Studying Immigration: Longitudinal Data from the New Immigrant Survey

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Overview

- US Immigration Context
- The Science of Immigration
- New Immigrant Survey
- Brief Look at NIS Data
- Maximizing the Payoff

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Types of Foreign-Born in U.S.

- Legal permanent residents (LPR)
- LPRs who have become citizens
- Legal temporary residents
- Unauthorized

Foreign-Born in the United States: 2012

Legal Status	DHS		Census
	Pub	Implied	Pub
All foreign-born	---	---	40,601,259
Not a U.S. cit	---	26,600,000	22,188,045
LPR	13,300,000	---	---
Legal temp	1,870,000	---	---
Unauthorized	11,430,000	---	---
U.S. citizen	---	---	18,413,215

New Legal Immigrants

- **1991-1995: 781,848 per year**
- **1996-2000: 771,307 per year**
- **2001-2005: 980,388 per year**
- **2006-2010: 1,119,823 per year**

New Legal Immigrants

- 2006: 1,266,129
- 2007: 1,052,415
- 2008: 1,107,126
- 2009: 1,130,818
- 2010: 1,042,625
- 2011: 1,062,040
- 2012: 1,031,631
- 2013: 990,553

Pathways to LPR -- 1

- **Numerically unlimited visas**
  - spouses, parents, and minor children of U.S. citizens
- **Numerically limited visas**
  - family preferences 226,000+
  - employment preferences 140,000+
  - diversity 50,000
- **Humanitarian**
  - refugees/asylees/parolees
- **Legalization**
  - NACARA, HRIFA, IRCA, registry, canc. removal

Pathways to LPR – FY 2015

- **Numerically unlimited visas**
  - **spouses, parents, and minor children of U.S. citizens**
- **Numerically limited visas**
  - **family preferences** **226,000**
  - **employment preferences** **144,796**
  - **diversity** **50,000**
- **Humanitarian**
- **Legalization**

Pathways to LPR -- 2

- **Country ceilings for numerically limited family and employment preferences set at 7% of the total annual limit for independent countries – in 2015: 25,956**
- **Because countries differ in population size and in visa demand, 4 countries face longer waits: China, India, Mexico, Philippines**

Pathways to LPR -- 3

- **Most immigrants require sponsors**
  - **numerically unlimited immediate relatives**
  - **numerically limited relatives**
  - **most work-based immigrants**
- **Sponsor initiates the visa process**

Legalization of Illegals: Immigration Registry Law

Act	Entry Date	Years in U.S. Required	
		Shortest	Longest
1929	1 Jul 1924	5	15
1939	3 Jun 1921	18	19
1940	1 Jul 1924	16	34
1958	28 Jun 1940	18	25
1965	30 Jun 1948	17	38
1986	1 Jan 1972	14	Currently 43

Visa Process

- Arduous
- Long
  - visa wait for numerically limited visas (currently up to 23 years)
  - processing time for all visas
- Stressful – documents can be lost, etc.

Two Components of Visa Wait

- **Wait for numerically limited visas**
  - **affects only LPRs with numerically limited family and employment visas**
- **Visa processing**
  - **affects everyone**

Applicants for Numerically Limited Fam/Emp LPR Visa

- **Waiting for num limit LPR visa (366K/year)**
  - **November 2010: 4,683,393**
  - **November 2011: 4,624,399**
  - **November 2012: 4,412,693**
  - **November 2013: 4,322,575**
  - **November 2014: 4,422,660**
- **Visas already mortgaged for the next twelve years**
- **Where are they living?**
  - **Unknown**
  - **In origin country or in US (legally or illegally)**

Top Origin Countries
All Immigrants 2013

• Mexico	13.6%
• China	7.2%
• India	6.9%
• Philippines	5.5%
• Dom Rep	4.2%

Visa Composition in 2013

• Spouse of US citizen	25.1%
• Parent of US citizen	12.1
• Minor child of US citizen	7.2
• Other family-based	21.2
• Employment-based	16.3
• Diversity	4.6
• Refugee/asylee/parolee	12.2
• Other	1.4

Other Characteristics

- **Majority are female**
  - **54.7% in 2010-2012, 51.9% in 2013**
- **Many are young**
  - **14.8% < 15 in 2012, 13.8% in 2013**
  - **33.2% < 25 in 2012, 30.5% in 2013**
- **Nontrivial number leave**
  - **Historically about a third of all new immigrants subsequently left**
  - **DHS estimates that on January 1, 2012, there were 13.3 million LPRs residing in the United States**

