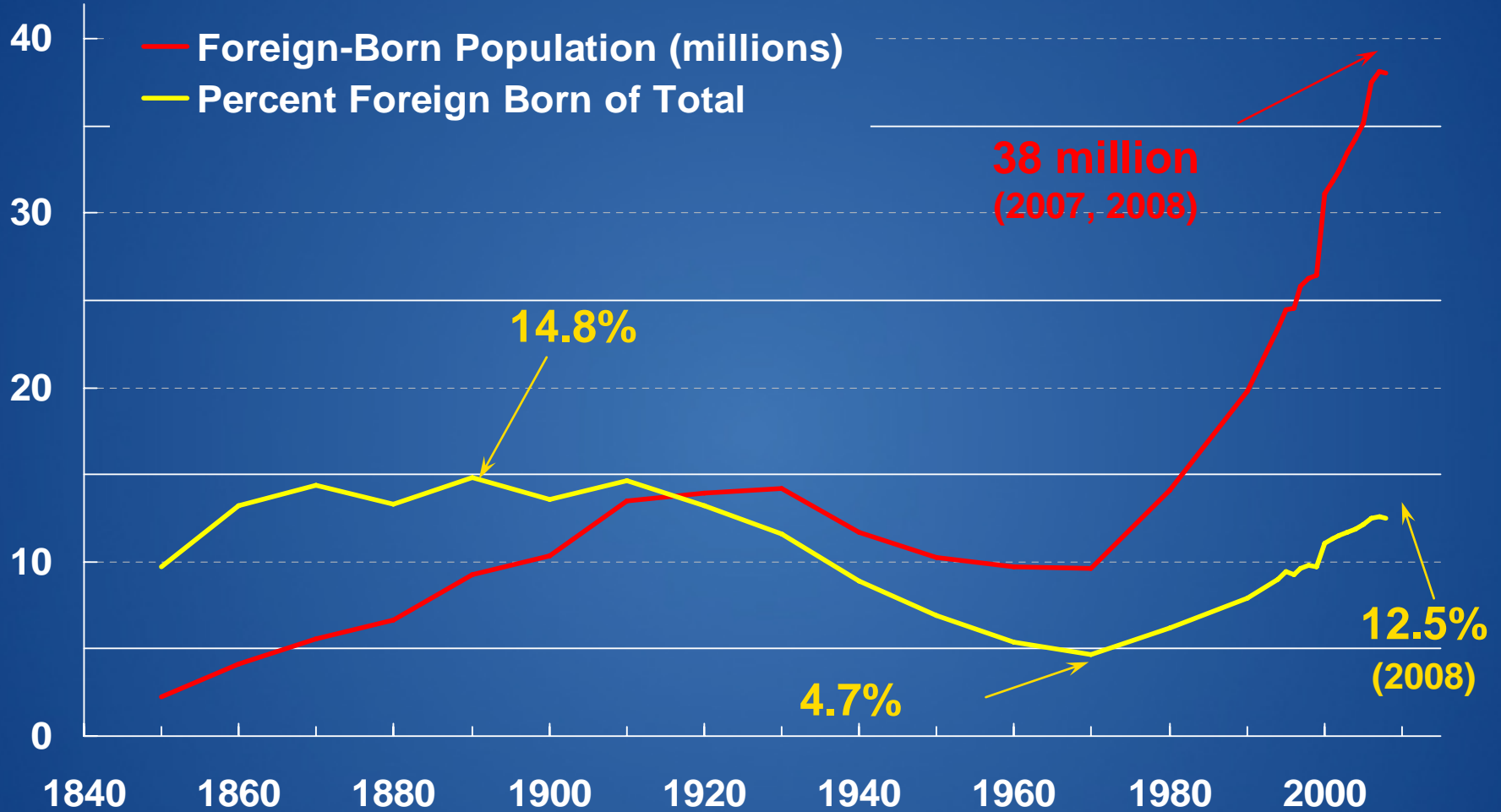




U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Rebecca S. Carson
Chief
Office of Citizenship

