

## S U M M A R Y

Analysts of the immigrant population in the United States fear a policy crisis is on the horizon. As part of its strategy for streamlining future censuses, the US Census Bureau will not use the “long-form” questionnaire in 2010. This is significant because the long form has traditionally provided the best socio-economic and demographic data available on the foreign born. The American Community Survey (ACS) is the intended replacement for the census long form but its full implementation, which was planned for 2003, has already been delayed and the prospect of continued congressional funding is tenuous. If the long form is not included in the 2010 census, as is planned, and Congress fails to ensure full and continued funding for the ACS, immigrants, communities, and states alike stand to suffer. No other federal survey provides the type of detailed data necessary for sound planning and research. This policy brief explores the critical role of the Census Bureau in providing data on the immigrant population and makes recommendations on how to improve the quality and expand the breadth of data available on the foreign born in federal data collection systems.

## Census 2010 and the Foreign Born: Averting the Data Crisis

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According to Census 2000, the foreign-born population increased from 19.8 million in 1990 to 31.1 million in 2000, representing the largest number of immigrants ever to reside in the United States. The foreign born now account for over 11 percent of the total population, the highest percentage recorded since the 1930 census. Given the rapid and substantial growth in the size of this population, the continued availability of high-quality data on international migration and the foreign born is crucial for both policymakers and researchers. This is especially true for policymakers, given the implications of this growth for many areas, such as education, health care, welfare, and economic performance.

While the numeric increase in immigrants alone could justify the continuation if not the expansion of data collection on the foreign born, there are two other compelling trends. First, over the past three decades, the foreign born have become increasingly diverse. Over this period, the proportion of immigrants from European countries has continued to decline in favor of those from Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Middle East, and Africa. The number of immigrants speaking languages other than English, including Spanish and Asian languages, has increased. Also, a greater proportion of immigrants is coming from non-Western, less-developed countries.

Second, patterns of migration and settlement have changed. Temporary, circular, and undocumented migration, as opposed to lawful permanent migration, is highly likely. While immigrants are still most likely to settle in a limited number of states, including California, Texas, and New York, and large gateway urban areas such as Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago, they are also moving in increasing numbers to smaller “non-traditional” states, such as North Carolina, Georgia, and Nevada, and smaller towns and suburbs.

As demonstrated by Census 2000, the rapid and substantial growth of the foreign-born population makes it an increasingly important component of American society. This, combined with its growing

socio-economic diversity, means the immigrant population merits additional attention from policy-makers and researchers. These changes have prompted many of the policy and research questions that are relevant today but, unfortunately, they cannot be fully answered by the data available. For example, how many migrants are there in the United States in different groups (e.g., undocumented, lawful permanent, lawful temporary, refugee, etc.), what are their characteristics, and how do they vary? How is English proficiency, especially that of the children of immigrants, affecting the educational resources of school districts in the new areas of immigration? What are the socio-economic characteristics of newly established migrant households, and what are their program needs? What are the socio-economic characteristics of circular migrants, and how likely are they to become permanent residents and acquire citizenship? What is the educational attainment of the children of immigrants, and how does this influence their household income? Answers to these questions — and the keys to overcoming the challenges they present — can only be found if research and policy are based on sound data. Expanded data on the foreign born, based on both new and existing questions, are therefore essential.

Ironically, at a time when immigration into the United States is substantial and increasingly diverse, and when the need for expanded, high-quality data on the foreign born is at its highest, the likelihood that the available census and survey data will continue to exist is at its lowest. The census “long form” (see Box 1), which has traditionally provided the best data available on the foreign born, will not be included in the 2010 census. Its intended replacement, the American Community Survey (ACS) (see Box 2), appears less and less likely to receive funding for full and continued implementation. While the Current Population Survey (CPS) is a good source of regular information on the foreign born, its value is limited by its sample size, which is too small to provide estimates for specific immigrant groups and small geographic areas (e.g., counties, school districts, suburbs) heavily affected by recent immigration.

