



# A Demographic Profile of Mexican Immigrants in the United States

Ariel G Ruiz Soto

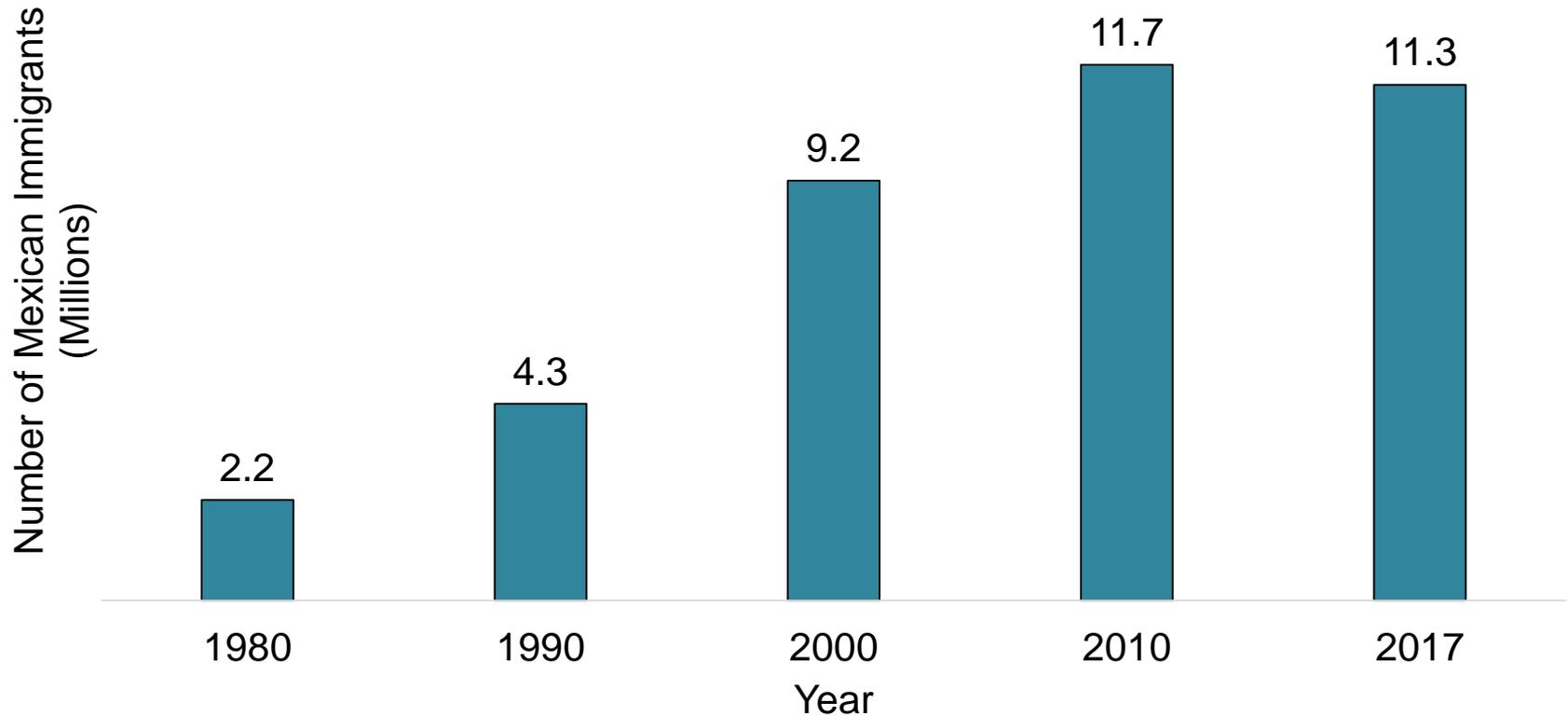
Associate Policy Analyst, U.S. Programs  
Migration Policy Institute