Visas Process Continues after LPR

- Removal of conditionality restrictions
  - spouses & children whose LPR is based on a marriage of less than two years' duration
  - emp-based investor immigrants
- Green card renewal every ten years, unless immigrant becomes a US citizen

Migration Process Dynamic Continues after LPR

- Sponsorship of new immigrants, especially children without LPR
- Citizenship acquisition
  - naturalization – 18+ years of age
  - derivative citizenship – children
- Emigration
- Residential moves within US
- Remittances

Why Would Some Children Be Ineligible to Acquire LPR When Their Parents Become LPR?

- LPR cannot have accompanying children (e.g., LPR has parent visa)
- Child is age 21 or older
- LPR's sponsor cannot sponsor them as stepchildren
- LPR's spouse (principal) cannot include them as accompanying stepchildren
- LPR does not meet the financial requirements for bringing them

Non-LPR Children of New LPRs

- Sponsorship in the future
- Where do they live?
  - in the origin country
  - in the U.S., illegally

Naturalization

- **Adult Immigrants (18+)**
  - **General provisions (GenProv): 5 years residency**
  - **Special provisions (SpecProv): 0 to 4 years residency – veterans, spouses of U.S. citizens, refugees, asylees, etc.**

Derivative Citizenship

- **Child Immigrants (<18 at LPR)**
  - **Adoptee, automatic citizenship**
  - **Biological child of U.S. citizen, almost automatic citizenship**
  - **Child of immigrants**
    - **if parent naturalizes while child LPR is <18, child acquires citizenship**
    - **otherwise, child LPR applies upon reaching 18 years of age**

Citizenship Acquisition among Child Immigrants

- **Child Immigrants (<18 at LPR)**
  - **Whether a child immigrant acquires derivative citizenship or naturalizes "on her own" depends on age at LPR, parental residency requirement, and parental naturalization**

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Migration: Four Central Questions

- Immigrants at Entry
- Progress of Immigrants
- Children of Migration
- Impacts of Migration

Four Central Questions

- **What are the migrant's characteristics and behavior at entry?**
- **How do the migrant's characteristics and behavior change with time in the destination country?**
- **What are the characteristics and behavior of the children of migration?**
- **What are the impacts of migration on the origin and destination countries?**

Unifying Theme

- ***Ubi bene, ibi patria***
- **Where one is well-off, there is one's country**
  - **along many dimensions, from staying alive to achieving highest potential**

Longitudinal Studies

- **Migration is dynamic**
- **Occurs over time**
- **Longitudinal studies hence the ideal approach**

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Objective of NIS

- Create new public-use data base on legal immigrants and their children
- Answer fundamental questions about migration behavior and the impacts of immigration

History of NIS Design

- Developed by public and private panels
  - Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy, 1981
  - NAS-NRC Panel on Immigration Statistics, 1985
  - Rockefeller/Sloan Workshop on Immigration, 1985
  - IUSSP Workshop on Migration, 1987
  - NIH Workshop on Immigration, 1993
  - NAS-NRC Workshop on Immigrant Children and Families, 1994
  - NAS-NRC Panel on Impacts of Immigration, 1997
  - Binational Study of U.S.-Mexico Migration, 1997

Principal Investigators

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Sources of Support

NIH (NICHD and NIA)

NSF

CIS, DHS

ASPE, HHS

PEW

NIS Design

- Representative samples of new LPRs, both new arrivals and adjustees
- Sample new cohorts periodically
- Obtain information about sampled immigrant, plus
  - Family members in the household
  - Family members elsewhere
  - Others in the household
  - Children, including those born later
- Re-interview them periodically
- Histories, prospective and retrospective
- Child assessments

NIS Sample Key

- **WHO -- draw sample from batches of electronic records on new legal permanent residents**
- **WHEN -- contact them as soon as possible after admission to legal permanent residence**
- **WHERE -- contact them at the address to which they have asked that their green card be mailed**

