

BLACK MIGRATION TO THE U.S.

CIMH 5/27/22 Virtual Convening



Fasika Alem, PhD, MPH
United African Organization

United African
Organization



Advocate
Unity
Empowerment

United African Organization (UAO)

United African Organization is a dynamic coalition of African community-based organizations that promotes social and economic justice, civic participation, and empowerment of African immigrants and refugees in Illinois.



www.uniteafricans.org

(312) 949-9980



UAO PROGRAMS



Immigration Legal Services

Petitions for family members, adjustment of status, Green Card renewal, citizenship application, DACA renewal, TPS application, etc.



Family Support Services

Health insurance, SNAP, unemployment, child care, COVID financial assistance, housing & rental assistance, etc.



Public Policy Advocacy

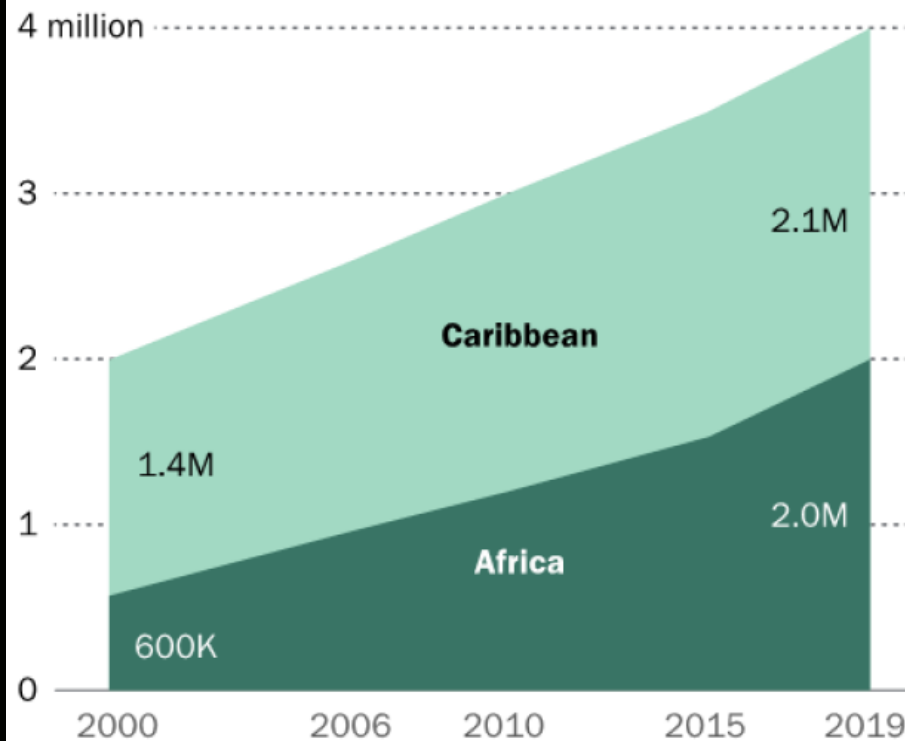
Immigration, language access, housing, etc.)

US Black immigrant population



United African Organization

U.S. Black immigrant population born in Africa and the Caribbean



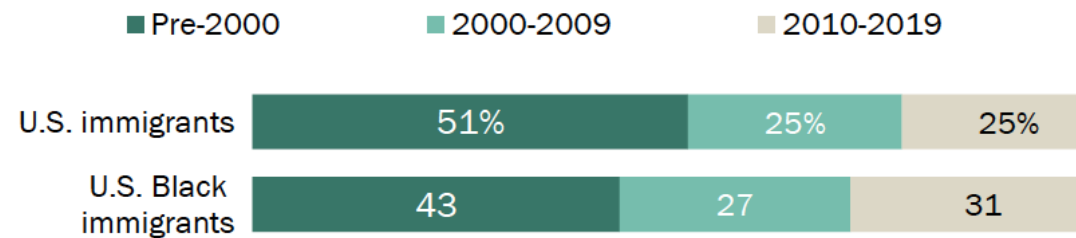
Pew Research Center (2022) One-in-Ten Black People Living in the U.S. Are Immigrants

African immigrants represented the largest share of recent Black immigrant arrivals in the U.S.

