

Sneak Peek:



IMPRINT's Survey of College-Educated Immigrants



Note: This publication summarizes content from a 60-minute webinar. To hear the recording and see slides associated with this summary, visit www.imprintproject.org.

About the Study

IMPRINT partnered with the Institute for Immigrant Integration Research (IIR) at George Mason University to collect original data in the first-of-its-kind study about the economic success of college educated immigrants in the U.S. The study included 4,000+ online respondents and 5500+ audio respondents, with focus on six U.S. metro areas; Seattle, San Jose, Detroit, Boston, Philadelphia and Miami.

Partners: included IMPRINT, IIR, AudioNow, and WES Global Talent Bridge, with funding from Knight Foundation.

Project Goals

To improve the field's understanding of college-educated immigrants and their employment trajectories. Specifically, to assess which factors are correlated with the skilled immigrants who have "made it" in the U.S. A secondary goal was to improve the understanding of civic engagement and the integration of immigrants in general.

Online and Audio Survey Formats

The online survey relied on OnQ technology, which prepared the survey in multiple languages and aimed to reduce the burden of respondents and increase the likelihood of completing the survey. Survey recruitment was facilitated by World Education Services (WES), and IMPRINT members.

The audio survey relied on AudioNow technology to reach immigrant radio listeners cheaply and easily. AudioNow serves more than 2 million listeners, 130 different nationalities and ethnic groups, and has audio programming in 97 languages.

Study Co-Authors:



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Dr. Witte, earned his PhD from Harvard in 1991. He has been a professor at Clemson University and Northwestern University, a postdoctoral fellow at the Carolina Population Center and a lecturer in sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



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At NSC, Amanda focuses on immigration, adult basic education and ESL. She has authored numerous publications and policy recommendations on immigrant integration, workforce development, and adult education. She is based in Philadelphia and Washington, DC.

Using ACS data and IMPRINT data

IMPRINT survey data was compared to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) in order to assess how the IMPRINT sample demographics compared with the overall college-educated immigrant population in the survey's six cities. These comparisons revealed important differences to take into account when analyzing the survey data. For example, IMPRINT data over-sampled recent arrivals to the U.S. compared to ACS data.

Key Finding: Social Capital

Among the most notable findings from the survey was the role of social capital in helping immigrants achieve success. Immigrants who currently had "many" friends and family to rely on were more than twice as likely to have achieved professional success.

15%

of respondents with no family and friends to rely on had achieved professional success

22%

of those with few family and friends had achieved professional success

34%

of those with many family and friends had achieved professional success

Immigrants' Social Capital Increases with Time in the U.S.

