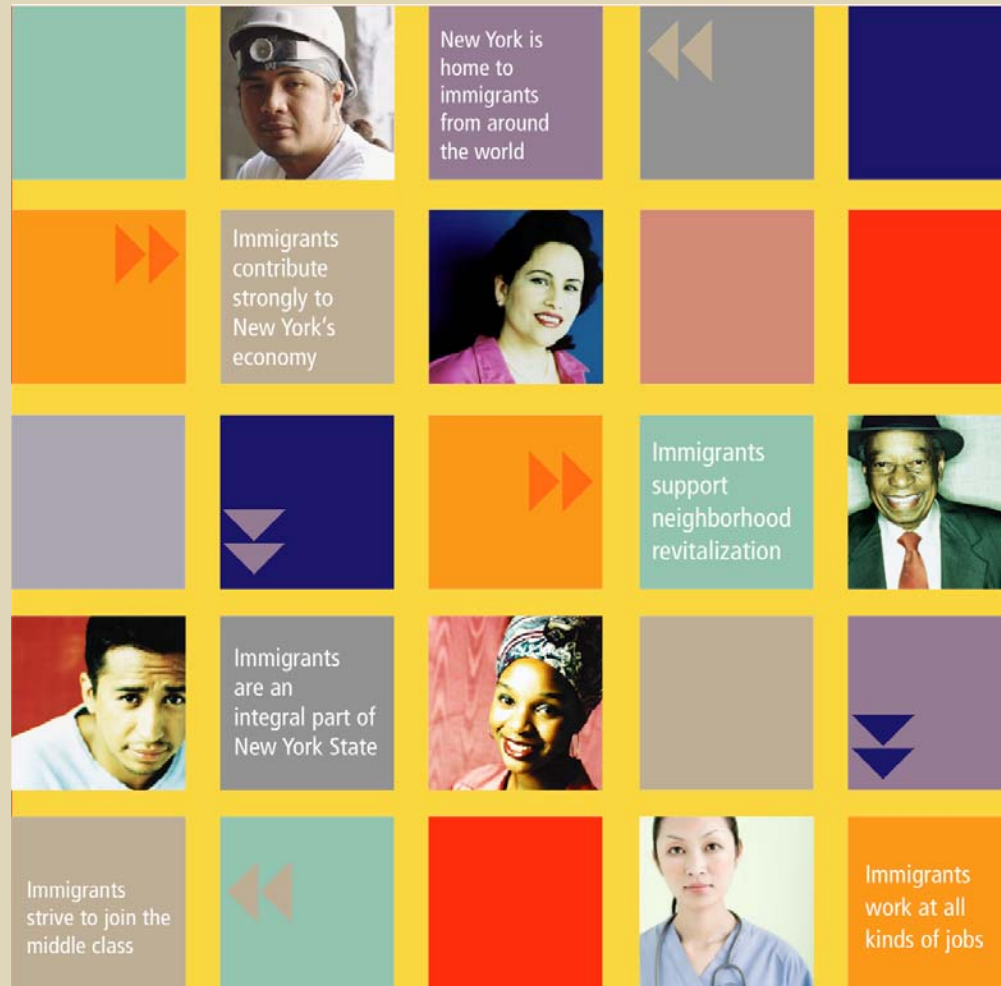


# *Fiscal Policy Institute*



## Working for a Better