The Need for Language Access in COVID-19 Hot Spots

There are over 14 million Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons in the 30 metropolitan areas with the most confirmed COVID-19 cases.

The percentage of LEP speakers is higher in the COVID-19 hot spots – e.g., a total of 13.5% for the top 30 metropolitan areas – than for the US as a whole (8.3% LEP).

By language spoken at home, the largest language access needs are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Spoken at Home</th>
<th>LEP Persons (Aged 5 and UP) in Top 30 COVID-19 MSAs</th>
<th>COVID-19 Hot Spot MSAs with Largest Populations of Specified LEP Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>9,506,558</td>
<td>Los Angeles, New York, Miami</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>1,359,283</td>
<td>New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>510,724</td>
<td>Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>428,269</td>
<td>Los Angeles, New York, Washington DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tagalog</td>
<td>289,269</td>
<td>Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>283,022</td>
<td>New York, Detroit, Los Angeles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>274,546</td>
<td>New York, Los Angeles, Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haitian</td>
<td>255,317</td>
<td>Miami, New York, Boston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>213,582</td>
<td>Boston, New York, Miami</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>166,786</td>
<td>Chicago, New York, Detroit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>156,570</td>
<td>New York, Miami, Washington DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bengali</td>
<td>130,742</td>
<td>New York, Detroit, Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: US Census, 2018 1-year American Community Survey

By Top-30 COVID-19 Hot Spots with the highest percentage of LEP speakers, the largest language access needs by MSAs with the highest concentrations of LEP population are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSA</th>
<th>% LEP</th>
<th>Top 5 Language Needs by LEP Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL MSA</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>1. Spanish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 COVID-19 Hot Spots defined as a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in which at least one county has 150+ confirmed cases of COVID-19 and where the total MSA has at least 3,000 confirmed, active cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metropolitan Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Top Languages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA MSA    | 22.0%      | 1. Spanish  
2. Haitian  
3. Portuguese  
4. French  
5. Chinese |
| Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX MSA  | 17.0%      | 1. Spanish  
2. Vietnamese  
3. Chinese  
4. Arabic  
5. Urdu |
| New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA MSA | 16.3%      | 1. Spanish  
2. Chinese  
3. Russian  
4. Korean  
5. Bengali |
| Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA MSA | 15.3%      | 1. Spanish  
2. Chinese  
3. Tagalog  
4. Vietnamese  
5. Korean |
| San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA MSA     | 15.2%      | 1. Spanish  
2. Chinese  
3. Tagalog  
4. Vietnamese  
5. Korean |
| Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX MSA       | 13.0%      | 1. Spanish  
2. Vietnamese  
3. Chinese  
4. Korean  
5. Arabic |
| Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT MSA       | 12.4%      | 1. Spanish  
2. Portuguese  
3. Chinese  
4. Haitian  
5. Russian |
| Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI MSA    | 10.7%      | 1. Spanish  
2. Polish  
3. Chinese  
4. Arabic  
5. Tagalog |
| Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA | 10.5% | 1. Spanish  
2. Chinese  
3. Korean  
4. Vietnamese  
5. Amharic, Somali or |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Language(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH MSA        | 9.8%       | 1. Spanish  
2. Chinese  
3. Portuguese  
4. Haitian  
5. Vietnamese |
| Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA MSA           | 8.8%       | 1. Spanish  
2. Chinese  
3. Vietnamese  
4. Korean  
5. Amharic, Somali or other Afro-Asiatic Language |