



The US Eligible-to-Naturalize Population: Detailed Social and Economic Characteristics¹

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Executive Summary

Naturalization has long been recognized as a crucial step in the full integration of immigrants into US society. Yet until now, sufficient information on the naturalization-eligible has not been available that would allow the federal government, states, localities, and non-governmental service providers to develop targeted strategies on a local level to assist this population to naturalize and to overcome barriers to eligibility. This paper remedies that deficiency by providing detailed estimates on the naturalization-eligible from data collected in the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS).

Naturalization rates have traditionally been calculated by dividing the naturalized or the "naturalization eligible" populations by all foreign-born persons; i.e., the naturalized, legal non-citizens, *and* undocumented residents. By including the unauthorized in this calculation, naturalization rates have appeared misleadingly low for populations that *can* naturalize. By contrast, the Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS) provides "naturalization eligibility" rates, which it calculates by dividing the "naturalization eligible" by the foreign-born population, minus undocumented residents and legal residents who arrived after mid-2008.

The paper reports that 8.6 million US residents were eligible to naturalize in 2013. This figure approximates the 8.8 million estimate of the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Mexican nationals constitute the largest naturalization-eligible population at 2.7 million, followed by Indian (337,000), Chinese (320,000), Cuban (316,000), and Canadian (313,000) nationals. Fifty countries have 25,000 or more naturalization-eligible persons. The large number of legally resident Mexican nationals and this population's high naturalization eligibility rate mean that US

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The US Eligible-to-Naturalize Population

states with large Mexican populations have relatively high percentages of legal foreign-born residents who can naturalize.

The overall “naturalization eligibility” rate was 31 percent in 2013, including 48 percent for Mexican nationals. Nine of the 25 largest US naturalization-eligible populations by source country have naturalization eligibility rates in excess of 40 percent, including Mexico (48 percent), Canada (45 percent), El Salvador (42 percent), the United Kingdom (41 percent), Guatemala (44 percent), Japan (56 percent), Honduras (48 percent), and Brazil (41 percent). On a state level, California, Texas, New York, and Florida contain roughly five million of the US naturalization-eligible or about 58 percent of the total population.

The paper finds that a large number of naturalization-eligible immigrants may have difficulty meeting the naturalization requirements or may need intensive support to do so. This population likely includes substantial percentages of the 2.87 million naturalization-eligible who have lived in the United States for more than 25 years; 1.16 million who do not speak English; 3.0 million with less than a high school education; and the 1.8 million with incomes below the poverty level. On the other hand, high percentages of eligible immigrants would seem to be well-situated to naturalize, including those who have lived in the United States for more than 10 years (78 percent); are age 35 or older (74 percent); are married (64 percent); speak English well, very well, or only English (65 percent); have access to both a computer and the internet (74 percent); earn income above the poverty level (79 percent); and have health insurance (72 percent).

Introduction

A recent report on the integration of immigrants into the United States by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine begins:

The successful integration of immigrants and their children contributes to economic vitality and to a vibrant and ever-changing culture. Americans have offered opportunities to immigrants and their children to better themselves and to be fully incorporated into US society, and in exchange immigrants have become *Americans* — embracing an American identity and citizenship, protecting the United States through service in its military, fostering technological innovation, harvesting its crops, and enriching everything from the nation’s cuisine to its universities, music, and art (National Academies 2015).

Despite the significance of citizenship to immigrant integration, information on the naturalization-eligible has not been sufficiently detailed at the local level to allow the federal government, states, localities, and non-governmental service providers to develop strategies for assisting this population to naturalize and to identify and overcome barriers to eligibility. The new geographic and demographic information about the naturalization-eligible described in this Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS) paper, in

combination with soon to-be-released CMS estimates of the naturalization-eligible on a sub-state level, will go far in remedying this deficiency.

Two important aspects of the estimates presented in this paper should be noted:

1. With minor exceptions, the two populations described here — naturalized and eligible-to-naturalize — *exclude* those who had resided in the country for less than five years.² This maintains consistency in the data used to compute rates.
2. The sum of the naturalized and the eligible-to-naturalize population is referred to as the “legal foreign-born resident population.”

Nationwide findings from this CMS paper include the following:

- A total of 8.6 million US residents were eligible to naturalize in 2013. This figure is close to the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) estimate of 8.8 million.
- Mexican nationals constitute the largest naturalization-eligible population at 2.7 million, followed by Indian (337,000), Chinese (320,000), Cuban (316,000), and Canadian (313,000) nationals.
- Fifty countries have 25,000 or more naturalization-eligible persons.
- The overall “naturalization eligibility” rate — i.e., the number of naturalization-eligible, divided by the sum of the naturalized and the naturalization-eligible populations — was 31 percent in 2013, including 48 percent for Mexican nationals.
- Nine of the 25 largest US naturalization-eligible populations by source country have naturalization eligibility rates in excess of 40 percent, including Mexico (48 percent), Canada (45 percent), El Salvador (42 percent), the United Kingdom (41 percent), Guatemala (44 percent), Japan (56 percent), Honduras (48 percent), and Brazil (41 percent).
- High percentages of the naturalization-eligible have lived in the United States for more than 10 years (78 percent); are age 35 or older (74 percent); are married (64 percent); speak English well, very well, or only English (65 percent); have access to both a computer and the internet (74 percent); earn income above the poverty level (79 percent); and have health insurance (72 percent).
- A substantial number of the naturalization-eligible may have greater difficulty negotiating this process, including high percentages of the 2.87 million naturalization-eligible persons who have lived in the United States for more than 25 years; 1.16 million who do not speak English; 3.0 million who have less than a high school education; and 1.8 million who have incomes below the poverty level.

At the state-wide level, CMS finds that:

- The large size of the Mexican legally resident foreign-born population and its high naturalization eligibility rate means that US states with large Mexican populations — like New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona — have relatively high percentages of legal foreign-born residents who can naturalize.

² As a result, the totals shown will be less than the entire population of these two groups. Note, also, that the estimates have been adjusted for undercount and that undocumented residents are excluded from the data. For more information on the reason for the exclusion of eligible-to-naturalize persons who had resided in the US for less than five years, see footnote 3.

The US Eligible-to-Naturalize Population

- California, Texas, New York, and Florida contain roughly five million of the US naturalization-eligible or about 58 percent of the total population.

Regarding the state figures, we note that for select states CMS's figures diverge substantially from DHS estimates. The reasons for this divergence are discussed in Appendix B.