NIS Pilot -- 1996

- Sharpen the design
  - Locating sampled immigrants
  - Retaining sample members over time
  - Interview languages
  - Sensitive questions
  - Cost-effective procedures
- Obtain immediately useful information
  - Schooling, skills, and socioeconomic status
  - Links between legal and illegal immigration
  - Marriage, language, health, mobility, religion
- Public-use data at http://nis.princeton.edu

NIS-2003 Design - 1

- **Target Population**
  - **New legal immigrants**
- **Sampling Frame**
  - **USCIS administrative records**
  - **May-November 2003**
  - **in eight replicates**
- **Two Samples**
  - **Adult Sample – 8,573**
  - **Child Sample – 810**

NIS-2003 Design – 2

Geography

- Top 85 MSAs – included
- Other MSAs – 10 sampled
- Top 38 counties – included
- Other counties – 15 pairs sampled
- Overseas – excluded

NIS-2003 Samples

Population – Sampled - Interviewed

- **Adult Sample**
  - Spouse, US cit: 33.7% -- 16.5% -- 16.7%
  - Emp prin: 6.22% -- 16.5% -- 16.0%
  - Div prin: 5.22% -- 13.5% -- 14.4%
  - Other: 54.8% -- 53.5% -- 52.9%
- **Child Sample**
  - Child, US cit: 71.9% -- 50.0% -- 48.6%
  - Adopted orph: 28.1% -- 50.0% -- 51.4%

NIS Language Design: Basic Principle

- **Interview all respondents (sampled immigrants, spouses, children) in the language of their choice – their preferred language**

NIS Language Design

- **Basic Principle: Interview respondents in the language of their choice – their preferred language**
- **Procedures**
  - **Instruments translated into Chinese, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese**
  - **Interviews in a total of 95 languages**

NIS-2003-1

- LPR admin frame May-Nov 2003
- Interviewed June 2003 - June 2004
  - mean time between LPR & int: 17 weeks
- Interviewed in 95 languages
- Response rate
  - Adult Sample, N = 8,573: 68.6%
  - Child Sample, N = 810: 64.8%

Sets of Children in NIS Data

- **Adult Sample**
  - **main sampled adult immigrants**
    - **minor children of US citizens, age 18-20**
    - **adult single children of US citizens (F1)**
    - **married children of US citizens (F3)**
    - **adult single children of LPRs (F2B)**
  - **all children of main sampled immigrants, incl**
    - **adult US citizen children who sponsored parents**
    - **children age 3-17 of main sampled immigrants**
      - **interviewed if age 8-12**
- **Child Sample**
  - **main sampled child immigrants, incl adopted**
    - **minor children of US citizens, age 5-17**
    - **other children in household, age 3-17**
      - **interviewed if age 8-12**

NIS Questionnaires

- **Adult respondents**
  - **demographics, marriage, schooling, employment, migration, sponsorship, health, health care and insurance, assets and income, transfers, language, religion, politics, parental behaviors, children**
- **Child respondents**
  - **child questionnaire for ages 8-12**
  - **child assessments for ages 3-12**

Subsequent Rounds

- LPR phase of immigrant career just beginning at baseline round
- Track immigrants over time to observe unfolding of migration process
  - extent and pace of adjustment
  - trajectory of extracting greater benefits from US environment and mitigating costs
- NIS-2003-2 completed in 2009

NIS-2003-2 Language Design

- **Basic Principle: Interview respondents in the language of their choice – their preferred language**
- **Procedures**
  - **Instruments in Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese**
  - **for other languages, team of interviewer and interpreter**

NIS-2003-2 Questionnaires

- **Update all information from Round 1**
- **In Child Sample, children who reach 18 years of age administered adult questionnaire from Round 1**

NIS-2003-2

- Interviewed 2007-2009
- Adult Sample interviews with 3,902 sampled immigrants and 1557 spouses
- Response rate
  - 45.5%
  - 46.1%, after adjusting for death and incapacitation

Who Will Naturalize? And When?

- Because the NIS is a longitudinal study, it will be possible to learn
  - who naturalizes
    - age, origin country, visa class, time in U.S., children, family dynamics
  - timing of naturalization
  - preparation and process

Who Will Naturalize? And Which Children Derive Citizenship?

- Within sibship, which children meet the age criterion? And which do not?
- Contrast by visa class and country
- Analyze links to earlier decision to obtain LPR for the children
- Analyze links to residence, remittances

Who Will Sponsor? And Whom? And When?

