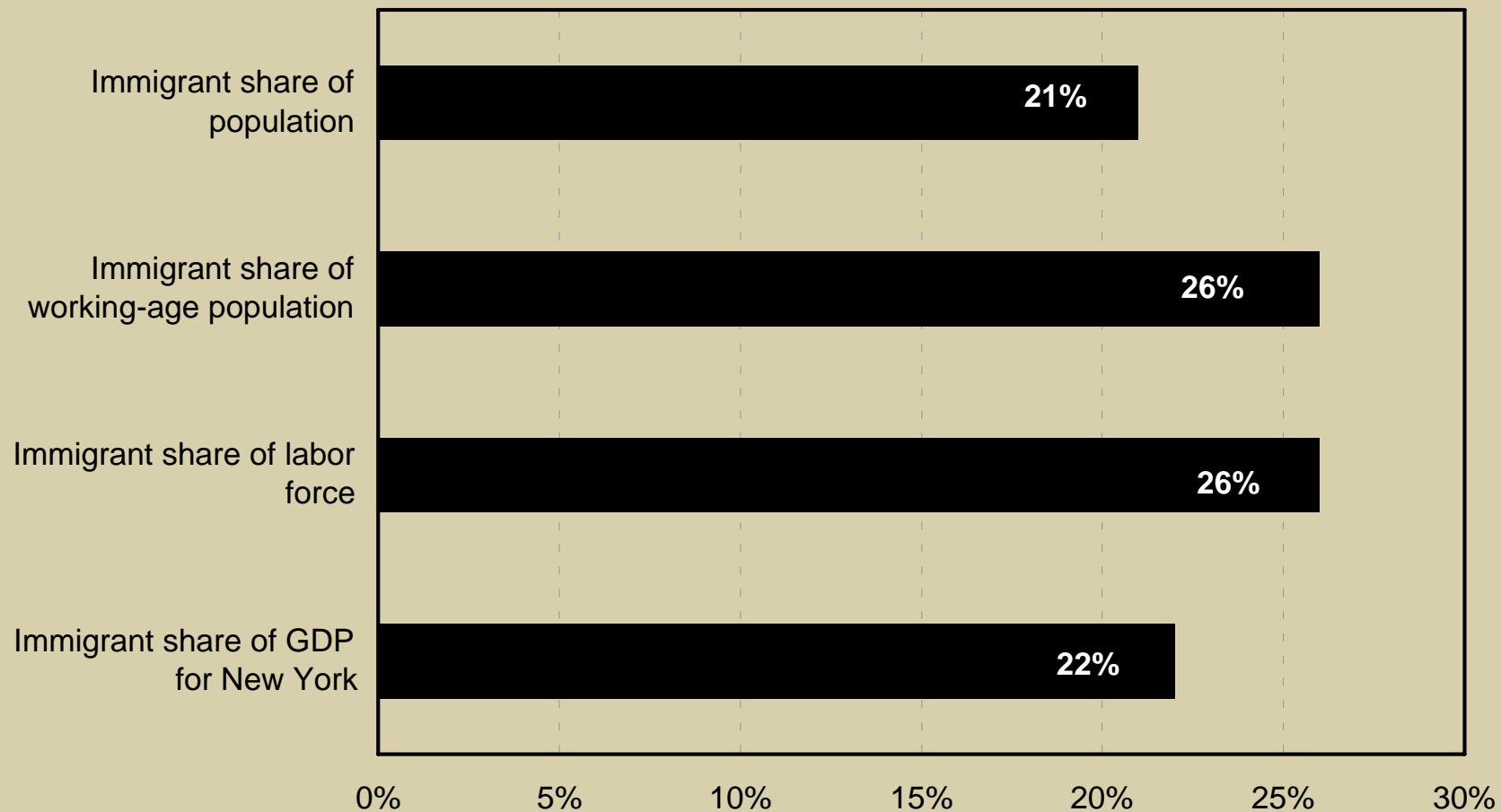
## Working for a Better Life

A Profile of Immigrants in the New York State Economy

In an overheated atmosphere, Fiscal Policy Institute set out to take a calm look at the *real role of immigrants* in New York



# Immigrant **economic** contribution is greater than the share of state population

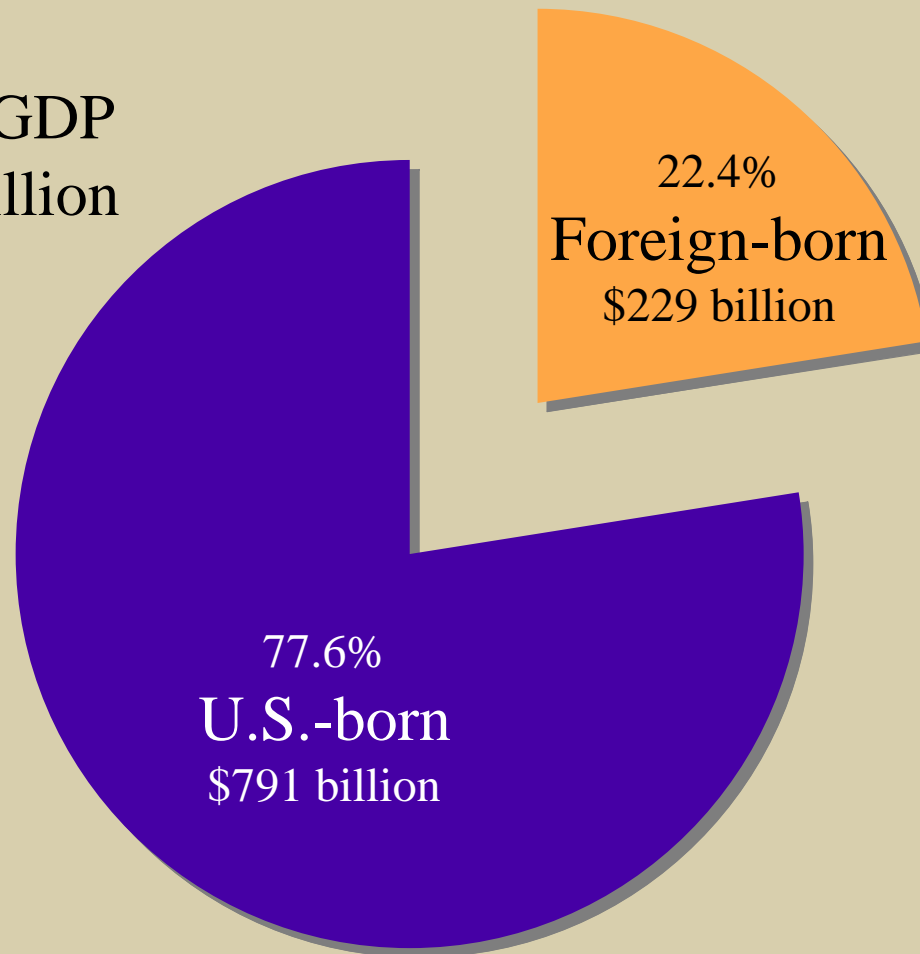


Source: FPI analysis of 2005 ACS PUMS. Working age is 16-64 years old.