Life

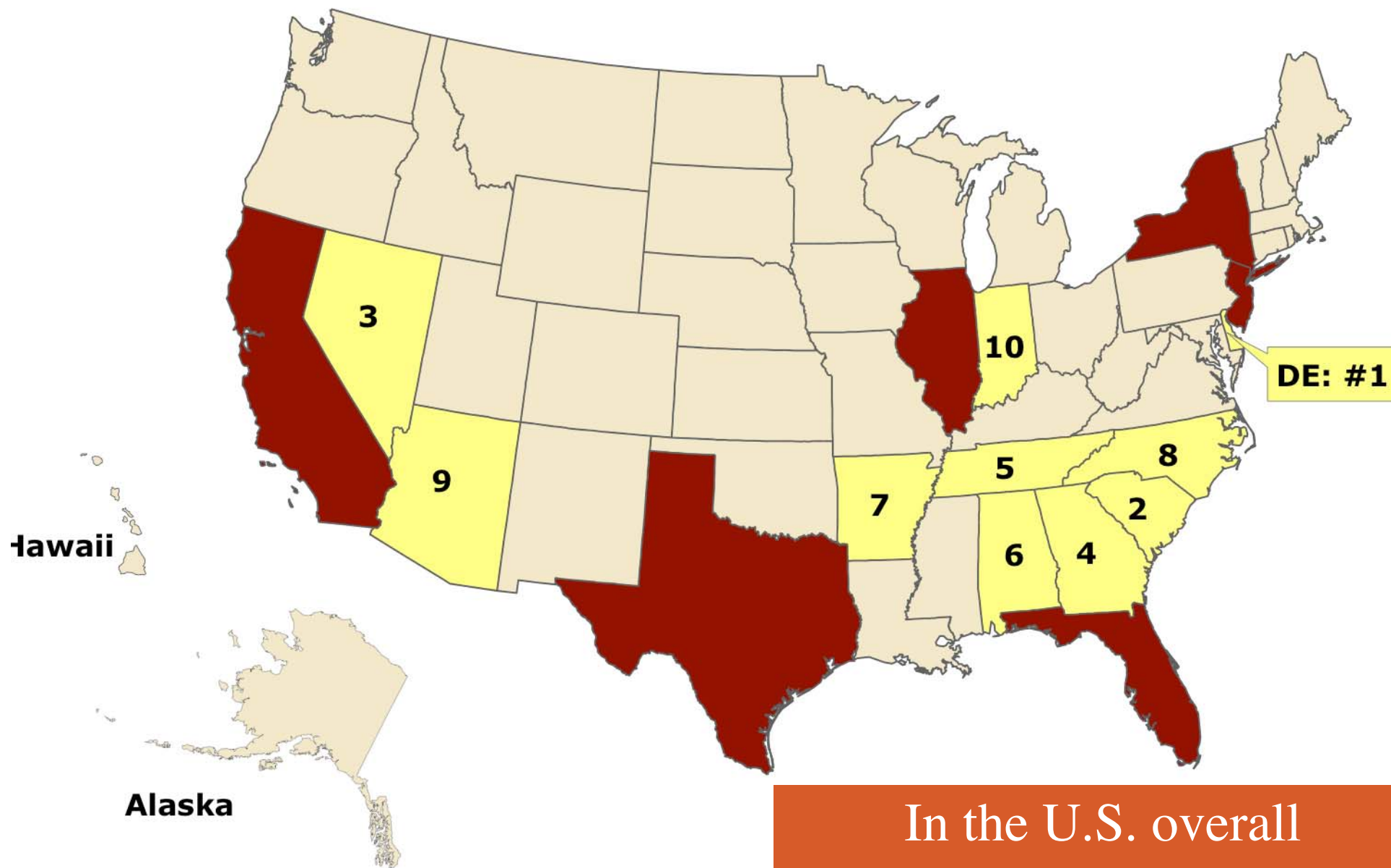
A Profile of Immigrants in the New York State Economy

