

# Undocumented Immigrants in Orange County

2025 Data Estimates




## ABOUT

The USC Dornsife Equity Research Institute (ERI) produces data-driven analysis and rigorous research, leads convenings, engages in strategic collaborations, and seeks to model what it means to be an effective, sustainable, and racially-just research center.

At ERI, we provide data and analysis to power social change. When communities come together across race, space, and place, movements for change build and have an impact on greater scales of governance. One of the many elements required to make this sort of change is research—the niche occupied by ERI. ERI has contributed reliable data in the areas of environmental justice, immigrant integration, regional equity, and movement building that is academically rigorous as well as relevant to policy debates.

ERI is a research unit housed within the University of Southern California and has long worked with groups supporting immigrant inclusion.






The recent attacks on immigrants have harmed communities and sown fear. People are being taken in unmarked vehicles and disappeared without their right to due process. [People are not going to work, businesses and restaurants are shutting down, food prices are on the rise, schools, hospitals, and churches](#) are no longer safe.

These raids are devastating our economy, with statewide losses under a scenario of deporting all undocumented workers hovering around [\\$275 billion](#), caused by labor shortages, delays, increased prices, and decreased business activity. A single raid can destabilize a neighborhood's entire [economy](#) and can have resounding effects to disrupt entire industries. Unable to afford missing work, some force themselves to work [in an atmosphere of fear](#) that extends to the families and friends of undocumented immigrants.

The immigration raids ripple through every aspect of our lives and make communities less safe for *everyone*, not just undocumented immigrants. These raids uproot lives, tear families apart, endanger our communities, and take away our rights. To secure thriving communities, a fair economy, and the kind of country we want to live in, we must pay attention and take action to ensure that our immigrant communities can flourish and feel secure.

We hope this data on our impacted immigrant communities support the ongoing efforts happening in the movement to fight for justice and make our communities safer.



“We insist that immigrant inclusion is everyone’s business. It is a dynamic, reciprocal relationship in which immigrants and their receiving society both benefit as they work together to build safe, thriving, and connected communities. Here, we provide insights of key indicators and lift up resources to help keep our region moving forward on the path to inclusion for all.” – [State of Los Angeles, 2024](#)

We organize this analysis by asking three main questions to understand the impacts of ICE raids on Orange County:

- What is the **demographic** breakdown of our undocumented immigrant population?
- What is the impact of immigration raids on the **local economy**?
- What **support** is needed in our immigrant communities during this time?

We need to support our immigrant communities to help keep our region moving forward on the **path to inclusion for all**.

**NEARLY A THIRD (31%)**

of Orange County's residents are  
**immigrants (1,009,500)**

**OVER A FIFTH (21%)**

of the immigrant population  
are **undocumented (210,900)**

Race	Total	Number of Immigrants and Share of Total Population		Number of Undocumented and Share of Immigrant Population	
White	1,197,400	138,300	12%	10,700	8%
Black	49,000	7,000	14%	1,200	17%
Latino	1,117,800	400,800	36%	157,500	39%
Asian American	696,100	439,800	63%	38,400	9%
Pacific Islander	8,800	1,900	22%	-	2%
Other/mixed race	154,800	21,700	14%	3,000	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,224,000</b>	<b>1,009,500</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>210,900</b>	<b>21%</b>

Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Note: Latinos include people of Hispanic origin of any race and all other groups exclude people of Hispanic origin. Disaggregated data for Native Americans is not included due to small sample sizes and are grouped into other/mixed race. Some share of undocumented migrants are Indigenous but this is hard to estimate. See CIELO and ERI's [Indigenous Migrants in Los Angeles County report](#) for more information.

Among immigrants in Orange County, **Latinos (39%)** are more likely to be undocumented than other racial/ethnic groups, followed by **Black (13%)**, **Mixed Race/Other (13%)**, **Asian American (9%)**, and **white (8%)** immigrants.

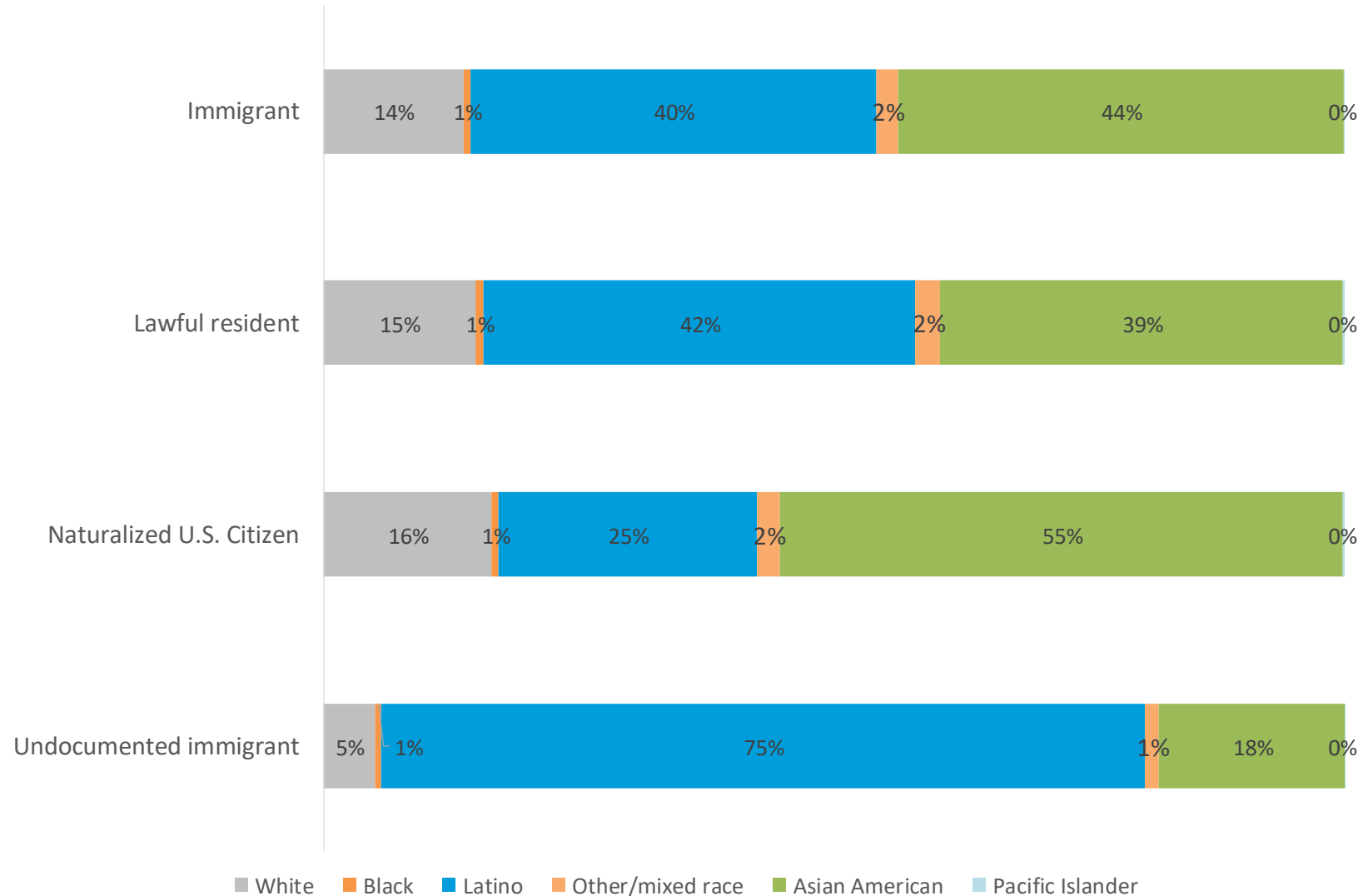
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Over **two thirds** of undocumented immigrants in Orange County are **Latino (75%)** and **nearly a fifth** are **Asian American (18%)**.

