Population Estimates

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Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: January 2005

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Estimating the size of the unauthorized population living in the United States is challenging because of data limitations. There are no national surveys, administrative data, or other sources of information that directly provide accurate estimates of this population. As a consequence, the unauthorized immigrant population must be estimated by making certain assumptions and by combining data that measure events with those that measure populations.

This report provides estimates of the number of unauthorized immigrants residing in the United States in January 2005 by period of entry, country of origin, and state of residence. These estimates were calculated using a "residual method," whereby estimates of the legally resident foreign-born population as of January 1, 2005 were subtracted from the total foreign-born population at the same point in time. Estimates of the legally resident foreign-born were based primarily on administrative data of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), while estimates of the total foreign-born population were obtained from the American Community Survey (ACS) of the U.S. Census Bureau. The starting point for the estimates was 1980, as persons who entered the United States earlier were assumed to be legally resident.

Revised estimates of the unauthorized immigrant population living in the United States in 2000 are also presented in this report. These revised estimates are also based on the "residual method" and do not include as legally resident those persons who had applied for but not yet been granted asylum or legal permanent resident (LPR) status as well as Temporary Protected Status (TPS) applicants and beneficiaries.

SUMMARY

There were an estimated 10.5 million unauthorized immigrants residing in the United States in January 2005 compared to 8.5 million in January 2000. During the 2000-2004 period, the unauthorized resident population grew at an annual average of 408,000. Assuming this same rate of growth, the unauthorized immigrant population would have reached nearly 11 million by January 2006.

Almost 3.1 million of the 10.5 million unauthorized residents in 2005 had come to live in the United States in 2000 or later. An estimated 1.0 million entered the United States in 2003 or 2004, while 2.1 million arrived during 2000 through 2002.

Mexico was the leading source country for unauthorized immigration with nearly 6.0 million residents in the United States in 2005. El Salvador, Guatemala, India, and China were the next leading source countries, accounting for a combined total of nearly 1.4 million unauthorized immigrants. Among the 10 leading source countries, the annual average increase in the unauthorized population from 2000 to 2005 was greatest among Mexican immigrants (260,000). However, the greatest percentage increase in the unauthorized immigrant population from 2000 to 2005 occurred among immigrants from India (133 percent) and Brazil (70 percent).

California was home to more unauthorized residents than any other state. In January 2005, an estimated 2.8 million unauthorized immigrants lived in California, followed by Texas with nearly 1.4 million and Florida with 850,000. Among the 10 leading states of residence of the unauthorized population in 2005, those with the largest average annual increases since 2000 were Texas (54,000), California (52,000), and Georgia (50,000). The states with the greatest percentage increases in unauthorized immigrants from 2000 to 2005 were Georgia (114 percent), Arizona (45 percent), Nevada (41 percent), and North Carolina (38 percent).

Homeland Security

Office of Immigration Statistics
POLICY DIRECTORATE

DEFINITIONS

Legal Residents

The legally resident immigrant population as defined for these estimates includes all persons who were:

- granted lawful permanent residence;
- granted asylee status;
- admitted as refugees; and
- admitted as nonimmigrants for a temporary stay in the United States and not required to leave by January 1, 2005.

Unauthorized Residents

The unauthorized resident immigrant population is defined as all foreign-born non-citizens who are not legal residents. Unauthorized residents refer to foreign-born persons who entered the United States without inspection or who were admitted temporarily and stayed past the date they were required to leave. Unauthorized aliens who have applied for but have not yet received approval to lawfully remain in the United States are considered to be unauthorized. Unauthorized immigrants applying for adjustment to lawful permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) Section 245(i), for example, are unauthorized until they have been granted LPR status. Similarly, unauthorized immigrants who have applied for asylum or TPS are considered to be unauthorized residents. Persons who are beneficiaries of TPS are technically not unauthorized but were excluded from the legally resident immigrant population because data are unavailable to estimate this population.