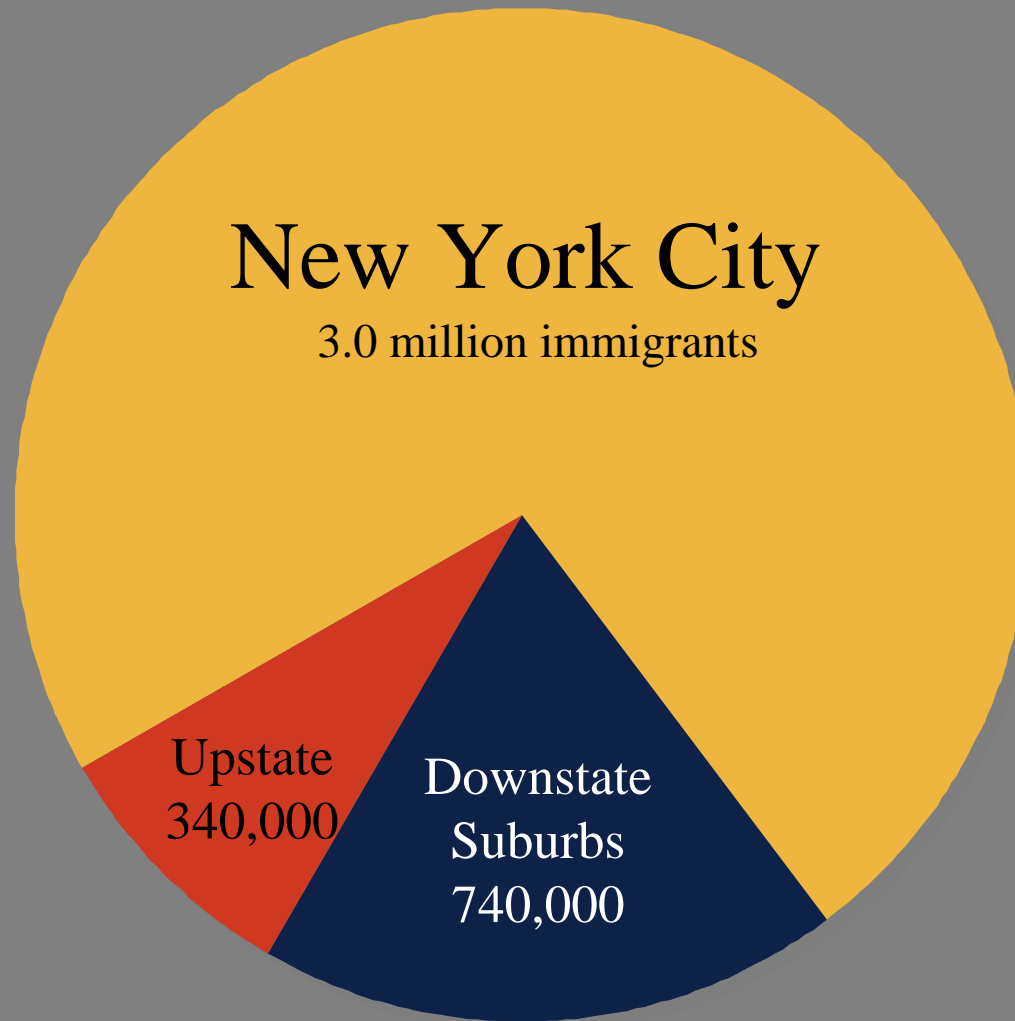
# Immigrant **economic** contribution represents nearly a quarter of the New York State economy

New York State GDP  
in 2006: \$1.02 trillion



Source: FPI calculation based on Bureau of Economic Analysis estimate of Gross Domestic Product by State and ACS PUMS. See *Working for a Better Life*, Appendix B, for details.