Immigration Status by Race, Orange County, 2019-2023



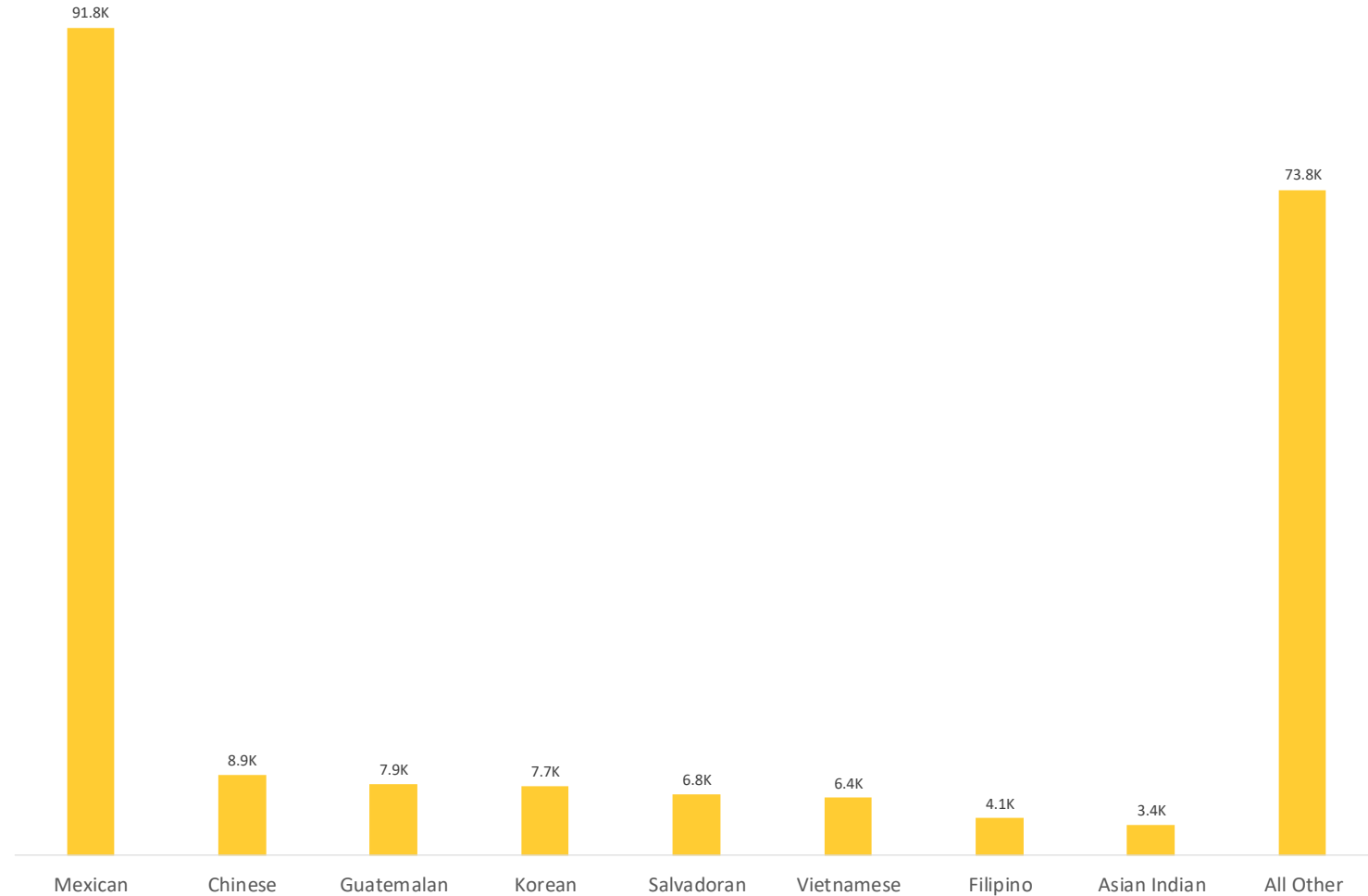
Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Note: Data labels are hidden for values less than 1%.

There are over **91,800** undocumented immigrants of Mexican ancestry in Orange County, making up the **largest share** of the undocumented population in the county.

Among Asian ethnic groups, **Chinese** (8,900) and **Filipino** (7,700) undocumented immigrants are among the largest share of the population.