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**BOX 1: Census 2000 “short” and “long” forms**

Census 2000 had two questionnaires, a “short form” and a “long form.” Traditionally, the US Census Bureau has conducted a complete count of the population using the short form. The short form questionnaire for Census 2000, which was sent to approximately five of every six households, contained questions on sex, age, relationship to householder, race, Hispanic origin, and tenure (i.e., whether the housing unit is owned or rented). The long form questionnaire, which was sent to approximately one of every six households, included all of the short form questions plus additional questions on the social, economic, and housing characteristics of both individuals and households. Questions about the foreign born, such as place of birth and citizenship status, were part of the long form questionnaire. The data derived from the long form are referred to as “sample data” because they only include a sample (i.e., one-sixth) of the total US resident population. Sample data are used to estimate the values of the characteristics of the population, such as the number of foreign born or the percentage of households in poverty, at the national and sub-national (e.g., state, county, block) levels.

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Given the growth of the foreign-born population and its increasing diversity, the need for high-quality data cannot be understated — nor should the threat to its continued existence be minimized.

On September 24, 2002, the Migration Policy Institute, as part of its Migration Information Source project, convened a meeting of distinguished social scientists to discuss questions on the US decennial census and other federal surveys related to international migration and the foreign-born population. The purpose of this meeting was to define collectively the problems and limitations associated with these questions and to identify ways, by either modifying or adding questions, to improve the quality and expand the breadth of data available on the foreign born in federal data collection systems.

This report summarizes the main issues of concern voiced by the participants regarding data on international migration and the foreign born, given the current economic and political context in which decisions regarding this data are being made. During the discussions, it was clearly recognized that any changes to census and survey questionnaires require legal or programmatic mandates, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval, congressional funding, etc. — issues beyond the control of the participants. However, given the fundamental and increasing importance of such data, the participants felt it imperative to make a strong statement of support for the continued availability and expansion of data on the foreign born and to emphasize the dangers associated with its loss. Below are several specific recommendations to ensure the availability of high-quality, timely, and relevant data to both policymakers and researchers.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**1. The census long form remains the best source of data on the foreign born. At this time, no other federal statistical survey can provide the type of data on the foreign born necessary for policy planning and research. If the long form is eliminated from the 2010 census, as is planned, the federal government must be prepared to provide full and continuous funding for the American Community Survey (ACS).**

Data from the census long form provide the most reliable estimates on the foreign-born population. More importantly, because of its large sample size, the long-form data provides the most reliable population estimates for small migrant groups (e.g., Iranians, Egyptians, Malaysians) and small geographic areas (e.g., school districts, urban centers, congressional districts), and especially both of these together. It also provides the best data on the characteristics of those groups and areas (e.g., proportion in poverty, English language ability, citizenship status, educational attainment, employment and labor force status, income, place of birth,

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### BOX 2: The Census, ACS, and CPS

Taken once every 10 years, **the census** is the primary source for demographic, social, and economic information on the foreign born in the United States. Not only is it currently the most comprehensive tool available for studying immigrants, it is unique in that it provides the sole means by which to study small groups of the foreign-born population (e.g., German, Hmong, Fijian) at the national and detailed sub-national (e.g., state, county, and sub-county) levels.

The American Community Survey (**ACS**) is the intended replacement for the census long form. Traditionally, the US Census Bureau has used long-form data to estimate socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the population (e.g., the number of foreign born, percentage in poverty). As part of the Census Bureau's plan to re-engineer future censuses, the long form will not be included in the 2010 census. Instead, the ACS, once fully implemented, will collect long form-type data each year throughout the decade rather than once every 10 years.

The Current Population Survey (**CPS**) is a monthly survey conducted by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The main purpose of the CPS is to collect information on the labor force characteristics of the population — specifically, to assess monthly unemployment changes. In the CPS, two types of questionnaires are used: a) the basic CPS questionnaire and b) the monthly supplement questionnaires. The basic CPS questionnaire collects labor force and demographic information, including place of birth, parental nativity, citizenship status, and year of entry into the United States. The March (annual demographic) supplement includes questions about poverty status, cash and non-cash income, health insurance, household and family characteristics, marital status, and geographic mobility in the previous 12 months, including moves from abroad.

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average age, proportion male, etc.) that are invaluable for both policy planning and research.

Eliminating the census long form means the loss of this very important data. However, for the 2010

census, the long form will not be used. Instead, the US Census Bureau will collect long form-type socio-economic and demographic data through the ACS. The ACS, as the intended replacement for the long form, is an essential component of the Census Bureau's strategy for re-engineering the 2010 decennial census. It includes the same foreign-born related questions asked in Census 2000 and has been designed to provide annual (as opposed to decennial) estimates of the foreign-born population. Like the census long-form data, the ACS sample size will be large enough, once fully implemented, to provide reliable estimates of demographic, housing, social, and economic information for the foreign born, including small migrant groups, and at considerable geographic detail. Contingent on congressional funding, the Census Bureau anticipates full implementation of the ACS in 2003.