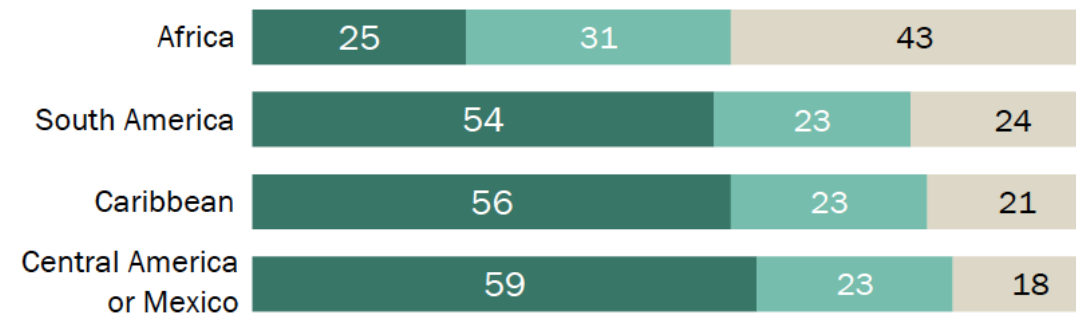


United African Organization

% of immigrants who say they first came to live in the U.S. ...



Among Black immigrants born in ...



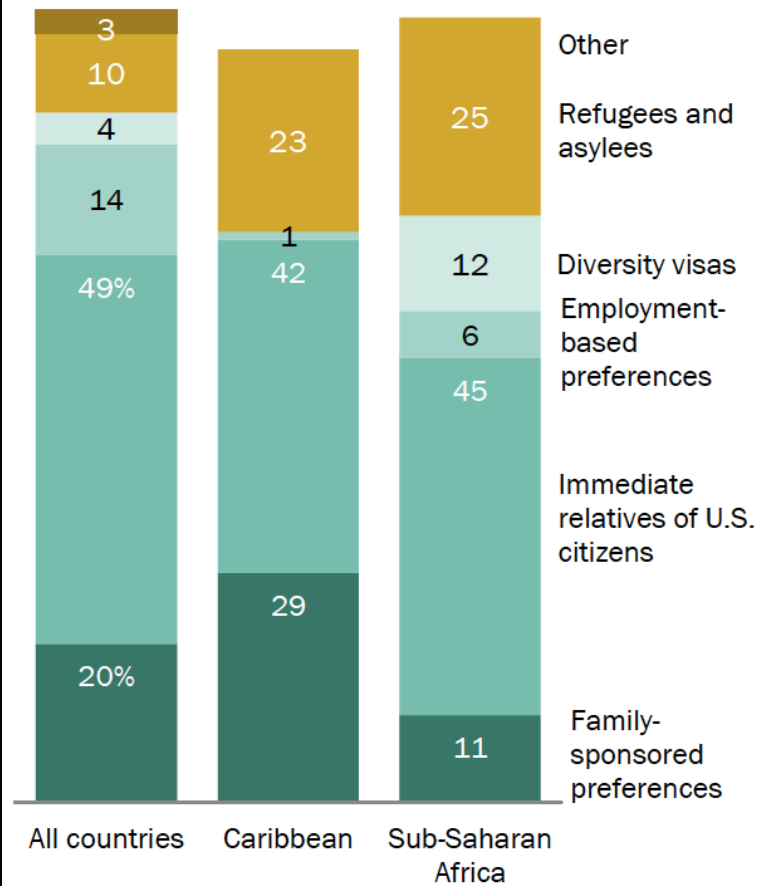
Pew Research Center (2022) One-in-Ten Black People Living in the U.S. Are Immigrants

How do Black Immigrants get to the US?