# 3 distinct stories of immigration in New York State



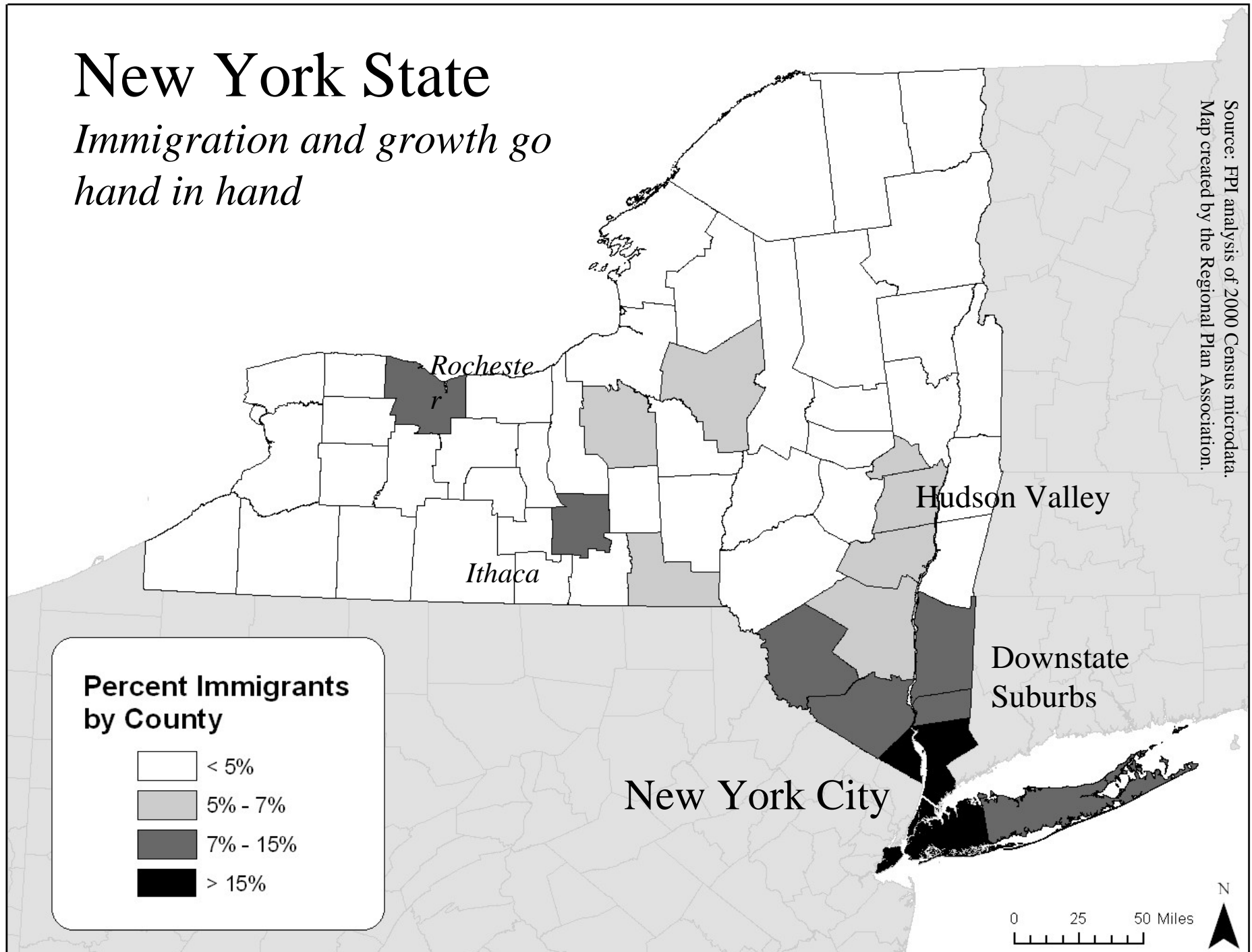
## Downstate Suburbs

Nassau  
Suffolk  
Westchester  
Rockland  
Putnam.

Sources: American Community Survey 2005 and New York City Department Of City Planning corrected figures, as accepted by the Census Bureau.

# New York State

*Immigration and growth go  
hand in hand*

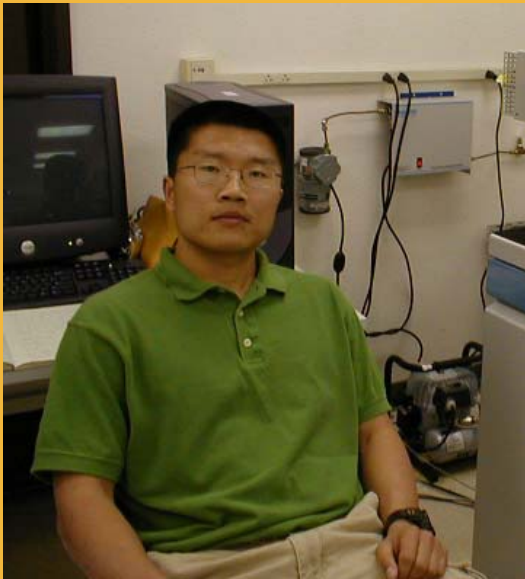




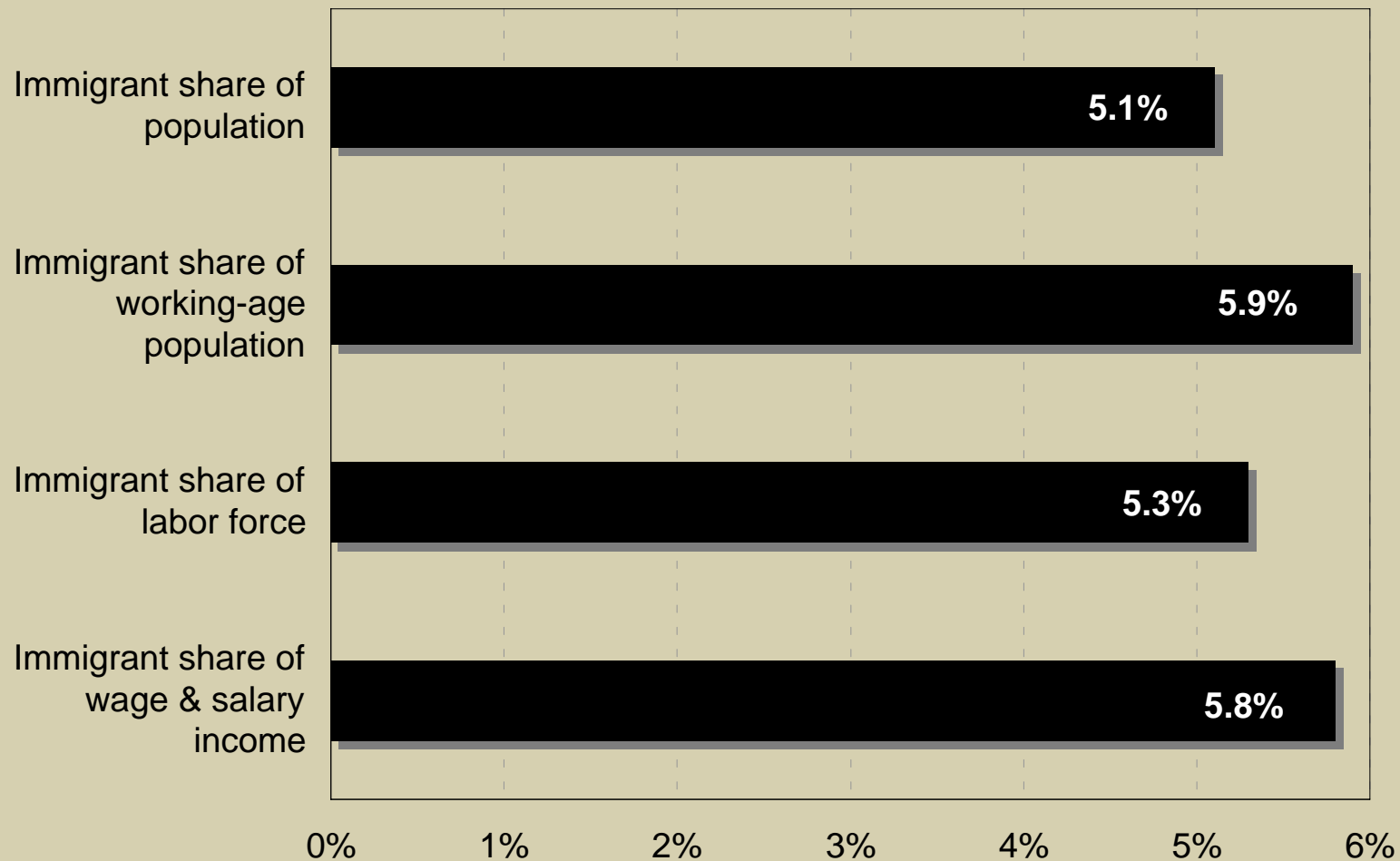
# Upstate New York



Immigrants Play a Key Role in Fields  
Important to Future Growth



# Immigrant contribution to the **upstate** economy



Source: FPI analysis of 2005 ACS PUMS.  
Working age is 16-64 years old.