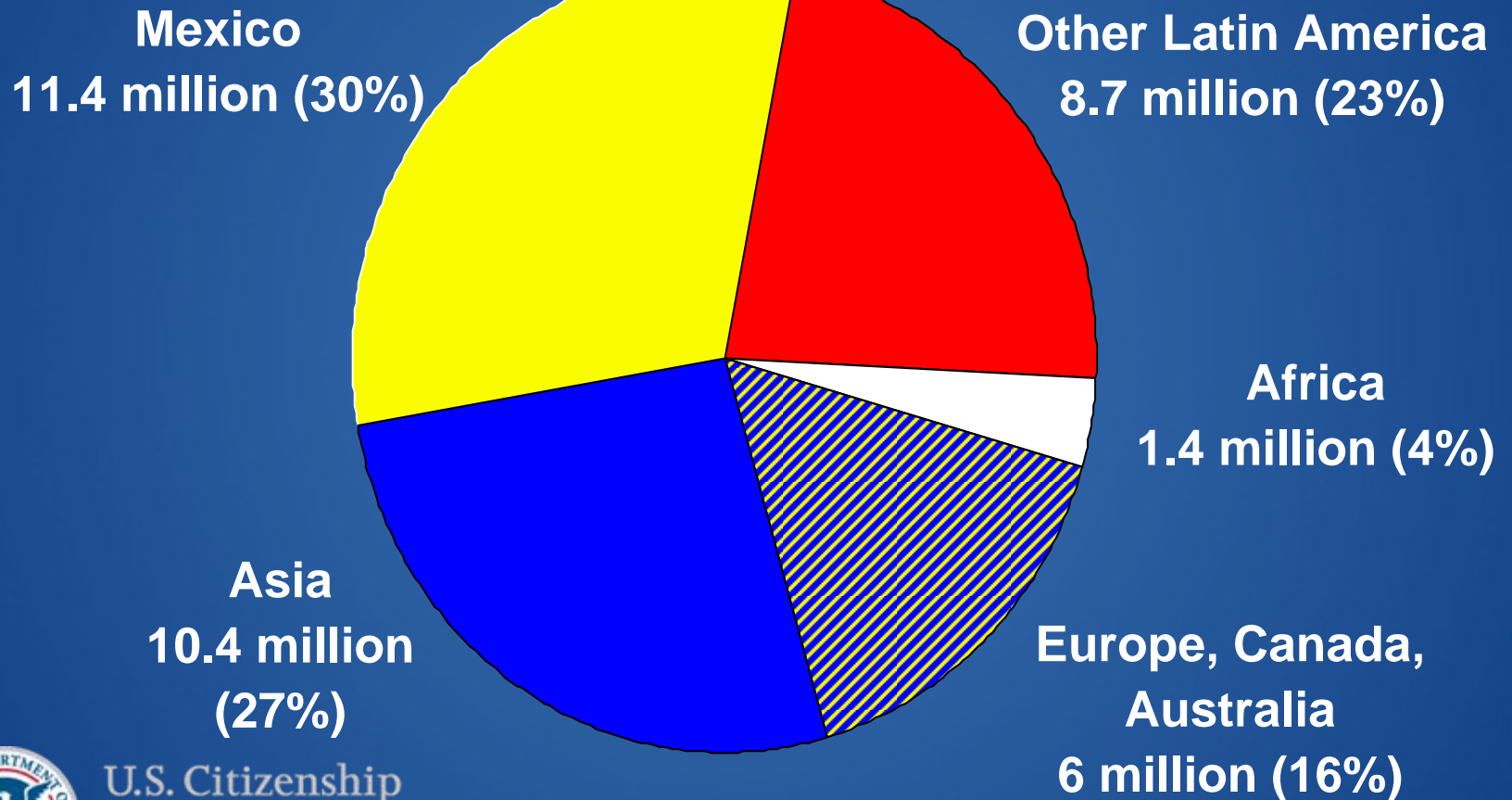
Immigration Trends



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Immigration Trends

Origins of Foreign-born (38 million Census ACS data)



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Immigration Trends

38 Million Total Foreign-born in the United States (est.)

- 14 million naturalized citizens
- 13 million lawful permanent residents (LPRs)
- 11 million undocumented immigrants



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Immigration Trends

8.16 Million LPRs Eligible to Become U.S. Citizens

- Most are from Mexico and reside in several traditional gateway states

Top Countries of Origin

- Mexico: 33% (2,720,000)
- Philippines: 4% (300,000)
- India: 3% (220,000)

Top States of Residence

- California 30%
- New York 12%
- Texas 11%



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Naturalization Trends

Total Naturalized Citizens Fiscal Years 1998-2009			
2009	743,715	2003	463,204
2008	1,046,539	2002	573,708
2007	660,477	2001	608,205
2006	702,589	2000	888,788
2005	604,280	1999	839,944
2004	537,151	1998	463,060