CMS Estimation Procedure

CMS has derived the estimates set forth in this paper from data collected in the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS)³ in 2013. The estimation procedure, described in more detail in Appendix A, relied on the ACS questions on country of birth, citizenship status, and year of immigration. All of the estimation was done at the micro data level. In summary, CMS compiled data for non-US citizens who entered before mid-2008,⁴ removed those that it had previously identified as undocumented residents, and made adjustments that took into account specific residency requirements of refugees, spouses of US citizens, and active-duty military. It estimates that a total of 8.6 million were potentially eligible to naturalize in 2013.

DHS estimated that a total of 8.8 million were eligible to naturalize in 2012, but DHS' published estimates are limited to the top 20 states, the top 20 countries, and five-year periods of entry (Rytina 2013). The CMS estimates for 2013 are generally consistent with the DHS estimates even though the two sets of estimates were derived using different data and methods. Comparisons between the CMS and DHS methodologies and estimates are shown in Appendix B.

The paper uses the term "potentially" to signal that the CMS estimates of the naturalization-eligible include some persons who are not currently eligible to naturalize (e.g., children under age 18⁵ and others who do not meet the language and civics requirements), although they could become eligible as their circumstances change. The paper refers to this population as "naturalization-eligible," "eligible to naturalize," or simply the "eligible."

Detailed data exclusively for legal residents have not been available previously because undocumented residents are included in the foreign-born data collected in censuses and surveys.⁶ To derive estimates of the legally resident foreign-born population, CMS compiled data about the naturalized population from the ACS and added it to the estimates of the eligible-to-naturalize population described above. The result is a unique set of data for contrasting the social and economic characteristics of those who have naturalized with those who have yet to naturalize.

3 The ACS is an annual statistical survey conducted by the Census Bureau. It covers approximately 1 percent of the total US population. The survey gathers information previously obtained in the decennial census long form. The public-use data from the survey provides detailed social and economic data for all states, as well as all cities, counties, metropolitan areas, and population groups of 100,000 people or more.

4 Most of those in the 2013 ACS who entered after mid-2008 would not meet the five-year residency requirements to naturalize. See Appendix A for a detailed description of the methodology.

5 Lawful permanent residents (LPRs) must be at least 18 years old to apply to naturalize. However, under certain conditions, children born outside the United States can derive citizenship from their parents.

6 As noted previously, CMS removed undocumented residents from the data shown in this report, as described in Appendix A.

The CMS estimates should be especially valuable because they provide information for these populations in all of the rich geographic and demographic detail collected in the ACS. For example, the data show that almost 6,000 naturalization-eligible persons from the Azores live in Massachusetts; 6,200 from Somalia live in Minnesota; 4,100 from Tonga live in California; and 2,000 from Burma live in Oklahoma. The estimates also reveal that large concentrations of the eligible-to-naturalize live in just a few states. For example, 1.19 million naturalization-eligible persons from Mexico live in California, 623,000 from Mexico live in Texas, and 248,000 from Cuba live in Florida. Based on the CMS estimates, the federal government, states, localities, private funders, and immigrant service networks will be able to make educated judgments on which naturalization-eligible groups to target for naturalization, where they can be found, and what services to prioritize.

Overview of the Naturalization-Eligible

This section offers an overview of the eligible-to-naturalize. It will be supplemented by CMS's release of additional detailed information, including sub-state estimates of this population.

State of Residence and National Origin

By far the largest naturalization-eligible group by source country — 2.7 million — are from Mexico (Table 1). The numbers by source country drop sharply thereafter, ranging from 337,000 to 313,000 for the next four source countries: India, China, Cuba, and Canada. A total of 50 countries have 25,000 or more naturalization-eligible persons, reflecting the diverse origins of this population.

Table 1 shows estimates by country of origin in two ways: (1) ranked by the total number eligible to naturalize (column 2), and ranked by the percent eligible to naturalize (column 6). The top 25 countries in each category are displayed. Nationally, about 31 percent of the legally resident population has not naturalized. High percentages in Table 1 indicate low rates of naturalization. By far the largest number eligible to naturalize are immigrants from Mexico (2.72 million). Almost half (48 percent) of all legal residents from Mexico are eligible to naturalize.

The percentages of those eligible to naturalize in each state are positively correlated with the size of the legal immigrant population from Mexico. For example, in New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona, states with high percentages from Mexico, roughly 40 percent have not naturalized; in New York, New Jersey, and Virginia, states with lower percentages of immigrants from Mexico, only about 26 to 28 percent have not naturalized (Table 2).

California has the largest number eligible to naturalize, about 2.27 million, slightly more than one-fourth of the US total of 8.6 million. Three other states — Texas, New York, and Florida — also have sizable numbers (Table 2). These four states contain about five million eligible to naturalize, or about 58 percent of the total population.

The US Eligible-to-Naturalize Population

Table 1. Estimated Number of Legal Foreign-born Residents (Naturalized and Eligible to Naturalize) and Population Eligible to Naturalize in 2013, by Country of Origin

(Numbers in thousands) Resided in the United States for five years or more.

Country of origin	<i>Ranked by number eligible</i>			Country of origin	<i>Ranked by percent eligible</i>		
	Legal residents <i>(1)</i>	Eligible to naturalize Number <i>(2)</i>	Percent <i>(3)=2/1</i>		Legal Residents <i>(4)</i>	Eligible to naturalize Number <i>(5)</i>	Percent <i>(6)=5/4</i>
Total	27,921	8,616	31%	Total	27,921	8,616	31%
Mexico	5,678	2,718	48%	Japan	259	146	56%
India	1,317	337	26%	Australia	56	29	51%
China	1,416	320	23%	Liberia	67	33	50%
Cuba	981	316	32%	Mexico	5,678	2,718	48%
Canada	696	313	45%	Honduras	220	105	48%
El Salvador	672	280	42%	Canada	696	313	45%
Philippines	1,526	255	17%	Guatemala	396	176	44%
UK	615	250	41%	El Salvador	672	280	42%
Dom. Rep.	736	236	32%	Brazil	207	85	41%
Guatemala	396	176	44%	Spain	77	31	41%
Korea	805	164	20%	UK	615	250	41%
Vietnam	1,148	149	13%	Burma	62	25	40%
Germany	517	146	28%	Netherlands	73	29	40%
Japan	259	146	56%	Indonesia	70	27	38%
Colombia	513	126	25%	France	127	46	36%
Jamaica	570	126	22%	Kenya	76	27	36%
Haiti	439	114	26%	Bolivia	55	19	34%
Honduras	220	105	48%	Ecuador	284	96	34%
Peru	325	103	32%	Venezuela	122	40	33%
Ecuador	284	96	34%	Chile	71	23	32%
Brazil	207	85	41%	Cuba	981	316	32%
Poland	371	80	22%	Dom. Rep.	736	236	32%
Italy	319	71	22%	Peru	325	103	32%
Ukraine	309	65	21%	Argentina	126	40	32%
Russia	327	54	17%	Turkey	89	27	31%

Note: The ranked eligible-to-naturalize percentages (column 6) are shown for countries that have 50,000 or more total legal residents (column 4).

