



Fact Sheet

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Social and Economic Status of Latina Immigrants in Phoenix

One in ten Arizona residents was born abroad and identifies as Latino or Latina. In Phoenix, this number is nearly one in eight. Nationally, Latino immigrant men slightly outnumber women (54 percent to 46 percent), but in Arizona and Phoenix, the proportions of men and women are approximately equal.

Latino/a immigrants face a range of social and economic vulnerabilities that often disproportionately affect women.

Care Giving

- Latina immigrants in Phoenix are more likely than their male counterparts to be caring for children. Fifty-nine percent of Latina immigrants in Phoenix have at least one child in their household and 41 percent have two or more. In contrast, 42 percent of men in this population have children in their household.

Education

- Among Latino/a immigrants in the Phoenix region, women are slightly more likely than men to have had one or more years of college education (14 percent vs. 11 percent). Similar proportions of women and men have completed only high school (47 percent and 46 percent, respectively). Thirty-nine percent of women and 43 percent of men in this population have an 8th grade education or less.

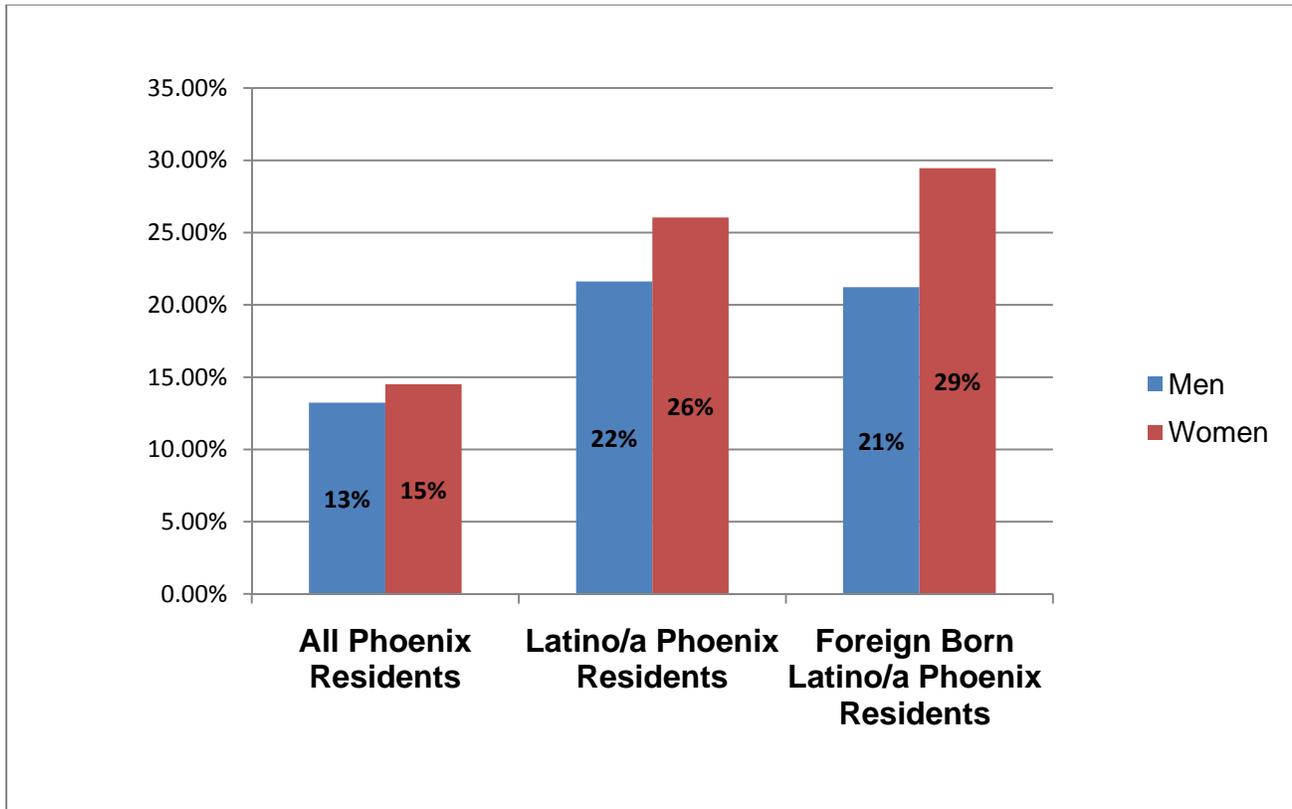
Work Participation

- Latina immigrants in Phoenix are much less likely than their male counterparts to be in the labor force. Forty-eight percent of Latina immigrants work outside the home and 4 percent were, in 2008, unemployed but searching for work. In comparison, 84 percent of men in this population are employed, with 4 percent unemployed and the remaining 12 percent not participating in the labor force.

Economic Security

- The median income of Latina immigrants working full-time is \$20,979, while the median income for full-time Latino immigrant workers is \$25,460.
- Nearly three in ten Latina immigrants live below the federal poverty line (29 percent), and another 35 percent live between 100 percent and 200 percent of the federal poverty line, an income level commonly referred to as “near poverty.” In comparison, 21 percent of men in this population live in poverty, and 36 percent are “near poor.”

Poverty* in Phoenix, 2008



* Percentage of selected populations living below the federal poverty line

Source: IWPR analysis of the 2008 American Community Survey

Latino/a immigrants in Phoenix are significantly more likely to live in poverty than the general Phoenix population, and the poverty rate of immigrant Latinas is nearly twice that of Phoenix women overall.

Immigrant women's comparatively vulnerable economic status is just one of the many challenges they face that affect their families and communities. Developing and strengthening programs, services, and policies that address these challenges is essential to advancing immigrant women's rights, economic standing, and general well-being.

*Source: Institute for Women's Policy Research analysis of 2008 American Community Survey data.

** The terms immigrant and foreign born are used interchangeably in this factsheet.

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