Immigrants are especially important to *four sectors* that are critical to upstate **growth & culture**

*Health Care*

35% of doctors

*Higher Education*

20% of professors

*Research & Development*

20% of computer software engineers

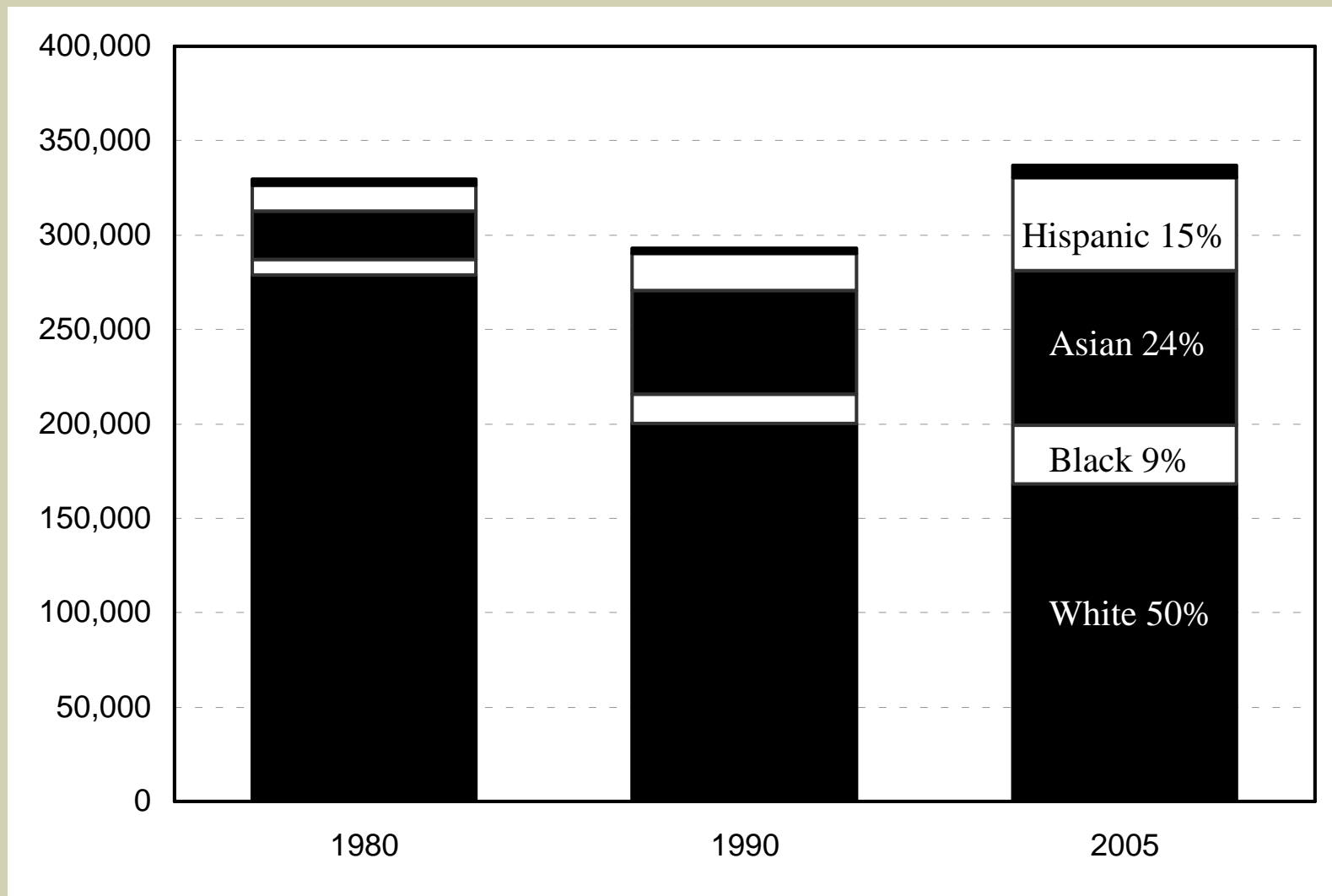
*Farming*

80% of seasonal farm workers

What would you *guess* are the  
top 10 countries Immigrants to upstate NY come from ?

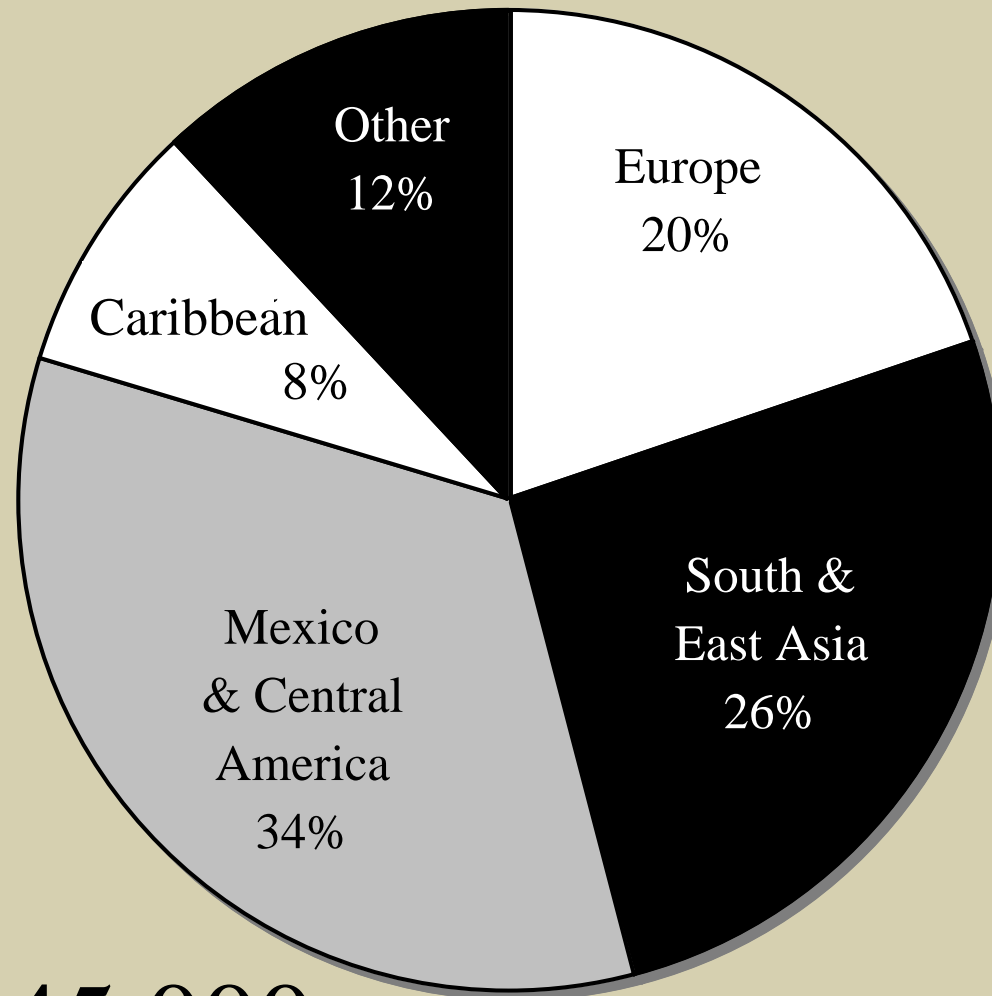
1. Canada
2. India
3. Germany
4. Mexico
5. Italy
6. China
7. Korea
8. Jamaica
9. Poland
10. Bosnia and Herzegovina

# Immigration is increasingly *diverse*



Sources: FPI analysis of 1980 and 1990 Census, and 2005 ACS PUMS. Geographic coding on the 2000 census limits ability to identify parts of southern upstate counties, so 2000 data is excluded.

