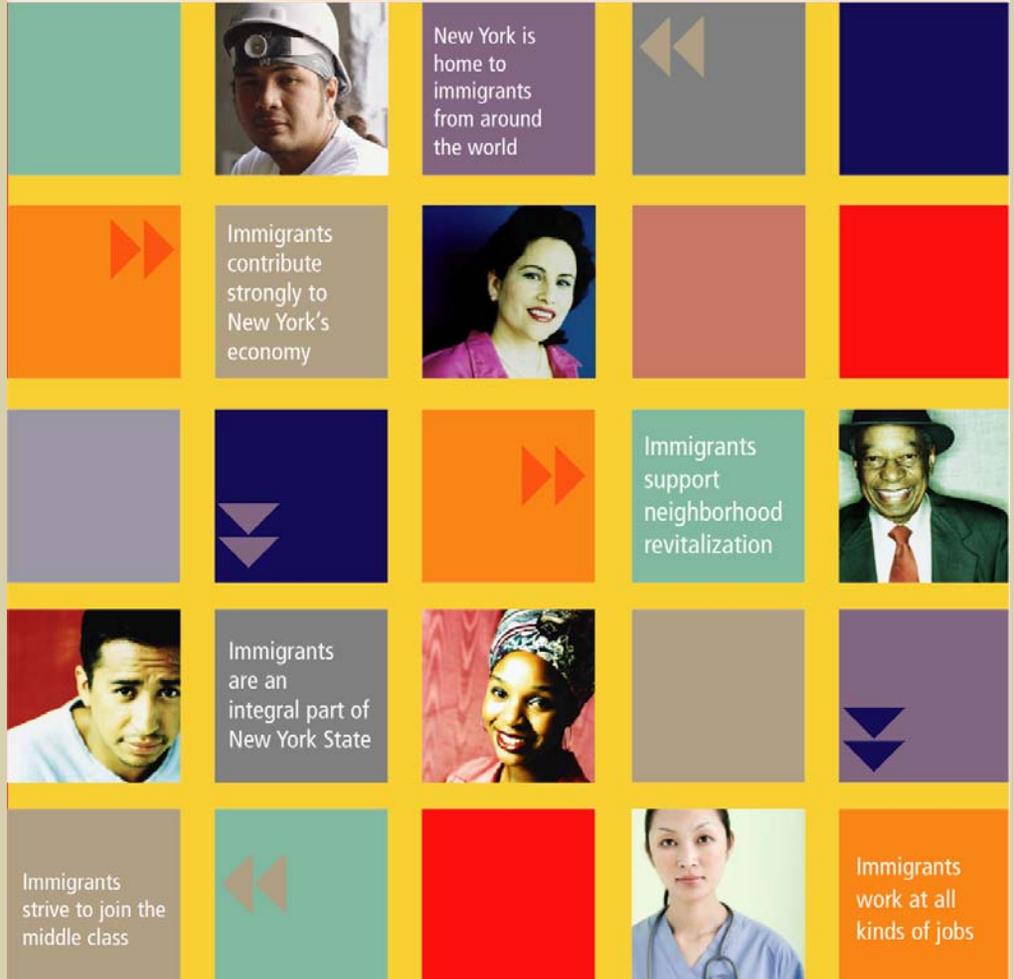


*Prepared by Fiscal Policy Institute  
for presentation to Westchester County Board of Legislators*



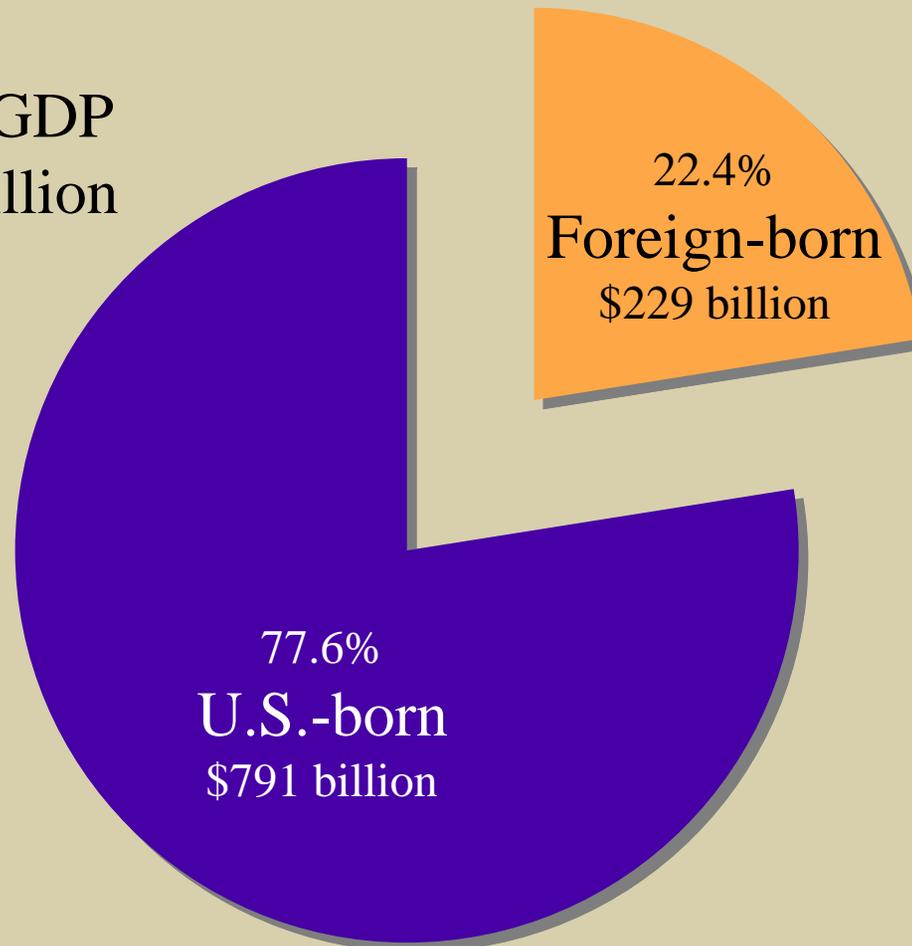
**Working for a Better Life**  
A Profile of Immigrants in the New York State Economy