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Naturalization Trends

Annualized Naturalization Rate by Decade

1950s – 1960s	Less than 120,000 / year
1980s	210,000 / year
1990s	500,000 / year
2000s	680,000 / year



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Naturalization Trends

Fiscal Year 2009 Top 12 Countries of Origin (743,715 total)

1. Mexico	111,630 (15.0%)	7. Dominican Republic	20,778 (2.8%)
2. India	52,889 (7.1%)	8. El Salvador	18,927 (2.5%)
3. Philippines	38,934 (5.2%)	9. Korea	17,576 (2.4%)
4. China	37,130 (5.0%)	10. Colombia	16,593 (2.2%)
5. Vietnam	31,168 (4.2%)	11. Jamaica	15,098 (2.0%)
6. Cuba	24,891 (3.3%)	12. Haiti	13,290 (1.8%)



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Naturalization Trends

Top 10 States for Naturalizations FY 2009 (743,715 total)

1. California	179,754 (24.2%)	6. Illinois	28,112 (3.7%)
2. New York	88,733 (11.9%)	7. Virginia	24,730 (3.3%)
3. Florida	82,788 (11.1%)	8. Massachusetts	21,748 (2.9%)
4. Texas	54,024 (7.3%)	9. Washington	19,853 (2.7%)
5. New Jersey	35,077 (4.7%)	10. Maryland	17,099 (2.3%)



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Naturalization Trends

Top 10 Metropolitan Areas for Naturalizations FY 2009 (743,715 total)

1. New York City (NY-NJ-PA)	112,715 (15.2%)	6. San Francisco (Oakland-Fremont, CA)	20,956 (2.8%)
2. Los Angeles (Long Beach-Santa Ana)	84,061 (11.3%)	7. Riverside (San Bernardino-Ontario, CA)	19,422 (2.6%)
3. Miami (Ft. Lauderdale- Pompano Beach)	54,202 (7.3%)	8. Houston (Sugar Land-Baytown, TX)	18,380 (2.5%)
4. Washington (DC-MD-VA-WV)	32,690 (4.4%)	9. Boston (Cambridge- Quincy, MA-NH)	17,429 (2.3%)
5. Chicago (IL-IN-WI)	26,676 (3.6%)	10. Dallas (Fort Worth- Arlington, TX)	17,423 (2.3%)



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Importance of Integration

Benefits to the individual:

- Enhances equal access to opportunities and avenues for all to participate and contribute to their fullest potential

Benefits to the community:

- Reduces discrimination and promotes a sense shared ownership and belonging among all community members

Benefits to the nation:

- Strengthens the vibrancy of our democracy and our prosperity as a nation of immigrants



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Importance of Integration

But integration raises several critical questions:

1. How is integration defined?
2. What does integration encompass?
3. Who is responsible for providing necessary services and implementing programs?
4. How can we evaluate success as a nation?

A community?

An individual?



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Integration at the Federal Level

Legislative Efforts to Impact Integration

- Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007 (S. 1639 Ted Kennedy)
- Strengthen and Unite Communities with Civics Education and English Skills Act of 2009 (H.R. 3249 Mike Honda / S. 1478 Kirsten Gillibrand)
- Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act of 2009 – CIR ASAP (H.R. 4321 Luis Gutierrez)



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Integration at the Federal Level

- Strengthen and Unite Communities with Civics Education and English Skills Act of 2009
- Title III – Building Stronger Communities
 - Amend name and functions of the Office of Citizenship
 - Address the need for a permanent coordinating body among federal agencies
 - Authorize a competitive federal grant program to states to form State New American Councils to support integration, administered by the Office of Citizenship
 - Authorize an appropriation of \$100 million for FY 10 – FY 15



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Growing Awareness on Integration

History and Mandate of the Office of Citizenship

- Homeland Security Act of 2002 mandates the Office of Citizenship (OoC)
- DHS and components created March 1, 2003
- Fee rule funding for OoC initiatives to focus on education surrounding citizenship rights and responsibilities



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Growing Awareness on Integration

Office of Citizenship Programmatic Budget

- FY 2007: \$7 million (fee-based)
- FY 2008: \$7 million (fee-based)
- FY 2009: \$7 million (fee-based) + \$1.2 million (appropriation)
- FY 2010: \$7 million (fee-based) + \$11 million (appropriation)
- FY 2011: \$18 million (appropriation request)



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Citizenship is Important for Integration