Source: Center for Migration Studies (CMS) 2015 Analysis of 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) data (see text).

Table 2. Estimated Number of Legal Foreign-born Residents (Naturalized and Eligible to Naturalize) and Population Eligible to Naturalize in 2013, by State of Residence

(Numbers in thousands) Resided in the United States for five years or more.

State of residence	Legal residents (1)	Eligible to naturalize Number (2)	Percent (3)=2/1	State of residence	Legal Residents (4)	Eligible to naturalize Number (5)	Percent (6)=5/4
All states	27,921	8,616	31%	Missouri	148	46	31%
Alabama	83	27	32%	Montana	14	5	34%
Alaska	36	10	29%	Nebraska	65	23	36%
Arizona	551	210	38%	Nevada	360	107	30%
Arkansas	68	25	37%	New Hampshire	59	17	29%
California	7,332	2,270	31%	New Jersey	1,350	346	26%
Colorado	316	116	37%	New Mexico	129	53	41%
Connecticut	354	109	31%	New York	3,278	915	28%
Delaware	49	14	27%	North Carolina	376	136	36%
DC	63	28	45%	North Dakota	11	6	50%
Florida	2,828	799	28%	Ohio	323	88	27%
Georgia	562	183	33%	Oklahoma	112	39	35%
Hawaii	189	55	29%	Oregon	252	93	37%
Idaho	54	20	36%	Pennsylvania	570	155	27%
Illinois	1,199	345	29%	Rhode Island	96	29	30%
Indiana	176	67	38%	South Carolina	130	39	30%
Iowa	91	31	34%	South Dakota	12	4	34%
Kansas	108	38	35%	Tennessee	167	57	34%
Kentucky	85	25	29%	Texas	2,463	983	40%
Louisiana	108	30	28%	Utah	138	46	33%
Maine	34	9	26%	Vermont	20	5	25%
Maryland	574	153	27%	Virginia	629	161	26%
Massachusetts	783	241	31%	Washington	623	186	30%
Michigan	440	123	28%	West Virginia	19	5	27%
Minnesota	274	73	27%	Wisconsin	169	55	33%
Mississippi	37	13	35%	Wyoming	11	3	30%

Source: CMS 2015 Analysis of 2013 ACS Data (see text).

The US Eligible-to-Naturalize Population

Table 5⁷ shows estimates for *every* state cross-tabulated by the overall top 20 countries of origin. Of the ten states with the largest number of naturalization-eligible, persons of Mexican origin constitute the largest population in: California (1.19 million), Texas (623,000), Illinois (143,000), Arizona (133,000), Washington (42,000), and Georgia (37,000). About 248,000 Cubans who are eligible to naturalize live in Florida, and 131,000 from the Dominican Republic live in New York. A total of 14 states have fewer than 25,000 eligible-to-naturalize, ranging from Kentucky (24,600) to Wyoming (3,400).

Demographic Characteristics of the Naturalization-eligible Population

Table 3 summarizes key demographic characteristics of the naturalization-eligible. Table 4 (pages 315-16) shows a large array of detailed information, including naturalization rates and estimates of median income, for both the naturalized and the naturalization-eligible population.

Table 3. Selected Characteristics of the Population Eligible to Naturalize: 2013

Characteristic	Estimate	Percent
Total eligible to naturalize	8,616,000	100%
Lived in the United States more than 10 years	6,758,000	78%
Age 35 years and older	6,356,000	74%
Married (15 and older)	5,365,000	64%
Speak Spanish at home	4,242,000	49%
Speak English well, very well, or only English (5 and older)	5,592,000	65%
Some college, bachelor's degree, or higher (18 and older)	3,280,000	40%
Access to both a computer and the internet	6,379,000	74%
Income above the poverty level	6,838,000	79%
Have health insurance coverage	6,222,000	72%

Source: Table 4.

Most eligible-to-naturalize immigrants are long-term residents: 78 percent have lived in the United States for 10 years or more; 24 percent for 30 years or more; and 10 percent for at least 40 years (Tables 3 and 4). Three-quarters of naturalization-eligible immigrants are 35 years of age or older, and the majority are married. Half of them speak Spanish at home, but two-thirds speak English well, very well, or only English. Forty percent have attended college, and three-quarters have access to the internet. Seventy-nine percent have incomes above the poverty level, and 72 percent have health insurance coverage.

As these figures indicate, most members of this population represent strong candidates for naturalization and are integrating well into US society by many traditional metrics. The naturalization process could, however, present a greater challenge for a minority of this

⁷ Table 5 has been placed at the end of the report because of its length.

population. For example, we might ask why 2.9 million, or one-third of the total, have lived in the United States for more than 25 years and have not naturalized. Also, 1.2 million do not speak English; 3.0 million have less than a high school education; and 1.8 million have incomes below the poverty level (Table 4).

Table 4 shows estimates of the naturalized and the naturalization-eligible populations for 10 demographic variables. The naturalization rate and the median income are shown for each variable and for each characteristic within the variables. As might be expected, naturalization rates increase with age, length of residence, ability to speak English, and educational attainment. Those who are above the poverty level and those who have health insurance have naturalization rates slightly above average.

For the naturalized population, there is a strong relationship between income, other standard indicia of immigrant integration, and naturalization rates (Table 4, columns 3 and 4). For example, as the educational level increases from “Less than high school” to “Bachelor’s degree or higher,” median income increases from \$12,800 to \$48,000, and naturalization rates increase from 55 percent to 78 percent.

For the eligible-to-naturalize population, median incomes also increase with age, length of residence, ability to speak English, and educational attainment, but the gains are not as large or as consistent as for naturalized citizens (Table 4). In 2013, the median income of the total naturalization-eligible population was \$15,000, which was about \$9,000, or 38 percent, lower than the median income of the naturalized population (\$24,000). In fact, median income for the naturalization-eligible population is substantially lower than that of the naturalized population *in almost every category* shown in Table 4, with only the narrow sub-group of 18-20 year olds showing as much as an equal median income.

Among other sub-groups, persons who reported speaking Dravidian languages at home provided interesting exceptions to several general findings.⁸ For example, although naturalized citizens who reported speaking a Dravidian language at home had median incomes (\$56,900) that were more than twice the median income of the total naturalized population (\$24,000), their naturalization rate was below average. In addition, naturalization-eligible Dravidian speakers had median incomes almost as high (\$55,000) as naturalized Dravidian speakers.

⁸ Dravidian languages are spoken mainly in southern India.