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





# States with the Largest and Fastest-Growing Immigrant Populations



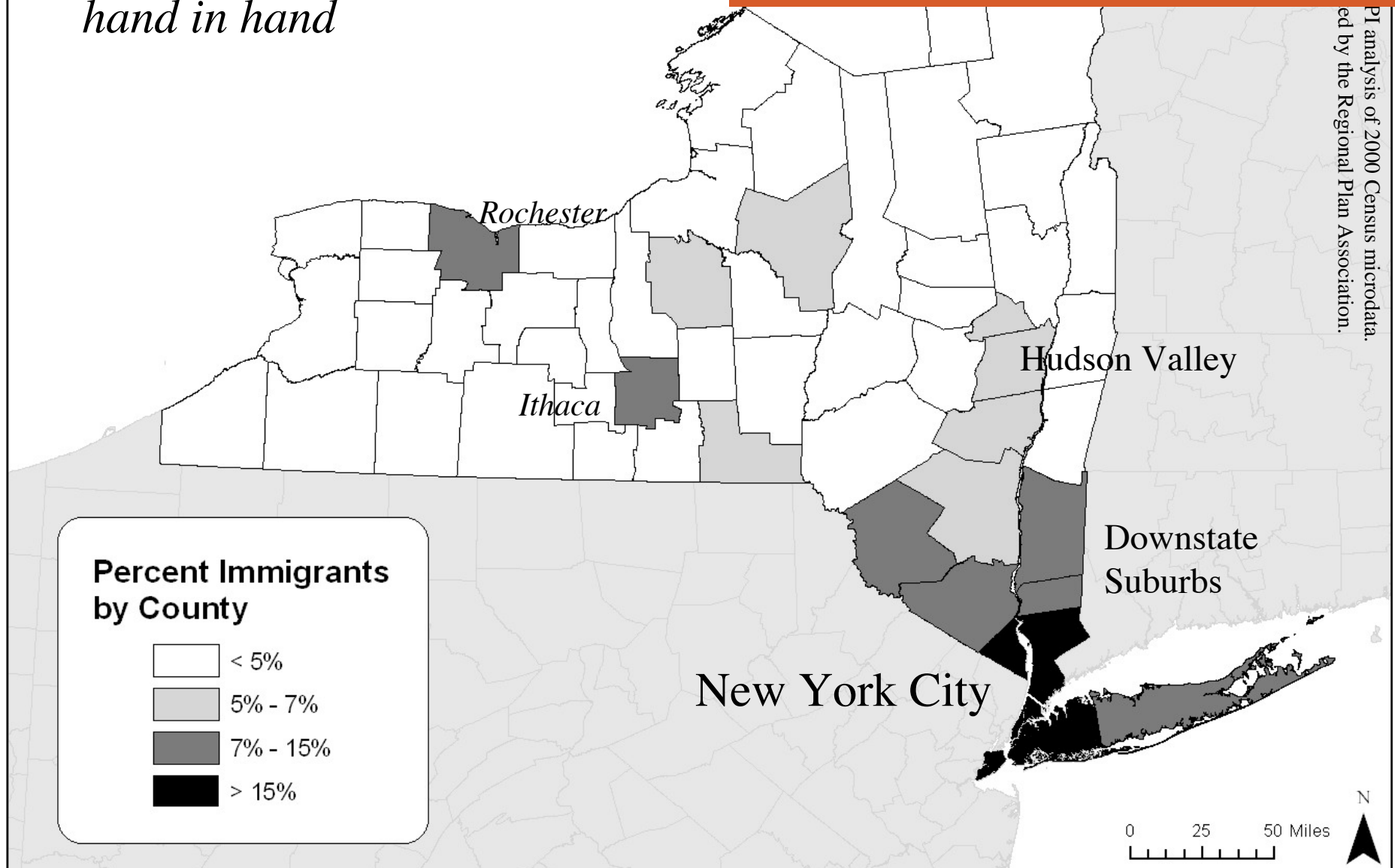
Source: US Census Bureau, 2006 American

In the U.S. overall  
12% are

# New York State

*Immigration and growth go  
hand in hand*

Of New York State's  
19 million residents,  
21% are foreign-born



# New York City

Of New York City's  
8 million residents,  
3 million — 37% are  
foreign-born

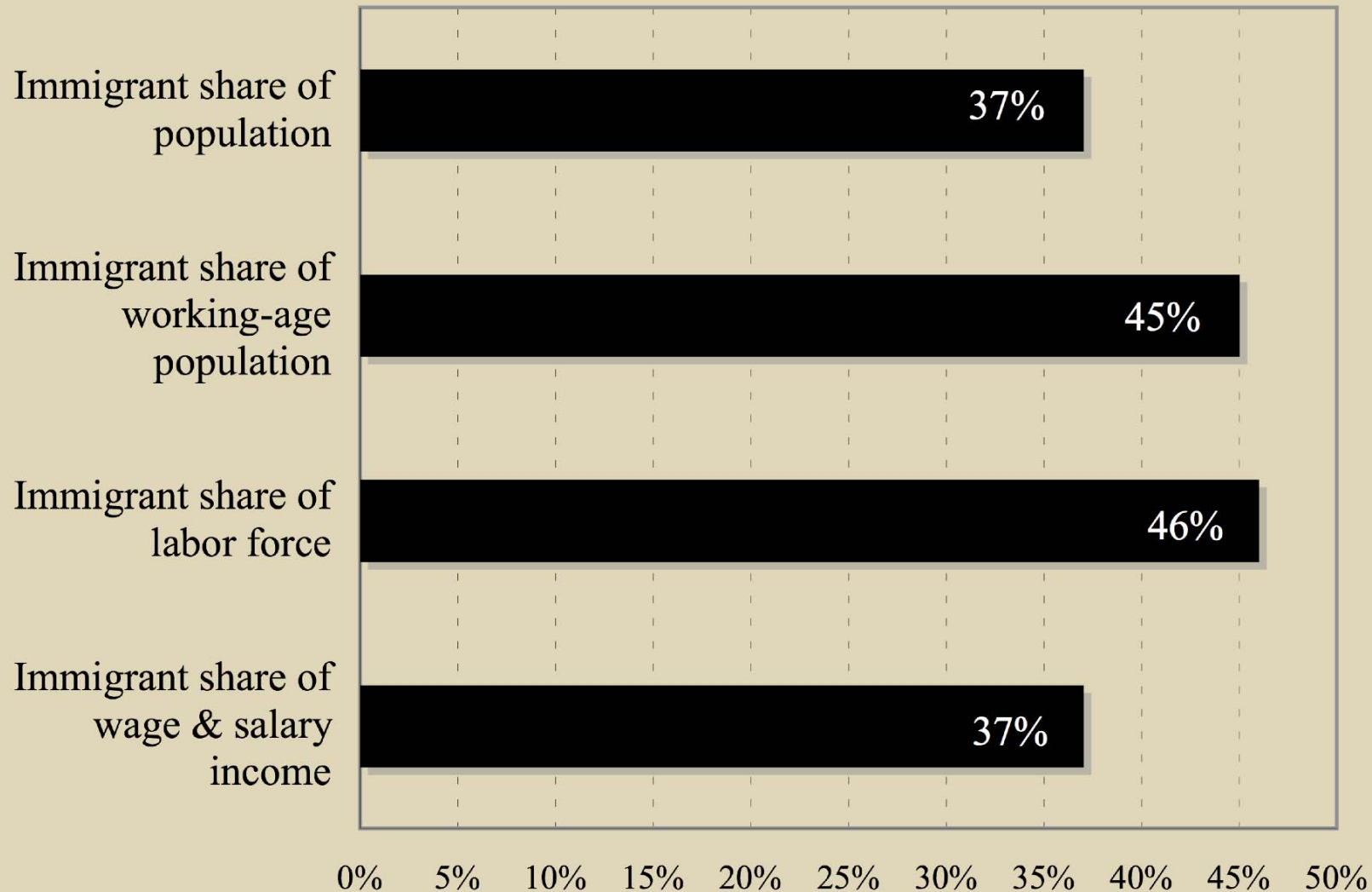


# New York City

Immigration Fuels Growth and Builds the Middle Class



# Immigrant contributions make up almost half of the **New York City** economy



Sources: FPI analysis of ACS PUMS, and New York City Department of City Planning.  
Working age is 16-64 years old.

# Where does **New York City** rank for share of immigrants among America's 20 biggest cities?

	population	foreign-born
Los Angeles	3.7 million	40%
San Jose	900,000	38%
<b>New York City</b>	<b>8.0 million</b>	<b>37%</b>
San Francisco	700,000	36%
Houston	1.9 million	29%
Dallas	1.1 million	27%
San Diego	1.2 million	26%
Phoenix	1.4 million	36%
Chicago	2.7 million	29%
Austin	700,000	18%
Fort Worth	600,000	18%
San Antonio	1.2 million	14%
Charlotte	600,000	13%
Philadelphia	1.4 million	11%
Columbus	700,000	9%
Jacksonville	800,000	8%
Indianapolis	800,000	7%
Detroit	800,000	6%
Memphis	600,000	6%
Baltimore	600,000	6%

Sources: Source: 2005 ACS (American FactFinder). Populations are of city, not metropolitan region.