The ACS is not a full substitute for the census long form, especially as the data relate to immigrants. Specifically, the ACS requires multi-year sample averages to produce estimates for geographic areas and population groups of fewer than 65,000 people, which includes many of the smaller foreign-born groups. This means it will take three to five years to accumulate a sample robust enough to provide estimates similar to the quality of the census long-form data. As such, the ACS may not do a fully adequate job of capturing the characteristics of rapidly changing foreign-born groups and especially mobile populations, such as new immigrants. On the other hand, the ACS will provide policymakers and researchers with new abilities to measure change over time for larger geographic areas (e.g., states, metro areas, cities, etc.), especially when compared to the once-every-10-years long-form data. In this sense, the breadth of the ACS data, combined with its timeliness, will be a valuable tool for policy planning and research.

However, continued funding for the ACS has not been guaranteed. It appears likely that the ACS operating budget for fiscal year 2003 will remain at the 2002 level, allowing for continued survey development and testing, but delaying the planned 2003 nationwide launch until 2004. At this point,

it is unknown if Congress will invest the long-term funds necessary for full and continuous implementation of the ACS in 2004, or if funding will be further delayed. Elimination of the ACS funding is not out of the realm of possibility. Funding for the Department of Commerce, which includes the Census Bureau, is part of the same appropriations bill as the Department of Justice, which includes the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), and the State Department, as well as other government agencies. The policy priorities of Congress in the post-September 11 period, including the reorganization of the INS and its incorporation into the newly created Department of Homeland Security (DHS), will likely create budgetary constraints which may jeopardize adequate future funding for the ACS.

With the planned discontinuation of the long form, and until the ACS is fully implemented, the only practical alternative policymakers and researchers have for data on the foreign born is the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly survey conducted by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It is the primary source of information on the labor force characteristics of the United States population. The CPS contains the same general information as the census and includes questions related to international migration and the foreign born. While the data that the CPS provides on the foreign-born population are immensely valuable, they are an insufficient substitute for both the long form and ACS data. The CPS sample size, while substantial, is not large enough to provide detailed information on sub-categories of the foreign born, especially the smaller migrant groups, and in general estimates for geographic areas below the state level, such as counties, cities, or school districts. Also, unlike the census and ACS, the CPS does not provide estimates for the total resident population, but rather for the civilian non-institutional population, which means that the foreign born housed in group quarters, such as nursing homes or prisons, are not included in the CPS data.

In conclusion, the census long form remains critical to the availability of high-quality data on interna-

tional migration and the foreign born. In addition, for high-quality annual estimates, it will be necessary to fully fund and implement the ACS.

However, given the Census Bureau's plans to eliminate the long form in the 2010 census, the government should move quickly to ensure full and continuous funding for the ACS. No other federal statistical survey, including the CPS, can provide the type of detailed data on the foreign born necessary for policy planning and research.

**2. To improve the ability of policymakers and researchers to analyze the changing characteristics of the foreign-born population, key questions should be added to the census, ACS, and CPS questionnaires. Several current questions should be altered to increase the breadth of information they provide and improve their usefulness. The data currently available related to the foreign born in the census/ACS and CPS must also be retained.**

As is clear from the results of Census 2000, there have been significant changes in the foreign-born population over the last decade. The growth in size and the increasing socio-economic diversity of the foreign born represent the culmination of trends set in motion by migration-related policy changes that occurred after 1960. In spite of these trends, few substantive changes have been made over the past 30 years to census questions related to international migration and the foreign born.

Many of the policy and research questions that are particularly relevant today reflect these changing characteristics of the foreign-born population. Answers to questions focusing on, for example, the size of the undocumented population, the characteristics of newly established migrant households, the impact of increasing linguistic diversity, the level of integration of the second generation, and the patterns of labor force participation of circular migrants, are becoming increasingly important to both policymakers and researchers because they address specific and relevant policy issues of interest. However, the static nature of the census ques-

tionnaire — and other federal surveys that include similar questions on migration and the foreign born — means that our most urgent questions cannot be fully answered using the available data. Expanding our knowledge of the foreign born at a time of critical change in this growing population is therefore essential.