Table 4. Detailed Social and Economic Characteristics of the Naturalized and Eligible to Naturalize Populations: 2013

	<i>Population in the United States for five years or more.</i>					
	Total legal foreign-born population <i>(1)</i>	Naturalized population Number <i>(2)</i>	Percent naturalized <i>(3)=2/1</i>	Median income <i>(4)</i>	Eligible to naturalize Number <i>(5)</i>	Median income <i>(6)</i>
Period of Entry						
Total	27,921	19,305	69%	\$24,000	8,616	\$15,000
2005 to 2009	2,416	891	37%	\$15,000	1,525	\$13,000
2000 to 2004	4,067	2,244	55%	\$19,300	1,823	\$15,000
1995 to 1999	3,969	2,581	65%	\$23,000	1,388	\$15,000
1990 to 1994	3,732	2,722	73%	\$25,000	1,010	\$15,000
Before 1990	13,737	10,866	79%	\$25,600	2,871	\$15,700
Language Spoken at Home						
Total	27,921	19,305	69%	\$24,000	8,615	\$15,000
Spanish	10,092	5,850	58%	\$20,000	4,241	\$13,000
English	5,507	4,059	74%	\$30,000	1,447	\$22,500
Chinese	1,676	1,312	78%	\$25,000	364	\$12,000
Hindi	1,348	1,053	78%	\$27,500	295	\$18,000
French	795	540	68%	\$25,000	256	\$18,400
Filipino	1,261	1,045	83%	\$30,000	216	\$17,700
Dravidian	352	227	64%	\$56,900	125	\$55,000
Korean	634	481	76%	\$22,200	153	\$11,200
Arabic	489	386	79%	\$20,000	103	\$6,300
Other language	5,767	4,351	75%	\$23,400	1,415	\$17,000
Ability to Speak English (5 years and older)						
Total, 5 years and older	27,920	19,305	69%	\$24,000	8,615	\$15,000
Very well (or only English)	15,919	11,938	75%	\$30,000	3,981	\$22,000
Speaks English well	5,724	4,113	72%	\$23,000	1,611	\$17,000
Speaks English a little	4,384	2,520	57%	\$12,200	1,863	\$12,000
Does not speak English	1,894	734	39%	\$8,600	1,160	\$7,700
Educational attainment (18 years and older)						
Total, 18 years and older	27,016	18,759	69%	\$24,000	8,256	\$15,200
Bachelor's or higher	8,168	6,367	78%	\$48,000	1,801	\$40,000
Some college	6,072	4,593	76%	\$25,000	1,479	\$18,000
High school	5,999	4,067	68%	\$19,800	1,932	\$15,000
Less than high school	6,778	3,732	55%	\$12,800	3,045	\$10,200

Table 4. (Continued) Detailed Social and Economic Characteristics of the Naturalized and Eligible to Naturalize Populations: 2013

	<i>(Numbers in thousands) Population in the United States for five years or more.</i>					
	Total legal foreign-born population <i>(1)</i>	Naturalized population Number <i>(2)</i>		Percent naturalized <i>(3)=2/1</i>	Eligible to naturalize Median income Number <i>(4)</i>	
Marital status (15 years and older)						
Total, 15 years and older	27,364	18,974	69%	\$24,000	8,391	\$15,000
Married	17,469	12,104	69%	\$28,000	5,365	\$17,500
Not married	9,895	6,870	69%	\$19,000	3,025	\$12,000
Age (in years)						
Total, 5 years and older	27,921	19,305	69%	\$24,000	8,616	\$15,000
5 to 17 years	904	545	60%	n/a	359	n/a
18 to 20 years	413	257	62%	\$1,000	156	\$1,000
21 to 24 years	770	504	65%	\$9,400	267	\$9,000
25 to 34 years	3,740	2,262	60%	\$26,000	1,478	\$18,000
35 to 44 years	5,813	3,697	64%	\$35,000	2,116	\$20,000
45 to 64 years	10,882	7,876	72%	\$30,000	3,006	\$17,700
65 years and older	5,397	4,163	77%	\$14,000	1,234	\$8,600
Sex						
Total	27,921	19,305	69%	\$24,000	8,616	\$15,000
Female	15,033	10,481	70%	\$17,800	4,552	\$9,000
Male	12,888	8,824	68%	\$33,000	4,064	\$23,000
Access to a computer or the Internet						
Total	27,921	19,305	69%	\$24,000	8,616	\$15,000
Access to a computer	23,347	16,554	71%	\$26,300	6,793	\$16,800
Access to internet	23,232	16,439	71%	\$26,700	6,794	\$17,000
Access to both	22,300	15,921	71%	\$27,000	6,379	\$17,000
Poverty Status						
Total	27,921	19,305	69%	\$24,000	8,616	\$15,000
Above poverty threshold	23,877	17,039	71%	\$28,900	6,838	\$20,000
At or below threshold	4,044	2,266	56%	\$6,700	1,778	\$4,700
Health Insurance						
Total	27,921	19,305	69%	\$24,000	8,616	\$15,000
With coverage	22,415	16,194	72%	\$26,200	6,222	\$16,000
No coverage	5,506	3,111	57%	\$16,000	2,395	\$13,000

Source: CMS 2015 Analysis of 2013 ACS Data (see text).

Conclusion

The data set forth in this paper reveal two striking patterns. First, for naturalized citizens, median income and naturalization rates rise as age, length of residence, ability to speak English, and educational attainment increase. Second, in every category but one, those who have not yet naturalized have lower median incomes than those who have naturalized. It is not possible to demonstrate causal relationships with this data. For example, does naturalization increase income, or are those with higher incomes more likely to naturalize? However, it appears that there are financial benefits for learning to speak English well and increasing educational levels.

This paper raises several policy issues. First, the description of the naturalization-eligible population reveals that the characteristics and capabilities of the population are not homogeneous. The majority of the eligible-to-naturalize are likely in a good position to naturalize, but there are millions who would find it difficult to meet the language and other requirements for naturalization. This dichotomy raises a number of questions regarding how to allocate limited federal, state, local and community-based naturalization resources most effectively. Should we rely, for example, on publicity and outreach to encourage those who are well-situated to naturalize to take this step, while devoting more substantial resources for English language and other assistance to the second group? Or would it be more effective to devote the lion's share of resources to naturalization-eligible persons who will not experience substantial difficulty in the naturalization process? These data will be an indispensable tool for making these kinds of judgments, identifying necessary interventions and facilitating assistance to both groups.

