Analyzing Immigration and the Characteristics of the Foreign Born from Mexico: Data Sources from the U.S. Census Bureau

Elizabeth M. Grieco
Chief, Immigration Statistics Staff
Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau

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Purpose of Presentation

Discuss U.S. Census Bureau data that can be used to analyze immigration from Mexico to the United States and the characteristics of the foreign born from Mexico

Review several U.S. Census Bureau data sources:
- Decennial Census
- American Community Survey (ACS)
- Current Population Survey (CPS)
- Other sources
# Decennial Census – Quick Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Purpose:</strong></th>
<th>Apportionment of House seats among the states</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Universe:</strong></td>
<td>Entire U.S. resident population (households and group quarters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frequency:</strong></td>
<td>Every 10 years (since 1790)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Format:</strong></td>
<td>Short and long forms for Census 2000 <em>but</em> one form only for Census 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geography:</strong></td>
<td>National and extensive sub-national</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*United States Census Bureau*
Census 2000 – Key Migration Items

In addition to all of the other items available from the Census 2000 long-form sample data:

- Place of birth/nativity (*not* country of citizenship)
- U.S. citizenship
- Year of entry
- Migration history (residence 5 years ago)
- Race, ethnicity (Hispanic origin), ancestry
- Language spoken at home

For more information on Census 2000:  
“Reengineered” Decennial Census

Census Bureau is discontinuing the decennial long-form sample form
• Only “short form” questions on Census 2010
  – Age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, household relationship, tenure (owner/renter status)

American Community Survey (ACS) is one component of the reengineered decennial census
• ACS provides annual demographic, social, economic and housing characteristics data
• ACS data comparable to the decennial long form sample data
American Community Survey – Quick Facts

**Purpose:** Provide timely data at national and extensive sub-national geography levels

**Universe:** U.S. resident population (3 million addresses in sample)

**Frequency:** Yearly estimates

**Geography:** Nation, state, county, and place (2005) and extensive sub-national (2008 forward)
American Community Survey – Who Is Interviewed?

- Resident population living in both households and group quarters facilities
- Resident population without regards to legal status or citizenship
- Current residents at sample address who have lived or plan to live at housing unit for more than 2 months

How many people are living or staying at this address?

- **INCLUDE** everyone who is living or staying here for more than 2 months.
- **INCLUDE** yourself if you are living here for more than 2 months.
- **INCLUDE** anyone else staying here who does not have another place to stay, even if they are here for 2 months or less.
- **DO NOT INCLUDE** anyone who is living somewhere else for more than 2 months, such as a college student living away or someone in the Armed Forces on deployment.
American Community Survey – Data Collection

• ACS data are collected continuously throughout the year
• Three data collection modes
  – Mail
  – Telephone (“CATI”)
  – In-person interviews (“CAPI”)
• Monthly samples aggregated into period data
American Community Survey – Period Estimates

• ACS estimates are period estimates
  – 1-year, 3-year, or 5-year estimates
• Estimates describe the average population and housing characteristics over entire period
  – 2007 1-year estimates: average characteristics of population for calendar year 2007
• Note: Single-year estimates not expected to be the same as multi-year estimates
  – They are based on data from different time periods
American Community Survey – Geographic Coverage

ACS data products released depend on population size of a given area:

• 1-year estimates: population 65,000 or more
• 3-year estimates: population 20,000 or more
• 5 year estimates: every geography down to block group level

Note: Use consistent collection periods when comparing smaller areas with larger areas (e.g., compare 1-year estimates to other 1-year estimates, 3-year estimates to other 3-year estimates, etc. for same time period)
American Community Survey – When to Use Single- or Multi-Year Estimates

• Multi-year estimates based on larger sample size, estimates more reliable. So use:
  – When single-year estimates have large standard errors
  – When precision of estimate more important than currency
  – For smaller geographies and small populations in large geographies

• Single-year estimates based on smaller sample size, but estimate more current. So use:
  – For larger geographies
  – When currency is more important than precision
American Community Survey – Margin of Errors (MOEs)

• MOE describes the precision of an estimate at a given level of confidence
  – Margin of Error = 1.645 x Standard Error

• Census Bureau’s standard: 90 percent confidence level

• Users should conduct statistical testing to determine if estimates are statistically different
  – This is especially important for small population groups because of possible large margins of error

• MOE’s included on all published ACS tables
American Community Survey – Key Migration Items

In addition to all of the other items on the ACS:
- Place of birth/nativity (not country of citizenship)
- U.S. citizenship
- Year of naturalization (beginning in 2008 ACS)
- Year of entry
- Migration history (residence 1 year ago)
- Race, ethnicity (Hispanic origin), ancestry
- Language spoken at home
American Community Survey – Residence One Year Ago (ROYA)

- Can be used to classify individuals as local movers, domestic migrants, or immigrants from abroad
- Can be used to construct migration streams of people coming into and moving out of an area.

Note: ACS data on residence 1 year ago cannot be compared with Census 2000 data on residence 5 years ago
American Community Survey – Interpreting Single- and Multi-Year Data

**QUESTIONS:**

What is the size of the foreign-born population?

What proportion of the foreign-born population lived outside the United States a year ago?

Both single-year and multi-year period data can provide answers to these questions!
American Community Survey –
Size of the Foreign-Born Population

2007 ACS Single-Year Estimates
(Data for period collected continuously over 12 months)

(Data for period collected over 36 months)

Estimates describe the average size of the foreign-born population over entire period: 12 months (1-year estimate), 36 months (3-year estimate), or 60 months (5-year estimate)
American Community Survey – Size of the Foreign-Born Population (continued)

ANSWER:
According to the 2007 ACS, during the 2007 period, there were 38.1 million foreign born in the United States.