The census and ACS currently include questions on nativity, citizenship status, year of entry into the United States, language, ancestry, and place of residence five years ago. The CPS includes questions on nativity, parental nativity, citizenship, year of entry into the United States, and place of residence one year ago. All of these questions provide information essential to understanding the immigrant experience and should be retained.

However, to improve the ability of policymakers and researchers to analyze the changing characteristics of the foreign-born population, including the impact these changes are having on both migrants and the communities in which they live, key questions need to be added to the census, ACS, and CPS questionnaires. In addition, several questions currently included on the census, ACS, and CPS questionnaires should be changed to increase the breadth of information they provide and improve their usefulness for both policy planning and research.

Two changes are most important:

- **Expanding the year of entry question, which is currently on the census, ACS, and CPS questionnaires, to include information on multiple entries in order to understand more fully the changing patterns of immigration into the United States, especially circular migration**

Information on the year of entry of the foreign born, when combined with other socio-economic data, can be used by policymakers and researchers to understand the time it takes immigrants to integrate and achieve social mobility. Currently, the census, ACS, and CPS

include a question on the year of entry into the United States. Unfortunately, the formulation of the question used assumes that immigrants enter the United States only once. Research has clearly demonstrated that immigration patterns into the United States have changed over the last few decades, with temporary and circular migration increasing in importance. To reflect this change and enable policymakers and researchers to assess its impact, the question on year of entry needs to be expanded to include information on multiple entries. This would minimally include questions asking both the year of first and last entry, but could also include a supplemental question asking multiple-entry migrants the number of times they entered the United States. The expansion of the year of entry question is important because it will enable policymakers and researchers to analyze the characteristics of multiple-entry migrants separately from those of traditional, long-term settler migrants. This is particularly important for assessing the impact of federal policy and program changes on the level of undocumented migration.

- **Adding the questions on parental nativity currently on the CPS to the census and ACS questionnaires to improve our understanding of the adaptation and integration of immigrants and their descendants**

Questions on parental nativity are important because they divide the population into “first generation” (the foreign born), “second generation” (the children of immigrants), and “third or higher generation” categories, allowing policymakers and researchers to examine questions about the adaptation and integration of immigrants and their descendants over generations. Questions on parental nativity, because they clearly define the second generation, are required to examine the social and economic characteristics of the children of immigrants. It is critical to examine the second generation because it reflects the degree to which the children of immigrants — and, by extension,

their immigrant parents — have adjusted to American culture and society.

Questions on parental nativity were asked each census year from 1870 to 1970, after which they were discontinued. Currently, the CPS asks two questions for each adult in the household: a) in what country was your mother born and b) in what country was your father born. Neither of these questions was included on the Census 2000 questionnaire, nor are they currently part of the ACS. The parental nativity data derived from the CPS is immensely useful and should be retained. However, there are constraints associated with the size of the CPS sample. Specifically, while it is possible to analyze the entire foreign-born sample by generation groups, it is not possible to do the same analysis for the various specific nationalities, such as Mexican, Vietnamese, and Filipino. Thus, the addition of both parental nativity questions to the census and ACS questionnaires is crucial for the effective analysis of the second generation.

Increasingly, small groups from very diverse backgrounds are migrating to the United States and settling away from traditional gateway cities in smaller communities. Without the large sample data from the census or ACS, reliable information on these small groups and areas will not be available. In turn, without the ability to divide the population into first, second, and third or higher generation groups, the long-term impact that both the foreign born and their children are having on these smaller communities cannot be fully assessed. Thus, to improve our ability to examine the adaptation and integration of immigrants and their descendants, the addition of the parental nativity questions to both the census and ACS questionnaires is essential.

Additional suggestions for changes to the census, ACS, and CPS questionnaires can be found in Appendix A.

**3. A number of surveys, such as the CPS and the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), currently provide data on the foreign born. Changes could be made to many of these surveys, often at modest cost, that would improve the quality and analytical value of the data available for studying the immigrant population.**

A number of national-level surveys, including the CPS and SIPP, provide data on the foreign born. However, the designs of the various surveys often place constraints on their use in policy and research analysis. Changes could be made to many of these surveys that would dramatically improve the quality and analytical value of the data they provide to immigration research. Possible changes include:

- **Adding questions on language spoken at home and English language ability to the CPS March supplement questionnaire**

Research has shown that, for the foreign born and their children in the United States, English language ability is one of the most influential factors determining the pace and degree of adaptation and integration to American culture and society.