*Immigrants to NYC come from all **around the world***

Dominican Republic	Ukraine	Honduras
China	Russia	El Salvador
Jamaica	Korea	Cuba
Mexico	Philippines	Barbados
Guyana	Poland	Greece
Ecuador	Italy	Israel
Haiti	Bangladesh	Romania
India	Pakistan	Yugoslavia
Trinidad & Tobago	Peru	Panama
Colombia	Hong Kong	Taiwan

countries from which there are over 20,000 residents, in order from most (336,000) to fewest (20,700)

Immigrants represent a significant portion of workers  
in virtually **every occupation** in New York City

### **Business**

A quarter of of CEOs (8,000)

5 in 10 accountants

3 in 10 office clerks

3 in 10 receptionists

5 in 10 building cleaners

### **Real estate**

3 in 10 of brokers

4 in 10 property managers

4 in 10 architects

7 in 10 construction laborers

### **Health Care**

5 in 10 doctors

6 in 10 registered nurses

7 in 10 nursing aids

### **Finance**

3 in 10 financial managers

3 in 10 securities, commodities and  
financial service sales agents

# How many undocumented immigrants are in New York City?

Estimated undocumented *residents* in New York City: 535,000

Estimated undocumented *workers* 374,000

*Portion* of New York City workers who are undocumented: 10%

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. Occupations included in this table have an average of at least 5,000 workers and the share of undocumented exceeds the New York City share of undocumented workers. For more information, see *Working for a Better Life*, Appendix A.



“The most visible symbol and source of New York City’s comeback is that we’re growing again. Our population is at an all-time high.”

**Mayor Michael Bloomberg**

PlaNYC 2030 speech, December 12, 2006

# New York City Population 1950-2005



Sources: Population of Counties by Decennial Census and New York City Department of City Planning

# NYC Population Trends

	1980	1990	2000	2005	trend 1980-2005
Native-born	5.4 million	5.2 million	5.1 million	5.2 million	-194,000
Foreign-born	1.7 million	2.1 million	2.9 million	3.0 million	+1.3 million
Total NYC	7.1 million	7.3 million	8.0 million	8.2 million	+1.2 million
Immigrant share of pop.	24%	28%	35%	37%	

Source: NYC Dept. of City Planning analysis of Census and ACS.



**wages** for immigrants are 10-20% lower  
except among top earners

## Hourly wages for NYC workers

Educational attainment	Foreign- born	U.S.-born	Difference between the two
Less than high school	\$9.50	\$10.38	9%
High school	\$12.27	\$14.53	18%
Some college	\$14.53	\$16.74	15%
College	\$21.76	\$25.94	19%
All	\$13.85	\$18.68	35%

*Source: FPI analysis of CPS outgoing rotation groups, 2001-2006. Universe: those in labor force, age 25 and older, who reported education level. Medians of 6-year pools (in 2006 dollars, using CPI-U deflator).*

