

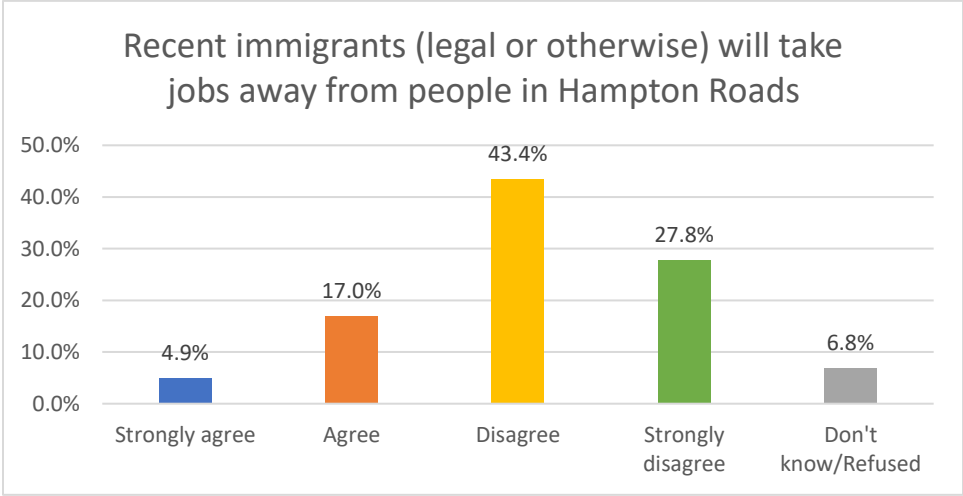
Life in Hampton Roads 2023 – Attitudes Towards Immigration

Introduction

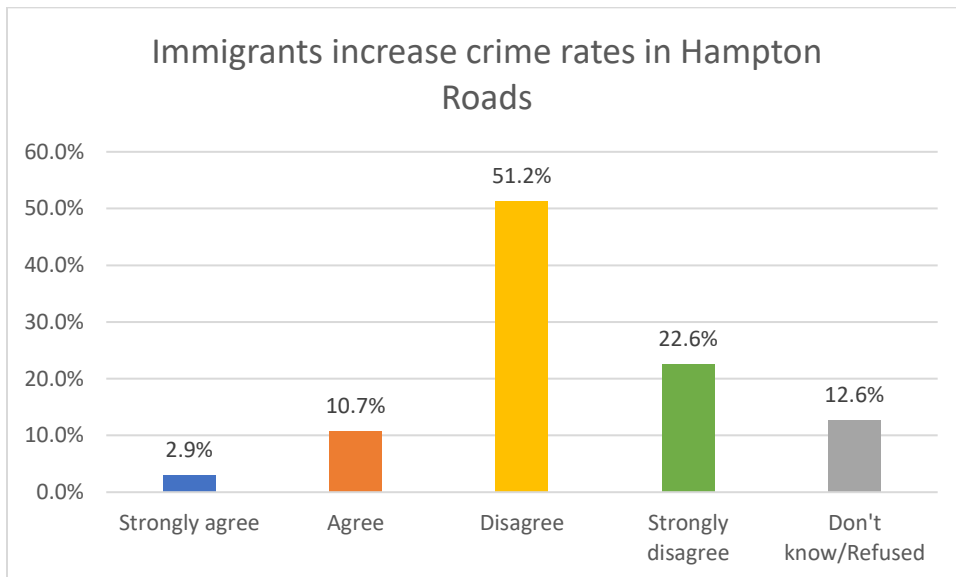
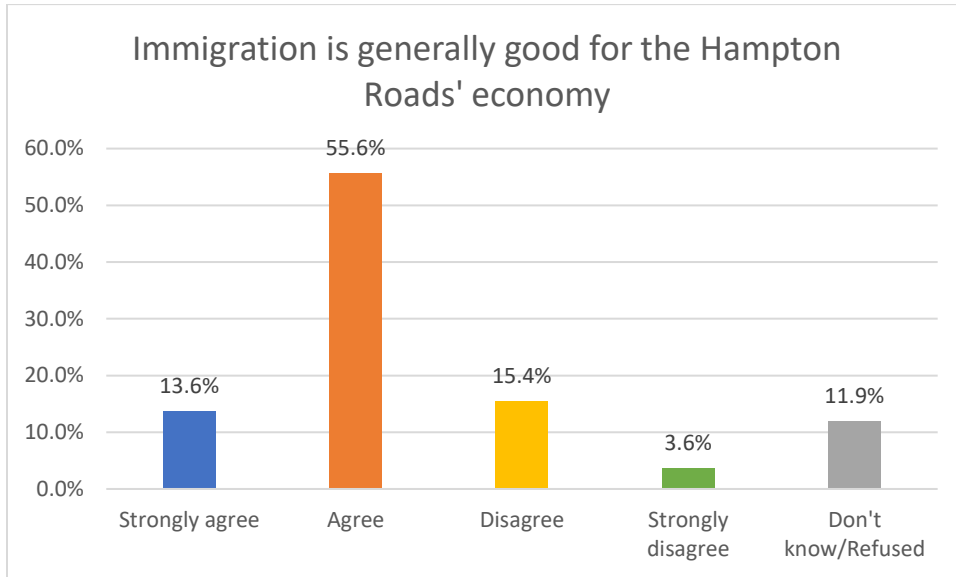
The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) at Old Dominion University (ODU) recently completed data collection for the 14th annual Life in Hampton Roads (LIHR) survey. The purpose of this survey is to gain insight into residents’ perceptions of the quality of life in Hampton Roads as well as other topics of local interest such as perceptions of police, politics, the economy, education, and health. A total of 610 telephone surveys were completed between June 6 and Aug. 25, 2023. Surveys this year were completed over the telephone as they were last year and prior to 2020. In 2020, due to COVID-19, surveys were completed via on-line web panels. In 2021, a mixture of online web panels and telephone surveys were utilized. This year, a mixture of listed and random-digit dial (RDD) cell phone and landline telephone numbers were used. From 2012 to 2019, RDD landline and cell phone samples were used. This change limits, to some degree, the ability to compare this year’s results with those from previous years or to confidently generalize the results to the Hampton Roads population as a whole. However, as with previous years, this year’s survey data was weighted to match a city’s population distribution on several variables including race, Hispanic ethnicity, age and gender, along with telephone type (cell only versus landline).

