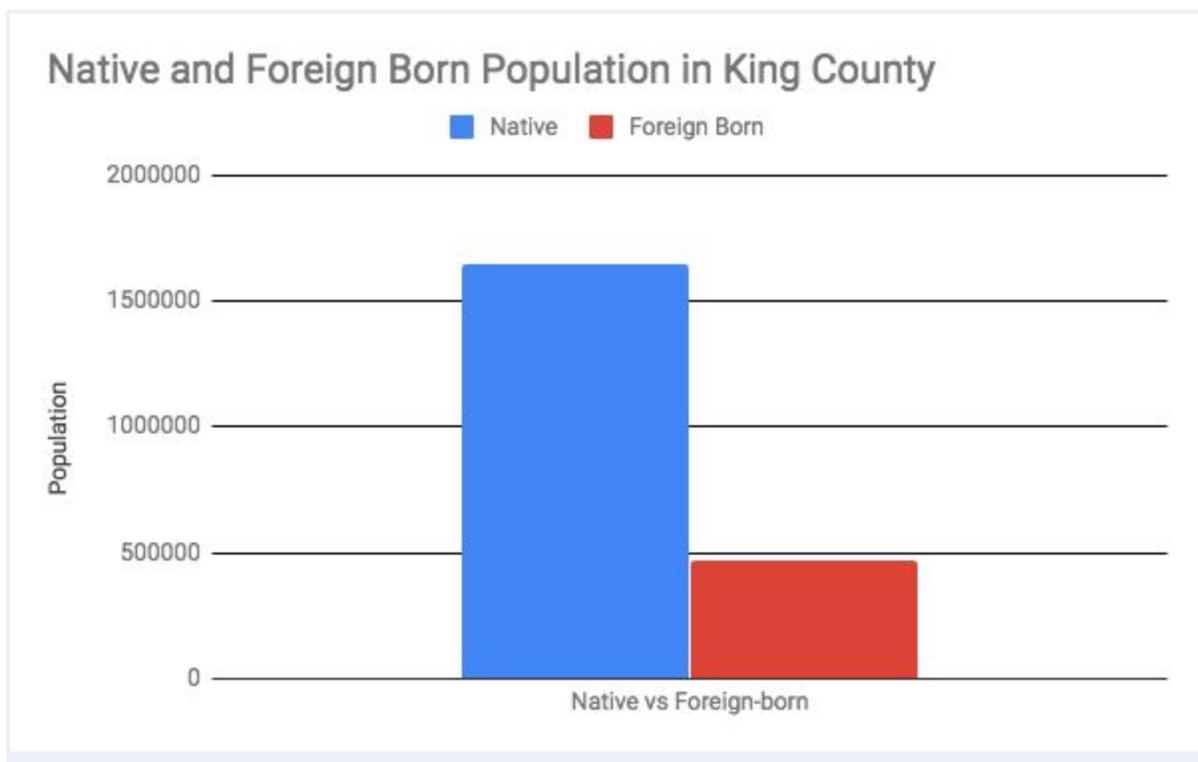


King County Immigration: the Data Behind the Wall

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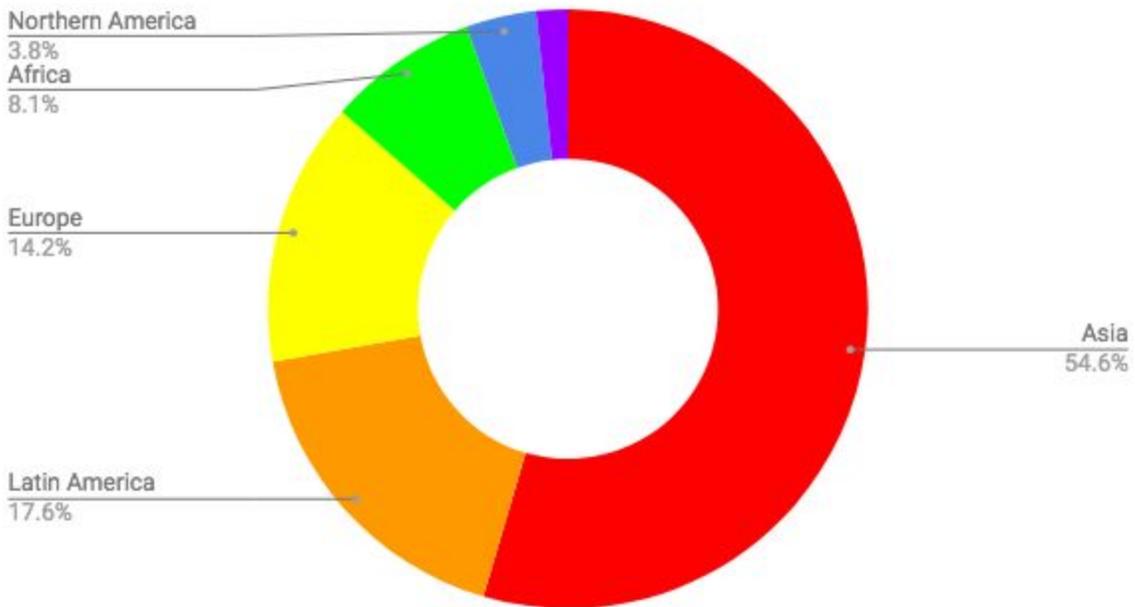
Recently, King County had a huge increase in development. It drew people from all over the world to the booming area. King County is now one of the most populated counties by immigrants in the US. Immigrants have moved to the county for numerous reasons including job opportunities and attractions. The immigrants in this county are from varying regions around the world. This diversification is seen in King County population, but is also prevalent across the country. The diverse array of regions represented is overlooked by many. This includes US President Donald Trump.