# Immigrants in NYC are more likely to live in families in the **middle** income brackets

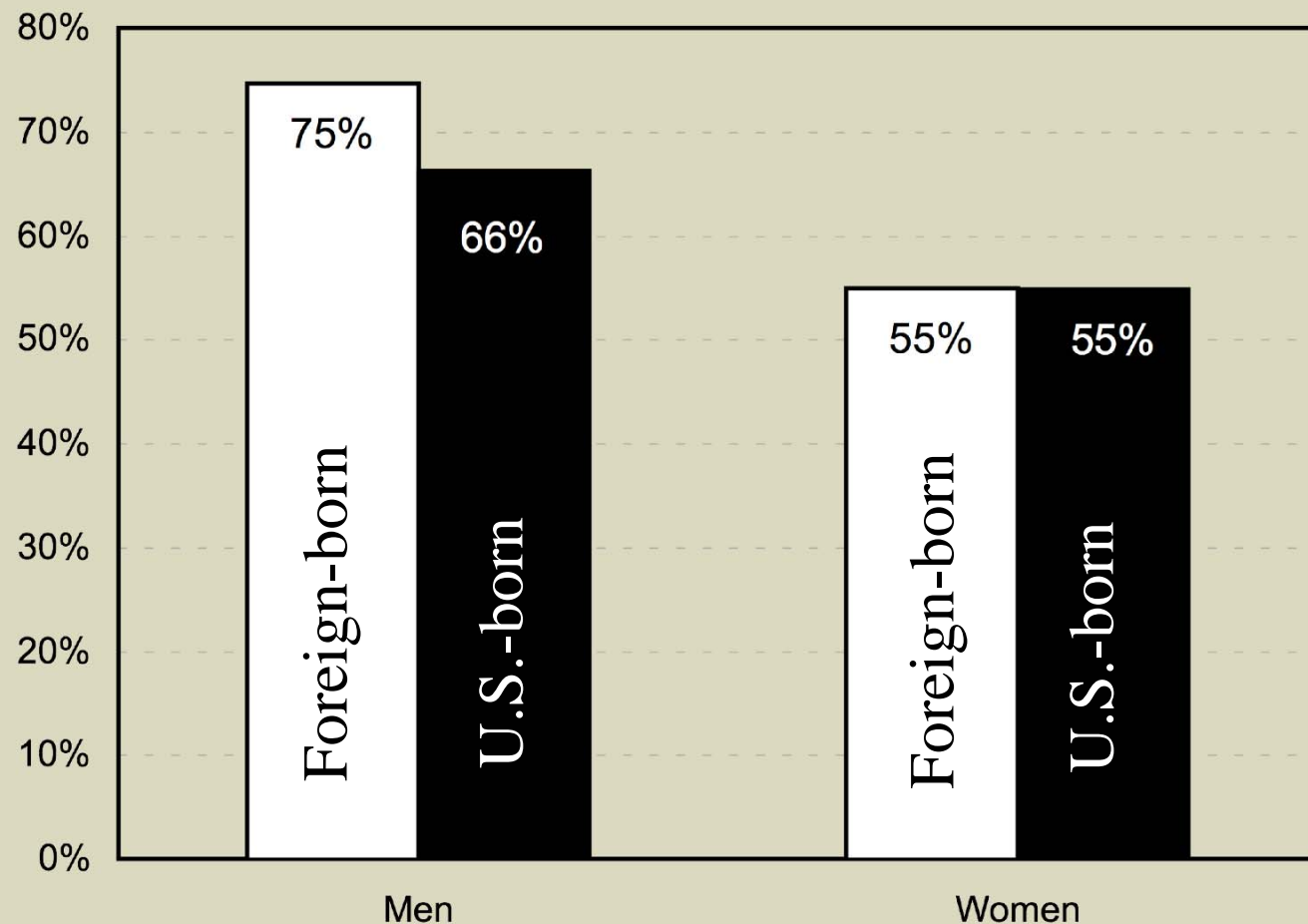
Living in families with <b>income</b> of	Families with <b>immigrant</b> adult	Families with only <b>U.S.-born</b> adults
\$20,000-\$80,000	55%	44%

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

# If **wages** are lower, how can family income be in the **middle**?

Labor Force Participation:

Foreign-born **64%**    U.S.-born: **60%**



Source: FPI analysis of 2005 ACS PUMS. Universe is all 16 and older.



# Immigrants join unions

	of immigrants are union members?	What share of union members are immigrants?
Education & Health	45%	46%
Wholesale & Retail	12%	52%
Leisure & hospitality	12%	53%
Finance	21%	45%
Professional & business	16%	50%
Other services	9%	60%
Construction	22%	50%
Transp.& Utilities	41%	40%
Manufacturing	19%	69%
Public administration	59%	24%
Information	19%	22%
<b>All</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>44%</b>