Nonimmigrant residents

The term nonimmigrant residents as used in this report refers to aliens who were legally admitted temporarily to the United States, usually for specified time periods. Examples include students, intracompany transferees, exchange visitors, temporary workers, and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) workers, along with their family members. In some cases, nonimmigrants are authorized to stay for extended periods (up to 6 years or more).

METHODOLOGY AND DATA

2005 Estimates

Conceptually, the methodology involves estimating three population components: 1) the foreign-born population, 2) the legally resident population and 3) the unauthorized immigrant population, which is equal to 1) minus 2). All of these component populations were resident in the United States on January 1, 2005 and entered during the 1980-2004 period. These three components and the data required to estimate them are as follows:

1) *Foreign-born population*

a. Foreign-born population, entered 1980-2004

The starting point is the foreign-born population that entered the United States from January 1980 through December 2004. It was assumed that persons who entered the United States before 1980 were legal residents since most were eligible for LPR status.[1] Data were obtained from the Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) of the 2004 American Community Survey (ACS).

The ACS is a nationwide survey that collects information from U.S. households on social, demographic, and economic characteristics, including country of birth and year of immigration of the foreign-born population. The ACS consists of non-overlapping samples from which information is collected monthly over the course of a year. The ACS was selected for the estimates because of its large sample size, nearly 840,000 households in 2004 compared to 99,000 for the March 2005 Current Population Survey, the primary alternative source of national data on the foreign-born population.

b. Shift in reference date to January 1, 2005

The reference date for population estimates from the ACS is mid-year. The reference date for the 2004 ACS, the most recently available ACS data, was shifted to January 1, 2005 by multiplying the population of 2004 entrants by 1.8, the ratio of the estimated population in 2004 that entered the United States during 2003 compared to the population in the 2003 ACS that entered in 2003. The adjustment ratio has been relatively stable across previous ACS surveys.

c. Population living in group quarters

The 2004 ACS does not include persons living in group quarters, e.g. college dormitories, nursing homes, or prisons. An estimate of the group quarters population was calculated by multiplying the ACS 1980-2004 entrants by 1.2 percent, the percent of the foreign-born population from Census 2000 that entered after 1979 and lived in group quarters.

d. Undercount of nonimmigrants in the ACS

Undercount refers to the number of persons who should have been counted in a survey or census, but were not. A rate of 10 percent was used to estimate the nonimmigrant undercount. This rate was used in the previous DHS 2000 estimates of the unauthorized immigrant population.

e. Undercount of LPRs, refugees, and asylees in the ACS

A rate of 2.5 percent was used. This was the same rate used in the previous DHS 2000 estimates of the unauthorized immigrant population.

f. Undercount of unauthorized immigrants in the ACS

A rate of 10 percent was used. This was the same rate used in the previous DHS 2000 estimates of the unauthorized immigrant population.

g. Estimated foreign-born population, January 1, 2005

The sum of 1a. through 1f. (above) is the estimated foreign-born population on January 1, 2005 that entered the United States during the 1980-2004 period.

[1] The Registry Provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) allows persons who have been in the United States since January 1, 1972 to apply for LPR status. Additionally, persons who had lived in the United States before 1982 as unauthorized residents were eligible to adjust to LPR status under the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986.

2) *Legally resident population*

h. Legal permanent resident (LPR), refugee, and asylee flow, entered 1980-2004

Data on persons who obtained LPR status by country of birth, state of residence, age, category of admission, and year of entry were obtained from DHS administrative records maintained in an application case tracking system of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). LPRs consist of two groups: new arrivals and adjustments of status. New arrivals include all persons with immigrant visas issued by the State Department who were approved for admission at a U.S. port of entry during 1980-2004. Data come from the DS-230 Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration of the U.S. Department of State. For these LPRs, the date of admission is the date of entry.

LPR adjustments of status include all persons whose last entry into the United States was during the 1980-2004 period. The year of last entry prior to adjustment of status was assumed to represent the year of entry. Data on adjustments come from the I-485 Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status. Since 1997, a significant proportion (approximately 30-40 percent) of adjustment of status records have been missing data on the last entry date. Year of entry was assigned to records with a missing last date using randomly selected records with the same category of admission, year of LPR adjustment, and known last entry date.