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



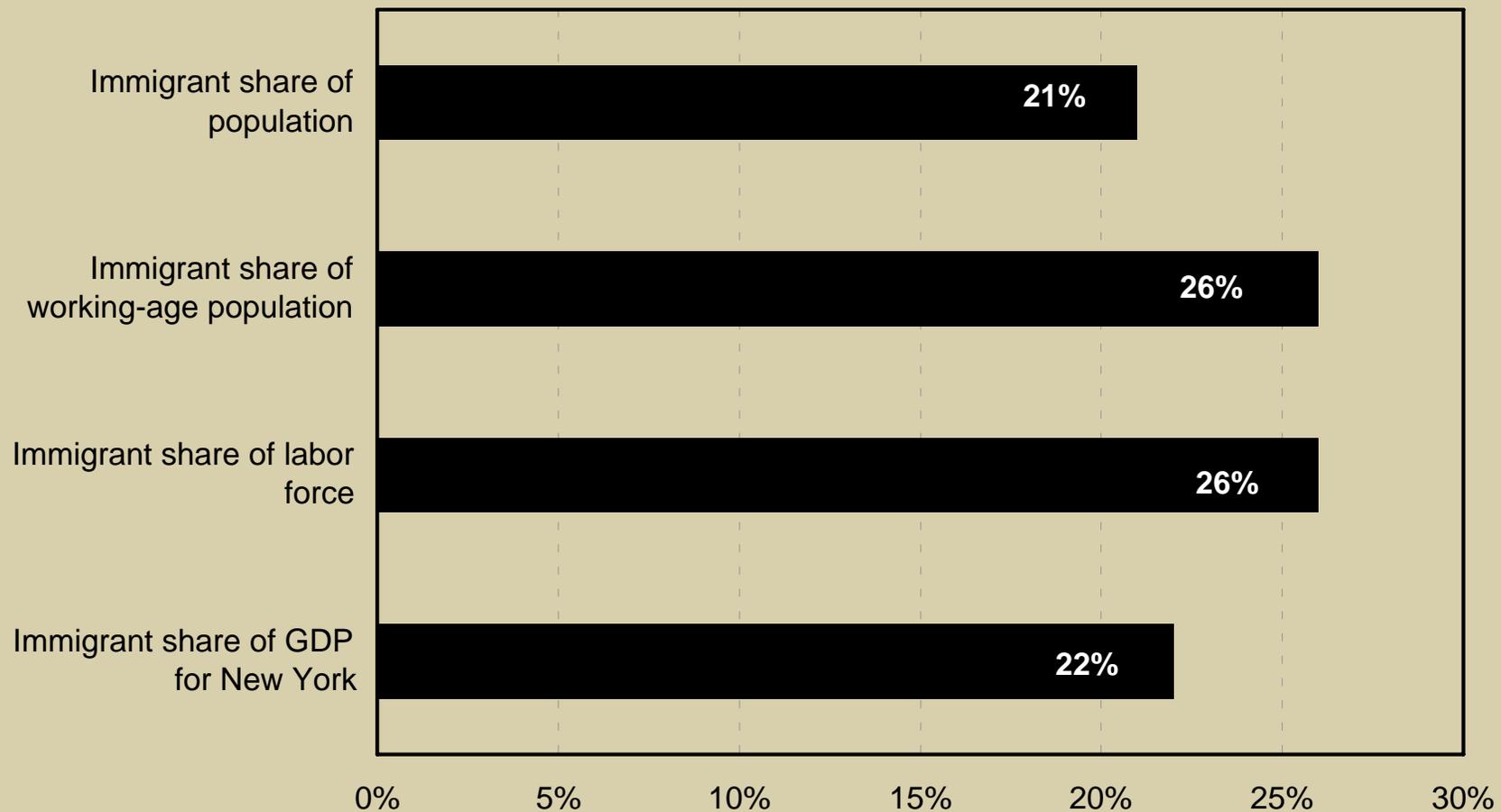
Immigrant **economic** contribution represents nearly  
a quarter of the New York State economy

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.