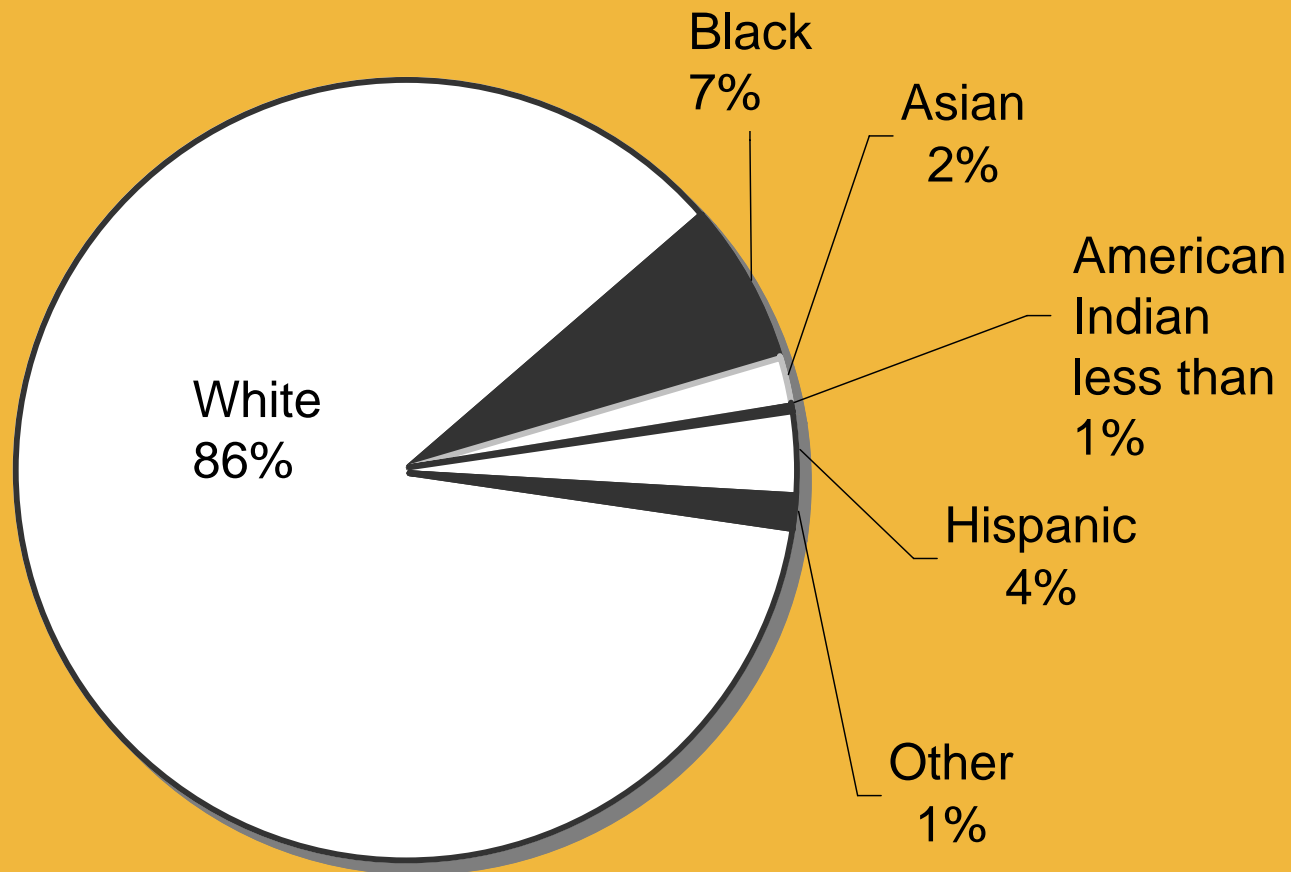
Undocumented immigrants, too, are a very *mixed* group



Source: Prepared for FPI by Jeffrey S. Passel, Pew Hispanic Center, 2007.  
Based on Pew Hispanic Center data from March 2000-2006, CPS with legal status assigned. Rockland and Putnam counties are included in upstate rather than downstate suburbs for this analysis. For more information, see *Working for a Better Life*, Appendix A.