Added to the LPR flow total were refugees and asylees who entered the United States during 1980-2004 but who had not adjusted to LPR status as of January 1, 2005. Refugees who obtained LPR status during 2000 to 2004 spent an average of 3.5 years before adjusting status, and asylees spent an average of 7 years. Therefore, it was assumed that refugees who arrived in the United States during the 3.5 years preceding 2005 and persons granted asylum during the 7 years preceding 2005 had not adjusted to LPR status by January 1, 2005. Data on refugees arriving during mid-2001 to 2004 by country of origin were obtained from the Department of State. Data on persons granted asylum during 1998 to 2004 by country of origin were obtained from USCIS for those granted asylum affirmatively and from the Executive Office of Immigration Review of the Department of Justice for those granted asylum defensively through judicial proceedings. The state of residence of refugees and asylees was assumed to be the same as that of refugees and asylees from the same countries who became LPRs during 2000-2004.

i. Mortality of legally resident flow 1980-2004

There are no data collected on the mortality of legally resident immigrants. LPRs were survived to 2005 by gender and age (at the time LPR status was obtained) using mortality rates by age and sex from 1989-1991 life tables (National Center for Health Statistics, 1997).[2] An annual crude death rate of 5.7 per 1,000 was used for refugees and asylees who had not adjusted status since information was not available on their age and sex. This mortality rate was used in the previous DHS 2000 estimates.

j. Emigration of legally resident flow 1980-2004

Emigration is a substantial component of immigrant population change. Since no data are available that directly measure emigration from the United States, researchers have developed indirect estimates based largely on Census data. Annual emigration rates by race, age, and year of entry used in this report were based on estimates of emigration of the foreign-born population by race, ethnicity, and age using Census data from 1980 and 1990 (Ahmed and Robinson, 1994). Race of legally resident immigrants was approximated by country of birth (Asia versus other countries). Age was represented by three categories: under 20 years of age, 20 to 34 years, and 35 years and over. Refugees and asylees were assumed to emigrate at one-half the rate of other LPRs.

k. LPR, refugee, and asylee population on January 1, 2005

Subtracting mortality (2i.) and emigration (2j.) from the LPR, refugee, and asylee flow during 1980-2004 (2h.) results in the estimated LPR, refugee, and asylee resident population on January 1, 2005.

l. Nonimmigrant population on January 1, 2005

The number of nonimmigrants living in the United States on January 1, 2005 was estimated by multiplying the number of nonimmigrant admissions between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005 by the average length of visit and dividing this figure by 365.[3] Data by country of citizenship, state of residence, age, and class of admission were obtained from the Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS) of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which compiles information on nonimmigrants entering and leaving the United States on the arrival/departure Form I-94. The estimate was restricted to classes of admission such as students, temporary workers, and exchange visitors where the length of stay typically exceeds two months. The estimates do not include border crossers or visitors for business or pleasure. The year of entry of the 2005 nonimmigrant population was based on the distribution of year of entry for nonimmigrants used in the previous DHS 2000 unauthorized immigrant population estimates (Department of Homeland Security, 2003).

m. Estimated legally resident immigrant population on January 1, 2005

Adding the population of LPRs, refugees, and asylees on January 1, 2005 (2k.) to the nonimmigrant population on the same date (2l.) results in the total estimated legally resident immigrant population in the United States on January 1, 2005.

[2] For immigrants in the 1980-2004 legally resident flow, 1990 represents the median year they obtained LPR status.

[3] Estimate provided by Elizabeth M. Grieco, Office of Immigration Statistics, Policy Directorate, DHS. See Grieco (2006) for a discussion of the methodology used to calculate the estimate.

3) *Unauthorized immigrant population*

n. Estimated unauthorized immigrant population on January 1, 2005

Subtracting the estimated legally resident immigrant population (2m.) from the total foreign-born population on January 1, 2005 (1g.) yields the estimate of the unauthorized immigrant population.

Computational Steps for Estimates

The estimation process consists of four basic steps. These steps are shown below with each component from above identified in brackets.