Mexico Institute, Wilson Center  
November 5, 2018



# Size of Mexican Immigrant Population Reaches Peak in 2010, Flattens and Decreases

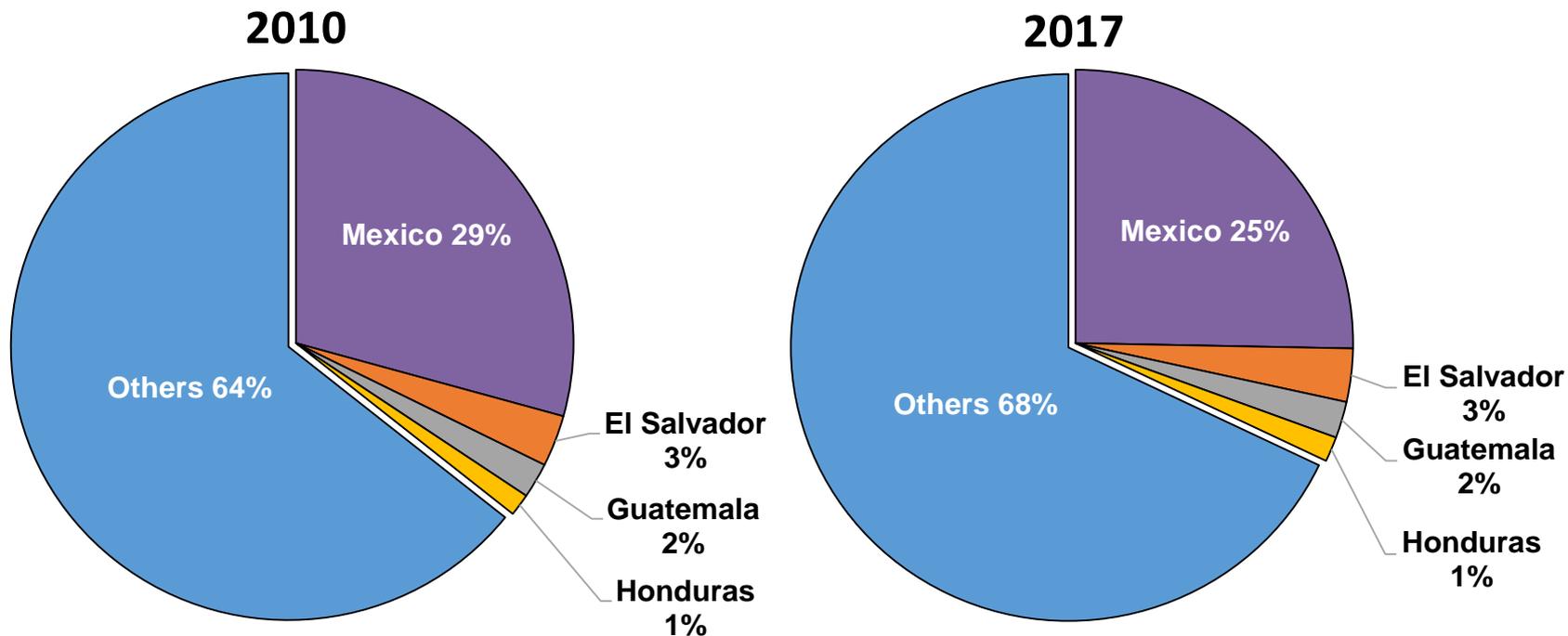
## Mexican Immigrant Population in the United States, 1980-2017



Sources: Data from U.S. Census Bureau 2010 and 2017 American Community Surveys (ACS); Campbell J. Gibson and Kay Jung, "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850-2000" (Working Paper no. 81, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, February 2006)