# Immigrant **economic** contribution is the same as immigrants share of state population

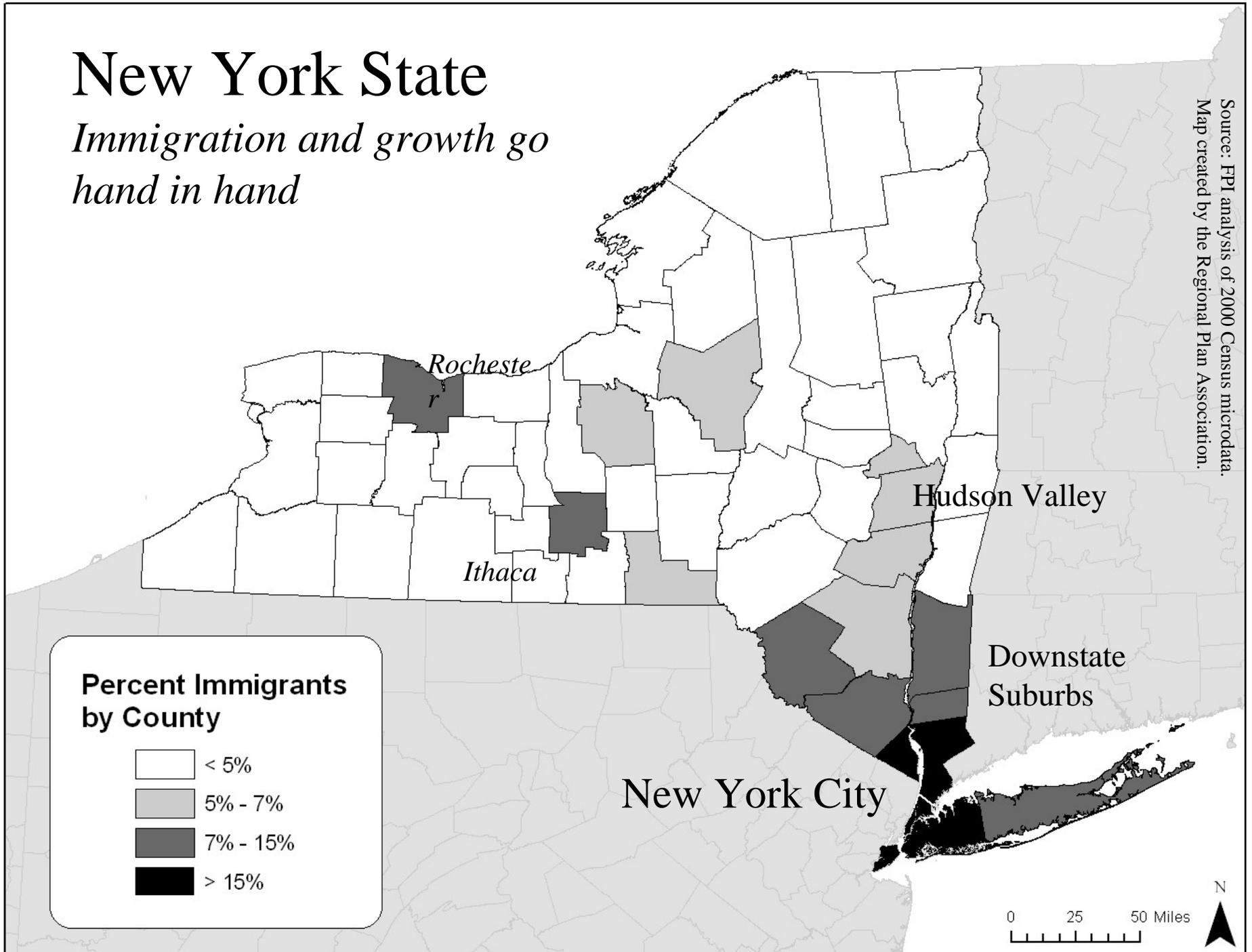


Source: FPI analysis of 2005 ACS PUMS. Working age is 16-64 years old.