Step 1. Estimate the legally resident immigrant population on January 1, 2005

$LRAN_{2005} = LRA_{2005} + N_{2005}$

Where:

$LRAN_{2005}$ = legally resident immigrant population on January 1, 2005 **[2m.]**

LRA_{2005} = 2005 LPR, refugee and asylee population **[2k.]**

N_{2005} = 2005 nonimmigrant population **[2l.]**

Step 2. Estimate the undercount of nonimmigrants and other legally resident immigrants (LPRs, refugees, and asylees) in the ACS

U_N = Nonimmigrants undercounted in ACS **[1d.]**
$= N_{2005} * UR_N$

Where:

UR_N = undercount rate of nonimmigrants in ACS =10%

U_{LRA} = LPRs, refugees and asylees undercounted in ACS **[1e.]**
$= LRA_{2005} * UR_{LRA}$

Where:

UR_{LRA} = undercount rate of LPRs, refugees, and asylees in ACS =2.5%

Step 3. Estimate the foreign-born population on January 1, 2005 entering the United States from 1980 through 2004, excluding undercount of unauthorized immigrants

$FB_{2005} = FB_{1980\text{-}2004ACS} + Refdate + GQ + U_N + U_{LRA}$

Where:

FB_{2005} = Foreign-born population, January 1, 2005 that entered 1980-2004, not adjusted for unauthorized undercount in ACS **[1a. through 1e.]**

$FB_{1980\text{-}2004ACS}$ = Foreign-born population, entering 1980-2004 in 2004 ACS **[1a.]**

Refdate = Adjustment for reference date shift to January 1, 2005 **[1b.]**

GQ = Adjustment for addition of group quarters population **[1c.]**

U_N = Undercount of nonimmigrants in ACS **[1d.]**

U_{LRA} = Undercount of LPRs, refugees, and asylees in ACS **[1e.]**

Step 4. Estimate the unauthorized immigrant population on January 1, 2005 by subtracting the estimated legally resident population from the foreign-born population on January 1, 2005 not adjusted for undercount and apply the undercount rate

$U_{2005} = (FB_{2005} - LRA_{2005} - N_{2005})/(1-UR_u)$

Where:

U_{2005} = Unauthorized immigrant population on January 1, 2005 **[3n.]**

FB_{2005} = Foreign-born population, January 1, 2005, entered 1980-2004 not adjusted for unauthorized undercount in ACS **[1a. through 1e.]**

LRA_{2005} = 2005 LPR, refugee and asylee population **[2k.]**

N_{2005} = 2005 nonimmigrant population **[2l.]**

UR_U = Undercount rate of unauthorized immigrants in 2004 ACS=10%

U_U = Undercount of unauthorized immigrant population
$= U_{2005}/(1- UR_U) - U_{2005}$ **[1f.]**

The estimates were generated by country of birth and state of residence for the unauthorized population living in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The Cuban-born population living in the United States was excluded from the estimates since, according to immigration law, few Cubans living in the United States more than a year are at risk of being unauthorized.

2000 Estimates

The same methodology, assumptions, and definitions were used to re-estimate the unauthorized immigrant population on January 1, 2000. Data from Census 2000 were used to estimate the foreign-born population in 2000 that entered the United States from January 1, 1980 through December 31,1999 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2004). The reference date was shifted from April to January by excluding 2000 entrants and making an adjustment to add back persons who either died or emigrated during the period from January through March 2000. Data on the legally resident immigrant population that entered during 1980 to 1999 were obtained from the same sources and were treated the same way as entrants for the 2005 estimates. The previous 2000 estimates released by DHS (Department of Homeland Security, 2003) categorized as legally resident nearly 600,000 unauthorized aliens who had applied for asylum or adjustment to LPR status, or had either applied for or been granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS). These persons were categorized as unauthorized residents in the revised 2000 estimates. Additionally, the previous 2000 estimates used 1990 unauthorized immigrant population estimates as the starting point, whereas the current estimates are based on the foreign-born and legally resident population that entered the United States in the post-1979 period.