Undocumented Immigrants by Ancestry, Orange County, 2019-2023



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.



Although there are **over 210,000 undocumented immigrants** in Orange County, the impact of policies targeting undocumented immigrants have even larger ripple effects for families and communities across the county as well as the local economy.

**Over 491,000**

people in Orange County are either **undocumented** or **living with undocumented family members** and make up a racially diverse population.

Race	Number of Undocumented and Family Members Living With Them
White	26,000
Black	3,000
Latino	371,000
Asian American	84,000
Mixed/other	7,000
Total	491,000

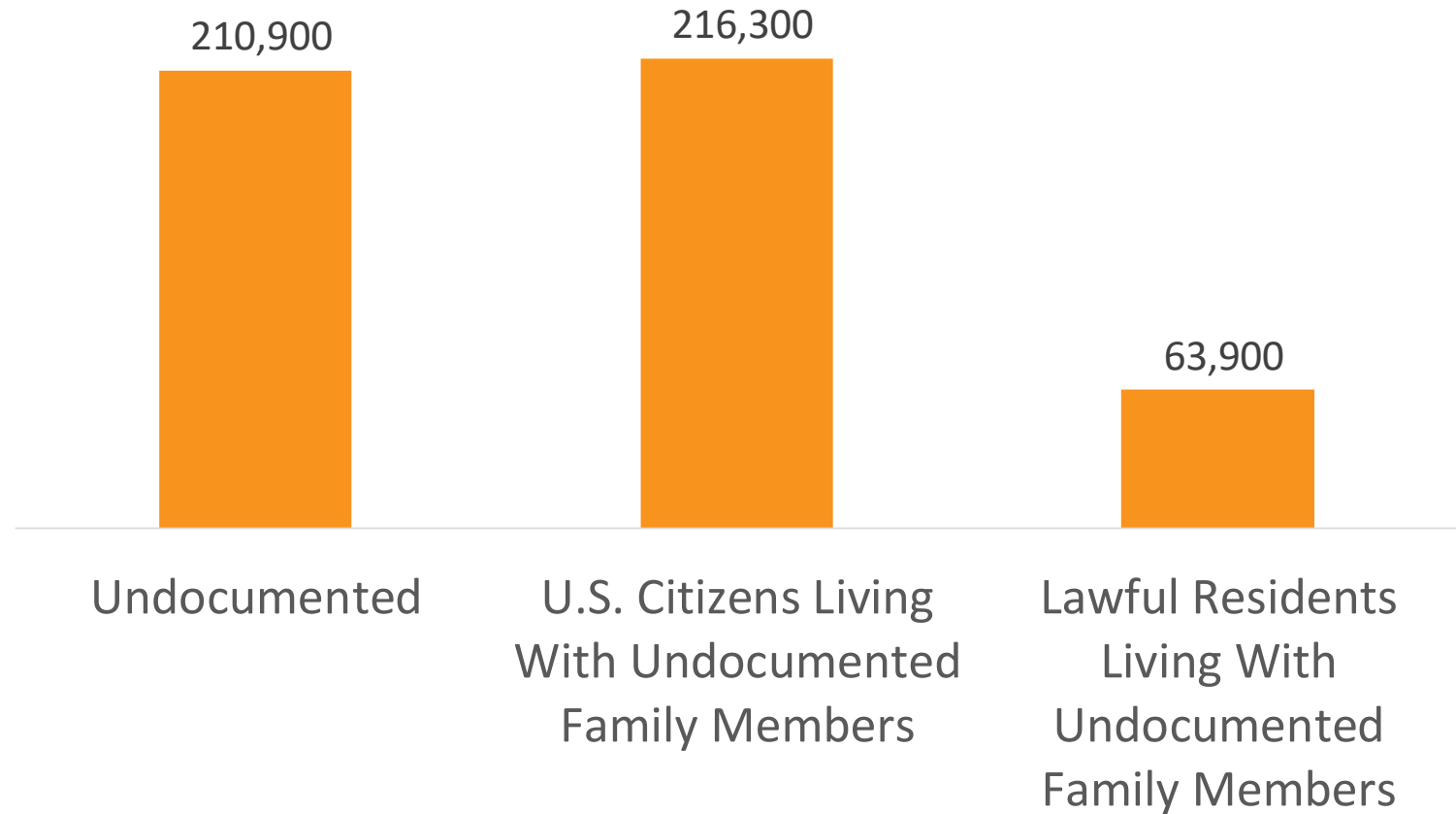
Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

APPROXIMATELY

**216,300**

**U.S. citizens in Orange County  
are living with undocumented  
family members**

Undocumented Immigrants and Residents Living with  
Undocumented Family Members, Orange County,  
2019-2023