# Share of Mexican Immigrants Decreases, But Continues to Be Largest in 2017

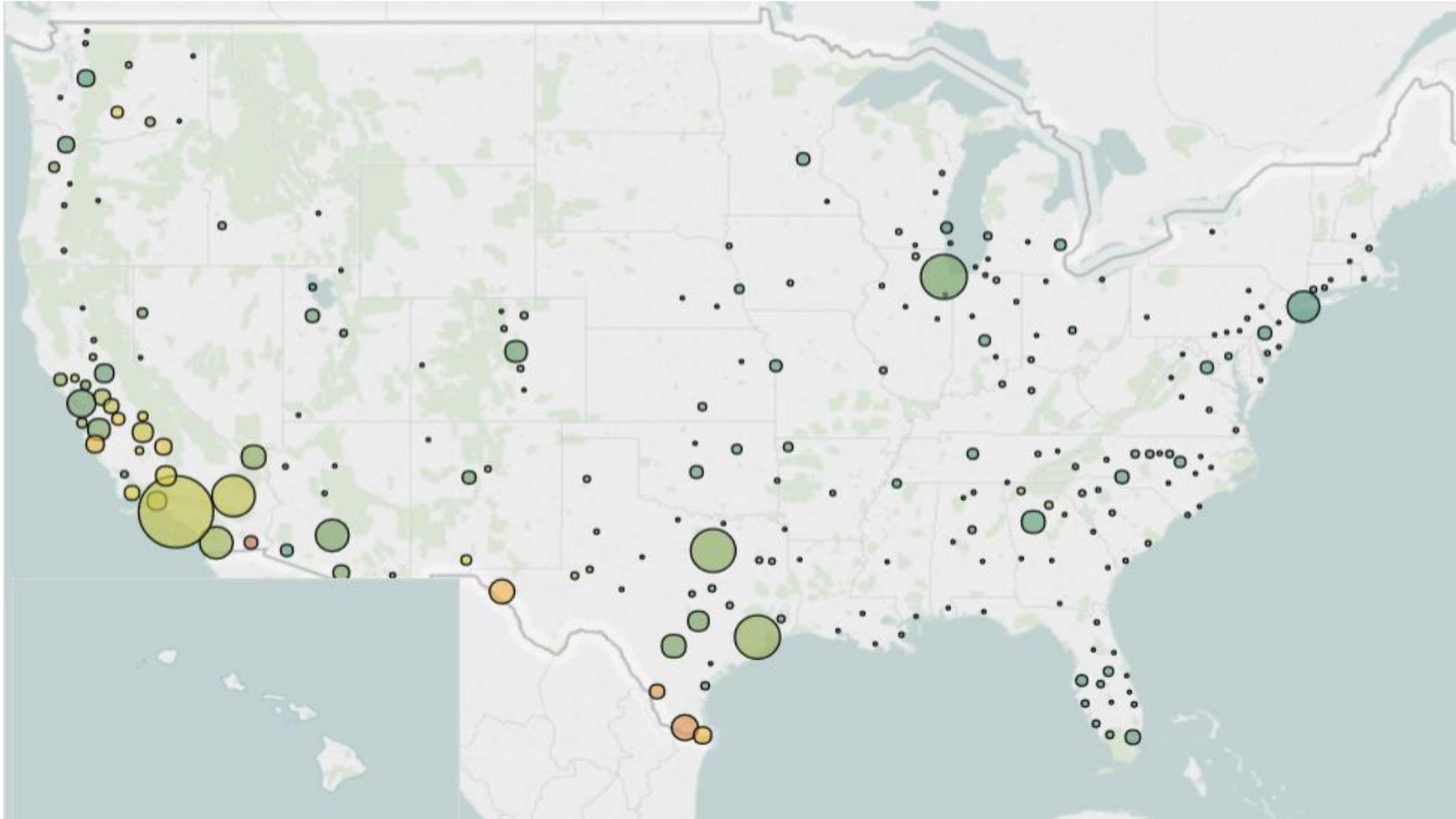
Immigrant Population in the U.S. by Selected Country of Birth, 2010 and 2017



Sources: MPI tabulation of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2010 and 2017 ACS.

© 2018 Migration Policy Institute

# Mexican Immigrants Concentrated in Traditional Receiving States



Share of Total MSA Population  
0.1%  29.4%

Sources: MPI tabulation of data from U.S. Census Bureau pooled 2012–16 ACS.

