



U.S. Immigration: National and State Trends and Actions

Methodology

Because no single source has all the necessary data for every year examined, several sources were used to produce the maps in this infographic. There are slight differences in the data, as described below.

Data on the total United States population and the foreign-born population

Year	Source	Notes
1980, 1990, 2000	U.S. Census Bureau. "Working Paper No. 81, Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850 to 2000."	Not adjusted for unauthorized immigrants not counted in the census. Adjusted estimates are not available.
2010	Pew Hispanic Center's "Statistical Portrait of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States, 2010," Table 11.	Adjusted for unauthorized immigrants not counted in the census.

Data on the unauthorized population

Year	Source	Notes
1980	Jeffrey Passel and Karen A. Woodrow. "Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Geographic Distribution of Undocumented Immigrants: Estimates of Undocumented Aliens Counted in the 1980 Census by State." <i>International Migration Review</i> 18:3 (1984): 642-71.	Not adjusted for unauthorized immigrants not counted in the census. Adjusted estimates are not available.
1990	Office of Policy and Planning, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. "Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: 1990 to 2000."	Adjusted for unauthorized immigrants not counted in the census.
2000, 2010	Pew Hispanic Center's "Unauthorized Immigrant Population: National and State Trends, 2010."	Adjusted for unauthorized immigrants not counted in the census.

For a description of Pew Hispanic Center's methodology for estimating the unauthorized population, see "Unauthorized Immigrants: How Pew Research Counts Them and What We Know About Them." (April 2013). <http://www.pewresearch.org/2013/04/17/unauthorized-immigrants-how-pew-research-counts-them-and-what-we-know-about-them>.

For a history of estimates of the unauthorized population, see the Congressional Research Service's 2011 report "Unauthorized Aliens Residing in the United States: Estimates Since 1986," <http://trac.syr.edu/immigration/library/P5844.pdf>.

The share of each state's population that is foreign-born is calculated by dividing the state's foreign-born population by its total population. Likewise, the share of each state's unauthorized residents is found by dividing each state's unauthorized immigrant population by its total population.

Because the 1990 and 2000 estimates of the unauthorized population were adjusted to include people not counted in the census and because the total population numbers for those years were not adjusted, the share of each state's unauthorized immigrant population may be slightly overstated. However, any differences are likely to be insignificant, because small increases to the total population would have very little effect on the ratio.

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