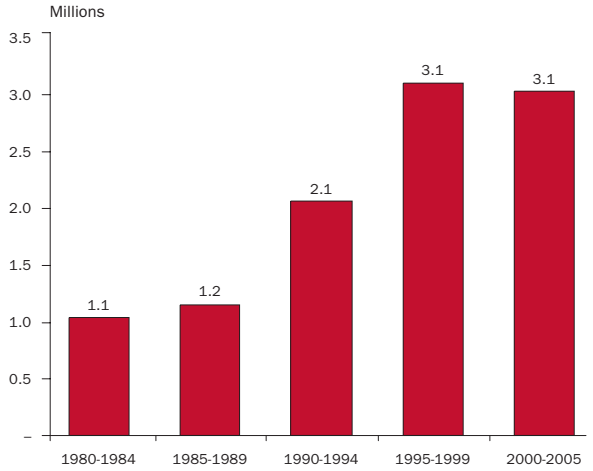
Table 1.

Period of Entry of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population: January 2005 *(in thousands)*

Period of entry	Estimated population January 2005	
	Number	Percent
All years	10,500	100
2003-2004	990	9
2000-2002	2,070	20
1995-1999	3,130	30
1990-1994	2,090	20
1985-1989	1,160	11
1980-1984	1,050	10

Note: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.
Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Figure 1.
Period of Entry of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population: January 2005



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Limitations

Assumptions about undercount of the foreign-born population in the ACS and emigration. These are the primary sources of error in these estimates. The estimates are sensitive to the assumptions that are made about these components (see Results).

Accuracy of year of entry reporting. Concerns exist among immigration analysts regarding the validity and reliability of Census survey data on the year of entry question ("When did this person come to live in the United States?"). Errors also arise in converting DHS administrative dates for legally resident immigrants to year of entry dates.

Assumptions about the nonimmigrant population estimate. The estimates are based on admission counts and length of visit by class of admission, not actual population counts. The estimates do not capture changes in status that may result in the double counting of nonimmigrants and persons adjusting to LPR status. For example, in recent years, large numbers of nonimmigrants from India have obtained LPR status.

Sampling error in the ACS. The 2004 ACS data are based on a sample of the U.S. population. Thus the estimates of the total foreign-born population that moved to the United States in the 1980-2004 period are subject to sampling variability. The estimated margin of error for the estimate of the foreign-born population in the 2004 ACS at the 90 percent confidence level is approximately 250,000.

Assumptions about internal migration. The estimates assume no net internal migration of the legally resident immigrant population since their state of residence refers to their residence when they obtained their LPR, refugee or asylee status. The reported state may or may not be their current state of residence.

RESULTS

Overall Trend

DHS estimates that the unauthorized immigrant population in the United States increased 24 percent from 8.5 million on January 1, 2000 to 10.5 million on January 1, 2005. The annual average increase in the unauthorized population during this period was 408,000. Assuming a continuation of this annual increase, the unauthorized immigrant population would have been nearly 11 million (10.5 million +.4 million) in January 2006.

An estimated 3.1 million unauthorized immigrants in 2005 had entered the United States in 2000 or later (see Table 1 and Figure 1). Nearly 1.0 million (9 percent) came to the United States in 2003 or 2004, while 2.1 million (20 percent) arrived during 2000 to 2002. One-half (50 percent) came to live in the United States during the 1990s and 21 percent entered during the 1980s.

The 2000 and 2005 estimates are consistent with those reported in other studies. Using a similar methodology, Passel (2006) estimated the unauthorized immigrant population at 11.1 million in 2005 and at 8.4 million in 2000. (See also Passel, Van Hook and Bean (2004) for further elaboration of the methodology.) Growth of the unauthorized immigrant population from 2000 to 2005 was 2.0 million according to DHS estimates and 2.7 million for Passel related estimates.