© 2018 Migration Policy Institute



# Demographic Profile of Mexican Immigrants

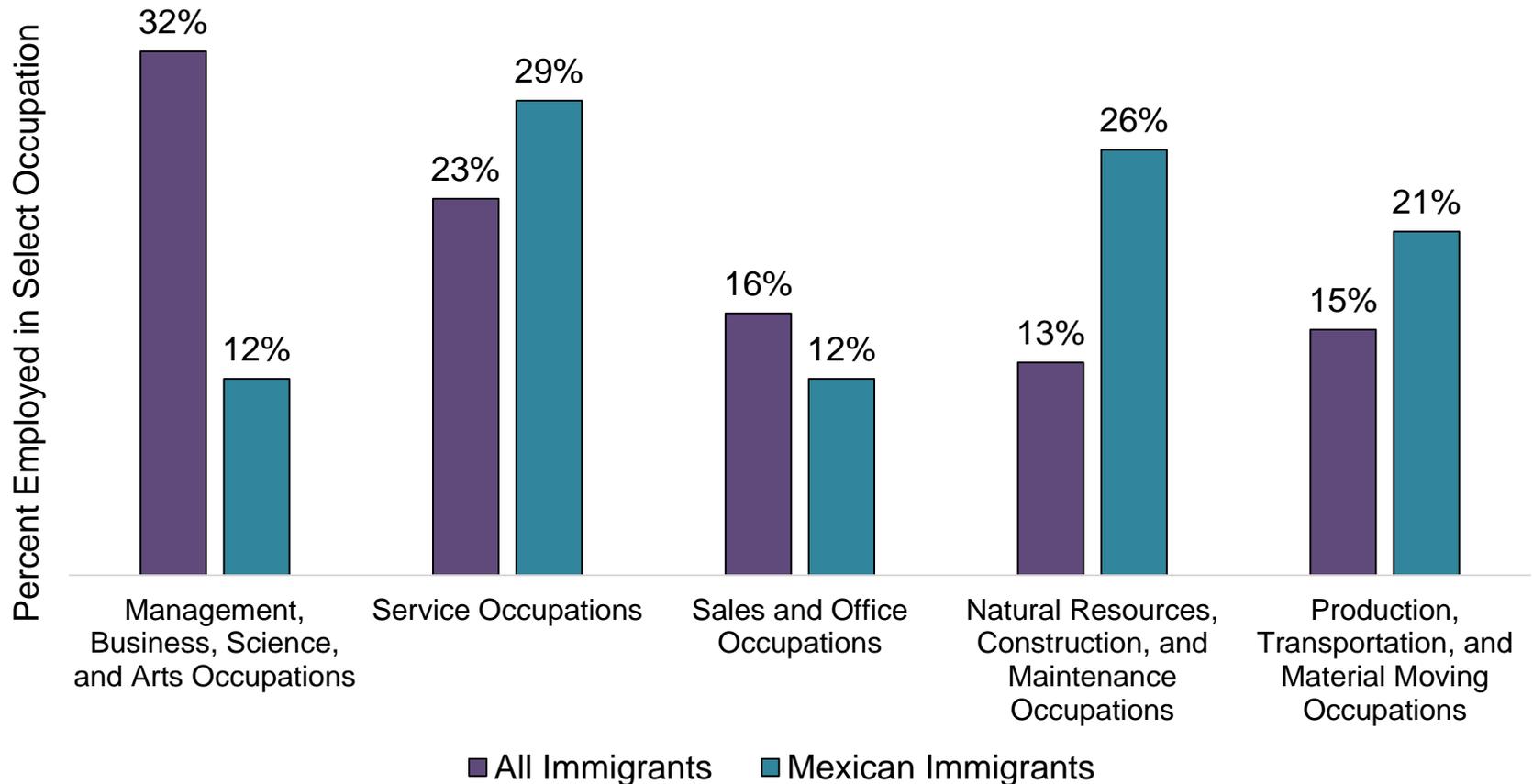
## Selected Characteristics of Immigrant Population in U.S. by Origin, 2017

Characteristic	Mexican Immigrants	All Immigrants
Percent female	48%	52%
Median age	43	45
Percent Limited English Proficiency	67%	48%
Percent working age (18-64)	86%	79%
Labor force participation	69%	66%
Avg household size	4	3
Median income	\$44,700	\$56,700
Percent of families living in poverty	21%	14%
Uninsured rate	37%	20%

Sources: MPI tabulation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2017 ACS.

# Mexican Immigrants More Likely to Work in Service, Construction, and Transportation

Employed Workers in the Civilian Labor Force (ages 16 and older) by Occupation and Origin, 2017