**45,000** undocumented immigrants live in upstate NY, including Rockland & Putnam

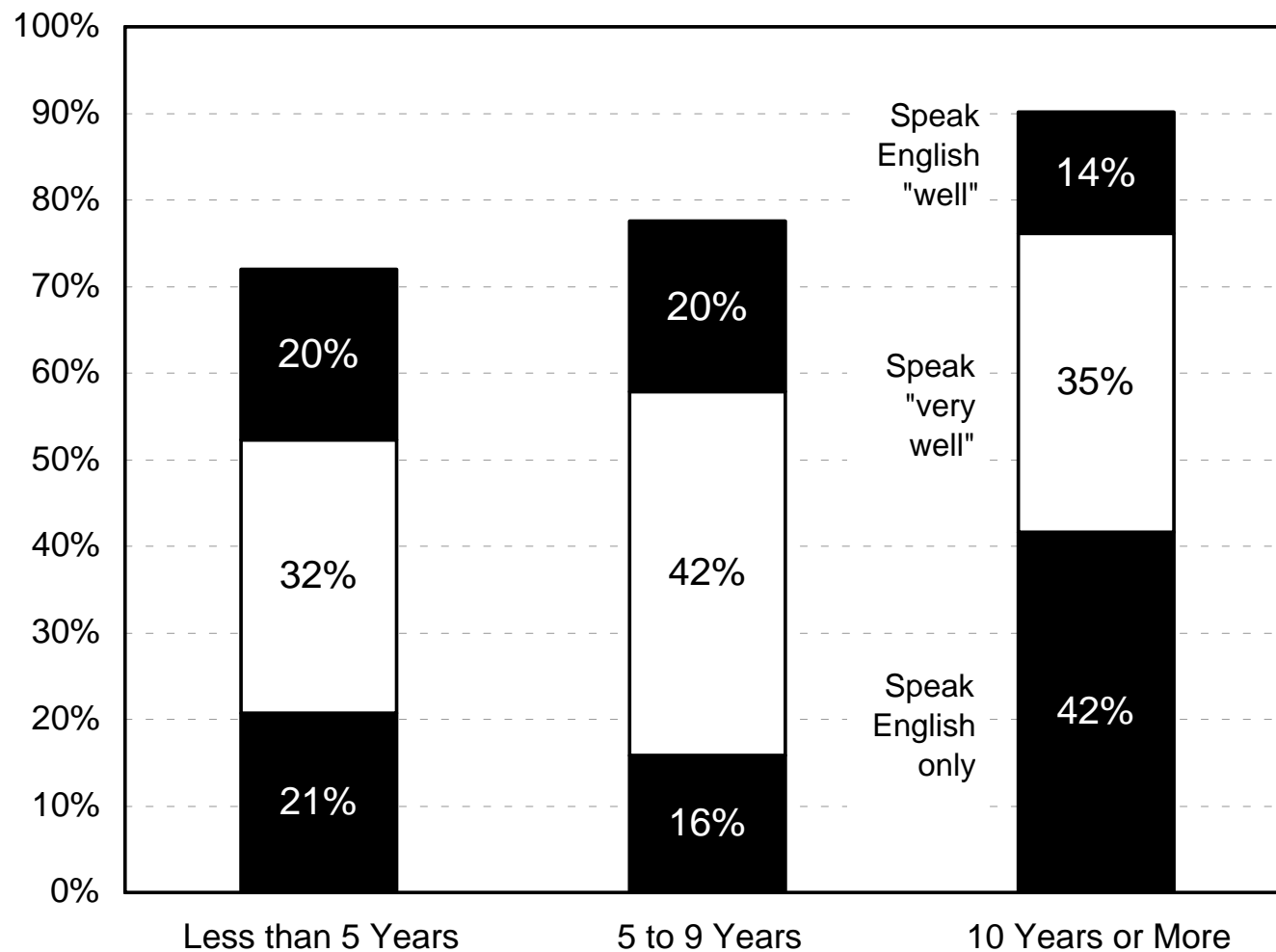
# Overall level of **diversity** upstate...



Source: FPI analysis of 2005 ACS PUMS.

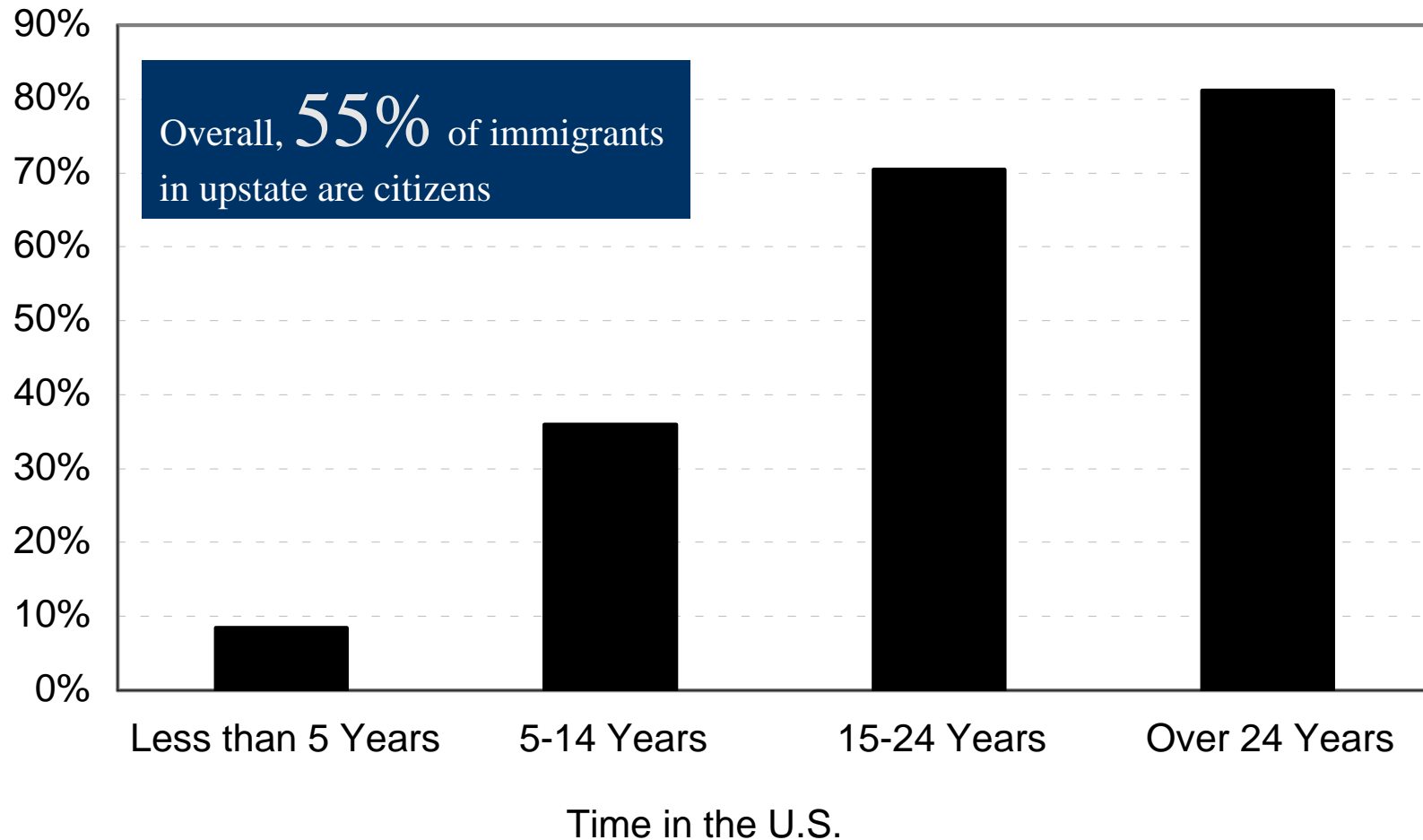


In 10 years, **77%** of immigrants speak “very well” or only English



Source: FPI analysis of 2005 ACS PUMS. Universe: Immigrants 5 years of age and older.

# Immigrants become American citizens



Source: FPI analysis of 2005 ACS PUMS. Note that the data reflect only those immigrants still alive as of 2005, and who currently live in the downstate suburbs.