The denominator used to calculate the “naturalization eligibility” rates set forth in this paper — the foreign-born population, excluding undocumented residents and excluding legal residents who arrived after mid-2008 — provides an opportunity to reexamine the utility of traditional naturalization rates. In fact, the paper opts to provide naturalization eligibility rates, rather than naturalization rates. Naturalization rates have traditionally been calculated by using, as the denominator, all foreign-born persons (the naturalized, legal non-citizens, *and* undocumented residents). By including the unauthorized in this calculation, naturalization rates have appeared misleadingly low for the populations that *can be* naturalized. The data in Table 1 for Mexico can be used, along with an estimate of undocumented residents from Mexico, to illustrate this point. The data for Mexico show that 48 percent are *eligible to naturalize*. In contrast, the traditional naturalization rate for Mexico would be just 27 percent because 5.4 million (Warren 2014) undocumented residents would have been included in calculating that rate. The naturalization eligibility rate for Mexico, computed using the data presented here, is relatively high compared to other countries, meaning that a relatively higher rate of legally resident Mexican nationals are eligible to naturalize and a relatively lower rate have, in fact, naturalized. Because naturalization eligibility rates reflect the foreign-born population that could naturalize in the short term (prior to legislation to legalize the US undocumented population), this rate should be more useful in targeting outreach and services to the naturalization-eligible.

A second policy issue relates to those who have lived the longest in the United States. Providing an easier path to naturalization would be an appropriate response to persons with decades of lawful and productive US residence. Under US law, persons age 50 or older who

have been lawful permanent residents (LPRs) for 20 years or those age 55 or older with 15 years in LPR status are exempt from the English-language requirement to naturalize, although not from the civics test. It would make sense to expand these exceptions, and to supplement them with an alternative (minimum) set of requirements for the naturalization of very long-term LPRs, akin to the registry⁹ provisions that allow undocumented residents who have resided here since 1972 to adjust to legal resident status (Warren and Kerwin 2015, 99-100). For example, a streamlined and expedited naturalization system for persons who have had LPR status for at least 35 years would have covered nearly 1.2 million persons in 2013, according to CMS estimates, and would cover approximately 100,000 each year thereafter.

Third, the CMS estimates reveal that three million naturalization-eligible persons do not speak English or speak only a little English. Thus, they argue for substantial investments in English-language instruction. They also illustrate the need to prioritize immigrant integration more broadly, given the strong correlation between naturalization and income, poverty status, English-language proficiency, and health insurance coverage. Moreover, the CMS data argue for reduced naturalization fees and generous fee waiver policies. They indicate that the median annual income of the naturalization-eligible population nationwide is \$15,000, with lower levels of median income among persons who speak Spanish (\$13,000), Korean (\$11,200), or Arabic (\$6,300) at home, and those without a high school education (\$10,200). Naturalization filing fees of \$680 (\$595 for the application and \$85 for biometric screening) constitute a high percentage of the annual income of many naturalization-eligible persons and could certainly present a disincentive to naturalization in these cases.

The purpose of this paper is to introduce a new set of detailed data for those potentially eligible to naturalize. CMS undertook the project out of the conviction that making social and economic data for this population available down to the PUMA¹⁰ level would help to focus resources where they are most needed, and would lead to improved naturalization policies and sustained increases in naturalization rates. The project seeks to “democratize” data on this population in order to allow the federal government, states, localities, and non-governmental agencies to develop strategies for identifying naturalization-eligible populations — by geographic area, source country, and a variety of demographic criteria — and to encourage and assist targeted populations to naturalize. In the spirit of the National Academies report, we hope to enhance the opportunities of immigrants and their children to embrace “an American identity and citizenship.”

9 Under the registry provision, undocumented residents can adjust to LPR status if they entered before 1972; lived in the United States continuously since then; are persons of good moral character; are not ineligible for naturalization; and are not deportable under various sections of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

10 Public use microdata areas (PUMAs) are Census-defined areas that have approximately 100,000 total population.

Table 5. Estimated Population Eligible to Naturalize, by US State and Top 20 Source Countries in 2013

Note: Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

State	All countries	Mexico	India	China	Cuba	Canada	El Salvador
All states	8,616,400	2,718,300	336,800	320,400	315,800	312,500	280,400
Alabama	26,900	6,800	2,600	1,400	500	1,400	-
Alaska	10,500	100	-	100	400	2,200	300
Arizona	210,400	133,000	5,100	1,600	3,300	14,600	2,600
Arkansas	25,200	11,800	1,400	400	-	1,200	2,600
California	2,269,600	1,190,200	73,000	81,500	5,300	45,600	99,900
Colorado	116,400	54,400	1,400	1,900	600	7,200	1,800
Connecticut	108,700	4,000	7,000	2,500	1,300	5,300	600
Delaware	13,500	3,200	1,500	400	-	1,100	-
DC	28,100	1,700	100	600	-	900	5,900
Florida	798,700	40,600	12,200	7,900	248,200	39,400	10,000
Georgia	182,800	37,400	11,400	6,300	4,200	7,100	3,400
Hawaii	54,700	700	-	3,200	-	2,200	-
Idaho	19,600	10,100	400	200	-	2,200	100
Illinois	344,600	143,200	19,200	12,400	1,900	7,900	2,400
Indiana	67,400	20,900	4,500	2,200	300	4,000	1,100
Iowa	31,300	5,900	1,300	600	-	2,400	600
Kansas	37,800	16,300	1,600	700	600	1,100	200
Kentucky	24,600	4,300	900	800	2,900	700	100
Louisiana	30,300	2,500	1,300	1,200	1,400	1,200	300
Maine	8,800	200	1,100	100	-	3,100	100
Maryland	153,400	4,200	6,400	8,700	900	2,500	20,500
Massachusetts	240,900	4,000	10,600	12,500	1,300	12,000	13,200
Michigan	123,300	18,100	8,500	5,500	600	15,700	300
Minnesota	73,300	13,600	3,800	2,400	100	4,100	100
Mississippi	13,100	2,900	800	200	-	900	-
Missouri	46,400	5,600	2,200	2,200	100	1,400	900
Montana	4,800	300	600	200	-	1,300	-
Nebraska	23,100	7,500	1,100	900	1,800	1,400	800
Nevada	107,200	44,500	1,100	2,500	6,200	4,900	3,600
New Hampshire	16,900	900	1,800	500	-	4,300	300
New Jersey	345,600	18,200	41,800	8,400	8,300	6,500	5,900
New Mexico	52,600	41,800	900	500	500	400	-
New York	914,600	40,000	23,100	87,400	4,700	21,200	29,100
North Carolina	136,300	31,100	7,800	3,200	1,800	6,400	5,000
North Dakota	5,700	300	500	-	-	700	-
Ohio	88,200	11,100	7,200	5,000	200	6,000	800
Oklahoma	39,100	16,900	700	2,800	-	1,000	400

Table 5. (Continued) Estimated Population Eligible to Naturalize, by US State and Top 20 Source Countries in 2013