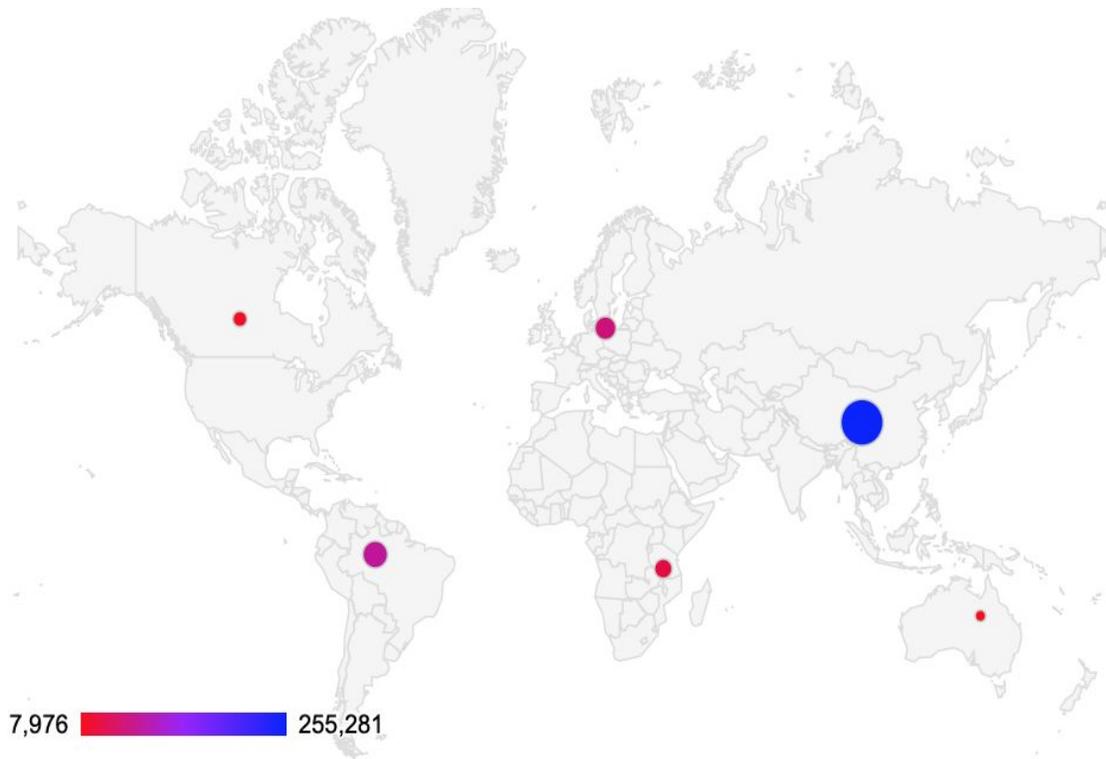
In King County, the population has increased dramatically. In 2000, only 17 years ago, the population of the area was 1,737,034. This number has risen to 2,118,119 people and is continuously growing at an exponential rate. Not only has the total population of the county risen but the percentage of foreign-born people has increased as well. In 2000, only 15.4% of people living in King County were foreign-born. According to the US census in 2017, foreign-born residents make up 22% of King County's population. This totals to 467,938 foreign-born citizens in the county. This number models the prominent percentage of immigrants in King County and demonstrates the importance of the foreign-born population. Out of the foreign-born population in this county, 223,454 of them are naturalized US citizens. This leaves 224,484 of King County residents as non-US-citizens.



This drives the question of “where do immigrants come from?”. The data from the 2017 US community survey can provide us with the information that we are looking for. In King County, the majority of the immigrants migrated from Asia. Approximately 255,281 people living in the county were born in the region of Asia. This accounts for around 55% of the immigrants living in King county. The second largest foreign-born population living in King country is from Latin America with 82,523 citizens. Latin America is includes South American countries and Mexico. This population is approximately 18% of the foreign-born population living in King County. The next highest number of foreign-born people originate from Europe with Africa close behind. Other migrants in King County are from Northern America as well as Oceania. The data also shows that more than half of the immigrants are coming from Asia, while the other half consist of Latin America, Europe, Africa, Northern America, and Oceania.