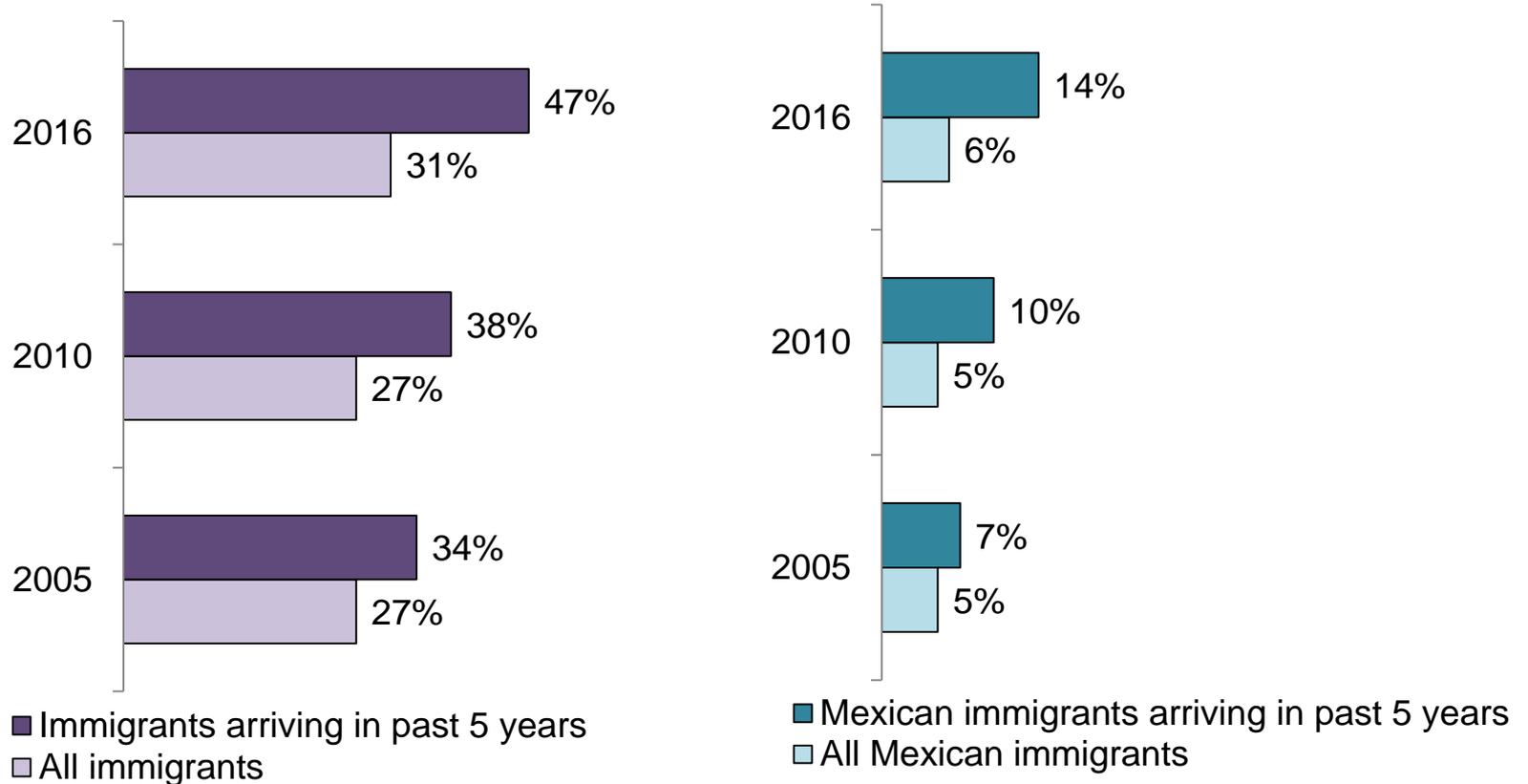
Sources: MPI tabulation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2017 ACS.

© 2018 Migration Policy Institute



# Recent Mexican Immigrants More Likely to Have College Degree, Increasing Faster than All Immigrants

**Share of Immigrant Adults (ages 25 and older) with a Bachelor's Degree of Higher, by Country of Birth and Years of U.S. Residence, 2005-2016**