United African Organization

% of legal immigrants by admission category, 2019



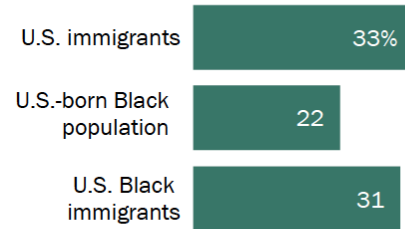
Pew Research Center (2022) One-in-Ten Black People Living in the U.S. Are Immigrants

Despite high educational attainment and workforce participation, Black immigrants earn less than other immigrants

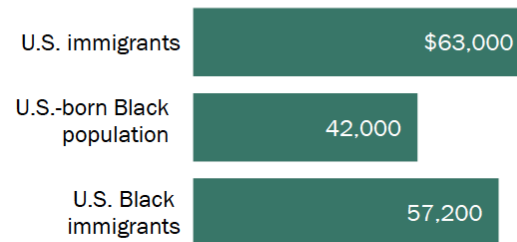


United African Organization

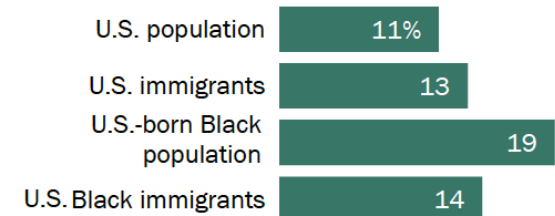
% of adults ages 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher, 2019



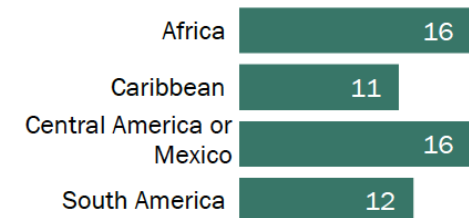
Median household income, 2019



% living below poverty line, 2019



Among Black immigrants born in ...



Pew Research Center (2022) One-in-Ten Black People Living in the U.S. Are Immigrants

POLICIES THAT SUPPORTED INCREASED BLACK MIGRATION

- Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965
 - expanded pathways for family-based immigration
- Refugee Act of 1980
 - increased admissions of refugees fleeing conflict, including from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, and Eritrea
- Immigration Act of 1990
 - created the Diversity Visa program



BEING BLACK AND IMMIGRANT

Black immigrants are often subject to the same risks of poverty, lack of access to quality health care or affordable housing, over-policing and increased incarceration as native born Black Americans.

"When they arrive in the United States, to the broader society, black immigrants lose their individual and national identities. They are no longer Ghanaian, South African, Jamaican, Haitian, or Nicaraguan. They are simply black and, in this society, their lives do not matter."

Neal, Joan F. (2020) Being Black and Immigrant in America



United African Organization

Over-policing and increased incarceration among Black immigrants often leads to the prison to deportation pipeline.

- 76% of Black immigrants are deported on criminal grounds, compared to 45% of all immigrants**



United African Organization

BLACK IMMIGRANTS

AT GREATER RISK FOR DEPORTATION

7.2%



PERCENT OF NON-CITIZENS
WHO ARE BLACK

20.3%



PERCENT OF THOSE FACING
DEPORTATION ON CRIMINAL
GROUNDS WHO ARE BLACK

RAICES (2020) Black Immigrant Lives Are Under Attack.

<https://www.raicestexas.org/2020/07/22/black-immigrant-lives-are-under-attack/>

Black Alliance for Just Immigration.(2020) The State of Black Immigrants.

