Ethnic groups and immigration in the US: 

[White Americans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Americans) 77.7% Hispanic and Latino Americans 17.1% [African Americans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American) 13.2% of the population. The [White, non-Hispanic or Latino population](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-Hispanic_whites) 62.6%

* [Historical immigration to the United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_immigration_to_the_United_States) from all countries of the world and throughout the history of the country, for religious, political and economic reasons. Since the late 19th century, the [History of laws concerning immigration and naturalization in the United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_laws_concerning_immigration_and_naturalization_in_the_United_States) and [illegal immigration to the United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_immigration_to_the_United_States) have influenced the ethnic balance of that immigration. Various groups have been denied entry due to discrimination, economic protectionism, and political conflict with their nation of origin. Other groups have received favored status, such as refugees and nationals of allied nations.
* [Transatlantic migrations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transatlantic_migrations) from Europe, especially in the 19th century, created ethnic enclaves in many eastern cities and settling many rural areas east of the Mississippi
* Immigration from Asia has had the most influence on Hawaii and the West Coast, but has also created predominantly Asian neighborhoods in many major cities across the country.

Immigration from Mexico and other existing Latino populations has strongly influenced the Southwest.

The [illegal immigrant population of the United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_immigrant_population_of_the_United_States) in 2008 was estimated by the [Center for Immigration Studies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Center_for_Immigration_Studies) to be about 12 million people, down from 12.5 million people in 2007.[2] Other estimates range from 7 to 30 million.[3][4][5] According to a [Pew Hispanic Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pew_Hispanic_Center) report, in 2004, 57% of illegal immigrants were from Mexico; 24% were from other [Latin American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_America) countries, primarily from Central America;[6] 9% were from Asia; 6% were from Europe and Canada; and 3% were from Africa and the rest of the world.[6]