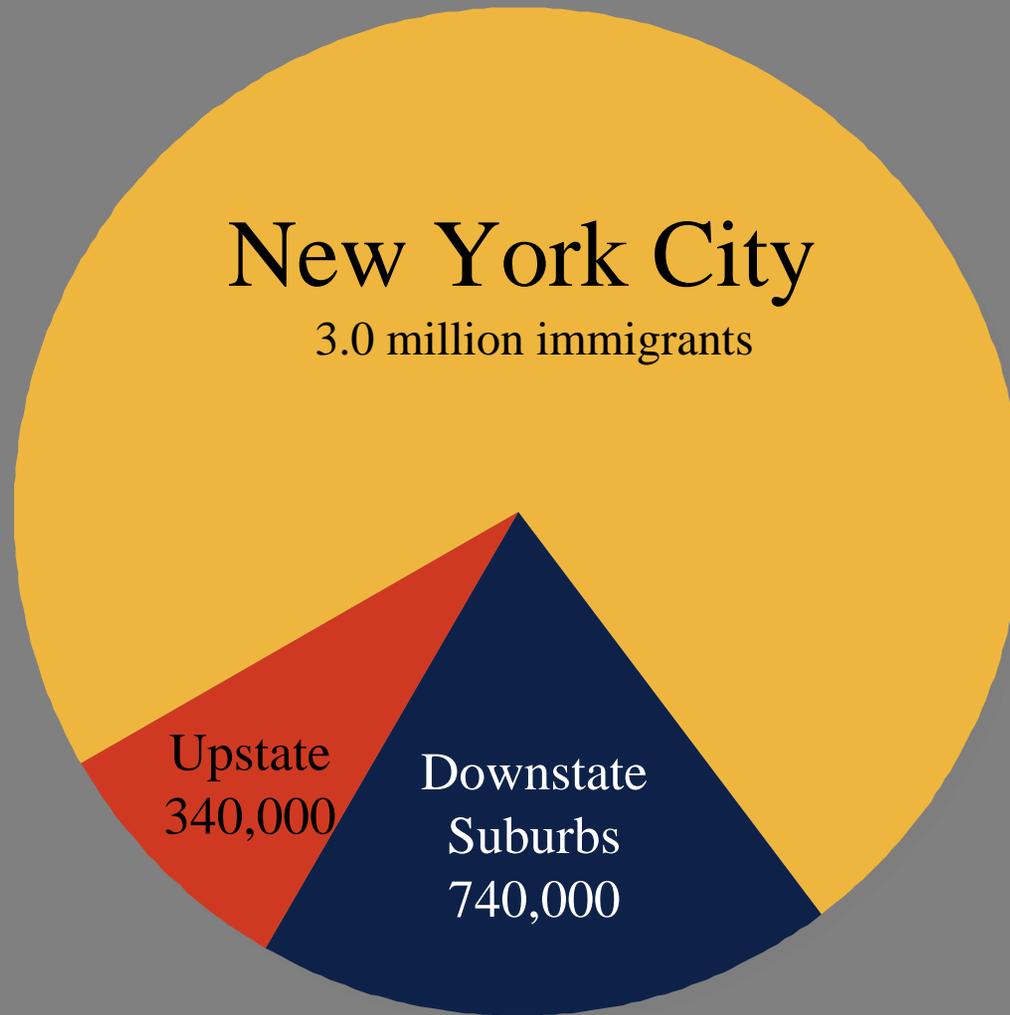
# New York State

*Immigration and growth go hand in hand*

Source: FPI analysis of 2000 Census microdata.  
Map created by the Regional Plan Association.



Of the **4 million** immigrants in New York State



Downstate Suburbs

- Westchester
- Rockland
- Putnam
- Nassau
- Suffolk

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

*Westchester* has the highest *share* of immigrants  
in the region surrounding New York City

2005 ACS

	<b>Foreign-born</b>	<b>Total population</b>	<b>foreign- born</b>
Westchester	228,796	915,916	25%
Rockland	58,066	285,088	20%
Nassau	261,428	1,310,076	20%
Suffolk	183,360	1,444,642	13%
Putnam	11,265	98,303	11%
Total	742,915	4,054,025	18%

Source: 2005 ACS (American Factfinder).

# Immigrants in Westchester towns and cities

2005-07 ACS combined file	percent of population that is foreign-born	percent of foreign-born who are naturalized citizens	percent of all citizens who are foreign-born
Cortlandt town	14%	59%	9%
Eastchester town	21%	47%	11%
Greenburgh town	24%	49%	14%
Harrison town	19%	42%	9%
Mamaroneck town	21%	44%	10%
Mount Pleasant town	19%	45%	10%
Mount Vernon city	29%	45%	16%
New Rochelle city	30%	41%	15%
Ossining town	24%	42%	12%
Peekskill city	37%	29%	14%
Rye town	34%	29%	13%
Somers town	8%	63%	5%
White Plains city	32%	42%	16%
Yonkers city	28%	51%	17%
Yorktown town	14%	60%	9%
Other in Westchester County	16%	49%	8%
<b>Westchester total</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>13%</b>

Source: 2005-07 ACS combined file

# Westchester is becoming **diverse** and **global**

## *Top countries of origin for immigrants in Westchester*

Mexico	9%	Portugal	2%
Jamaica	7%	Ireland	2%
Italy	6%	Korea	2%
India	5%	Germany	2%
Brazil	3%	Poland	2%
Colombia	3%	El Salvador	1%
Japan	2%	England	1%
Phillipines	2%	Canada	1%

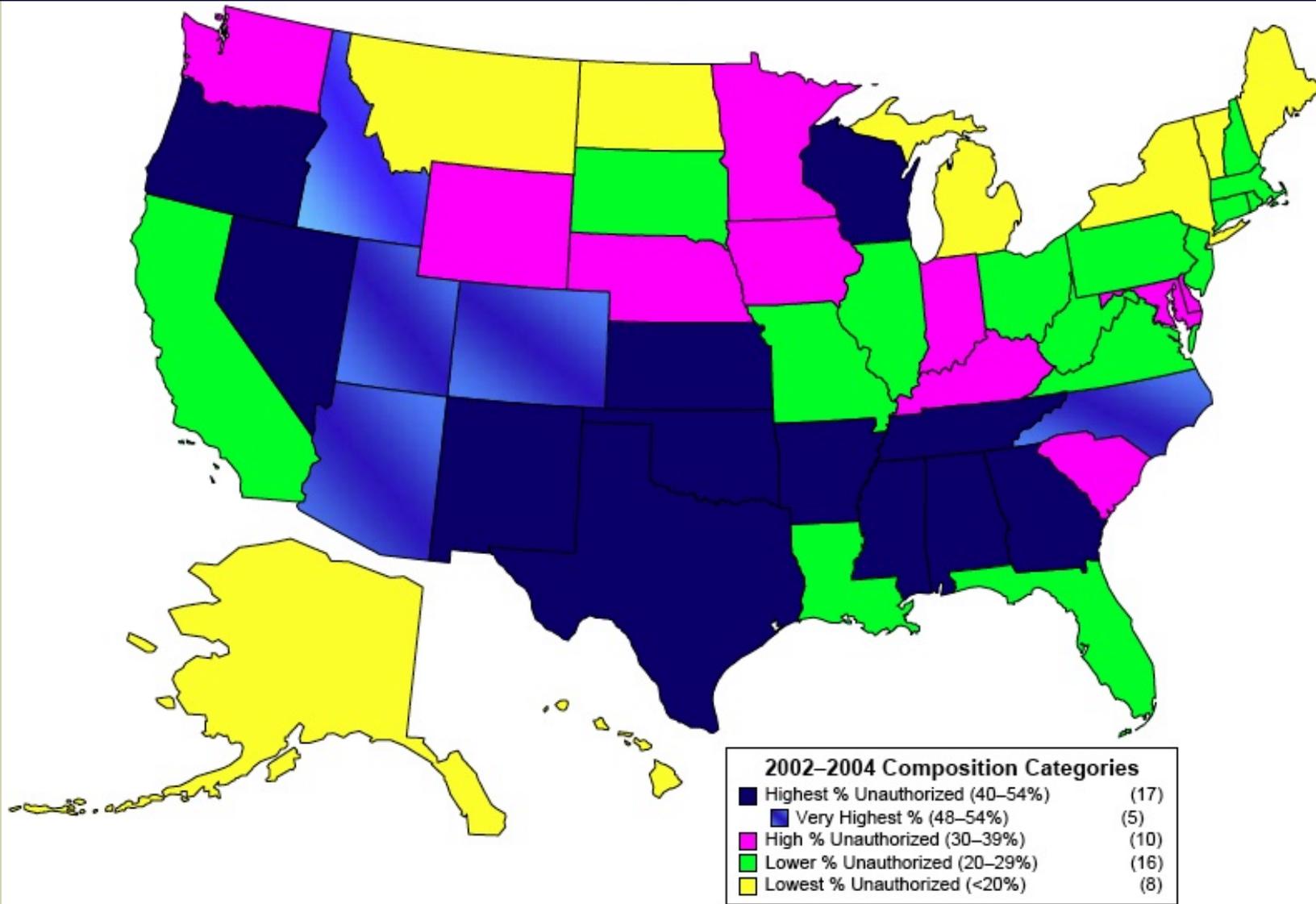
*That's still just over half (53 percent) of immigrants*