Currently, questions on language spoken at home and English language ability are included every five years on the CPS October supplement. Given the importance of language ability to both policy and research, it would be very useful to include these questions in the annual March supplement. Their addition to the March supplement, in combination with the questions on parental nativity already asked on the basic CPS questionnaire, would also allow for the analysis of English language ability and non-English language retention among the second generation. Such analysis would help answer questions on linguistic assimilation and patterns of bilingualism — questions that currently cannot be examined because neither the census nor ACS includes questions on parental nativity.

- **Making the ACS questionnaire available in languages other than English**

Currently, the ACS paper (“mail-back”) version of the questionnaire is available only in English. Research has shown that the foreign born are less likely to respond to the ACS by mail and more likely than natives to require follow-up personal interviews, either by telephone or face-to-face. However, of all households requiring follow-up interviews, only a sub-sample is actually interviewed. Because immigrants are more likely to be covered by these data collection procedures, the precision of data on the foreign born in the ACS is compromised. In effect, immigrants are underrepresented in the ACS sample. While statistical weighting fixes the representation problem, it results in less precise estimates (i.e., estimates with larger standard errors).

To reduce the proportion of data on the foreign born collected through telephone or face-to-face interviews, the ACS should provide mail-back questionnaires in languages other than English. Given the size of the Spanish-speaking population in the United States, the ACS should at a minimum provide questionnaires in Spanish. If the ACS is to be a true replacement for the census long form, the questionnaire should also be translated into other major languages (such as Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and Tagalog) and guides for other languages should be provided. This should increase the use of the mail-back version of the questionnaire by the foreign born, reduce the proportion of foreign-born data collected through telephone or in-person interviews, and improve the precision of immigrant-related estimates. An alternative solution (or complementary approach) to non-English questionnaires would be to over-sample the foreign born in those follow-up areas with high concentrations of immigrants. In either case, the ACS design should be altered to minimize the systematic under-representation of the foreign born.

- **Using a post-census survey to collect data on the foreign born**

Additional information on immigrants in the United States that may be difficult to collect using traditional survey methods could be gathered through a

post-census survey focusing on the foreign born. Including a question on nativity in a post-census survey is an important strategy for evaluating the census coverage (i.e., undercount and overcount) of the foreign-born population and some of its sub-groups. These measures are important to many of the methods used to estimate the size of undocumented immigration. The post-census survey could also be used as an in-depth follow-up survey to collect specialized information on immigrants. The ACS or CPS could be used to define a sample of migrant households, and the post-census survey could collect detailed information not available from other surveys, such as migration history (including information on multiple entries), naturalization (including year of naturalization and multiple citizenship), and legal status (including status history).

■ **Over-sampling the Asian population in the ACS and CPS**

While Census 2000 indicated that the Asian population in the United States has grown, the population is still small enough that insufficient numbers are included in surveys such as the ACS and CPS without over-sampling. To ensure proper representation in both the ACS and CPS data, the Asian population should be over-sampled. Because the majority of the Asian population is foreign born, over-sampling this race group should result in a larger sample of and better population estimates for Asian immigrants. The same is true for other numerically small race groups with large numbers of foreign born, such as Pacific Islanders.

■ **Adding the citizenship status question to the basic CPS questionnaire**

Households participating in the CPS are interviewed eight times over 12 months, with a four-month break between two four-month interview periods. Currently, the questions on citizenship status are asked only during the first month interview. However, the citizenship status of foreign-born household members can change during the period of survey participation. Asking the citizenship status question every month, or at least a second

time at a later date (for example, during the fifth or eighth interview), will provide policymakers and researchers with additional data about the timing of naturalization and the characteristics of those who chose to naturalize.

■ **Expanding the SIPP sample size to include a larger number of immigrants**

Expanding the sample size of the SIPP to include a larger number of migrants would make this survey more valuable to policymakers and researchers. Currently, its sample size is smaller than that of the CPS, which restricts its usefulness for detailed analysis of the foreign born beyond establishing nativity and citizenship status. Expanding the number of foreign born sampled would likely enable policymakers and researchers to use the SIPP data to analyze immigrants by some of the larger nationality groups.