- Because the NIS is a longitudinal study, it will be possible to learn
  - who sponsors
    - age, origin country, visa class, time in U.S., children, family dynamics
  - whom they sponsor
    - age, origin country, visa class, time in U.S., children, family dynamics
  - timing and process

Who Will Sponsor? And Which Children Left Behind Are Sponsored?

- **Among children who did not acquire LPR at the same time as their parents, which are sponsored after parental LPR?**
- **Analyze links to residence and remittances**

Who Will Leave the U.S.? And When?

- Because the NIS is a longitudinal study, it will be possible to learn
  - who emigrates
    - age, origin country, visa class, time in U.S., children, family dynamics
  - timing of emigration
  - subsequent return

New Immigrant Survey

public-use data
http://nis.princeton.edu

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NIS Respondents

- **Adult Sample**
  - **Sampled immigrant: 8,573**
  - **Spouse, if married: 4,334**
  - **Children ages 8-12: 1,072**
  - **Children ages 3-12: 2,551**
- **Child Sample**
  - **Sponsor-parent of sampled child: 810**
  - **Spouse of sponsor-parent: 579**
  - **Children ages 8-12: 194**
  - **Children ages 3-12: 483**
- **Parent info on children ages 5-17**

Visa Composition of NIS-2003

- Spouse of NB US citizen: 15.8%
- Spouse of FB US citizen: 18.3
- Parent of US citizen: 11.9
- Minor child of US citizen: 3.38
- Sibling of US citizen: 3.94
- Spouse of sibling: 2.49
- Spouse of LPR: 2.44
- Employment principal: 6.02
- Employment spouse: 3.63
- Diversity principal: 5.53
- Diversity spouse: 2.58
- Refugee/asylee/parolee principal: 5.35
- Refugee/asylee/parolee spouse: 1.22
- Legalization principal: 7.98

Top Origin Countries
NIS-2003 Adult Immigrants

- **Mexico** **17.5%**
- **India** **7.30%**
- **El Salvador** **6.11%**
- **Philippines** **5.47%**
- **China** **5.27%**

NIS-2003 Adult Immigrants Come from 168 Countries

- Other countries with 100+ cases
  - Vietnam, Guatemala, Dominican Rep, Colombia, Haiti, Cuba, Jamaica, Poland, Nigeria, Korea, Peru, Russia, Ethiopia, Canada, Ukraine, UK
- Countries with 70-99 cases
  - Ecuador, Pakistan, Taiwan, Iran, Morocco, Albania, Bulgaria

Proportion Female -- 56.5%

- Spouse of NB US citizen: 59.6%
- Spouse of FB US citizen: 65.8%
- Parent of US citizen: 66.2%
- Minor child of US citizen: 41.9%
- Sibling of US citizen: 51.4%
- Spouse of LPR: 83.5%
- Employment principal: 32.8%
- Employment spouse: 77.0%
- Diversity principal: 41.1%
- Diversity spouse: 48.7%
- Refugee/asylee/parolee principal: 42.8%
- Refugee/asylee/parolee spouse: 74.8%
- Legalization principal: 49.8%

Previous Illegal Experience, NIS-2003

- Based on imm visa
  - 7.98 %
- Based on nonimm visa
  - 30.6 % (3.76 EWI + 12.4 UU + 14.4 miss)
- Total, based on imm or nonimm visa
  - 30.7%
  - 35.7% (including Warren measure)
- Total (including survey estimates)
  - 38.7 %

Percent Formerly Illegal: NIS-2003

- Spouse of NB US citizen: 55.4%
- Spouse of FB US citizen: 48.0
- Parent of US citizen: 24.6
- Minor child of US citizen: 39.2
- Sibling of US citizen: 11.4
- Spouse of sibling: 2.70
- Spouse of LPR: 57.5
- Employment principal: 21.0
- Employment spouse: 16.0
- Diversity principal: 5.23
- Diversity spouse: 1.46
- Refugee/asylee/parolee principal: 46.5
- Refugee/asylee/parolee spouse: 14.8
- Legalization principal: 100

Pathways to Legalization: Top Five Visa Categories Among Formerly Illegal NIS-2003

• Spouse of NB US citizen	23.2%
• Spouse of FB US citizen	22.2
• Legalization visa	20.6
• Parent of US citizen	7.58
• Ref/asy/parolee principal	6.42