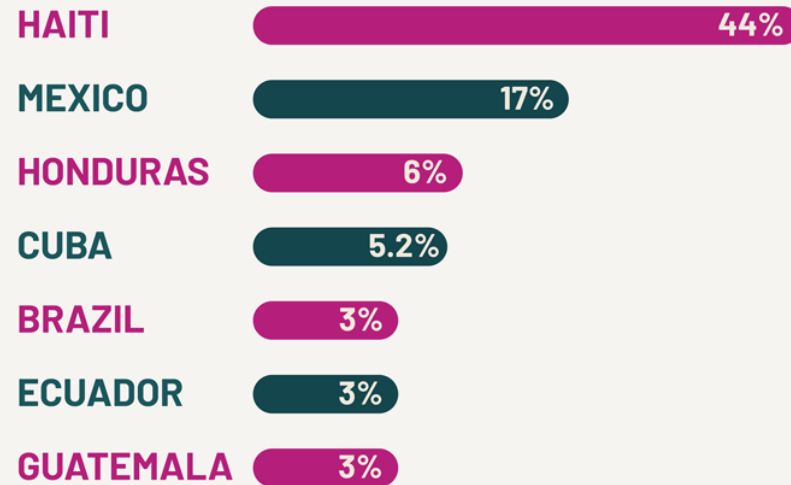
<https://baji.org/resources/>

Haitians are disproportionately impacted by family detention



United African Organization

FAMILIES IN DETENTION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



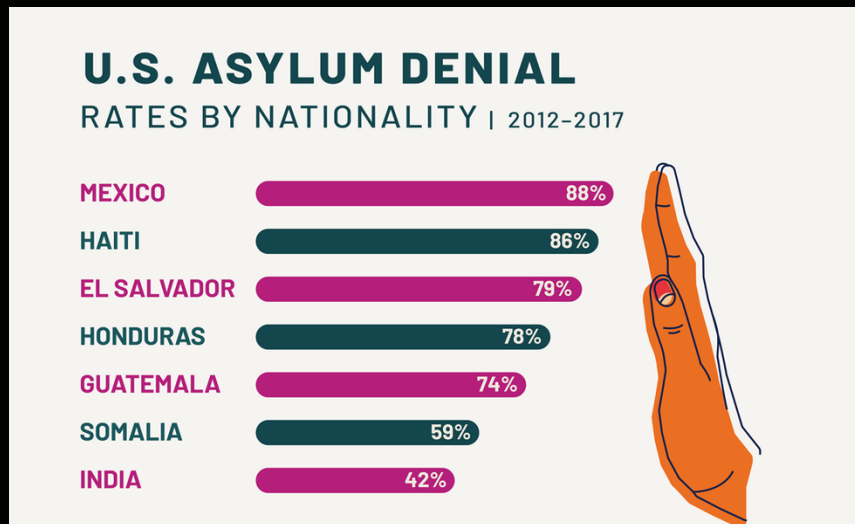
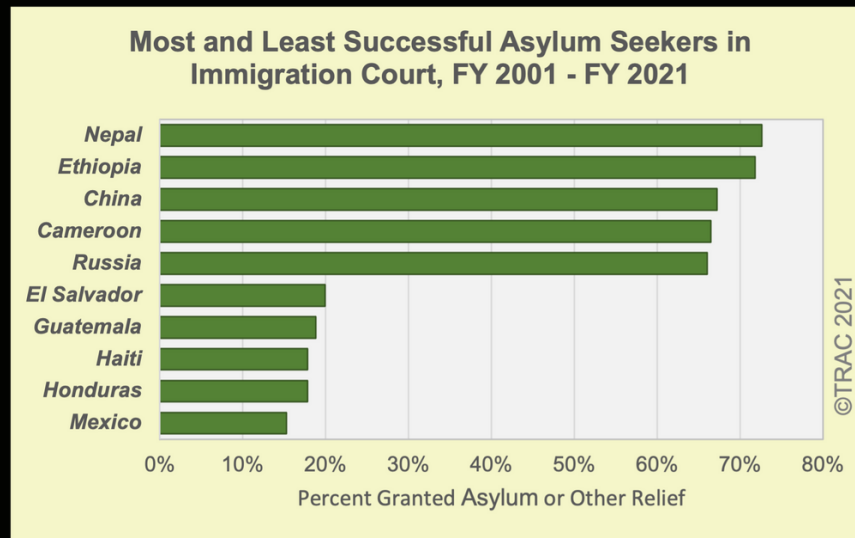
SOURCE: RAICES, 3/1/2020 - 6/1/2020 @ KARNES COUNTY RESIDENTIAL CENTER

RAICES (2020) Black Immigrant Lives Are Under Attack.
<https://www.raicestexas.org/2020/07/22/black-immigrant-lives-are-under-attack/>

Black immigrants, particularly those from Haiti, face high asylum rejection rates



United African Organization



TRAC Immigration (2021) The Impact of Nationality, Language, Gender and Age on Asylum Success.

<https://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/668/>

RAICES (2020) Black Immigrant Lives Are Under Attack.

<https://www.raicestexas.org/2020/07/22/black-immigrant-lives-are-under-attack/>

Black immigrants tend to pay much higher bonds than other immigrants in detention.

Black immigrants endure inhumane treatment in detention and are six times more likely to be sent to solitary confinement.

A report published this year by Human Rights Watch documented 24 cases of abuse against 18 Cameroonian asylum seekers who were later deported, including "forced fingerprints on documents, pepper spray, painful restraints, and abusive solitary confinement, isolation, or segregation."