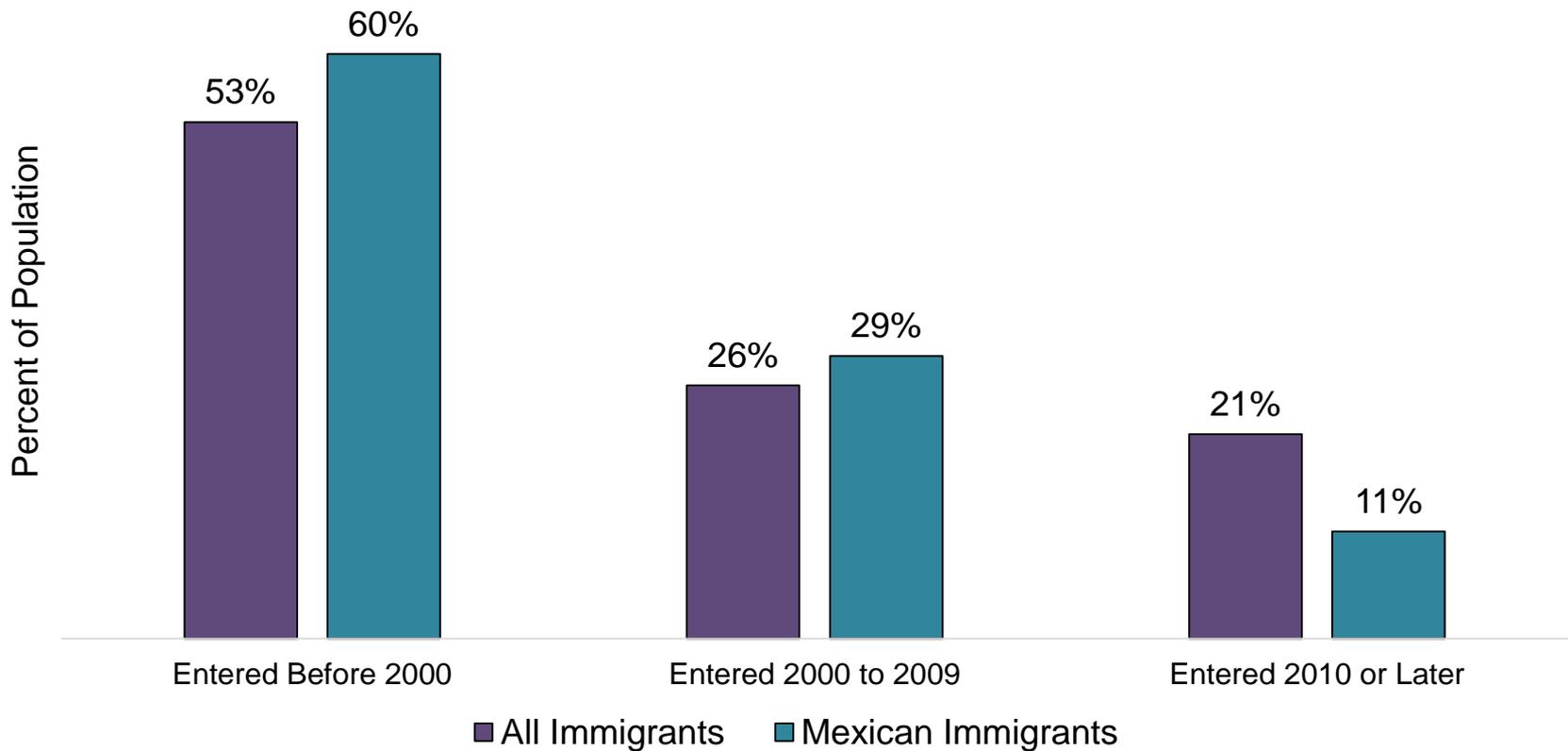


Sources: MPI tabulation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2005, 2010, 2016 ACS.



# Mexican Immigrants Have Long-Established Roots in the United States

## Immigrant Populations by Period of Arrival, 2017



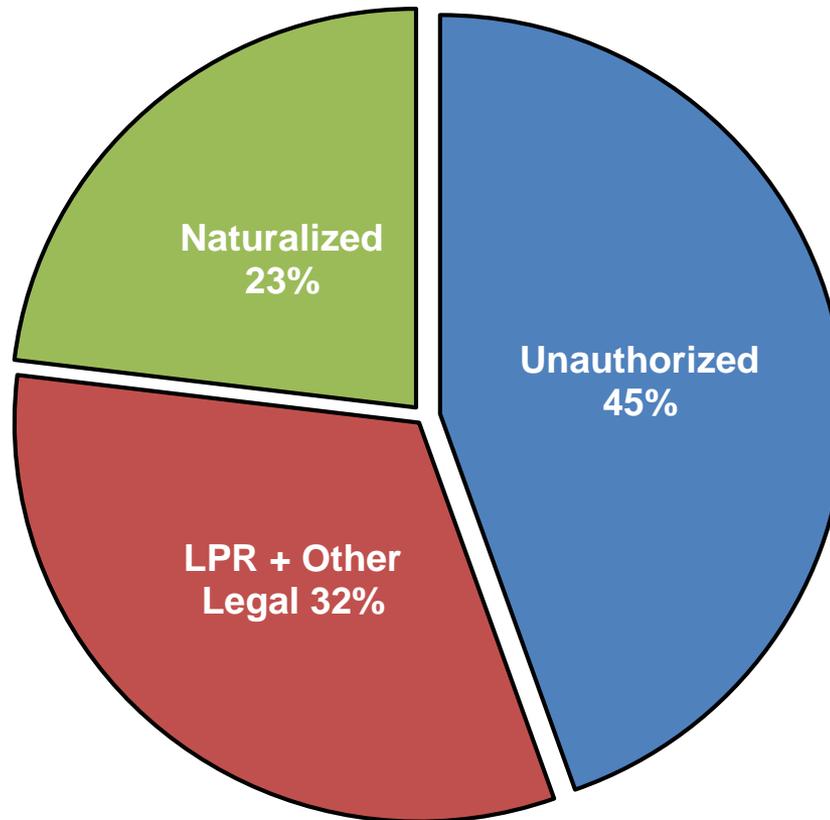
Sources: MPI tabulation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2017 ACS.