**4. Currently, no single agency within the federal government is responsible for the analysis of immigration questions and issues. In order to ensure continued attention to this important component of the population, the Census Bureau should establish a department to focus solely on migration statistics.**

No single agency within the federal government is responsible for analyzing information on the foreign born. This analysis includes very basic characteristics of the foreign-born population, such as size, country of origin composition, and settlement patterns. Much of the published data currently available on the foreign born is generated by the Census Bureau through the decennial census and various surveys, such as the CPS. Some descriptive analysis of the foreign-born data is completed by the Census Bureau, most recently by members of the Ethnic and Hispanic Branch and other areas in the Population Division. However, analysis of this data is limited by competing demands placed on limited staff.

Establishing a department in the Census Bureau to focus solely on the measurement and descriptive analysis of migration statistics would improve the



quality of publicly available information and likely increase the amount of research on the foreign born. The responsibilities of this new area could include: assisting with the testing and development of high-quality data on the foreign born; monitoring and ensuring the quality of migration-related data; coordinating migration-related research with other agencies, such as the DHS and the Department of Labor; and generating reports for the public. The capacity for addressing policy issues surrounding both immigration and immigrant issues also needs to be expanded within the federal government.

## CONCLUSION

The policy analysis and research dilemma associated with the demise of the long form will become critical only after the next census in 2010, when data users begin to realize fully the meaning and extent of the loss of knowledge in critical policy areas. Without the long-form data, estimates for the most basic characteristics of the foreign-born population, such as numeric size, country of origin composition, place of residency, language ability, household income, educational attainment, and poverty levels, will no longer be available for smaller migrant groups and smaller geographic areas. More importantly, without this data, it will no longer be possible to analyze trends in these characteristics through time. It will be impossible to determine, for example, if the number of foreign born residing in inner-city areas is increasing or declining, if there are more or fewer migrant children in a school district, if the average migrant household income is rising or falling, or if the number of foreign born in poverty has increased or remained stable at the county level.

This data crisis can be averted only if the planned replacement of the census long form, the ACS, is fully funded and implemented. As designed, the ACS will be able to provide estimates for the foreign born, including small migrant groups, and at considerable geographic detail. Continued support for the ACS is uncertain, however, given competing budget priorities and constraints. It may be

deemed necessary by members of Congress to continually reduce the operating budget of the ACS, perpetually delaying the national launch or, worse, eliminate funding altogether. Loss of both the census long form and ACS data would be catastrophic, not just to policymakers and researchers interested in the foreign born, but to anyone interested in the characteristics of any of the many social groups in the United States (e.g., Blacks, Hispanics/Latinos, the elderly, etc.) below the national or state level. Failure to guarantee the continued existence of census or ACS data — data that will provide essential policymaking information at all geographic levels — will cripple our ability to understand who we are, and who we are becoming, as a society.

## APPENDIX A

### **Additional Suggestions for Changes to the Census, ACS, and CPS Questionnaires**

**The current question on citizenship included in the census, ACS, and CPS only captures United States citizenship. However, an unknown number of residents of the United States are citizens of two or more countries. To improve our knowledge of this population, the citizenship question should be expanded to capture dual citizenship.**

The question on citizenship included in the census, ACS, and CPS asks respondents if they are citizens of the United States, which divides the population into three groups: US citizens by birth, naturalized US citizens, and non-citizens. This question assumes single citizenship. However, an unknown number of residents of the United States, both native and foreign born, are citizens of two or more countries. Little is known about this dual-citizenship population, including such basic characteristics as size and countries of origin. Thus, to improve our general knowledge of this population, it is important that the current question be expanded to capture multiple citizenship.

**To increase our knowledge about the timing of citizenship, a question on the year of natural-**

ization should be added to the census, ACS, and CPS questionnaires.

The census has never asked a question about year of naturalization. From the current census, ACS, and CPS data, the year of entry of the foreign born into the United States can be determined. Citizenship status can also be determined, dividing the foreign-born population into naturalized citizens and alien residents. However, there is no way to determine if and when the foreign born become citizens. In general, immigrants are eligible to naturalize after five years of legal permanent residency in the United States. However, not all immigrants apply to naturalize when they become eligible and others never become citizens. Asking foreign-born citizens their year of naturalization, in combination with the year of entry and citizenship status questions, will increase our knowledge about the timing of naturalization.