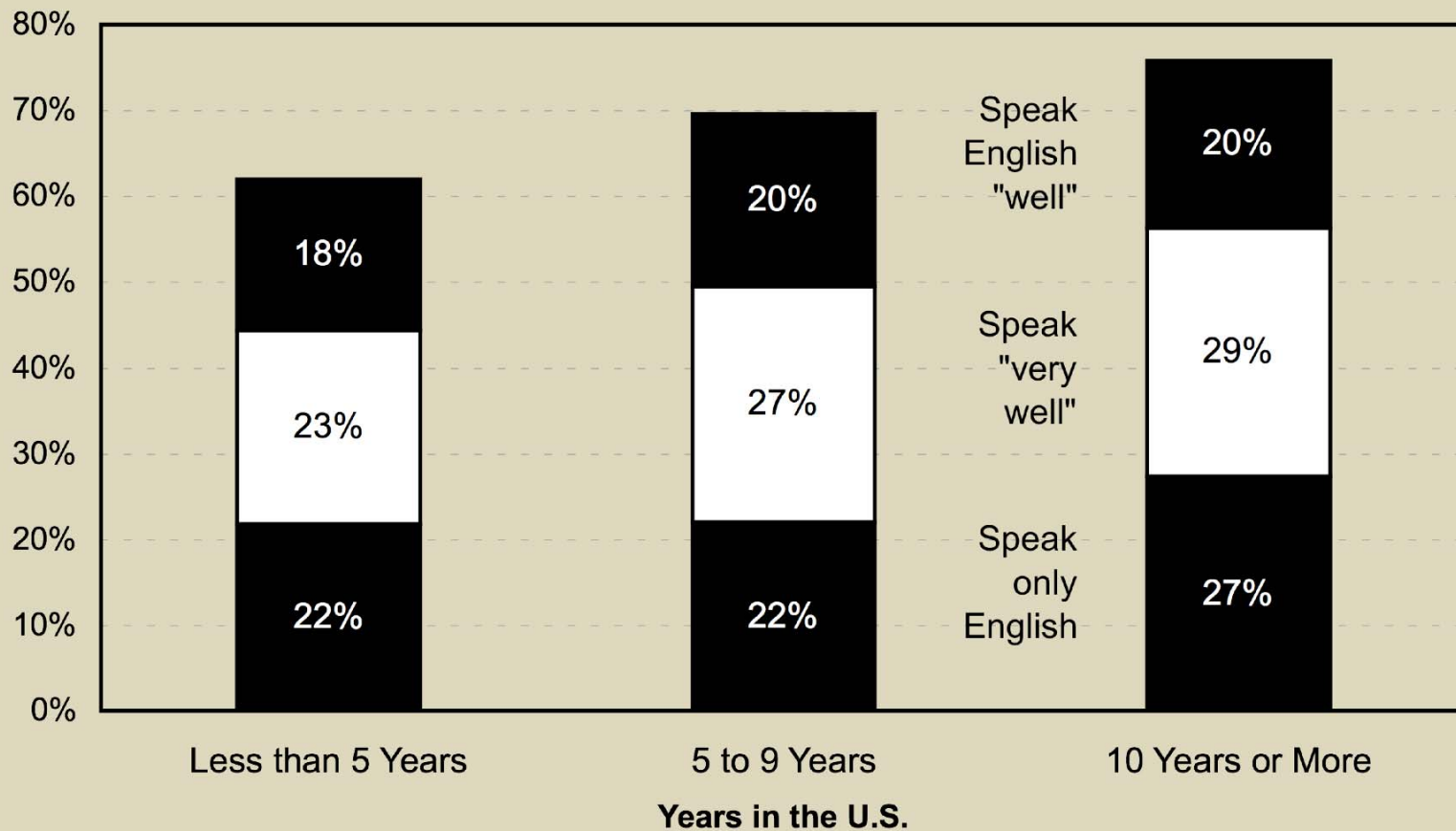
Source: FPI analysis of CPS data 2003-2006. Medians of 4-year pools.