# Westchester is becoming **diverse** and **global**

	<b>How many in group are immigrants?</b>	<b>How many immigrants are in group?</b>	<b>Percent of total population of Westchester</b>
<b>Non-Hispanic</b>			
<b>White</b>	12%	30%	61%
<b>Black</b>	22%	13%	14%
<b>Asian</b>	72%	17%	6%
<b>Other</b>	51%	26%	12%
 <i>Hispanic of any race</i>	 51%	 39%	 18%

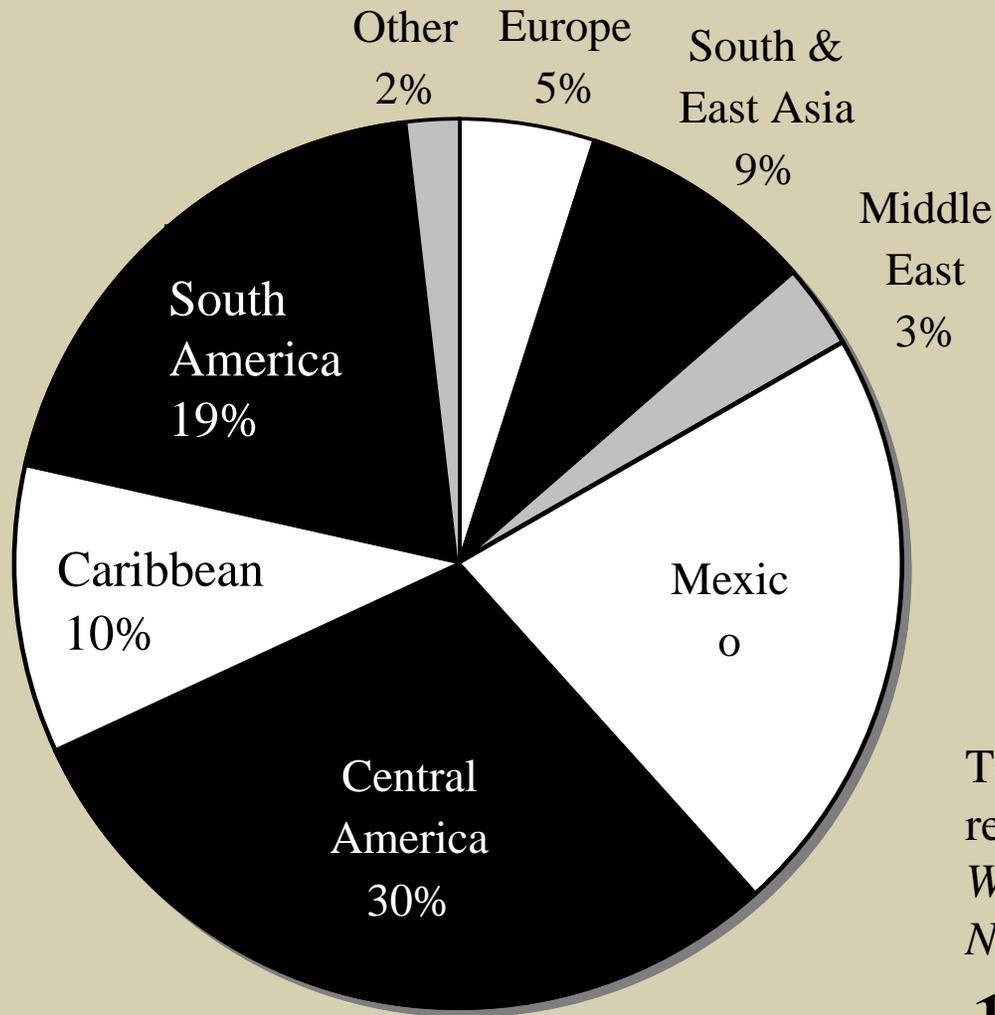
Source: FPI analysis of 2005-07 combined file.