Note: Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

State	All countries	Mexico	India	China	Cuba	Canada	El Salvador
All states	8,616,400	2,718,300	336,800	320,400	315,800	312,500	280,400
Oregon	93,300	30,700	2,000	2,800	700	6,100	1,500
Pennsylvania	154,600	7,600	10,000	11,000	700	4,700	600
Rhode Island	28,700	600	700	100	-	400	-
South Carolina	39,400	8,400	1,500	1,200	500	2,700	700
South Dakota	4,200	400	100	300	-	200	-
Tennessee	56,700	11,100	2,300	2,500	1,700	4,300	1,500
Texas	983,400	623,500	27,800	18,400	11,100	22,100	43,900
Utah	46,100	14,900	1,000	400	300	3,800	1,700
Vermont	5,000	500	-	100	-	800	-
Virginia	160,800	9,100	10,700	5,900	2,100	4,800	16,400
Washington	186,400	41,700	10,500	6,100	500	18,500	1,500
West Virginia	5,100	1,000	300	500	200	-	-
Wisconsin	55,100	19,400	5,000	1,800	700	2,200	100
Wyoming	3,400	1,100	-	-	-	400	-

Note: Where indicated, '-' is zero or rounds to zero.

Source: CMS 2015 Analysis of 2013 ACS Data (see text).

Table 5. (Continued) Estimated Population Eligible to Naturalize, by US State and Top 20 Source Countries in 2013

Note: Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

State	Philippines	UK	Dom. Rep.	Guatemala	Korea	Vietnam	Japan
All states	255,200	250,000	235,800	175,500	163,600	148,600	146,200
Alabama	500	1,000	-	2,300	900	800	-
Alaska	1,500	300	-	-	1,700	-	300
Arizona	4,300	5,300	200	1,500	1,300	3,000	1,900
Arkansas	700	1,800	100	500	100	100	200
California	104,000	49,300	1,600	68,100	47,400	47,500	47,400
Colorado	1,900	3,600	600	700	3,200	2,100	2,100
Connecticut	1,500	4,900	6,500	3,200	1,300	800	900
Delaware	200	500	100	600	200	-	200
DC	200	1,000	900	1,100	-	900	600
Florida	13,100	25,300	20,300	11,500	2,100	7,100	3,300
Georgia	2,100	6,500	1,900	2,800	6,100	5,700	2,700
Hawaii	15,600	400	-	-	1,700	2,100	12,400
Idaho	100	1,000	-	100	-	-	-
Illinois	12,400	8,700	1,500	3,200	8,400	1,000	2,400
Indiana	1,400	2,500	800	100	1,000	400	1,300

Table 5. (Continued) Estimated Population Eligible to Naturalize, by US State and Top 20 Source Countries in 2013

Note: Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

State	Philippines	UK	Dom. Rep.	Guatemala	Korea	Vietnam	Japan
All states	255,200	250,000	235,800	175,500	163,600	148,600	146,200
Iowa	300	900	-	1,400	900	1,800	1,500
Kansas	800	1,100	-	400	700	2,400	600
Kentucky	600	1,100	100	600	400	500	1,400
Louisiana	1,800	900	400	800	100	4,600	600
Maine	500	600	-	-	-	300	100
Maryland	4,500	6,200	2,400	5,600	5,300	2,000	1,600
Massachusetts	900	7,400	18,800	10,900	2,600	5,000	4,400
Michigan	2,600	4,800	500	1,500	3,800	4,100	4,900
Minnesota	1,600	2,100	-	400	400	1,500	500
Mississippi	-	100	-	200	300	600	400
Missouri	1,800	1,800	100	300	1,000	900	900
Montana	700	300	-	-	-	300	-
Nebraska	200	800	-	2,000	500	100	100
Nevada	9,300	2,300	400	1,400	2,800	1,000	2,000
New Hampshire	600	1,800	-	-	500	-	400
New Jersey	12,400	9,400	29,000	6,600	15,100	2,700	4,600
New Mexico	300	600	100	300	200	300	1,000
New York	13,300	20,900	130,500	10,700	17,800	2,900	12,800
North Carolina	3,300	7,600	2,100	3,400	2,100	4,900	2,200
North Dakota	200	300	-	100	-	200	-
Ohio	800	3,800	100	1,700	2,000	1,000	2,900
Oklahoma	900	1,700	-	800	400	300	1,600
Oregon	2,600	6,400	-	1,400	1,600	2,200	3,900
Pennsylvania	2,300	8,700	10,400	2,000	5,300	4,700	1,900
Rhode Island	100	400	5,200	4,500	-	-	400
South Carolina	1,400	3,000	100	1,400	400	900	600
South Dakota	-	200	-	600	100	-	-
Tennessee	400	3,000	-	1,800	1,000	1,500	1,000
Texas	13,500	19,300	600	11,200	8,100	17,500	5,800
Utah	1,000	1,600	-	800	500	300	1,400
Vermont	-	800	-	-	100	900	-
Virginia	8,700	6,000	500	5,000	6,900	2,700	2,200
Washington	7,000	10,000	100	1,500	6,100	8,500	8,100
West Virginia	100	400	-	-	400	200	100
Wisconsin	800	1,700	100	500	600	400	700
Wyoming	300	200	-	100	-	-	-

Note: Where indicated, ‘-’ is zero or rounds to zero.

Source: CMS 2015 Analysis of 2013 ACS Data (see text).

Table 5. (Continued) Estimated Population Eligible to Naturalize, by US State and Top 20 Source Countries in 2013*Note:* Detail may not sum to total because of rounding

State	Germany	Jamaica	Colombia	Haiti	Honduras	Peru	Ecuador	All other
All states	145,900	126,300	126,200	113,900	104,700	103,400	96,400	2,140,400
Alabama	1,000	-	400	-	300	-	100	6,800
Alaska	400	100	400	-	-	200	-	2,500
Arizona	2,500	-	1,100	-	2,100	1,700	500	25,000
Arkansas	400	-	-	-	200	-	-	3,700
California	20,900	2,400	7,400	300	19,800	21,500	4,000	332,600
Colorado	4,800	200	900	100	1,100	1,100	700	26,300
Connecticut	2,000	6,500	5,500	3,400	900	3,400	6,700	40,500
Delaware	600	300	-	600	700	100	-	3,200
DC	400	600	500	-	-	-	800	11,800
Florida	11,800	29,600	43,500	53,700	14,600	19,300	8,100	177,200
Georgia	5,100	7,000	3,300	2,500	3,600	2,000	800	60,800
Hawaii	1,200	100	100	100	100	-	100	14,700
Idaho	600	-	100	-	-	200	-	4,500
Illinois	6,100	2,200	2,500	1,100	1,900	1,300	2,800	102,100
Indiana	2,500	800	-	400	2,300	300	200	20,400
Iowa	1,300	-	200	-	-	600	400	11,300
Kansas	1,200	-	-	-	300	-	100	9,700
Kentucky	1,300	-	300	200	300	200	400	7,500
Louisiana	600	-	100	400	2,600	-	300	9,100
Maine	500	200	-	-	-	-	-	2,200
Maryland	2,400	5,100	1,400	1,000	2,500	3,100	1,700	65,500
Massachusetts	4,600	4,300	2,100	10,300	2,700	3,100	1,600	108,400
Michigan	5,500	500	500	200	400	200	300	44,800
Minnesota	1,800	400	1,500	-	500	200	1,200	37,200
Mississippi	600	500	-	-	200	400	-	4,900
Missouri	1,900	100	400	-	500	800	-	23,400
Montana	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	800
Nebraska	300	-	-	-	300	-	-	5,200
Nevada	1,900	-	100	200	1,100	1,500	300	20,200
New Hampshire	300	100	-	700	-	-	-	4,800
New Jersey	4,100	6,100	15,800	5,900	4,900	10,600	18,600	110,500
New Mexico	900	-	700	-	-	100	500	3,400
New York	8,800	47,200	19,000	27,600	9,600	13,500	38,400	336,300
North Carolina	4,700	1,600	2,400	-	5,900	2,200	1,900	36,700
North Dakota	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,100