And when they do, **all workers benefit**

Median wage	Foreign-born		U.S.-born	
selected industries	Non-union	Union	Non-union	Union
Wholesale & retail	\$10.54	\$13.09	\$12.30	\$13.00
Construction	\$12.90	\$17.37	\$16.43	\$22.41
Transportation & utilities	\$13.70	\$16.52	\$15.07	\$17.50
administration	\$19.00	\$16.83	\$20.52	\$16.98
All	\$12.33	\$15.00	\$16.92	\$17.37

*Source: FPI analysis of CPS data 2003-2006; data points are medians of 4-year pools. Universe is those in the labor force or reporting a wage. In 2006 dollars, using CPI-U deflator.*

## Immigrants *learn English*



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

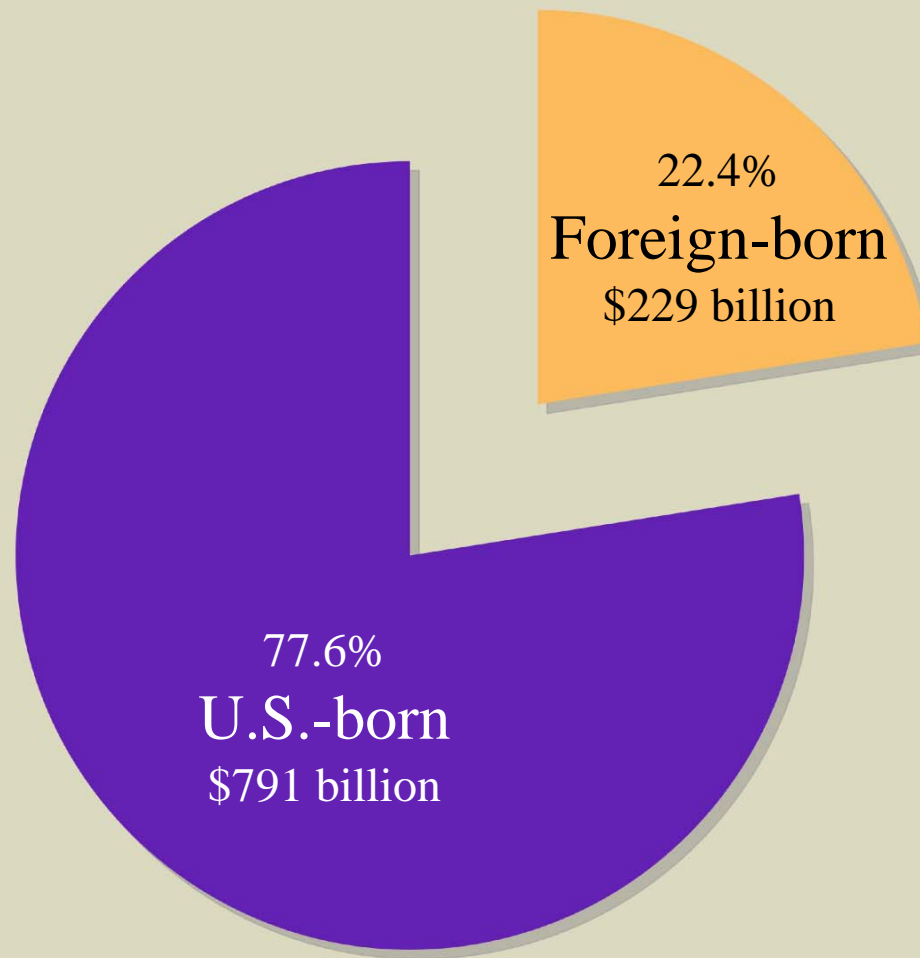
## and it makes a big difference **in earnings**

Annual wage and salary income for immigrants in New York City

High school completion or less		Median
Speak only English at home		\$25,000
Speak another language at home, but speak English very well		\$25,000
Speak another language at home and speak English well, not well, or not at all		\$19,000
More than high school		Median
Speak only English at home		\$43,000
Speak another language at home, but speak English very well		\$42,000
Speak another language at home and speak English well, not well, or not at all		\$28,600

*Source: FPI analysis of 2005 ACS PUMS. Universe: Immigrant New York residents age 25 and older who reported positive wage and salary earnings for 2005.*

There are **COSTS** associated with immigration, but getting it right yields enormous **benefits**.





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

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

In New York City: **57 %**

1.1 million of the 1.9 million kids

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

# Fiscal Policy Institute

11 Park Place, Suite 701

New York, NY 10007

212/721-7164

[www.fiscalpolicy.org](http://www.fiscalpolicy.org)

[ddkallick@fiscalpolicy.org](mailto:ddkallick@fiscalpolicy.org)