Previous Illegal Experience

- All immigrants – 38.7%
- Children 8-12 whose parents have illegal experience – 52.3%
- Parents of children 8-12 – 52.6%

Other Characteristics NIS-2003

- **Majority are female**
  - **54.7% in 2010, 2011, 2012**
  - **56.5% in NIS-2003**
- **Intention to stay in U.S. (All & Ill)**

– No	10.2	8.0
– Uncertain	11.6	7.8
– Yes	78.3	84.3

Visa Composition in R1 & R2

• Spouse of NB US citizen	34.1%	33.9
• Parent of US citizen	11.9	10.2
• Minor child of US citizen	3.38	2.72
• Sibling of US citizen	3.94	3.92
• Spouse of sibling	2.49	2.75
• Spouse of LPR	2.44	2.76
• Employment principal	6.02	6.23
• Employment spouse	3.63	3.25
• Diversity principal	5.53	5.68
• Diversity spouse	2.58	2.98
• Refugee/asylee/parolee principal	5.35	5.11
• Refugee/asylee/parolee spouse	1.22	1.23
• Legalization principal	7.98	9.22

Country of Birth in R1 & R2

• Mexico	17.5%	18.8%
• India	7.30	6.60
• El Salvador	6.11	6.87
• Philippines	5.47	5.17
• China	5.27	4.73
• Vietnam	3.08	3.24
• Guatemala	2.43	2.94
• Dominican Republic	2.27	2.56
• Colombia	2.08	2.01

Question on Sponsorship

- **Since you became a legal permanent resident, have you yourself filed a petition to begin the process to bring a relative to live permanently in the United States?**

Percent Petitioned for Relatives between LPR and Round 2

- **4.91% of the 2003 cohort petitioned for relatives – for an effective rate of about 10%**
- **2.85% petitioned for children – for an effective rate of about 5.7%**

Percent Petitioned for Children

• Spouse of US citizen	1.43%
• Parent of US citizen	5.03
• Adult single child of US cit	4.25
• Adult married child of US cit	5.28
• Spouse of adult child of US cit	2.94
• Sibling of US citizen	6.55
• Spouse of sibling	10.5
• Spouse of LPR	2.08
• Child of LPR	6.36
• Employment principal	1.31
• Employment spouse	0.331
• Diversity principal	2.34
• Diversity spouse	2.69
• Refugee/asylee/parolee principal	1.32
• Refugee/asylee/parolee spouse	1.56
• Legalization principal	4.44

Percent Petitioned for Children

• Mexico	1.31%
• India	2.14
• El Salvador	5.55
• Philippines	5.58
• China	2.75
• Vietnam	6.82
• Guatemala	3.14
• Dominican Republic	8.49
• Colombia	2.62
• Haiti	2.61

Conditionality Restrictions: Filing to Remove by R2

- Filed to remove restrictions 66.65
  - restrictions removed 60.7
  - petition pending 3.34
  - petition denied 2.61
- Had not filed 8.05
- Denied having cond visa 18.9
- No answer 6.04

- Up to 39% may have lapsed into illegality

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Maximize Scientific Payoff: Link NIS Data to Admin Data

- Removal of conditionality restrictions on LPR
- Green card renewal
- Residential mobility
- Naturalization among adults
- Derived citz via parental natz
- Sponsorship

Maximize Scientific Payoff: Survey Effects

- Contrast two groups
  - control: not invited to NIS
  - treatment: invited
- Examine differences in
  - emigration
  - naturalization
  - English fluency

Maximize Scientific Payoff: Cohort Comparisons

- **Compare**
  - **1996 Cohort**
  - **2003 Cohort**
- **Examine differences in**
  - **emigration**
  - **naturalization**
  - **residential mobility**

Maximize Scientific Payoff: Link to Reconstituted Families

- Reconstitute families in the new immigrant files, for example
  - principal
  - spouse of principal
  - children of principal
- And more elaborate families
  - spouse of U.S. citizen
  - biological children of spouse and stepchildren of U.S. citizen

Maximize Scientific Payoff: Interview Entire Family

- **From household survey to family survey**
- **The migration process involves many persons and cannot be understood without interviewing them**
  - **decision to include eligible children in LPR application, and/or take them, involves parents and children plus a variety of possible caretakers and competitors for caretaking – parents' parents, siblings, etc.**

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