Components of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population in 2005

Table 2 illustrates the magnitude of the various components of the unauthorized immigrant population estimates in 2005. For the foreign-born population, the starting point was the estimated 24.9 million foreign-born residents in the 2004 ACS that entered the United States during 1980-2004. This population was increased 2.4 million or 10 percent by adjustments for the shift in the reference date to January 1, the addition of the group quarters population, and the addition of undercounts for the populations of nonimmigrants, other legally resident immigrants, and unauthorized immigrants. The estimated undercount of the unauthorized immigrant population in the ACS was 1.1 million and represents 43 percent of all adjustments to the foreign-born population.

For the legally resident population, the starting point was the flow of 19.2 million LPRs, refugees and asylees during 1980-2004. By

January 2005, the 19.2 million had been reduced by 3.7 million to 15.5 million due to mortality and emigration. Emigration accounted for 2.7 million or 73 percent of the 3.7 million. The addition of the nonimmigrant population, estimated at 1.4 million, resulted in a total estimated legally resident immigrant population of 16.8 million on January 1, 2005. Subtracting the 16.8 million legally resident immigrants from the total 27.3 million foreign-born population on January 1, 2005 that entered the United States during 1980-2004 yields the final estimated unauthorized population of 10.5 million.

The sensitivity of the estimates to assumptions about undercount of the foreign-born population and emigration – two components with a major impact on the estimates – are illustrated with several examples. Doubling the unauthorized immigrant undercount rate from 10 percent to 20 percent increases the estimated unauthorized population from 10.5 million to 11.8 million. By lowering or raising emigration rates 20 percent and holding all other assumptions constant, the estimated unauthorized immigrant population would range from 10.0 million to 11.0 million. Doubling the unauthorized immigrant undercount rate and lowering or raising emigration rates by 20 percent would expand the range of the estimated unauthorized immigrant population from 11.2 to 12.4 million.

Estimates by Region and Country of Birth

An estimated 7.6 million of the total 10.5 million unauthorized immigrants living in the United States in 2005 were from the North America region, including Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central America (see Figure 2). The next leading regions of origin were Asia (1.3 million) and South America (830,000). The region of origin composition of the 2000 unauthorized immigrant population was similar.

Mexico continues to be the leading source of unauthorized immigration to the United States (see Table 3). The estimated unauthorized immigrant population from Mexico increased from 4.7 million in 2000 to 6.0 million in January 2005. The annual average increase in Mexican unauthorized immigration to the United States was nearly 260,000 during the 2000-2005 period. The next leading source countries for unauthorized immigrants in 2005 were El Salvador (470,000), Guatemala (370,000), and India (280,000).

The top ten countries of origin, including Mexico, accounted for 79 percent of the unauthorized immigrant population in 2005. Although immigration from Mexico continues to dominate unauthorized population growth, the greatest percentage increases during 2000-2005 were among immigrants from India (133 percent) and Brazil (70 percent).

Estimates by State of Residence

California remained the leading state of residence of the unauthorized resident population in 2005, with nearly 2.8 million. The next leading state, Texas, had nearly 1.4 million, or one-half as many (see Table 4). California's share of the national total declined from 30 percent in 2000 to 26 percent in 2005.

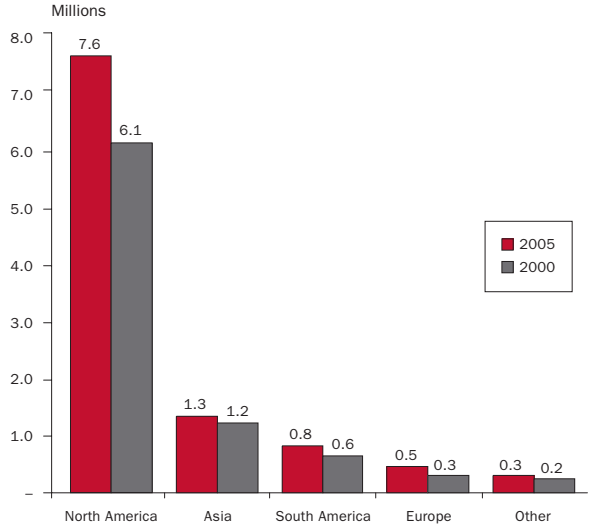
Table 2.