© 2018 Migration Policy Institute



# More than Half of Mexican Immigrants Are Legally Present in the United States

**Mexican Immigrant Population by Immigration Status, 2012-2016**

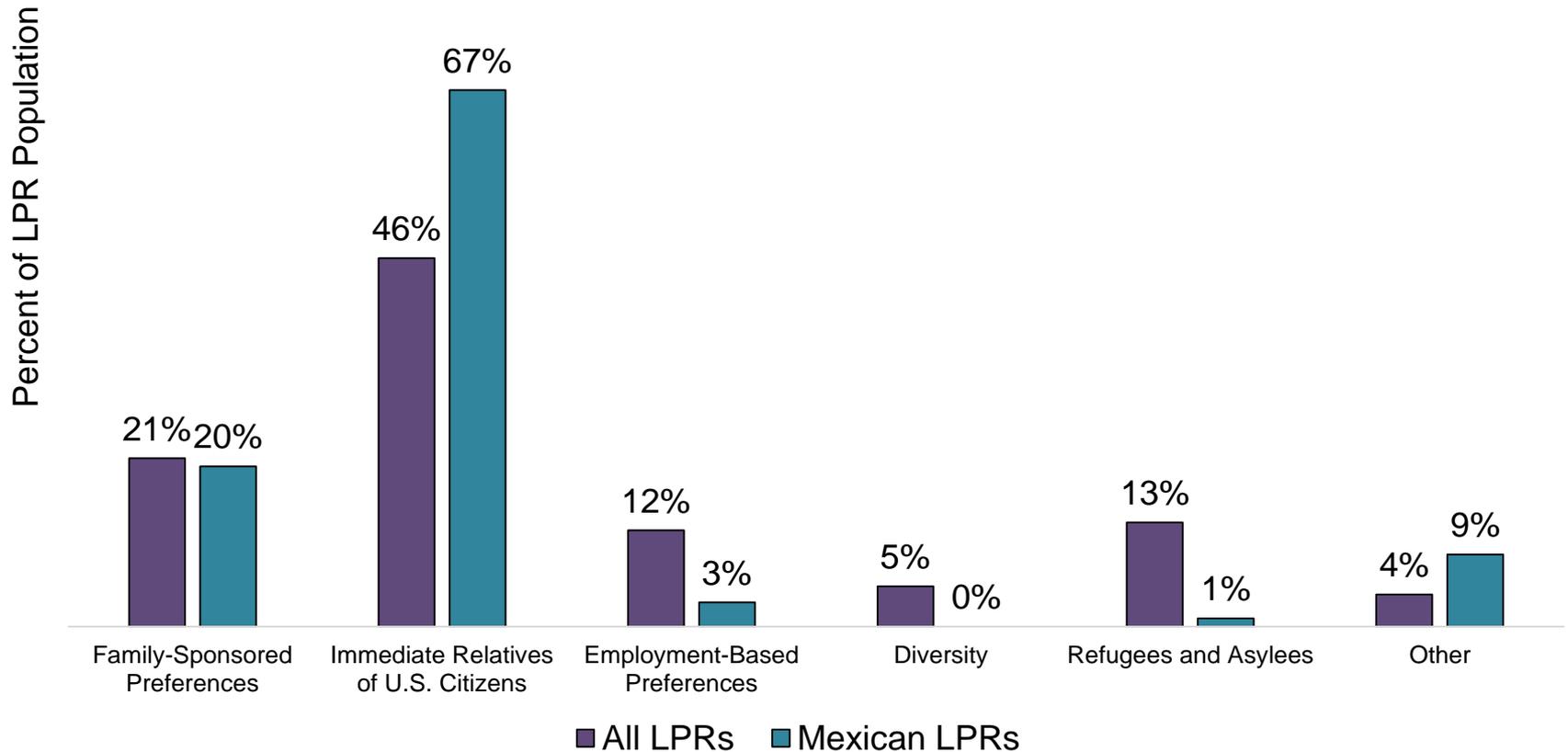


Sources: MPI analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the 2012-16 ACS pooled, and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), drawing on a methodology developed in consultation with James Bachmeier of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute.