ANSWER:
According to the 2005-2007 ACS, during the 2005-2007 period, there were 37.2 million foreign born in the United States.
American Community Survey – Interpreting ROYA Using 1-Year Data

1-year estimates include data from 12 independent monthly samples

Reference Period

Survey Period

Month/year in sample

Reference month/year
American Community Survey – Interpreting ROYA Using 3-Year Data

3-year estimates include data from 36 independent monthly samples
American Community Survey – Interpreting ROYA (continued)

ANSWER:

According to the **2007 ACS**, during the 2007 period, 3.1% of the foreign-born population lived outside the United States 12 months before being surveyed.

ANSWER:

According to the **2005-2007 ACS**, during the 2005-2007 period, 3.4% of the foreign-born population lived outside the United States 12 months before being surveyed.
American Community Survey – Data Products

Profiles
- Data Profiles
- Narrative Profiles
- Comparison Profiles
- Selected Population Profiles

Tables
- Detailed Tables
- Subject Tables
- Ranking Tables
- Geographic Comparison Tables

Thematic Maps

Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files
Selected Population Profiles

Iterations for over 100 foreign-born groups

For nation, states, and other geographic areas that have a total population of 500,000 and group population of 65,000 or more

Additional social, economic, and demographic information on the foreign born not previously available from other ACS tables (e.g., fertility, disability, family income, poverty of individuals, etc.)

United States
S0201. Selected Population Profile in the United States
Country of Birth: Mexico

Data Set: 2007 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates
Survey: American Community Survey
Source: American FactFinder (http://factfinder.census.gov)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Total population</th>
<th>Margin of Error</th>
<th>Mexico</th>
<th>Margin of Error</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total population</td>
<td>301,621,159</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>11,738,537</td>
<td>+/-86,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL NUMBER OF RACES REPORTED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One race</td>
<td>97.8%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>99.0%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two races</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three races</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four or more races</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEX AND AGE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
<td>+/-0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>50.7%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
<td>+/-0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 17 years</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>+/-0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 24 years</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>+/-0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34 years</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
<td>+/-0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44 years</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>+/-0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54 years</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>+/-0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64 years</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74 years</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 years and over</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (years)</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>+/-0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 years and over</td>
<td>75.5%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>90.6%</td>
<td>+/-0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 years and over</td>
<td>71.1%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>86.2%</td>
<td>+/-0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62 years and over</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>+/-0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
American Community Survey – Accessing Data

American FactFinder
factfinder.census.gov

File Transfer Protocol (FTP) Site
http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Special/acsftp.html

Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files
www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/PUMS/index.html

What PUMS Data Users Need to Know
“Compass” Handbook
www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACSPUMS.pdf

Data Ferrett
dataferrett.census.gov
American Community Survey –
On-Line Resources for Researchers

“Compass” Handbooks
www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Compass/handbook_def.html

ACS Design and Methodology

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U
American Community Survey – Learning More… and More… and More!

ACS Main Page
www.census.gov/acs/www
ACS Products Page
www.census.gov/acs/www/Products
2007 Data Product Details
www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/users_guide
How to Use the Data
www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData.htm
How to Use the Data: User Notes
www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/usernotes.htm
How to Use the Data: Errata Notes
www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Errata.htm
How to Use the Data: Overview of Geographic Areas
www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/geo.htm
Subject Definitions
www.census.gov/acs/www.UseData/Def.htm
Users Support Email Address
acso.users.support@census.gov
Comparing 2007 ACS Data to Census 2000 Data

• Global differences exist
  – e.g., residency rules, universes, reference periods, period vs. point-in-time estimates

• For most population and housing subjects, comparisons can be made
  – Place of birth, citizenship, nativity, language can be compared
  – Year of entry can be compared (watch reference periods)
  – Residence 1 year ago (ACS) should not be compared to residence 5 years ago (Census 2000)

• “Comparing ACS to Other Sources”
  – www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/compACS.htm
Current Population Survey – Quick Facts

Conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics

*Purpose*: Provide labor force characteristics of the U.S. population

*Universe*: Civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States

*Sample size*: 50,000 households

*Frequency*: Monthly, with periodic supplements (Annual Social and Economic (ASEC) Supplement)

*Geography*: Nation only

*Note*: Parental place of birth (mother and father) data
Current Population Survey – Additional Information

CPS Main Page
www.census.gov/cps/

Technical Documentation
www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html

Downloading CPS Data
www.bls.census.gov/ferretftp.htm

Data Ferrett
dataferrett.census.gov

Other Surveys Including Information About the Foreign Born

American Housing Survey (AHS)
www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/ahs/ahs.html

American Time Use Survey (ATUS)
www.bls.gov/tus

National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm

National Prisoner Statistics (NPS)
www.census.gov/econ/overview/go3000.html

National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG)
www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvygrads

New York City Housing Vacancy Survey (NYCHVS)
www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/nychvs/nychvs.html

Survey of Program Dynamics (SPD)
www.census.gov/spd

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
www.census.gov/sipp

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U
Useful Websites with Data on Migration and the Foreign Born

U.S. Census Bureau Foreign-Born Population Homepage
  www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/foreign.html
DHS Office of Immigration Statistics
  www.dhs.gov/immigrationstatistics
Department of State Visa Issuance Statistics
  travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/statistics/statistics_1476.html
SEVIS International Students/Exchange Visitor Data
  www.ice.gov/sevis/numbers
University of Minnesota IPUMS Project
  www.ipums.umn.edu (for census and CPS data)
  international.ipums.org/international (for international data)
Contact Information

Elizabeth M. Grieco
Chief, Immigration Statistics Staff
Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
301-763-5275
Elizabeth.M.Grieco@census.gov