Components of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population: January 2005 *(in thousands)*

1) Foreign-born population	
a. Foreign-born population, entered 1980-2004	24,890
b. Adjustment for shift in reference date from July 1, 2004 to January, 2005	550
c. Adjustment for exclusion of group quarters in ACS	310
d. Undercount of nonimmigrants in ACS	140
e. Undercount of other legally resident immigrants (LPRs, recent refugee/asylee arrivals) in ACS	390
f. Undercount of unauthorized immigrant population in ACS	1,050
g. Estimated foreign-born population, January 1, 2005 (a.+b.+c.+d.+e.+f.)	27,320
2) Legally resident population	
h. LPR, refugee, and asylee flow, entered 1980-2004	19,170
i. Mortality 1980-2004	1,010
j. Emigration 1980-2004	2,690
k. LPR, refugee, and asylee resident population, January 1, 2005 (h.-i.-j.)	15,470
l. Nonimmigrant population on January 1, 2005	1,350
m. Estimated legally resident population, January 1, 2005 (h.+l.)	16,820
3) Unauthorized immigrant population	
n. Estimated resident unauthorized immigrant population, January 1, 2005 (g.-m.)	10,500

Note: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.
Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Figure 2.
Region of Birth of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population: January 2005 and 2000



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security

An estimated 6.1 million of the 10.5 million unauthorized residents in January 2005 lived in the five states with the largest unauthorized resident populations – California, Texas, Florida, New York, and Illinois. These states accounted for 64 percent of the total population in 2000 and 58 percent in 2005, due largely to the decline in California's share.

Table 3.

Country of Birth of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population: January 2005 and 2000 *(in thousands)*

Country of birth	Estimated Population in January		Percent of total		Percent change	Average annual change
	2005	2000	2005	2000	2000 to 2005	2000 to 2005
All countries	10,500	8,460	100	100	24	408
Mexico	5,970	4,680	57	55	28	258
El Salvador	470	430	4	5	9	8
Guatemala	370	290	4	3	28	16
India	280	120	3	1	133	32
China	230	190	2	2	21	8
Korea	210	180	2	2	17	6
Philippines	210	200	2	2	5	2
Honduras	180	160	2	2	13	4
Brazil	170	100	2	1	70	14
Vietnam	160	160	2	2	-	-
Other countries	2,250	1,950	21	23	15	60

- Figure rounds to 0.0.
Note: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.
Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Table 4.

State of Residence of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population: January 2005 and 2000 *(in thousands)*

State of residence	Estimated Population in January		Percent of total		Percent change	Average annual change
	2005	2000	2005	2000	2000 to 2005	2000 to 2005
All states	10,500	8,460	100	100	24	408
California	2,770	2,510	26	30	10	52
Texas	1,360	1,090	13	13	25	54
Florida	850	800	8	9	6	10
New York	560	540	5	6	4	4
Illinois	520	440	5	5	18	16
Arizona	480	330	5	4	45	30
Georgia	470	220	4	3	114	50
New Jersey	380	350	4	4	9	6
North Carolina	360	260	3	3	38	20
Nevada	240	170	2	2	41	14
Other states	2,510	1,750	24	21	43	152

Note: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.
Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Growing geographic dispersion of the unauthorized immigrant population is reflected by an increase in the share of the population living in all other states. The percentage of unauthorized immigrants residing in states ranked 6th through 10th in 2005 – Arizona, Georgia, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Nevada – increased from 16 percent in 2000 to 18 percent in 2005. In addition, the share of the unauthorized population residing in all other states increased from 21 percent to 24 percent during the period.

The annual average increase in the unauthorized population from 2000 to 2005 was numerically greatest in Texas (54,000), California (52,000), and Georgia (50,000). The greatest percentage increase in the unauthorized population from 2000 to 2005 occurred in Georgia (114 percent), Arizona (45 percent), Nevada (41 percent), and North Carolina (38 percent).

NEXT STEPS

The estimates presented here will be updated periodically based on annual data on the foreign-born population collected in the American Community Survey and on the estimated lawfully resident foreign-born population derived from various administrative data sources.

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