Attitudes Towards Immigration

There has been much debate about immigration policy at the national level. This year’s survey included questions to attempt to measure Hampton Roads residents’ attitudes toward immigrants and immigration in general. Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed that recent immigrants (legal or otherwise) will take jobs away from people in Hampton Roads. Only 21.9% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this statement and 71.2% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement.

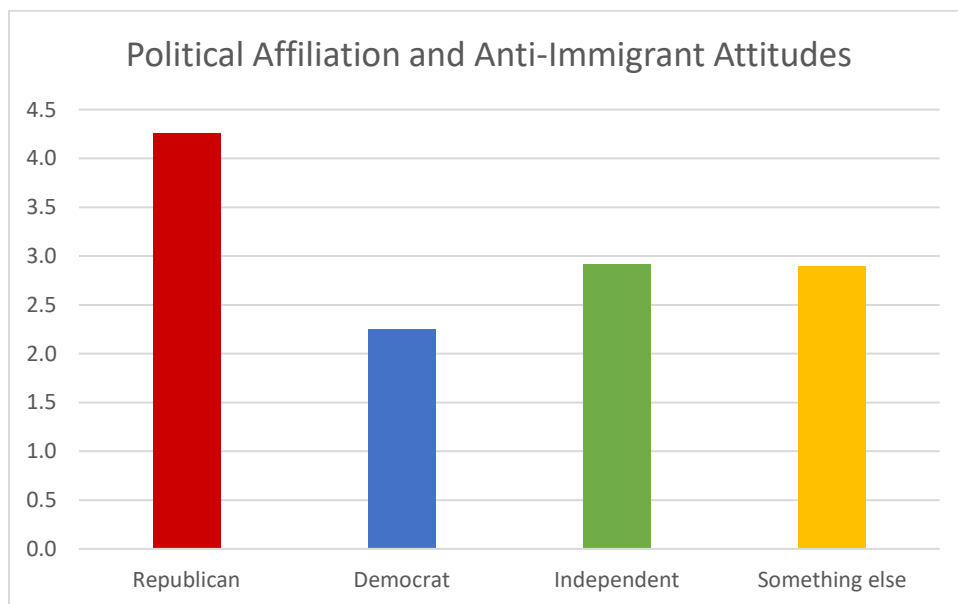
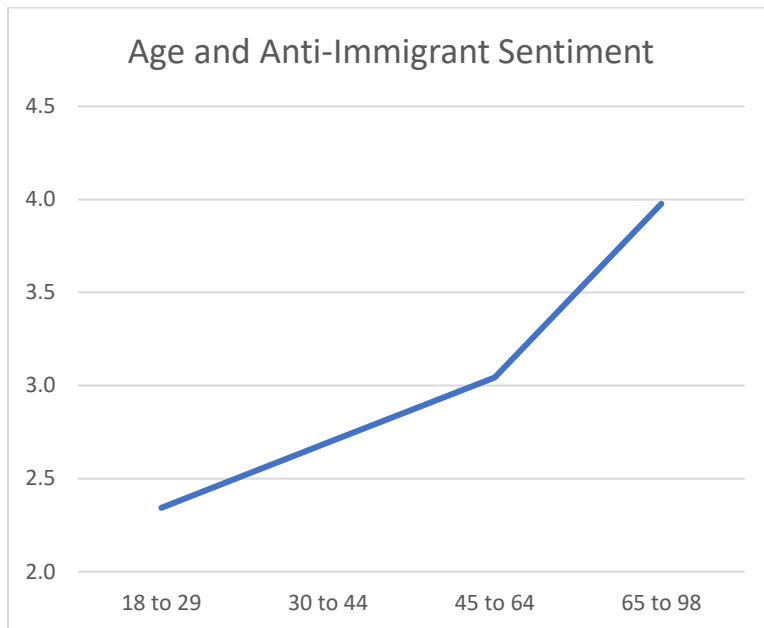