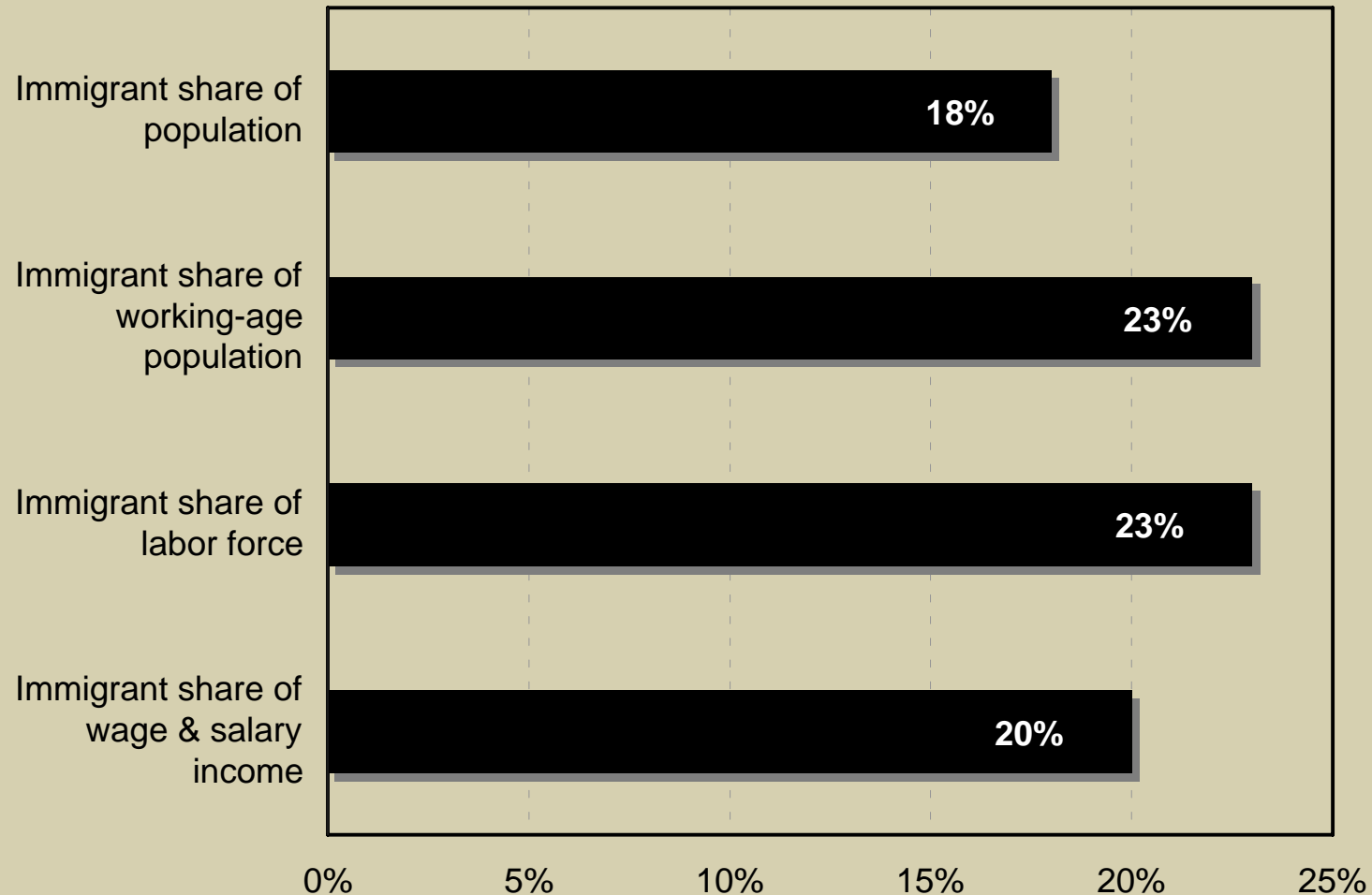


# Downstate Suburbs

Growing, and Growing More Diverse



# Immigrant contribution to the **downstate suburbs**



Source: FPI analysis of 2005 ACS PUMS. Working age is 16-64 years old.

Median **family income** in Nassau, Suffolk,  
Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam counties

Families with at least one immigrant adult: **\$71,000**

Families with only U.S.-born adults: **\$86,000**

Source: FPI analysis of CPS March supplements covering the years 2001-2005.  
Data is from 5-year pool, with incomes in 2005 dollars (CPIU).



Day laborers attract a lot of attention, but day laborers are  
**less than a half of one**  
**percent** of immigrants, and a small portion even  
of undocumented immigrants.

Based on Valenzuela & Meléndez estimate of 6,000-8,000 day laborers hired through shape-up sites in the entire New York metropolitan area, including New York City and suburbs in New York and New Jersey. See *Working for a Better Life* for further details.

A good number of construction workers, maids, and grounds maintenance workers are immigrants.

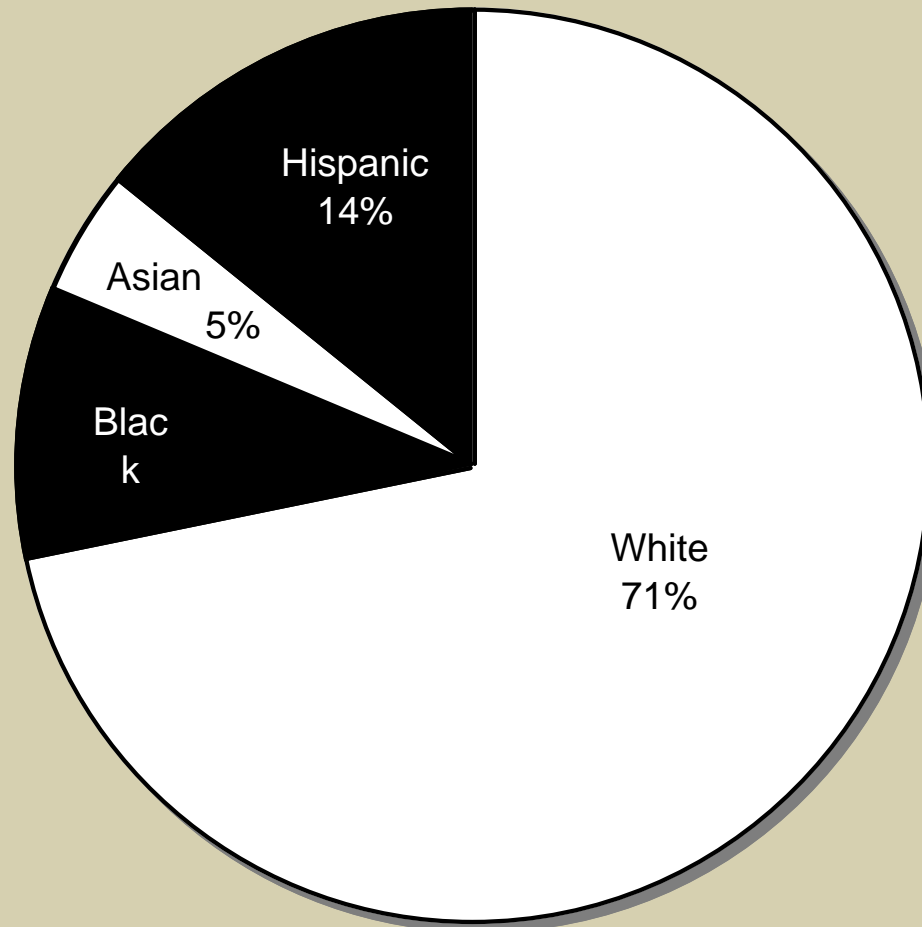
*But...*

the **top occupation** of immigrants in the downstate suburbs is registered nurse (29% of RNs are foreign born)