The debate often turns on illegal immigration, and on *undocumented* immigrants, NY is a “yellow” state



Source: Jeffrey S. Passell, “Unauthorized Migrants: Numbers and Characteristics,” Pew Hispanic Center, 2005

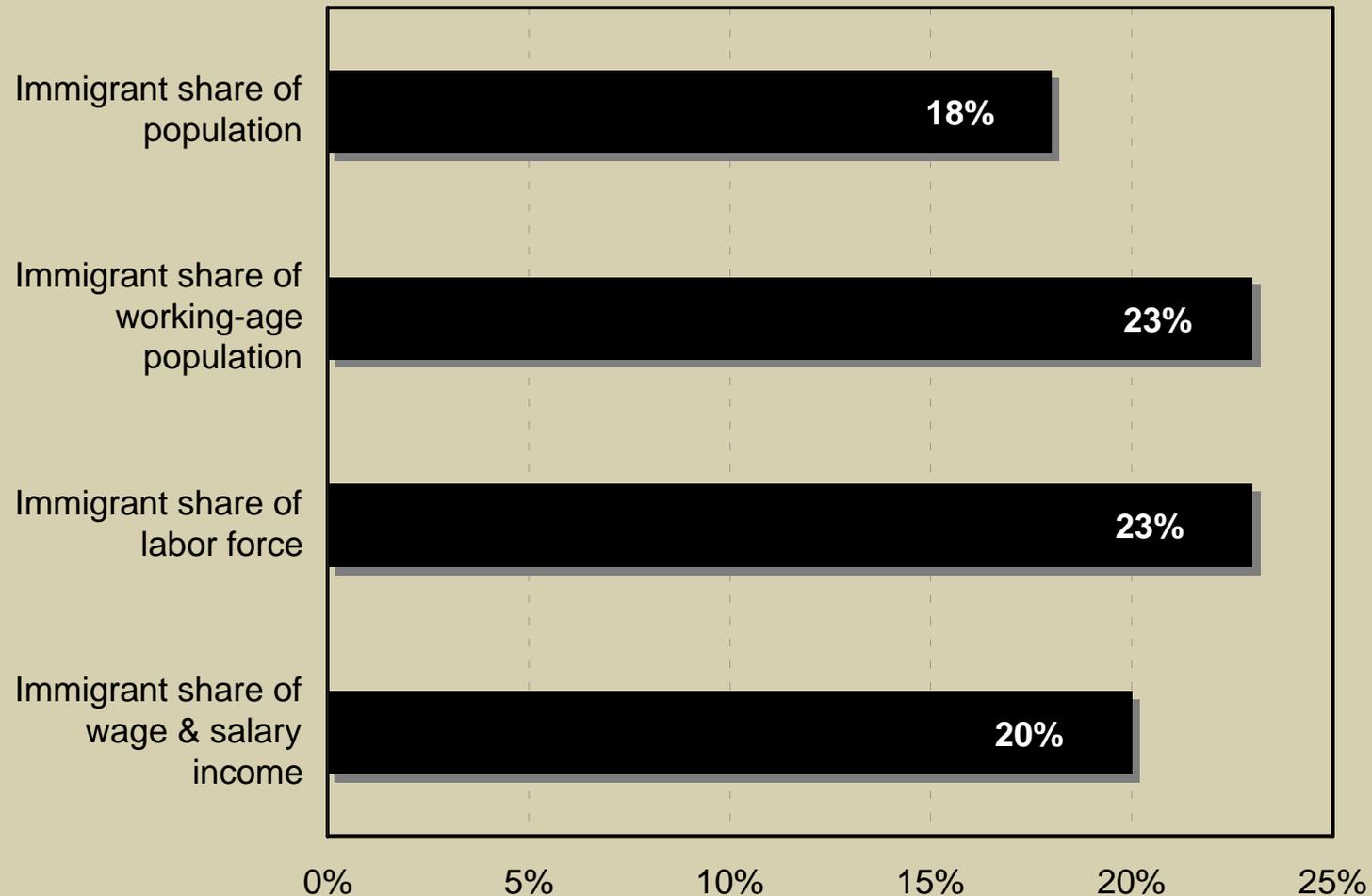
# Even undocumented immigration is more diverse than you may think



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 Westchester, Nassau & Suffolk  
**130,000**

# Immigrant contribution to the **downstate suburbs**



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

# Median family income

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 in the area.

