Committee on Population
Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education

The Integration of Immigrants into American Society
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Panel Charge

1. Summarizing what is known about how immigrants and their descendants are integrating into American society;

2. Discussing the implications of this knowledge for informing various policy options;

3. Identifying any important gaps in existing knowledge and data availability.
Integration

• Immigrant groups and host societies come to resemble each other.
  • Two-way exchange
  • Measured across time and intergenerationally
• Across various dimensions:
  • Socioeconomic outcomes & participation in social institutions
  • Social acceptance
• Effects on well-being
Quick Summary

• Immigrants and their children (the second generation) represent one of every four U.S. residents.

• Immigrants and their descendants are integrating into American society. Integration as a process unfolds with increased time in the U.S. for immigrants, as well as across the generations of their descendants.

• On the whole, integration increases the well-being of immigrants and their descendants, e.g., in schooling, labor-market position, and residential situation.

• However, this is not true in every domain. Exceptions include health, crime and family form.
Recent Shift in Immigrant Flows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Latino Arrivals</th>
<th>Asian Arrivals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<td>2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Undocumented Migration Plateau

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Integration across Dimensions

- Socioeconomic
  - Education
  - Occupation
  - Income
  - Poverty
- Political
  - Naturalization
  - Civic Participation
- Sociocultural
  - Language
  - Crime
  - Religion
  - Attitudes
  - Intermarriage
- Spatial
- Familial
- Health
Educational Attainment (age 25+), 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>US Born</th>
<th>Foreign Born</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than High School</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduate</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College or Associate's Degree</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's Degree</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or Professional Degree</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Employment

• Immigrant men have higher employment rates than native born; immigrant women lower

• Least educated immigrants much more likely to be employed than comparable native born men

• Second + generation employment rates vary by race/ethnicity and gender
Earnings by Nativity and Gender, 2013

- US Born
  - Men: $50,000
  - Women: $40,000

- Foreign Born
  - Men: $30,000
  - Women: $20,000
Occupation

- Similar positive trajectories as employment and earnings
- Second-gen women narrowing gap faster than men
- U.S. workforce welcoming immigrants and second-gen across occupational spectrum
Poverty

- Poverty rates higher for foreign-born
- Poverty generally declines over generations, 18% → 13.6 → 11.5
- Racial & ethnic disparities:
  - First-gen Hispanics highest rates but progress between first & second-gens
  - Rise in black second-gen
  - Asian stalling between second and third-gens
Language

English Speaking Ability of the Foreign-born Who Speak Language Other Than English at Home, 2012

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Declines in Well-Being

- **Health, Crime, and Children in Two-Parent Households**
  - Immigrants have better health outcomes, but less access to health care & insurance
  - LESS likely to commit crime, incarcerated at $\frac{1}{4}$ rate of native-born
  - Immigrants less likely to divorce, immigrant children more likely to live with both parents
  - Over time & generations these advantages decline as second and third+ gens converge with native-born
Areas of Concern

- Legal Status
- Racial and ethnic disparities
- Naturalization Rates
Legal Status

- Permanent Immigrants: 69.2%
- Undocumented immigrants: 26.3%
- Temporary and discretionary legal residents: 4.5%
- Naturalized Citizens: 41.8%
- Legal Permanent Residents: 27.4%
Legal Status

- Key factor in integration trajectory
- Many statuses are transitional and temporary
- Disproportionately impacts certain immigrant groups
- Undocumented status slows but does not fully impede integration
- Variation from state-to-state
- Multi-generational effects. 4.5 million citizen children have an undocumented immigrant parent
Racial & Ethnic Disparities

- Immigrant integration shaped by race & ethnicity
- Black immigrants & their children integrating more slowly with non-Hispanic whites despite higher human capital
- Some evidence of discrimination impeding Latino integration
Naturalization & Citizenship

- Citizenship rate in US 50% vs. 61% OECD average;
- Adjusting for undocumented population, still well below Canada, Australia, Sweden
- Most immigrants want to naturalize
- Birthright citizenship is a powerful mechanism of integration
- Major barrier to political integration
Effects of Immigration on Society: Demographic Change

1970
- Non-Hispanic White: 83%
- Latino/Hispanic: 4.6%
- Black: 11%
- American Indian/Native: 0.4%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 1%

2013
- Non-Hispanic White: 62.4%
- Latino/Hispanic: 17.1%
- Black: 12.3%
- American Indian/Native: 1.7%
- Asian: 6%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 0.2%
Religion

- Christian: 71% Native-born, 68% Foreign-born
- Jewish: 2% Native-born, 1% Foreign-born
- Muslim: <0.5% Native-born, 4% Foreign-born
- Buddhist: 1% Native-born, 1% Foreign-born
- Hindu: <0.5% Native-born, 4% Foreign-born
- Other: 2% Native-born, 2% Foreign-born
- Unaffiliated: 23% Native-born, 20% Foreign-born

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Interrace and interethnic marriages are increasing.

- 1 in 7 marriages today are interracial/interethnic.
- More mixed race children.
- Changing racial & social boundaries.
Data Recommendations

• Add birthplace of parents question to American Community Survey
• Test & add question about legal status on Current Population Survey
• Immigration legislation include longitudinal survey provision
• Administrative data at USCIS be linked to other gov’t data
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