The Need for Language Access in COVID-19 Hot Spots

There are over 16.5 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 12.1% 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>283,622</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>
</table>
| Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL MSA| 23.5% | 1. Spanish  
2. Haitian  
3. Portuguese  
4. French  
5. Chinese |
| Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA MSA       | 22.0% | 1. Spanish  
2. Chinese |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Top Languages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX MSA</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>1. Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Vietnamese</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Chinese</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Arabic</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Tagalog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA MSA</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>1. Spanish</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Chinese</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>3. Russian</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>4. Korean</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>5. Bengali</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA MSA</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>1. Spanish</td>
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<td>2. Chinese</td>
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<td>3. Tagalog</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4. Vietnamese</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Korean</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA MSA</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>1. Spanish</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Chinese</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Tagalog</td>
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<td>4. Vietnamese</td>
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<td>5. Korean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX MSA</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>1. Spanish</td>
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<td>2. Vietnamese</td>
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<td>3. Chinese</td>
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<td>4. Korean</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Arabic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI MSA</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>1. Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Polish</td>
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<td>3. Chinese</td>
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<td>4. Arabic</td>
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<td>5. Tagalog</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>1. Spanish</td>
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<td>2. Chinese</td>
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<td>3. Korean</td>
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<td>4. Vietnamese</td>
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<td>5. Amharic, Somali or other Afro-Asiatic Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH MSA</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>1. Spanish</td>
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<td>2. Chinese</td>
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<td>3. Portuguese</td>
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<td>4. Haitian</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Vietnamese</td>
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</tbody>
</table>