Greater detail about the timing of naturalization can be obtained if foreign-born citizens are also asked to report their date of admission to legal permanent residence status. In combination with questions on year of entry and year of naturalization, the year of legal permanent residence will increase our knowledge of the chain of transitional statuses, for example, from non-immigrant visa holder to permanent resident to naturalized citizen.

**To improve our knowledge of the characteristics of newly arrived migrants and their households, a question asking place of residence one year ago, which is currently part of the CPS questionnaire, should be added to the census and ACS.**

A question on place of residence one year ago, when combined with questions on place of birth and year of entry and other socio-economic data, would allow policymakers and researchers to analyze the characteristics of newly arrived migrants and their households. This information is especially useful in determining the policy needs of the foreign born and their immigrant children, such as second-language training. Currently, the question on resi-

dence one year ago is included on the CPS but not the census or ACS. This is unfortunate, given the constraints associated with the size of the CPS sample, because data on newly arrived immigrants would be most useful at the local level, where policy needs are assessed, defined, and implemented. To make this data available to smaller communities, where recent immigration has had its greatest impact, the question on residence one year ago must be added to both the census and ACS.

## APPENDIX B List of Participants

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**NOTE:** This report represents a summary of issues discussed by meeting participants. While there was a general consensus on the suggested recommendations, no vote was taken. This paper has benefited from the comments of Kimberly Hamilton, Jon Pattee (Migration Policy Institute), and Maia Jachimowicz. An earlier draft of the report was circulated to all participants and invitees for comments. The author would like to thank Barry Edmonston (Portland State University, Population Research Center), Richard Fry, John Haaga, Sharon Lee, Lindsay Lowell, Rob Paral, Jeff Passel, Lisa Roney, Rubén Rumbaut (Center for Research on Immigration, Population, and Public Policy, University of California, Irvine), Michael White (Department of Sociology, Brown University), and Karen Woodrow-Lafield for their helpful comments, suggestions, and corrections.

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Elizabeth Grieco, Data Manager for MPI's Migration Information Source, previously worked for the U.S. Census Bureau as a Statistician/Demographer, focusing primarily on the analysis of race data from Census 2000.

As a Fulbright scholar from 1989-1990, Dr. Grieco analyzed the influence of migration type on the ability of the Indian communities of Fiji to re-establish caste-based behavior. Other research areas include the second generation; gender issues and migration; Pacific Island migration issues; Pacific Island migrant communities in the United States; and race and ethnicity. Dr. Grieco is the author of several publications on migration and race, and she also authored several Census 2000 briefs including "The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population: 2000"; "The White Population: 2000"; and "Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000" (co-authored with Rachel C. Cassidy).

She received her PhD in Sociology and Demography from Florida State University, with a focus on international migration studies; an MA in Anthropology from the University of Kansas; and a BA in Anthropology from the University of Cincinnati.

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## COMING SOON

In Spring 2003, MPI will publish "Balancing Interests: Domestic Security, Civil Liberties and American Unity after September 11th," authored by Doris Meissner, Muzaffar Chishti, and Demetrios Papademetriou. The report will examine immigration policies and practices since September 11, 2001 as a key battleground between the US commitment to civil liberties and inclusion and new domestic security demands to fight terrorism.

In collaboration with the United Nations, MPI will publish a seminal book entitled *No Refuge: The Challenge of Internal Displacement*. Drawing upon lessons from crises over the last 20 years, the volume will examine the broad issues that frame internal displacement, including sovereignty, humanitarian access and protection, and situate the issue in humanitarian thinking and practice.

The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think-tank dedicated to the study of the movement of people worldwide. The institute provides analysis, development, and evaluation of migration and refugee policies at the local, national, and international levels. It aims to meet the rising demand for pragmatic responses to the challenges and opportunities that migration presents in an ever more integrated world. MPI produces the Migration Information Source website, at [www.migrationinformation.org](http://www.migrationinformation.org).

- Visit the Migration Information Source, [www.migrationinformation.org](http://www.migrationinformation.org), MPI's new online resource for current and accurate migration and refugee data and analysis. The Source provides fresh thought, authoritative data, and global analysis of international migration issues.
- In June 2002, MPI released the third and final book of the Comparative Citizenship Project, *Citizenship Policies for an Age of Migration*, by T. Alexander Aleinikoff and Douglas Klusmeyer (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2002). Visit our website, [www.migrationpolicy.org](http://www.migrationpolicy.org), for more information.

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