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 in Westchester...*

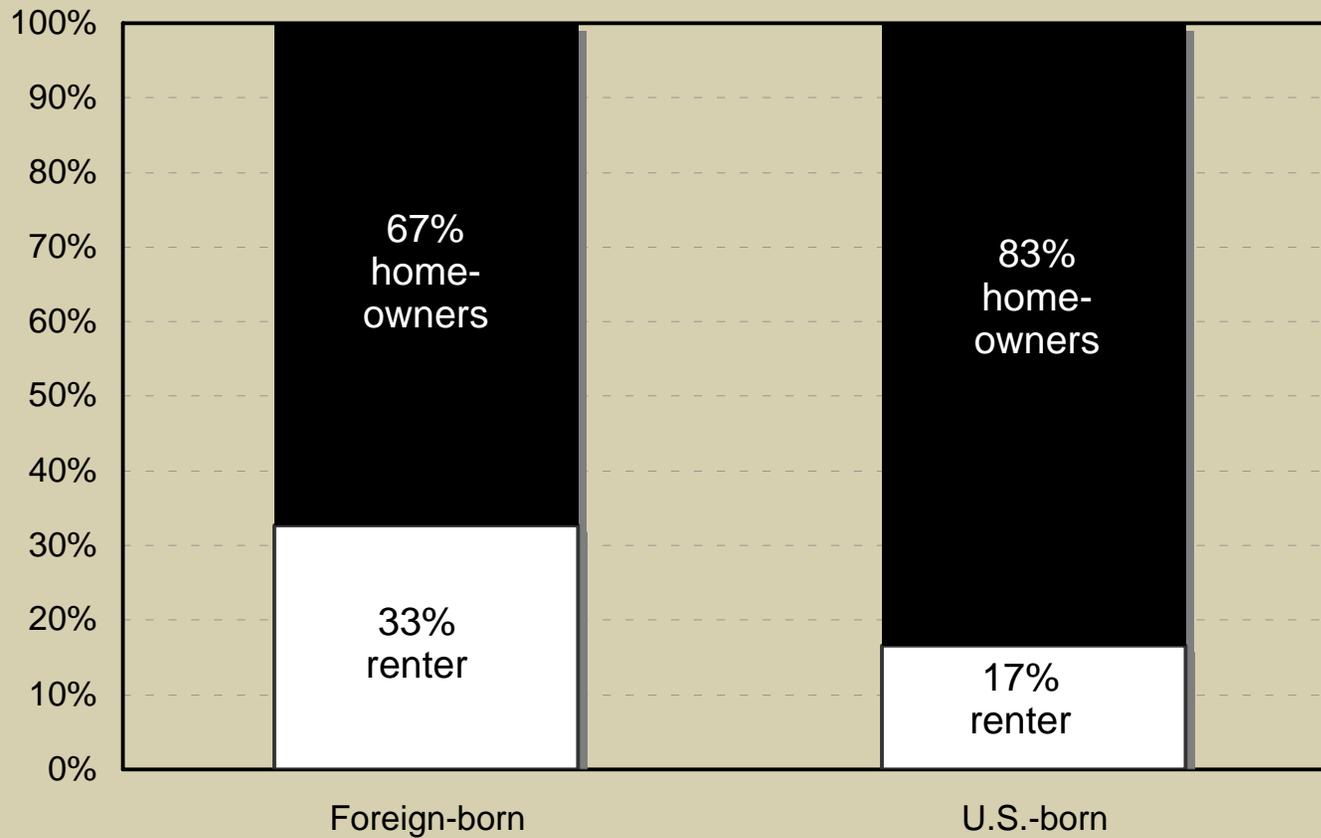
**office and administrative support** is the most occupational group with the largest number of immigrants (16,000) making up 20 percent of all workers in the group