Table 5. (Continued) Estimated Population Eligible to Naturalize, by US State and Top 20 Source Countries in 2013*Note:* Detail may not sum to total because of rounding

State	Germany	Jamaica	Colombia	Haiti	Honduras	Peru	Ecuador	All other
All states	145,900	126,300	126,200	113,900	104,700	103,400	96,400	2,140,400
Ohio	4,200	1,700	500	300	700	400	400	37,500
Oregon	2,300	100	200	600	200	100	-	28,000
Pennsylvania	4,100	3,900	2,200	2,800	800	1,100	1,800	68,000
Rhode Island	400	-	700	200	200	600	-	14,100
South Carolina	3,200	100	1,400	-	200	400	-	11,300
South Dakota	100	-	-	-	-	400	-	1,900
Tennessee	1,200	100	700	100	700	300	-	21,400
Texas	11,400	1,800	7,600	900	18,000	4,400	2,900	113,400
Utah	1,400	-	200	-	100	2,000	200	14,600
Vermont	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
Virginia	5,100	2,300	1,100	100	3,300	4,900	500	62,500
Washington	4,400	100	700	-	600	500	200	60,000
West Virginia	200	-	-	-	-	100	-	1,600
Wisconsin	2,400	200	500	-	200	800	100	17,000
Wyoming	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,100

Notes: Where indicated, ‘-’ is zero or rounds to zero.*Source:* CMS 2015 Analysis of 2013 ACS Data (see text).

Appendix A. Estimation of the Number Eligible to Naturalize

Step 1. The first step in the estimation procedure was to compile data from the 2013 ACS for all noncitizens who entered the United States from 1920 to 2013. Note that most who entered in 2009 or later are not included in these estimates because they would not meet the five-year LPR residency requirement. However, some who entered in 2008, as well as some who entered later, would be eligible to naturalize, and they were taken into account, as described in subsequent steps.

Step 2. Next, we removed undocumented residents that CMS estimated were included in the ACS data. In deriving those estimates it was assumed that nearly all of the undocumented resident population is contained in the ACS data for noncitizens that entered the United States after 1981. Very few who entered before 1982 would still be residing in the United States as undocumented residents in 2013 because: (1) a large percentage of those who entered before 1982 obtained legal status under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA);¹¹ and (2) the remainder have had more than 30 years in which to leave

¹¹ The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) went into effect in 1987. Under IRCA, the two main groups who were eligible for legalization were: legalization applicants who continuously resided in the United States since before January 1, 1982 and Special Agricultural Workers (SAWs) who had 60 days of seasonal agricultural work experience in qualifying crops from May 1985 to May 1986. About 1.6 million legalization applicants and 1.1 million SAW applicants were approved.

the undocumented resident population — that is, to secure legal status, be removed, leave voluntarily, or die.

The methodology used to identify undocumented residents involved three major steps: (1) applying a series of edits, referred to as “logical edits,”¹² to identify and remove as many legal residents as possible based on responses in the survey; (2) deriving separate population controls, for 145 countries or areas, for undocumented residents counted in the ACS; and (3) using those population controls to make final selections of individual respondents in the ACS to be classified as undocumented residents (Warren 2014, 308). The result of these procedures was a “flag” for each undocumented resident.¹³ We used this information to remove undocumented residents from the 2013 ACS data for noncitizens.

Step 3. In most cases, five years of LPR status is required to naturalize, but the ACS asks only: “Where did you live 1 year ago?” CMS used the response to that question to exclude people who had breaks in residence. In particular, it subtracted noncitizens that entered before 2008 and reported that they lived abroad one year ago.

Step 4. To take account of the shorter length of residency requirement for refugees, CMS included all noncitizens who entered the United States in 2008 from the following countries: Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Nepal, and Somalia.

Step 5. Three years of marriage to a US citizen is required to qualify for naturalization, but the ACS asks only whether a marriage occurred one year ago. CMS added noncitizens that entered in 2008 or 2009 and were married to US citizens, *except* those who reported that their marriage occurred one year ago.

Step 6. CMS added noncitizens who were on active military duty and who entered the United States after 2007.

Step 7. Adjustment of the 2008 entry cohort. After completing step 6, we removed *half* of those who entered the United States in 2008. The table on the following page illustrates the reason for this adjustment.

12 The term “logical edit” refers to the process of determining probable legal status by examining survey data. CMS assigned respondents to the legal category if they worked in occupations that generally require legal status, were legal temporary migrants, were immediate relatives of US citizens, received public benefits, were from countries where most arrivals would be refugees, or were age 60 or older at entry.

13 Detailed information about undocumented residents, including social and demographic characteristics, for all states and for all PUMAs is available at: <http://data.cmsny.org/>

Table A-1. Adjustment of the 2008 Entry Cohort in 2013 ACS Data

Year	As collected in the ACS	Needed to estimate eligible to naturalize	
2007	1 year		} 5-year period in which most*are not eligible for naturalization
2008	1 year	½ year	
2009	1 year	1 year	
2010	1 year	1 year	
2011	1 year	1 year	
2012	1 year	1 year	
2013	½ year	½ year	

* For exceptions, see Steps 3 to 6.

Because of the survey design, the ACS data for the foreign-born population that entered *in the year the survey is conducted* amounts to only a half-year of data, as shown above for 2013. To derive estimates of those eligible to naturalize, we needed to exclude those who had resided in the United States for less than five years. To do so, it was necessary to exclude half of those who entered in 2008, as shown in the table above. Because month of entry is not collected in the ACS, we randomly selected half of the 2008 entry cohort for each country of origin.