# Family Ties Is Primary Pathway for Mexican Lawful Permanent Residents

## Immigration Pathways of Mexican Immigrants and All Immigrants in the United States, 2017



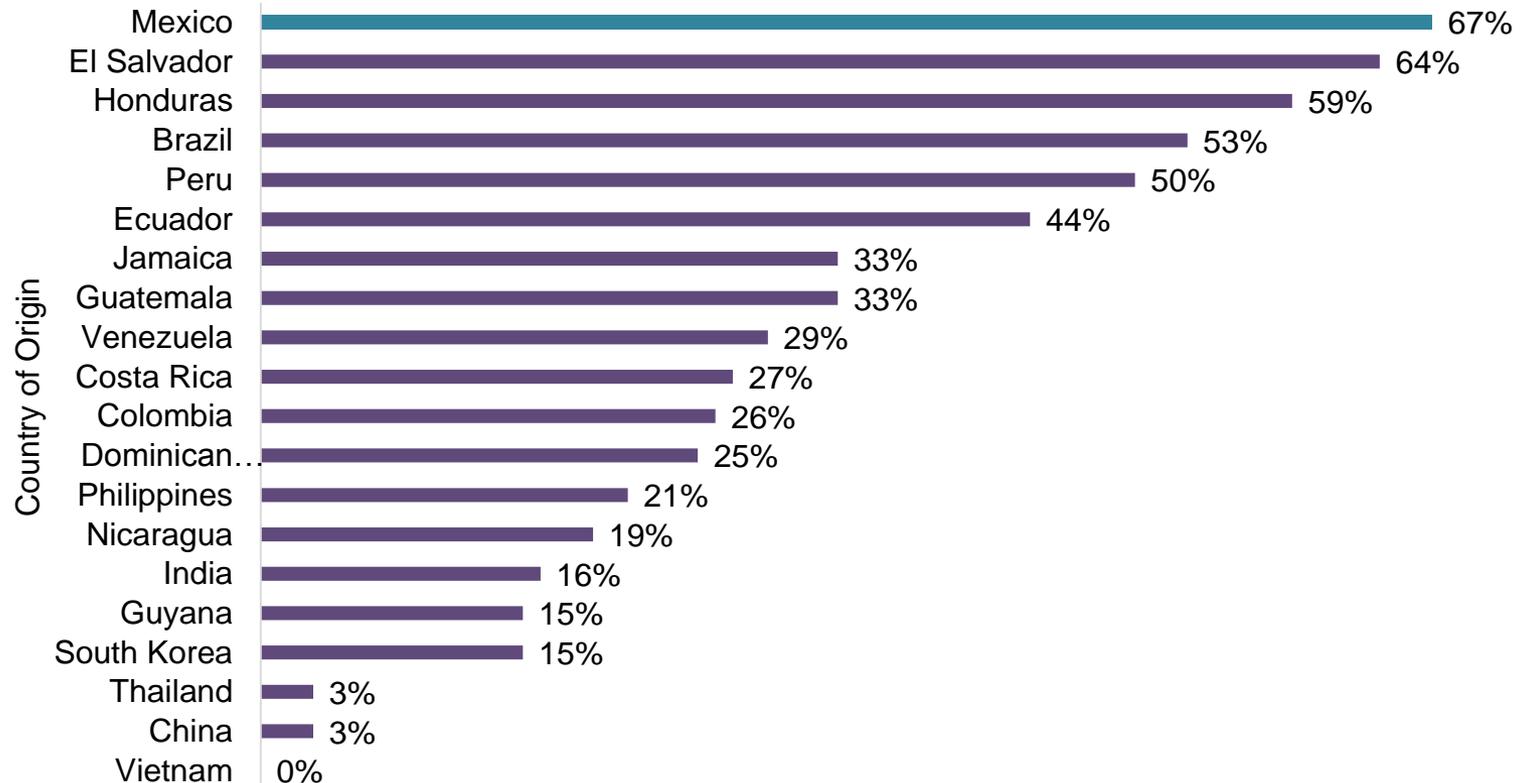
Sources: MPI tabulation of data from Department of Homeland Security (DHS), *2017 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics* (Washington, DC: DHS Office of Immigration Statistics, 2018)

© 2018 Migration Policy Institute



# Over Two-Thirds of Immediately Eligible Mexican Immigrants Have DACA

## DACA Participation Rate by Country of Origin, 2017



Sources: MPI analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the 2014 ACS, 2010-14 ACS pooled, and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), with legal status assignments by James Bachmeier and Colin Hammar of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), "Approximate Active DACA Recipients as of May 31, 2018," [www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports and Studies/Immigration Forms Data/All Form Types/DACA/DACA Population Data May 31 2018.pdf](http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/DACA%20Population%20Data%20May%2031%202018.pdf).

# For more Information



**Ariel G. Ruiz Soto**  
Associate Policy Analyst  
[aruiz@migrationpolicy.org](mailto:aruiz@migrationpolicy.org)

For additional information and to receive updates:  
[www.migrationpolicy.org](http://www.migrationpolicy.org)

For interactive data tools on U.S. and International migration data, visit:  
<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/datahub>

For research and data on the DACA/DREAM population:  
<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/dream>