The majority of respondents (69.2%) agreed/strongly agreed that immigration is generally good for the Hampton Roads' economy and 73.8% disagree/strongly disagreed that immigrants increase crime rates locally.

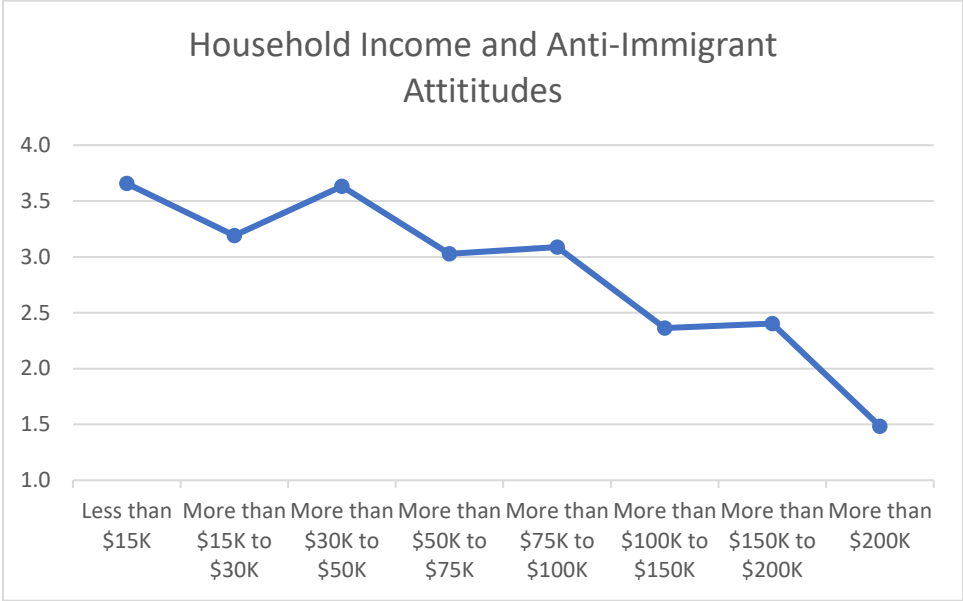


To further explore attitudes toward immigrants and immigration among Hampton Roads residents, a composite scale was created with the three survey items so that higher values indicated more negative attitudes toward immigrant in the region. Preliminary results suggest that there were not significant differences in anti-immigrant sentiments across cities or between men and women. Whites, however, held more negative attitudes toward immigrants than did Blacks. Negative attitudes toward immigrants in Hampton Roads increased as did the age of the respondent (e.g., older respondents expressing more anti-

immigrant sentiment than younger respondents). There was also a statistically significant and fairly strong relationship between negative attitudes toward immigrants and political affiliation, with Republicans reporting the most anti-immigrant sentiments.



College-educated respondents reported significantly less negative attitudes toward immigrants in Hampton Roads, and there was a strong and statistical significant trend showing those in higher incomes households expressing less negative attitudes toward immigrants in the region. That is, generally as household income increased, negative attitudes toward immigrants decreased.



The Life in Hampton Roads Data report and press releases will be placed on the Social Science Research Center website as they are released (<http://www.odu.edu/al/centers/ssrc>). Follow-up questions about the 2023 Life in Hampton Roads survey should be addressed to:

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