**41%** of all **physicians and surgeons** are foreign-born

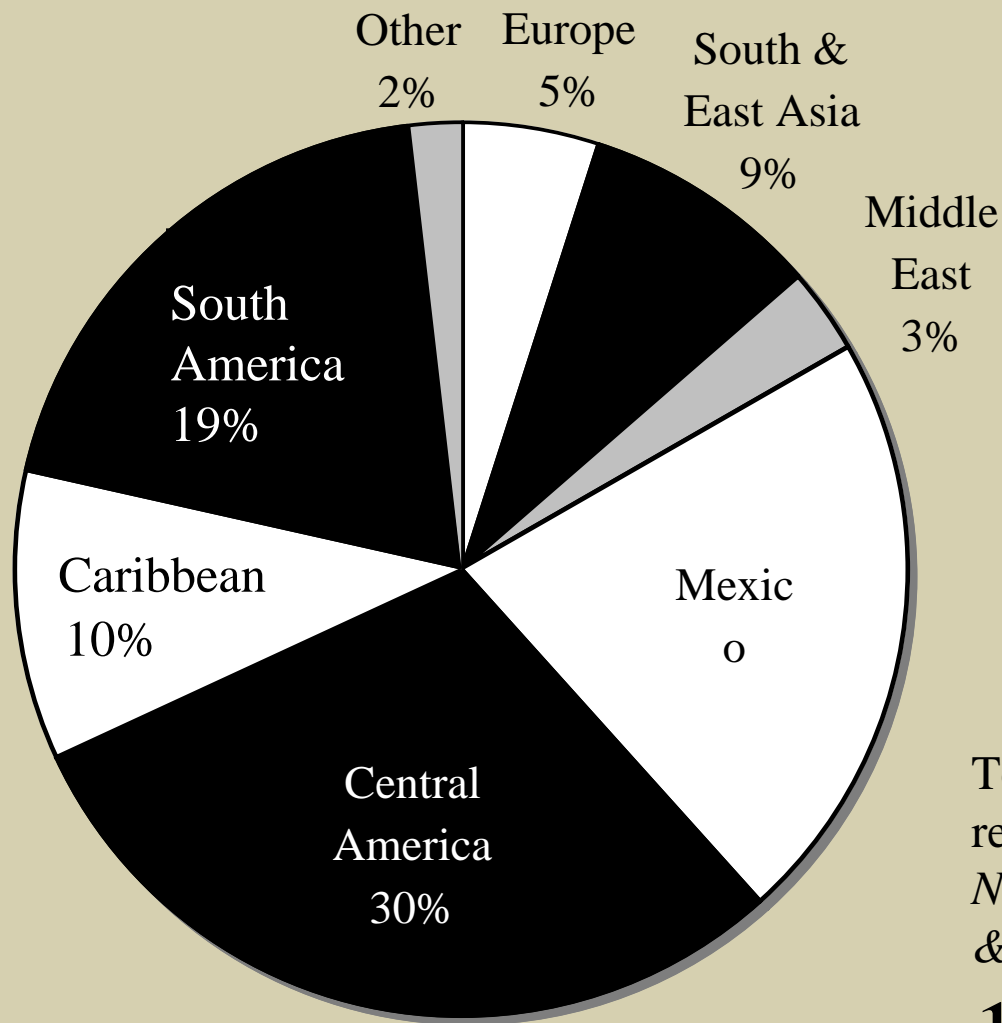
**22%** of **accountants** are foreign-born

The downstate suburbs are becoming  
**diverse** and **global**



Source: FPI analysis of 2005 ACS PUMS.

# Even undocumented immigration is more diverse than you may think



Source: Prepared for FPI by Jeffrey S. Passel, Pew Hispanic Center, 2007. Based on Pew Hispanic Center data from March 2000-2006, CPS with legal status assigned. Middle East includes Asian countries west of and including Iran, south of and including Turkey plus Cyprus and North Africa. Rockland and Putnam counties are included in upstate rather than downstate suburbs for this analysis. For more information, see *Working for a Better Life*, Appendix A.

Total undocumented residents in  
*Nassau, Suffolk & Westchester*  
**130,000**

In the end, we *have* to work it out

How many children are growing up  
in families with **at least one** immigrant adult ?

Upstate New York:	8%
Downstate suburbs:	31%
New York City:	57%
New York State Average:	34%

Source: FPI analysis of 2005 ACS PUMS.  
Children are all under 18 years old.



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# Immigrants *pay taxes*

## New York City

- Legal immigrants paid on average \$5,500 in total taxes, while native-born pay on average \$6,000. (1994)
- Undocumented immigrants paid on average \$2,200 in taxes on considerably lower incomes. (1994)

Source: *Immigrants in New York: Their Legal Status, Incomes, and Taxes*, Jeffrey S. Passel and Rebecca L. Clark, 1998.



# What taxes do *undocumented* immigrants pay?

**property tax** (*through rent*)

**state and local sales tax**

**payroll taxes** (*but they don't get  
Social Security or Medicare*)

**city, state, and federal income tax**

*they also do not receive the earned  
income tax credit*



What services are immigrants *eligible* to get?

What *should* the answer be?

### **Public Schools?**

*All children are eligible for public school.*

### **Food Stamps?**

*Legal immigrants are restricted for 5 years, with an exception made for children.*

*Undocumented immigrants are never eligible.*

### **TANF?**

*Federal restriction for 5 years for legal immigrants, appropriately made up for by NYS. Undocumented immigrants are never eligible.*

### **Medicaid?**

*Varies by state. In New York, state-funded Medicaid & Family Health Plus available to all immigrants “permanently residing under color of law.”*

### **Emergency Medical Care?**

*Everyone is eligible; some mechanisms for reimbursement.*



“The consensus among most economists seems to be that, over the long term and averaged across all immigrants (including illegal ones, who both pay less in taxes and receive less in benefits), immigrants more than pay their way in the US, in that their tax contribution exceeds public spending on them. However, it seems that this benefit is largely realized at the federal level rather than the state or local.”

**Present value of annual fiscal impacts: One immigrant arriving in 1994 (discounted at 3%)**

