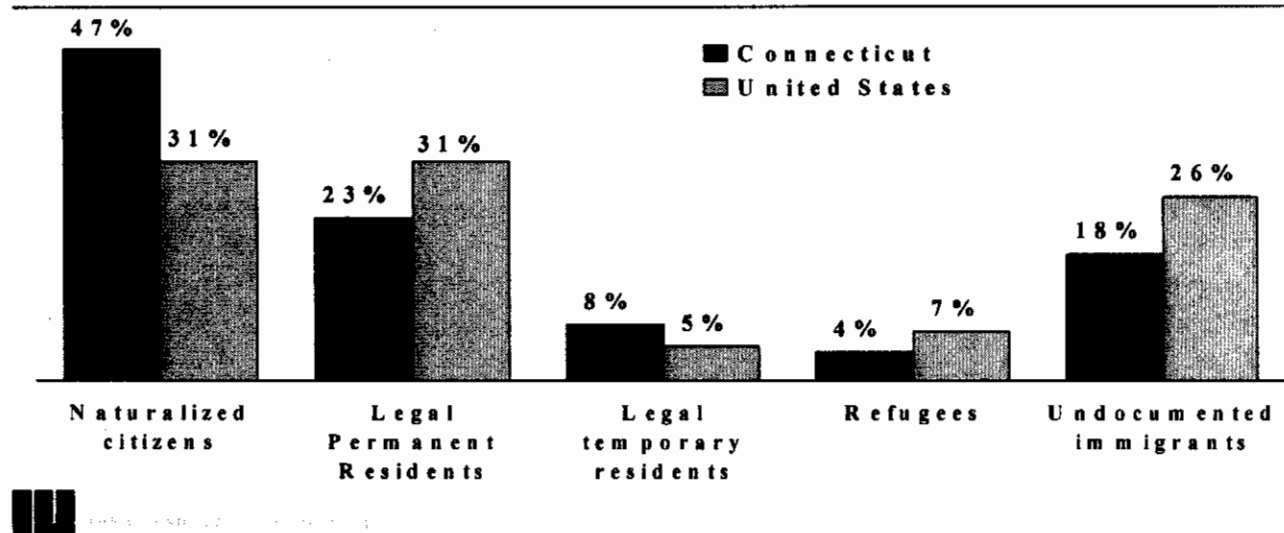


International Korner

Connecticut Immigration Profile

34.5 million residents in the United States are immigrants. Of these, 30% are naturalized citizens, 30% are legal permanent residents (green card holders), 27% are undocumented immigrants, 8% are refugee arrivals, and 5% are legal temporary residents (Fix, 2003). By these statistics, one can definitely judge that immigrants play a vital role in the nation's workforce, culture, and social life. What are some facts about immigrants in Connecticut?

Comparison of Legal Status: Connecticut vs. U.S.



The six states with the highest immigrant populations are New York, New Jersey, Florida, Illinois, Texas, and California (in random order). Although Connecticut is not in this list, the state's population is over 11% foreign born. According to FAIR (2003), "in Stamford and Danbury, more than one of every four residents is an immigrant, while in Norwalk and Greenwich, about one in five is." Immigrants from Poland, Jamaica, former Soviet Union, India, and China accounted for more than one-third (33.9%) of all immigrant admissions and adjustments since 1990. Since 1993, 100,579 individuals from other countries have moved to the United States. With this significant number, what are the attitudes of Connecticut residents towards immigration?

The Winter 04 Webster-Uconn Survey yielded the following data:

Question: Overall, do you feel that legal immigration into the United States is a good thing for the country, a bad thing for the country, or have you not thought about it much?

Strongly Good	33%
Somewhat Good	18%
Haven't Thought About It	22%
Somewhat Bad	8%
Strongly Bad	16%
Don't Know	3%

Question: President Bush has recently proposed allowing an increase in the number of temporary foreign workers, also known as guest workers, who are allowed to come into the United States to work. Would you favor or oppose these proposals or are you not sure?

Strongly Favor	13%
Somewhat Favor	13%
Not Sure	32%
Somewhat Oppose	12%
Strongly Oppose	30%

Question: Which of the following statements come closer to your view? 1. Immigrants mostly take jobs that American workers want. 2. Immigrants mostly take low-paying jobs Americans don't want.

Mostly take jobs that Americans want	13%
Mostly take jobs Americans don't want	72%
Both/neither	11%
No opinion	3%
Don't know	1%

According to Michael Fix of the Urban Institute, 1 in 5 U.S. immigrants are low-wage workers.

43% of immigrant worker families and 44% of refugee families are poor, as compared to 26% of native workers.

In Connecticut, 42% of immigrants speak Spanish as their dominant language. 11% of the total population is bilingual, and 8% are limited English proficient (LEP). However, statistics show that more LEP children are native than foreign-born.

REFERENCES

Michael Fix & Jeffrey S. Passel. "Immigration and Integration Trends." (Powerpoint)
Federation for American Immigration Reform. www.fairus.org

For more information or to obtain a copy of Michael Fix's powerpoint, contact Autumn Fiske at (860) 727-1157 or Autumn_Fiske@hotmail.com