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

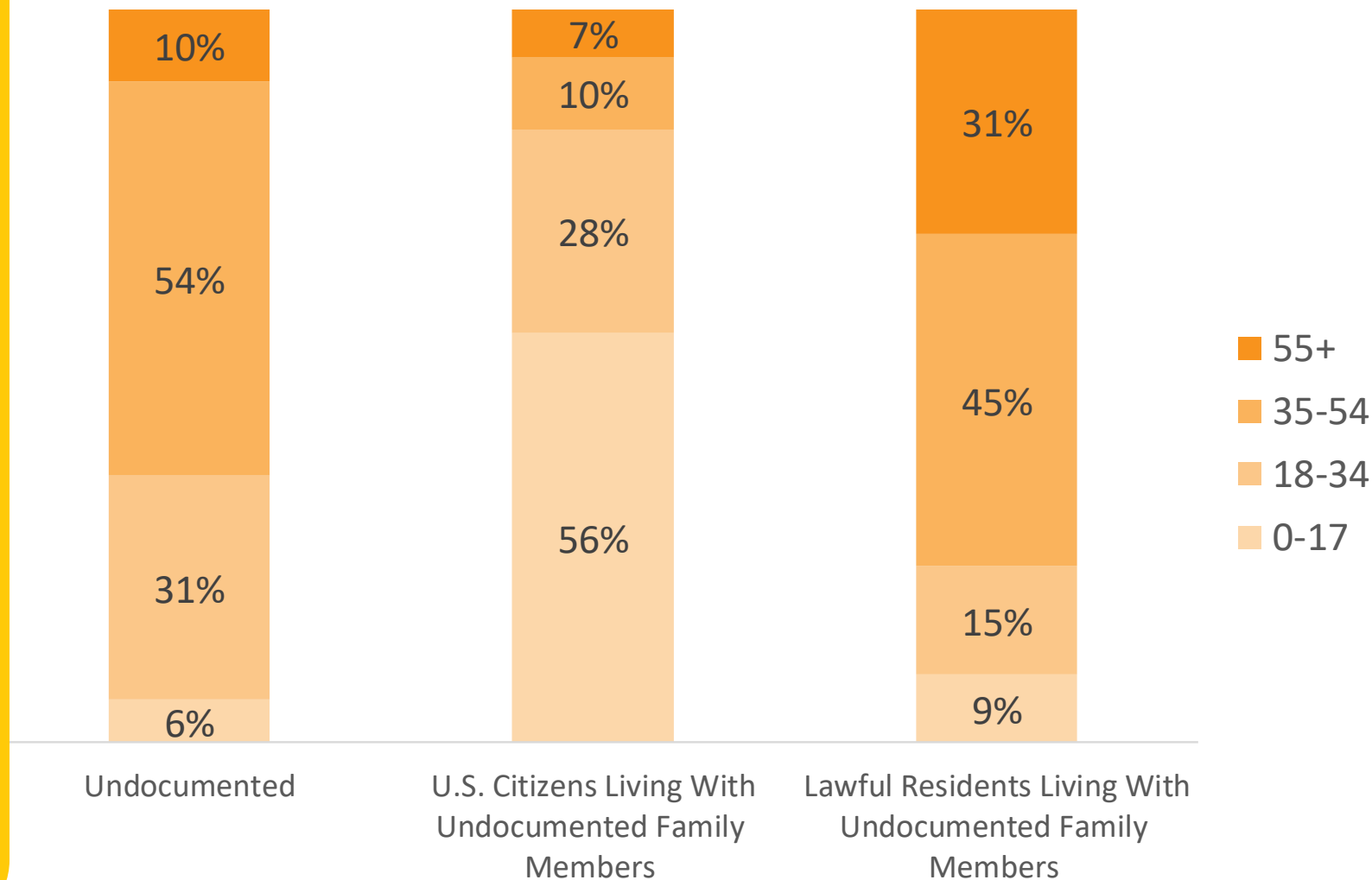
# 32,100

Among children in Orange County ages 5 and under with parents living in their household, **16% (32,100) have at least one undocumented parent.**



Youth living with undocumented family members will be heavily impacted by ICE raids as we see **more than half** (56%) of U.S. citizens with undocumented family members are 17 years old and younger.

Mixed Status Families by Age Group, Orange County, 2019-2023

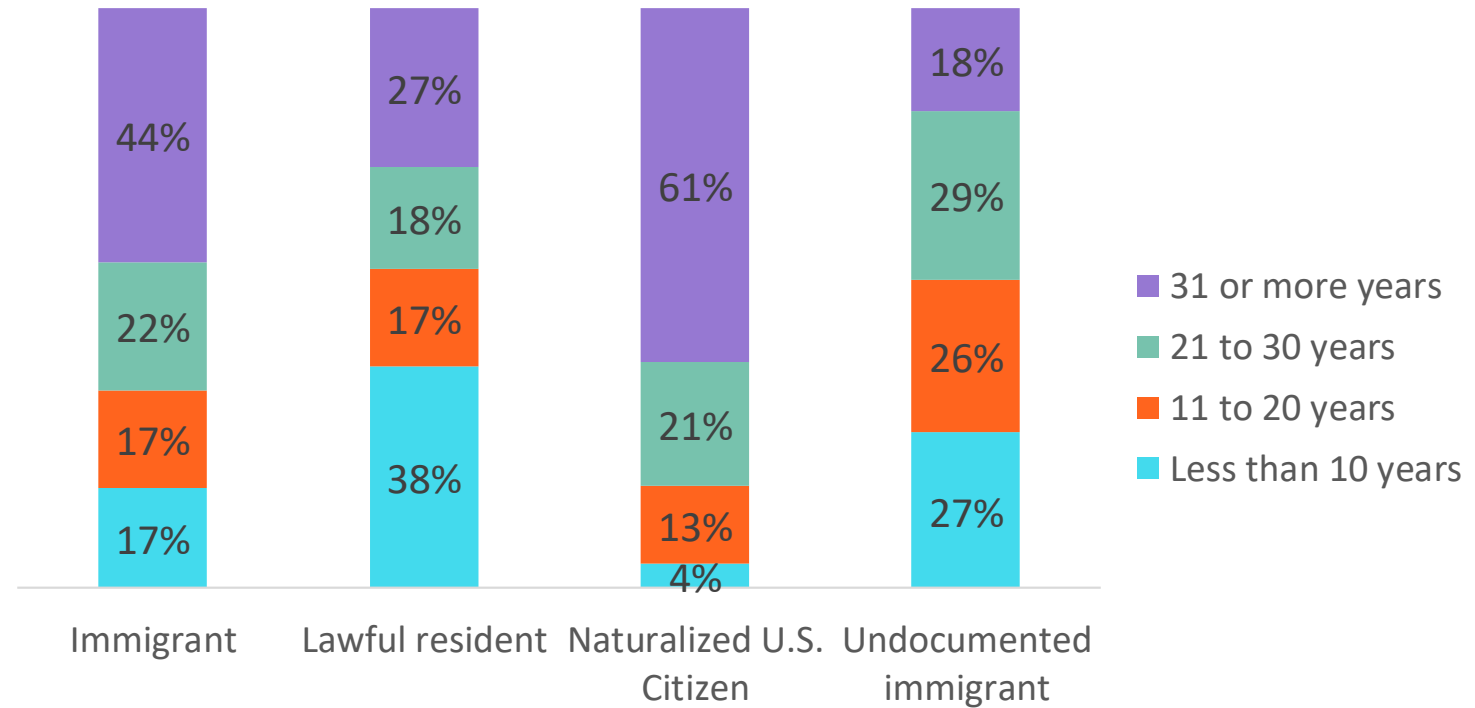


Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

## NEARLY THREE QUARTERS

of the undocumented population in Orange County have been in the country for **more than a decade** and have planted deep roots in the region.