**30%** of **architects and engineers** are foreign-born

**41%** of people working in **health care support**

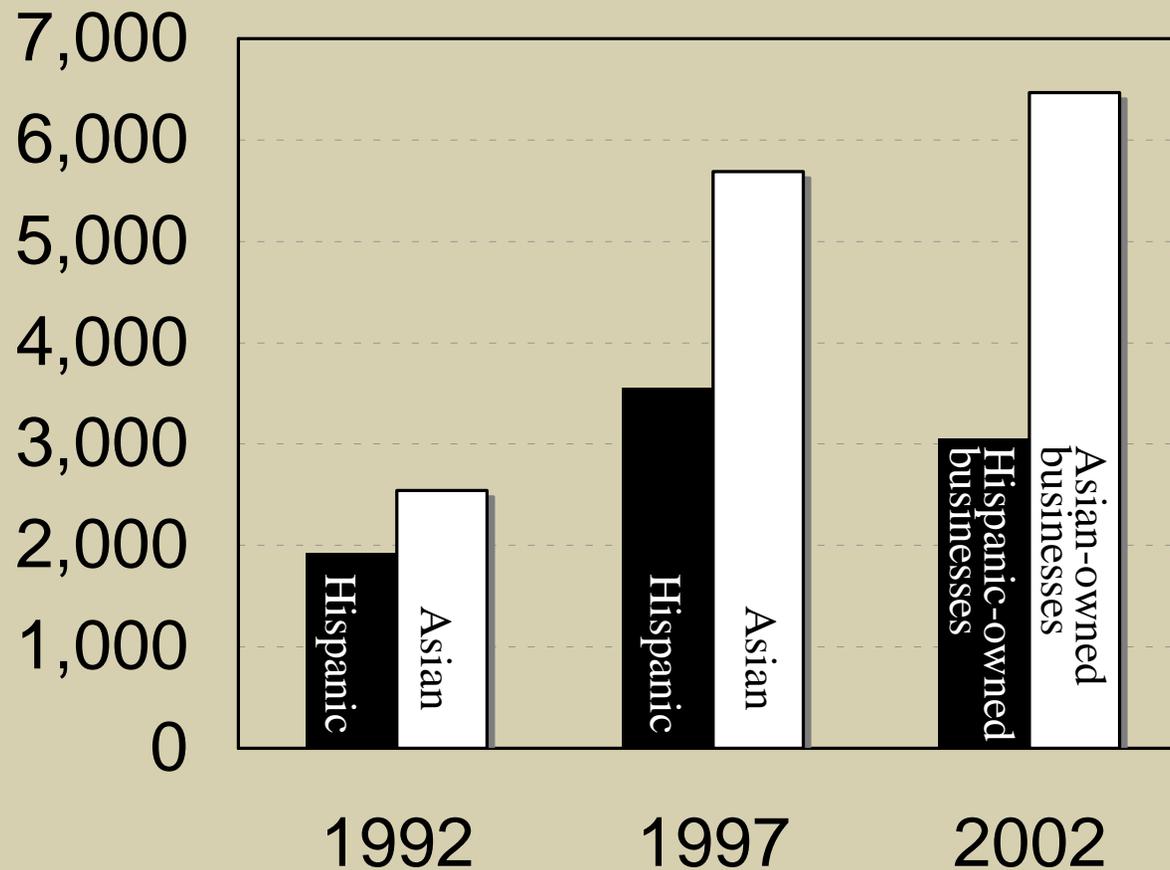
**23%** of **sales** workers

# Immigrants *own homes*



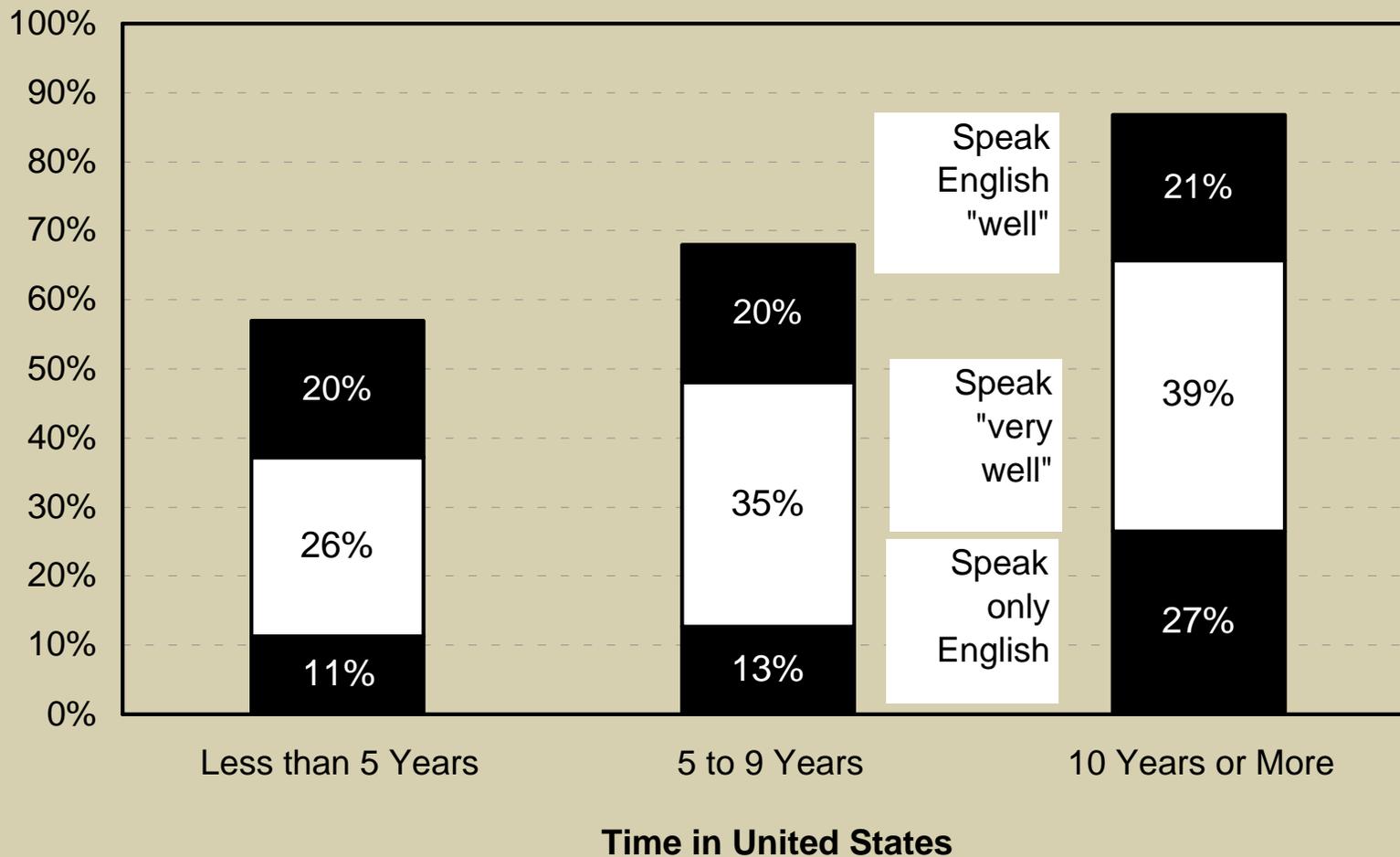
Source: 2005 ACS (American Factfinder), tables B06013.  
Numbers and shares refer to total people living in households.

## Immigrants *start businesses*



Source: FPI analysis of 1992, 1997, and 2002 Economic Census (2002 data released August 2006). Analysis is of firms with employees, and excludes firms without employees.

# Immigrants *learn English*



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

What taxes do *undocumented* immigrants always pay?

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

**state and local sales tax**

What taxes are *underpaid*?

**income tax**

**payroll taxes**

Employers often avoid:

**Unemployment insurance, workers'  
compensation, disability insurance**



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

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

Downstate suburbs: 31%

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

# Fiscal Policy Institute's

Immigration Research Initiative

Working for a Better Life

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