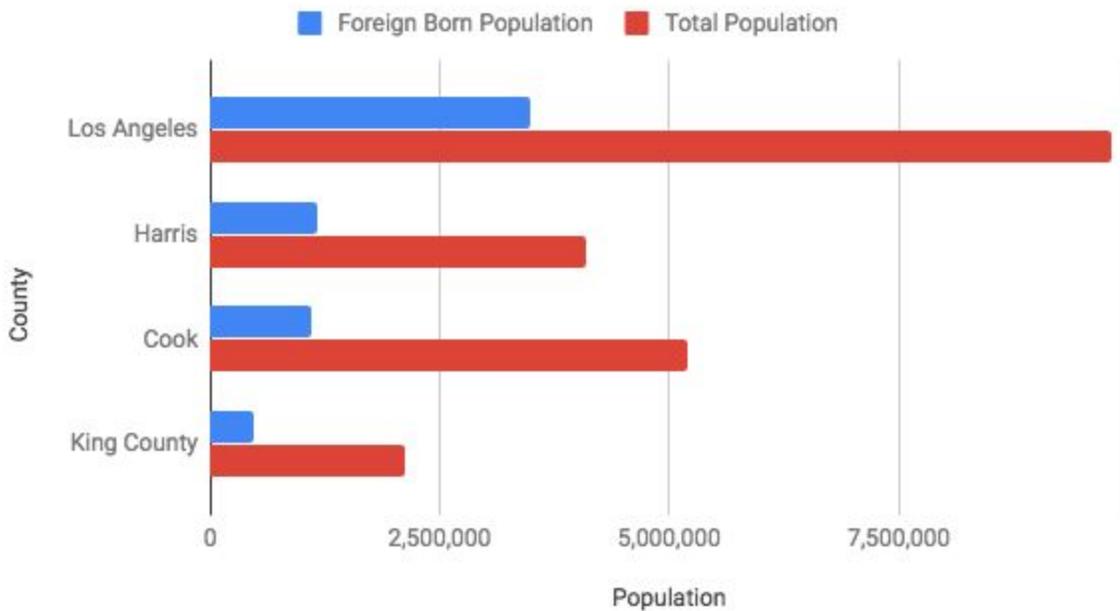
Origins of the Foreign-Born Population in King County





King County has much diversity within its foreign-born population which contributes to larger foreign-born populations. In comparison, Los Angeles County in California has 3,478,879 foreign-born people, making up 35% of the Los Angeles County population. Harris County in Texas has 1,174,879 foreign-born people totalling to 29% of the counties population. Lastly Cook County in Illinois has 1,105,379 foreign-born people that make up 21% of the counties population. These counties are the 3 most populated by foreign-born people counties in the US. In comparison as mentioned earlier, foreign-born people make up 22% percent of the King County population. This statistic demonstrates truly how many foreign-born people reside in King County, along with these other counties. Many US counties, including Los Angeles, Harris, and Cook, have a high percentages of foreign-born compared to US natives.

Foreign Born and Total Population of US Counties



Pramila Jayapal is an accomplished congresswoman who represents Washington’s 7th district which encompasses much of the Seattle area. She is also a foreign-born citizen, and is the first Indian-American woman to hold her position. In Jayapal’s recent statement on President Trump’s remarks on immigration, she speaks out against Trump. Jayapal’s focuses lie in “ensuring income equality; access to education, from early learning to higher education, including debt-free college; expanding Social Security and Medicare; protecting our environment for our next generation; and ensuring immigrant, civil and human rights for all”. In this statement, Jayapal first disputes Trump’s claim that immigrants are responsible for harm in the United States. Jayapal says that immigrants commit lower rates of crime compared to native born Americans, and that the majority of drugs come into the US through legal borders, making a wall no help to this problem. Ultimately Jayapal argues that Trump’s argument is strictly political and not about security, as his reasoning is extremely flawed. As a Seattle representative, Jayapal knows how much of Seattle’s population is made up of immigrants. Seattle is an extremely diverse city that relies on the foreign-born population.

The data collected from the US census and Community Surveys support Jayapal’s statement. The population of many US counties contain both native and a significant number of foreign-born residents. It is undeniable that the sheer amount of people that come from foreign backgrounds play a large role in the flow of many US counties. Even with the remarks made towards Latin American regions by the US President, it is important to note that a wall would not be the ideal way to restrict immigration. Jayapal states this while she keeps in mind that the

majority of immigrants come from Asian backgrounds in King County. The vast majority of foreign born people in King County do not even consist of Latin American backgrounds. Ultimately, Trump's wall is an idealistic plan of repairing the immigration issues in the United States that simply does not correlate with the data from the US Census.