Share of Immigrants by Recency of Arrival and Immigration Status, Orange County, 2019-2023

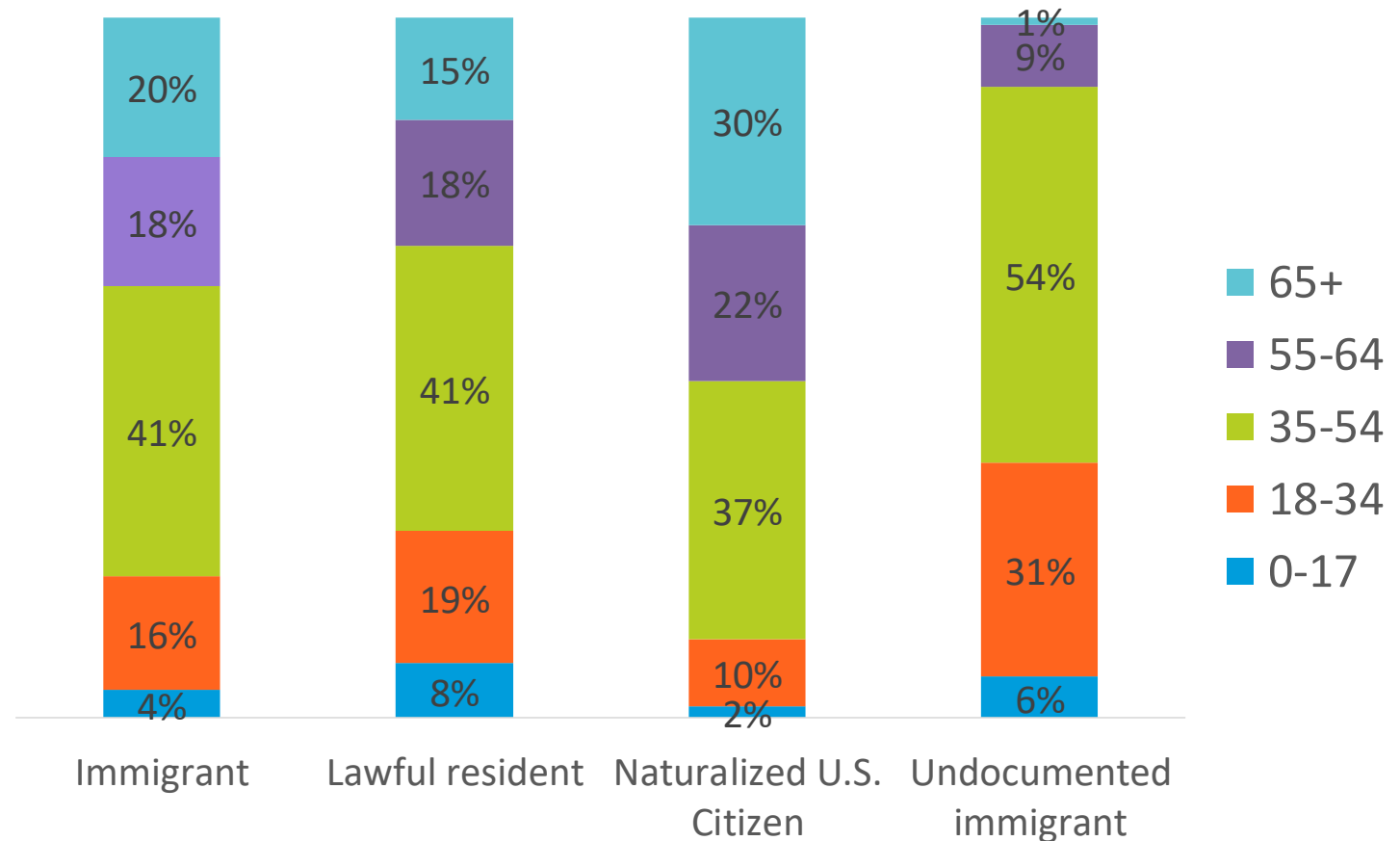


Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

**OVER 90%**

of undocumented immigrants in Orange County are of **prime working age** (ages 18-64) and are an integral part of the local economy.

Age Group by Status, Orange County, 2019-2023



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

ICE raids have had **negative** consequences on the local economy as the impacted immigrant communities are not reporting to work or avoiding public spaces **out of fear of getting deported themselves or exposing someone who could be at risk of being deported.**

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In 2023, undocumented immigrants in Orange County contributed

**\$603 MILLION**  
in federal taxes

**\$556 MILLION**  
IN STATE + LOCAL TAXES

and had a spending power of:

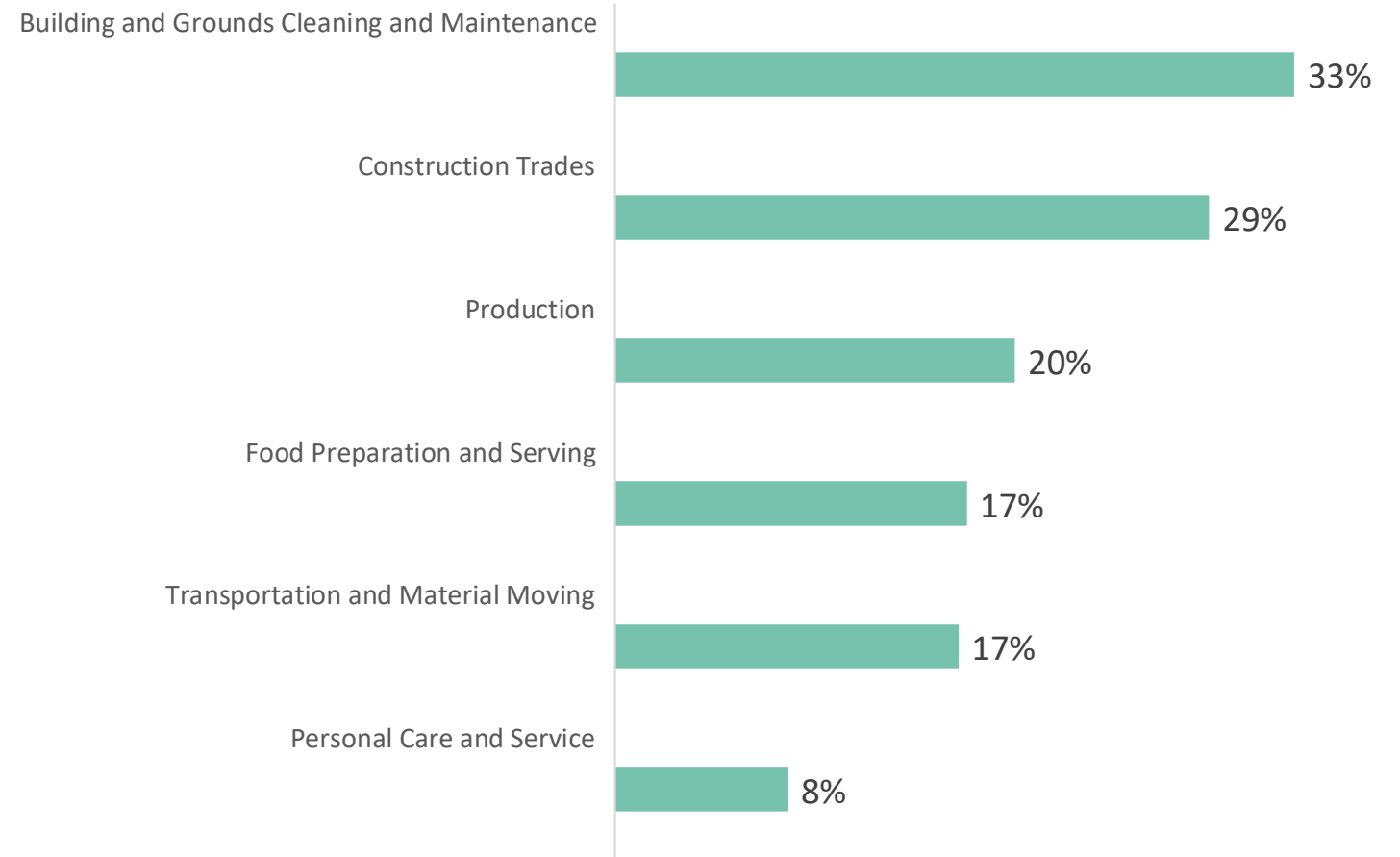
**\$5.3 billion**

Data source: IPUMS USA; Congressional Budget Office; Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

Across industries, the occupations with the **largest share** of undocumented workers in Orange County are in:

- **BUILDING AND GROUNDS CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE (33%)**
- **CONSTRUCTION TRADES (29%)**
- **PRODUCTION (20%)**

Shared of Undocumented Workers (for Occupations With More Than 50,000 Workers), Orange County, 2019-2023



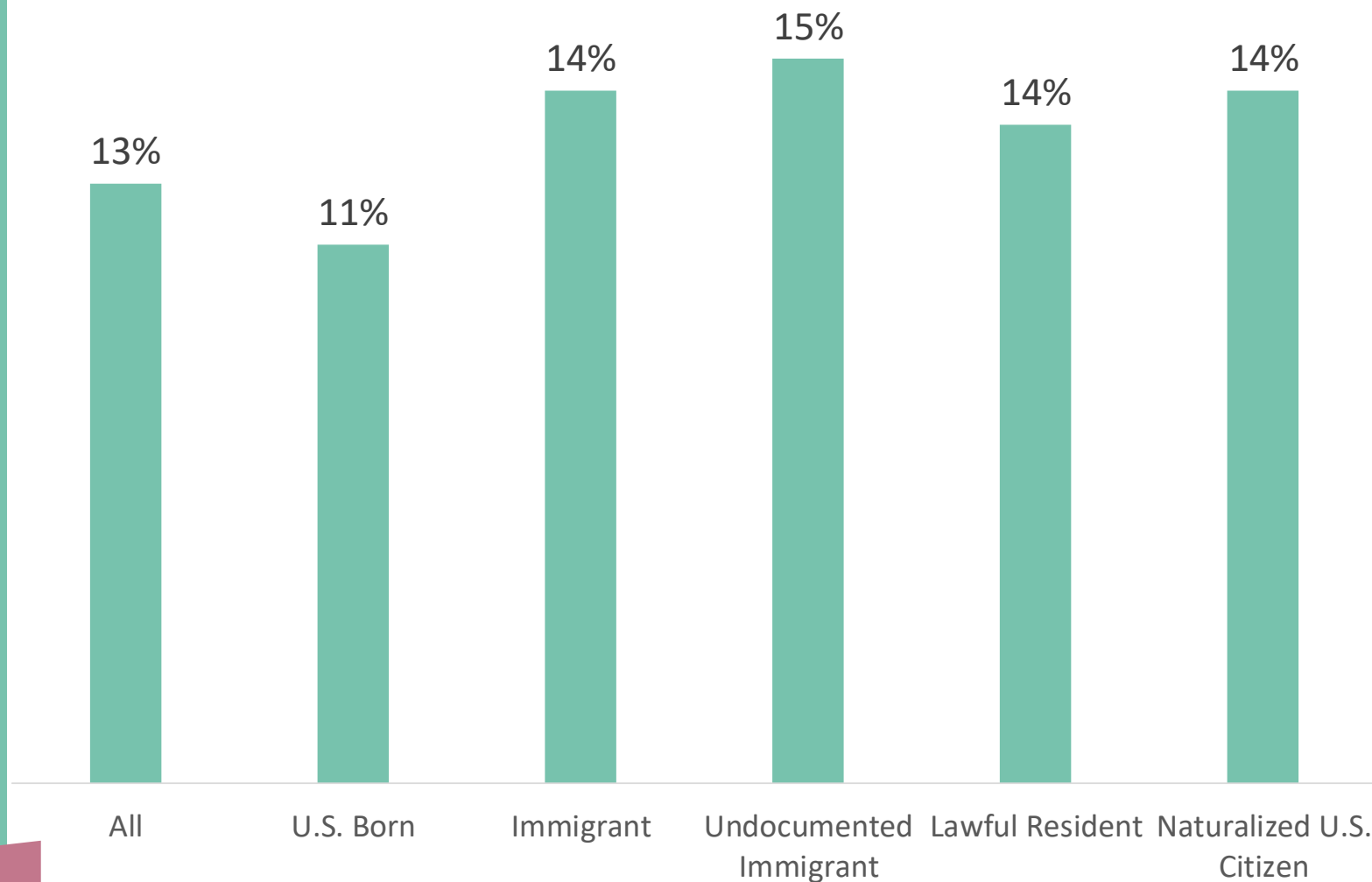
Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.