After completing Step 7, CMS had estimated the number *counted* in the 2013 ACS. The final step was to adjust those estimates for undercount.

Step 8. Adjustment for undercount. The most recent entrants were assumed to have the highest undercount rates (about 8 percent for 2003-2008 entrants), and the undercount rate dropped steadily with length of residence, falling to 2 percent for those who entered in the early 1980s. The estimated undercount rate for the total population eligible to naturalize is about 4.5 percent.

Appendix B. Comparison of CMS and DHS Estimates

As described in Appendix A, the CMS estimates were derived from data collected in the ACS. As such, they are subject to sampling variability as well as non-sampling errors, such as possible errors in the assignment of legal status of noncitizens. The estimates for smaller geographic areas should be used with caution. Even with those caveats, however, the CMS estimates should accurately reflect the population eligible to naturalize because of the very large sample size of the ACS and because the estimates do not require the use of the administrative data or assumptions described below.

The DHS estimates for 2012 were derived from administrative data on the number admitted as immigrants (LPRs) from 1980 to 2011; they were reduced by DHS' estimates of emigration and mortality from entry to 2012. Finally, noncitizens who entered before 1980 were added based on data from the 2012 ACS.

The data underlying the DHS estimates are subject to two types of potentially significant errors: a lack of data on internal migration of LPRs; and the absence of separate emigration rates by year of entry and for each country of origin.

1. **Internal migration of LPRs.** The state of residence of LPRs is not updated between entry and 2012. That is, those who were admitted for permanent residence in 1980 and lived in California are still estimated to be residing in California in 2012. For the state-by-state estimates, the potential error in 2012 is the cumulative net migration between every state for every year of entry up to 2012. This lack of data does *not* affect the estimated total population eligible to naturalize; however, it introduces considerable uncertainty into the DHS estimates for every state.
2. **Emigration of LPRs.** In the DHS methodology, it is necessary to take account of emigration (from the United States) of LPRs from the year they enter to 2012. The similarity of the CMS and DHS estimates of the total number eligible to naturalize — 8.6 million and 8.8 million, respectively — provides support for DHS' overall level of emigration. However, a potential problem arises because DHS assumes that a single rate of emigration applied equally to *every country and in every time period*.¹⁴ The lack of variability in the emigration rates reduces the accuracy of the DHS estimates by country of origin.

The estimates derived by CMS are not affected by the lack of information on internal migration or emigration of LPRs because the CMS estimates are based on the population *counted* in 2013. That is, all internal migrating and emigrating of the population would have occurred before they were counted in 2013. Thus, both of these components of change are automatically taken into account in the CMS estimates.

For the reasons described above, we would expect to observe differences between the CMS and DHS estimates. Tables B-1 and B-2 show comparisons of the CMS and DHS estimates. DHS' top 20 states of residence and top 20 countries of origin are shown in the tables, but the states and countries are ranked based on the CMS estimates.

14 This discussion should not be taken as a criticism of DHS' methods, data, or assumptions. DHS's assumptions were necessary if *any* estimates were to be made. Instead, this is a reflection of the drawbacks of using administrative data for these kinds of estimates, and it is the reason that survey data are being used increasingly for these difficult-to-estimate populations.

Table B-1. Comparison Between CMS and DHS Estimates of the Population Eligible to Naturalize: DHS' Top 20 States of Residence

State of residence	CMS (2013) (1)	DHS (2012) (2)	DHS-CMS (3)=(1)-(2)	Pct. diff. (4)=3/1*100
All states	8,616,000	8,770,000	154,000	2%
California	2,270,000	2,480,000	210,000	9%
Texas	983,000	930,000	-53,000	-5%
New York	915,000	1,050,000	135,000	15%
Florida	799,000	830,000	31,000	4%
New Jersey	346,000	370,000	24,000	7%
Illinois	345,000	370,000	25,000	7%
Massachusetts	241,000	200,000	-41,000	-17%
Arizona	210,000	180,000	-30,000	-14%
Washington	186,000	180,000	-6,000	-3%
Georgia	183,000	140,000	-43,000	-23%
Virginia	161,000	160,000	-1,000	-1%
Pennsylvania	155,000	140,000	-15,000	-10%
Maryland	153,000	140,000	-13,000	-8%
North Carolina	136,000	90,000	-46,000	-34%
Michigan	123,000	130,000	7,000	6%
Colorado	116,000	90,000	-26,000	-22%
Connecticut	109,000	100,000	-9,000	-8%
Nevada	107,000	90,000	-17,000	-16%
Ohio	88,000	90,000	2,000	2%
Minnesota	73,000	80,000	7,000	10%
All other	917,000	940,000	23,000	3%

Source: Column 1, CMS 2015 Analysis of 2013 ACS Data (see text); Column 2, Rytina (2013), Table 5.

Table B-2. Comparison Between CMS and DHS Estimates of the Population Eligible to Naturalize: DHS' Top 20 Countries of Origin

Country of origin	CMS (2013) (1)	DHS (2012) (2)	DHS-CMS (3)=(1)-(2)	Pct. diff. (4)=3/1*100
All countries	8,616,000	8,770,000	154,000	2%
Mexico	2,718,000	2,690,000	-28,000	-1%
India	337,000	240,000	-97,000	-29%
China	320,000	280,000	-40,000	-13%
Cuba	316,000	300,000	-16,000	-5%
Canada	313,000	260,000	-53,000	-17%
El Salvador	280,000	260,000	-20,000	-7%
Philippines	255,000	340,000	85,000	33%
United Kingdom	250,000	240,000	-10,000	-4%
Dominican Republic	236,000	310,000	74,000	31%
Guatemala	176,000	130,000	-46,000	-26%
Korea	164,000	180,000	16,000	10%
Vietnam	149,000	200,000	51,000	34%
Japan	146,000	110,000	-36,000	-25%
Germany	146,000	150,000	4,000	3%
Jamaica	126,000	160,000	34,000	27%
Colombia	126,000	140,000	14,000	11%
Haiti	114,000	160,000	46,000	40%
Peru	103,000	80,000	-23,000	-22%
Poland	80,000	110,000	30,000	38%
Pakistan	46,000	60,000	14,000	30%
All other	2,216,000	2,370,000	154,000	7%

Source: Column 1, Center for Migration Studies; see text; Column 2, Rytina (2013), Table 4.

As Tables B-1 and B-2 show, the CMS and DHS estimation procedures arrived at approximately the same total population. However, as noted, the lack of internal migration data, as well as the assumption of uniform emigration rates, in the DHS data likely reduces the comparability of the estimates by state of residence and country of origin.

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The US Eligible-to-Naturalize Population

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