- Invitation to participate as equal
- Increases belonging as American
- Improves family income (Economic Policy Institute, February 24, 2010)
- Access to public benefits
- Reunites families

A recent USCIS survey of newly naturalized citizens shows their main motivators to be: voting, protecting civil rights, feeling more American



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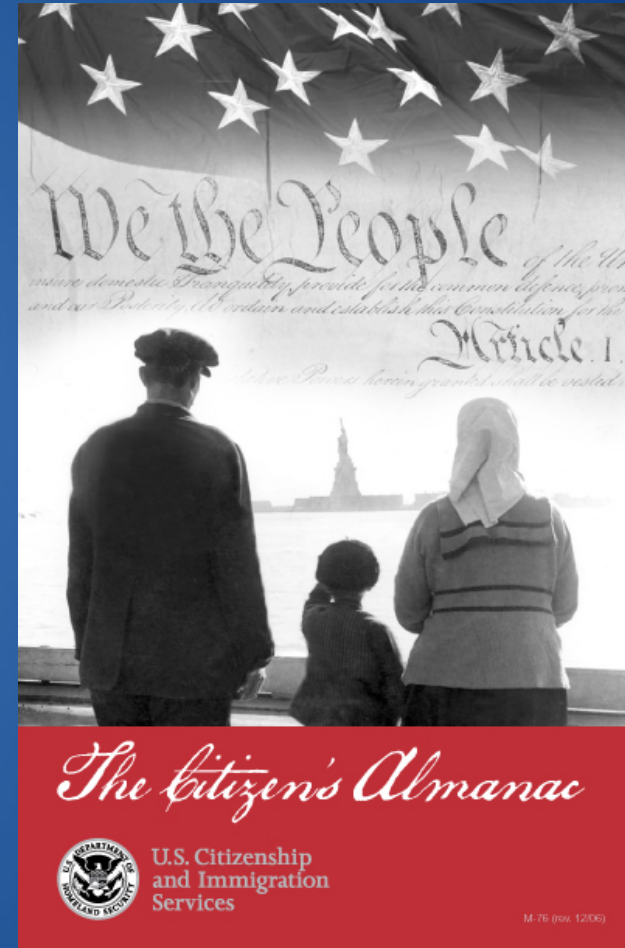
Naturalization Fosters Learning

And builds attachment to the country

- Elements of Naturalization Test
 - Civics
 - English Reading, Writing, Speaking
 - Interview on N-400
- Redesign to enhance test as tool for integration
- Testing not punitive, assessment to provide elemental tools and understanding of America for immigrants to become vested participants and equal citizens



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Integration Through the Citizenship Process

The USCIS Office of Citizenship will provide federal leadership, tools, and resources to proactively foster immigrant integration. We will engage and support partners to welcome immigrants, promote English language learning and education on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and encourage U.S. citizenship.

- Provides immigrants with opportunities and tools to become vested citizens
- Builds community capacity to prepare immigrants for citizenship
- Promotes dialogue and collaboration on integration and raise awareness of its importance to society



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Integration Through the Citizenship Process

Resources for Immigrants

- *Welcome to the United States* guide and other resources provide welcoming message
- Naturalization Information Sessions
- Educational materials for citizenship preparation
- Fair and uniform interview and test
- Meaningful naturalization ceremonies



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A Beacon of Hope and Opportunity

"For more than two centuries, this Nation has been a beacon of hope and opportunity, a place that has drawn enterprising men and women from around the world who have sought to build a life as good as their talents and their hard work would allow. And generation after generation of immigrants have come to these shores because they believe that in America all things are possible."

★ President Barack H. Obama
44th President of the United States



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www.uscis.gov ★ 1 800 375 5283

Integration Through the Citizenship Process

Resources for Communities

- FY 2010 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program
- *Civics and Citizenship Toolkit*
- Training workshops and professional development opportunities for educators and volunteers
- Resource center of best practices for citizenship education/ test preparation



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Integration Through the Citizenship Process

Resources aimed at the General Public

- Public celebration of citizenship
- Outstanding American by Choice
- Strengthen cooperation at Federal level
- Immigrant Integration Roundtables with stakeholders in communities
- New partnerships...



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Multi-stakeholder Approach Needed

Federal
Agencies

CBOs

State/local
Gov't

Private
Sector



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Adult
Education
Systems

Importance of Integration

But integration raises several critical questions:

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*Celebrate Citizenship,
Celebrate America*

For more information, visit
<http://www.uscis.gov>



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