About 15% of currently employed undocumented population ages 25 to 64 are **self-employed** as small business owners and entrepreneurs, which includes street vendors who have been particularly vulnerable to ICE raids.

Share of People Age 25-64 Self-Employed by Immigration Status, Orange County, 2019-2023

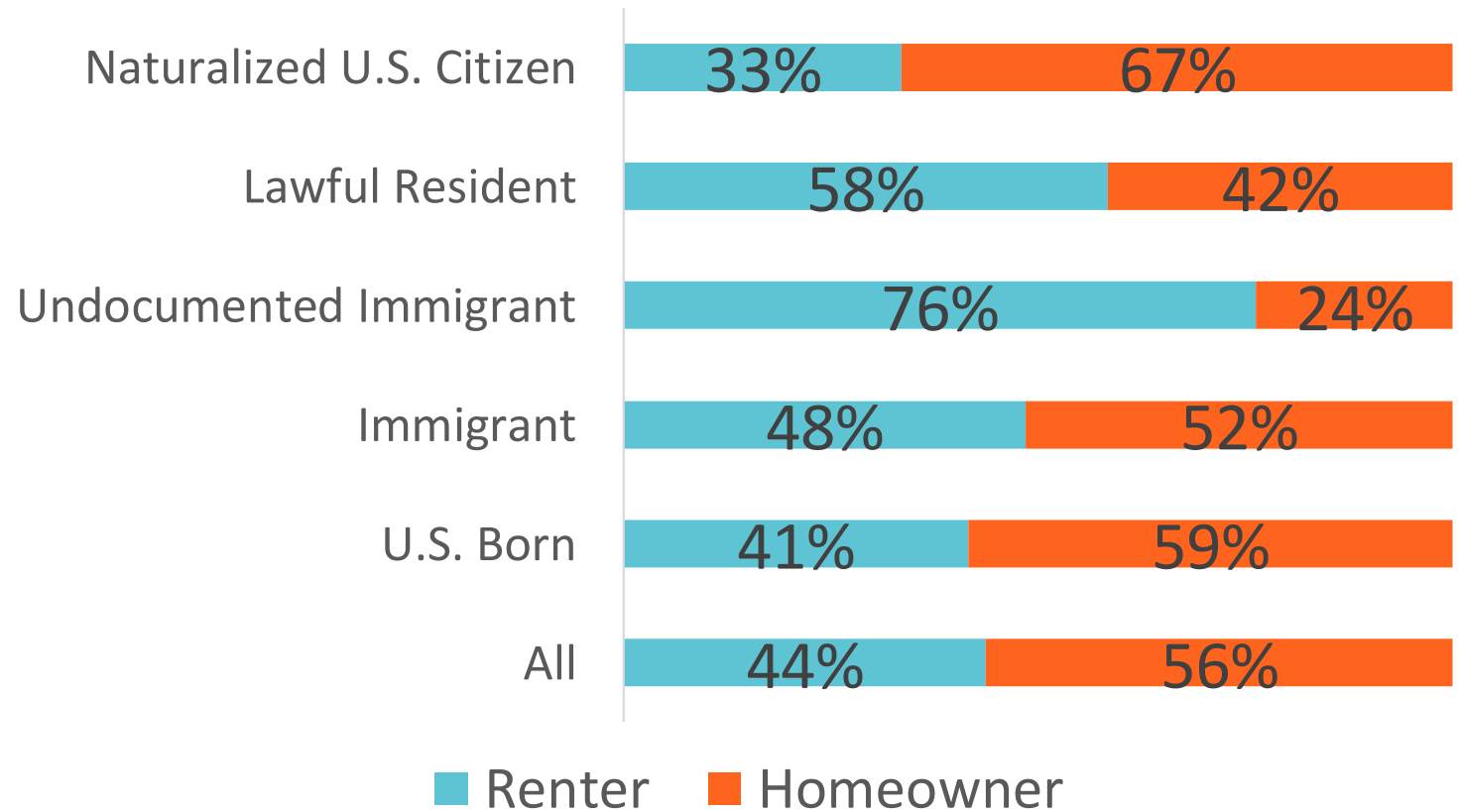


Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Undocumented immigrants in Orange County are **more likely to be renters**, where **76%** of the population are renters compared to 48% of the overall immigrant population in the county.

With fears around ICE raids and the possibility that undocumented workers may choose not to show up for work, there is also a great risk of missing rent payments and becoming even more vulnerable to losing housing.