United African Organization

RAICES (2020) Black Immigrant Lives Are Under Attack. <https://www.raicestexas.org/2020/07/22/black-immigrant-lives-are-under-attack/>

Franco, K., Patler, C., & Reiter, K. (2020, April 27). Punishing Status and the Punishment Status Quo: Solitary Confinement in U.S. Immigration Prisons, 2013-2017. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1462474520967804>

HRW (2022) "How Can You Throw Us Back?" Asylum Seekers Abused in the US and Deported to Harm in Cameroon.

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/02/10/how-can-you-throw-us-back/asylum-seekers-abused-us-and-deported-harm-cameroon>

BAIL BONDS HIGHER FOR HAITIANS

2018-2020

\$10,500

AVERAGE
IMMIGRATION
BOND



\$16,170

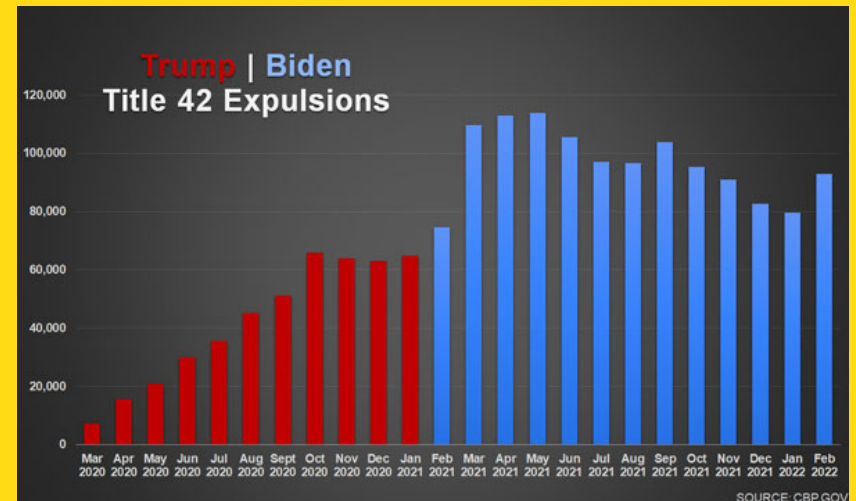
AVERAGE BOND
FOR HAITIAN
IMMIGRANTS



SOURCE: RAICES

TITLE 42

- “Title 42” refers to Section 265 of the Public Health Service Act, a statute that enables the suspension of admission of migrants to prevent spread of communicable diseases. It was last invoked in 1929 to bar the entrance of ships during a meningitis outbreak.
- Invoked in 2020, despite objection from many public health experts.
- The Biden Administration has used Title 42 to turn away over 1,366,148 people between February 2021 and March 2022.
- As of yesterday (5/26), **261 flights to Haiti have expelling about 25,500 Haitians since Biden took office**



National Immigrant Justice Center (2022). An FAQ on why Title 42 expulsions must end | National Immigrant Justice Center <https://immigrantjustice.org/staff/blog/exploiting-pandemic-expel-asylum-seekers-faq-why-title-42-expulsions-must-end#4>



United African Organization

U.S. HISTORY OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HAITIAN MIGRANTS

- Haitian Program of 1978
 - To counter the flow of Haitians fleeing violence and repression under the US-backed government of Francois Duvalier in the 1970s, this program placed newly arriving Haitians in local jails denied their asylum claims.
- In 1983, in the midst of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and growing public pressure, the CDC designated Haitians as a high-risk group. When Congress issued an immigration ban on individuals living with HIV/AIDS in 1987, this ban only selectively applied against Haitians.
- The Reagan administration introduced the practice of interdiction - intercepting boats carrying Haitians before they could reach American shores where they could seek asylum.
- In 1991, following the military coup that removed the government of Jean Bertrand Aristide, Haitian asylum seekers fleeing violence were deported back to Haiti and later to a processing center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



ENDING TITLE 42

- On April 1, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that it would end the use of Title 42 starting May 23, 2022.
- However, reports have emerged that the White House and a growing number of members of Congress are seeking to delay the end of Title 42.
- At the same time, Ukrainians have been exempted from Title 42 expulsions, grace that has not been granted to refugees fleeing non-European countries.



<https://baji.org/engage>



United African Organization



United African Organization

QUESTIONS?