## Homeownership by Immigration Status, Orange County, 2019-2023



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

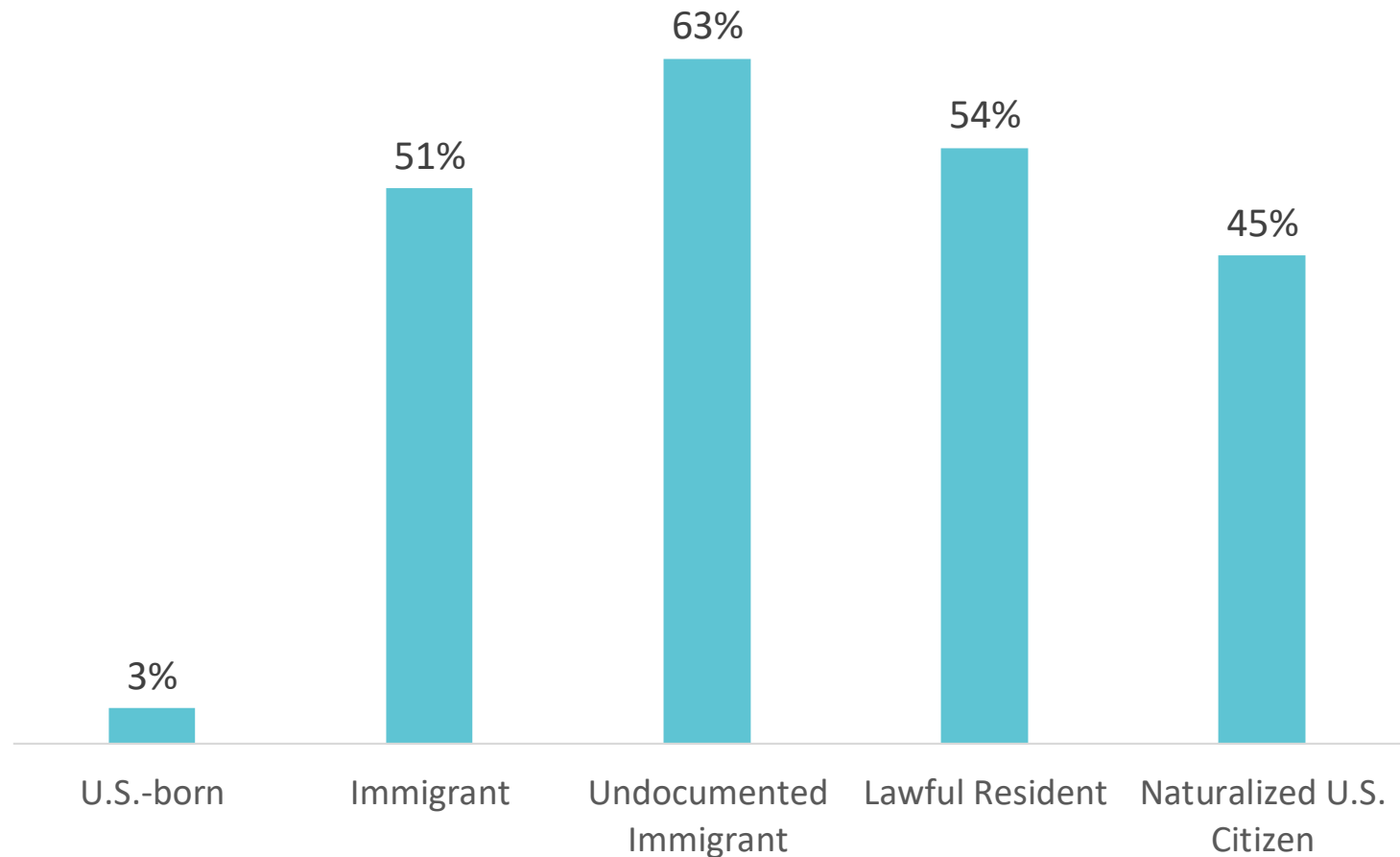
Assistance programs targeting undocumented immigrants need to consider the much **higher rates** of limited English proficiency (LEP) as

**63%**

of undocumented immigrants in Orange County are considered **LEP**.

Limited English Proficiency includes those who don't speak English at least "very well."

Limited English Proficient by Immigration Status, Orange County, 2019-2023



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Limited English proficiency expands **beyond** undocumented immigrants. Linguistic isolation is defined as households where no member age 14 years or older speaks only English or speaks English at least very well.

Much higher linguistic isolation rates among households with undocumented immigrants suggest there are **accessibility needs** for entire families and households with undocumented immigrants.

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**20%**

of the **115,000** households in Orange County with undocumented family members are considered **linguistically isolated**.

The **top languages spoken**, aside from English, by undocumented immigrants in Orange County include:



Language	Number of Undocumented Immigrants	Share of Undocumented Immigrants
Spanish	149,200	71%
Vietnamese	7,900	4%
Korean	7,800	4%
Chinese	6,200	3%
Filipino, Tagalog	4,200	2%
Mandarin	2,900	1%

Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis of 2023 5-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

# Mutual Aid

Mutual aid groups—community led groups driven by principles of solidarity and reciprocity—are taking charge in supporting those who may choose to avoid public areas due to immigration sweeps and those who need legal assistance.

Groups such as the [Orange County Justice Fund](#), [Camino Immigration Services](#), and [Public Law Center](#) step in to support legal representation, while organizations such as [MMA Mutual Aid Fund](#) and the [Orange County Rapid Response Network](#) shop and deliver groceries and other essentials to those in need. The hole these groups fill to meet the need of those impacted are vital.

Community advocates, mutual aid, and local organizations are distributing "know your rights" information in various languages and forming legal observing groups that monitor civil rights violations.



## RESOURCES

Community organizations and volunteers have been strengthening their infrastructure to defend and protect our communities. Please see a short compilation of resources here:

### Orange County Organizations

- [VietRISE](#)
- [Orange County Rapid Response Network](#)
- [Harbor Institute](#)
- [Freedom for Immigrants](#)
- [Black Alliance for Just Immigration \(BAJI\)](#)
- [Haitian Bridge Alliance](#)
- [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#)
- [CHIRLA](#)

### DATA

- [California Immigrant Data Portal](#) – USC ERI
- [Deportation Data Project](#) – UC Berkeley
- [Immigration Enforcement Dashboard](#) – Dr. Austin Kocher
- [Mapping Deportations](#) – Center for Immigration Law and Policy and Million Dollar Hoods

### Free Legal Support in OC

- [Public Law Center](#): 714-541-1010, ext. 332
- [Camino Immigration Services](#): 657-217-2365
- [Community Legal Aid SoCal](#): 714-571-5200



# Undocumented Immigrants in Orange County, CA

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*Equity Research Institute*

*Photo by Oscar Ortega*

