

Humanity: Do Immigrants Poison United States

Hongjun Kim

Los Angeles Pierce College

PSYCHOLOGY 074: Draft

Professor Carman Wimsatt

May 16/2023

Humanity: Do Immigrants Poison United States

According to statistics in 2018, 13.8% of the United States population was shared by immigrants, “Immigrants today account for 13.7% of the U.S. population, nearly triple the share (4.8%) in 1970. However, today’s immigrant share remains below the record 14.8% share in 1890, when 9.2 million immigrants lived in the U.S.” (Key Findings about U.S. immigrants). Around 44.8 million foreign-born U.S. citizens, the statistics are presumed to be higher today and continue to increase every day. With the increasing population and U.S. population share among immigrants, these new American Citizens' effects are crucial in how they affect and impact America. Involvement of these new citizens will impact the country and every individual, as they take part in employment, vote, and fuel the U.S. economy. Approved by the United States government, new United States population counts increase every day.

Newly United States Citizens, no longer aliens are put into challenging lifestyles and work that must be overcome and adapted by the individuals themselves. The 1st generation of citizens struggles through multiple common challenges adapting to living in a new country such as linguistic barriers, financial status, and difficulties in finding employment. Communication is a simple task done in everyone’s daily life. However, with linguistic barriers, it becomes a struggle to communicate, whether that is explaining, sharing, or understanding. With linguistic difficulties, the simplest tasks such as talking with coworkers can become impossible and the most stressful job. In addition, in pursuit of education, all colleges in the United States have different tuition fees for international students and lower scholarships for international students and American citizens. This leads to bringing money from their foreign country to live and afford to live in the United States as many financial costs such as phone bills, rents, and insurance can become more costly. This leads the immigrants to prioritize necessities over mental and physical health: “A Latina organizer described how community members would come into her organization to complete paperwork and tell her about their feelings: “And I’m just like wait ... You need a therapist. You need someone to talk to.”(Gricelda). Whether the new U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident is young or old, they must overcome language barriers and adapt to the new country as they must adjust to the culture and lifestyle.

With mental stress and fear of living in the land of the free, many citizens fear the government-enforced immigration offices and laws that apply differently to temporary or permanent residents. Based on 77 interviews on worksite raids stated that fear of being raided became daily fear, (Lopez W.D.) “The study PIs coded transcripts using Nvivo 12. When coding discrepancies arose, we discussed, took notes, and came to a resolution. Additional codes were added when necessary. The code most used for the current analysis includes “mental–physical health,” a subcode of the “raid impacts” parent code.” With the results collected from this research, we wanted to tie into how the immigrants can be relieved from mental stress and lifestyle which would impact the new immigrants and Lawful Permanent Residents.

In addition, we will conduct a study to create statistics on the U.S. population and how they value immigrants. As the immigrants experience interactions with others and individuals in the United States impacts their attitude and emotion toward their lifestyle. Upon the study, we can study and check the statistics of the struggles that can be shared by the immigrants and change the influence the immigrants go through living their daily lives. I hypothesize that the relationship an individual shares with an immigrant can influence United States Citizens to favor and impact new citizens and immigrants of the United States.

Methods and Materials

Method: In the consented survey, the survey will ask general information of the question: “What are your opinions on Immigrants/Lawful Permanent Residents/ New Citizens?”. Multiple magnitudes of multiple-choice answers will be provided along with some general information about the survey participants. With the data collected, we will analyze the results on general opinions and trends among the participants.

Participants: 26 participants ranging from the age of 18 to over 40 years old. 69.2% of respondents were female, 26.9% were male, and 3.8% were non-binary. Of the 26 participants, 57.7% are Hispanic or Latino, 19.2 are White, 15.4% are Asian, and 7.7% are Black and African American. 84.6% were born in the United States and 15.4 were held outside of the United States. The sample was collected from Psychology 074 class taught by Professor Wimsatt at Los Angeles Pierce College and through friends and family contacts of the students. The sample was a voluntary sample in survey form collected from participants who answered the survey. Most participants are enrolled in the class and few were collected outside of class using social media. The incentives that were given to participants were a favor from students or extra credit within the 074 psychology class. Hongjun Kim collected data for “Do Immigrants fuel or poison the United States” using Google Surveys and 18 other students who had their surveys.

Participants will have to consent before taking the survey and will be categorized by gender and age deeper into the analysis. Participants will be voluntary and the data will be collected online from individuals such as classmates and social media. The goal is to collect about 50 participants. Naturalistic observation was used as the survey consisted of collected data without any circumstances. Participants who took part in the survey, submitted consent itself as stated at the beginning of the survey. The participants were surveyed using multiple choices and short-answer questions. A few of the Multiple choices were put into an index on a scale of 1-5. The survey was distributed and Professor Wimsatt put all the surveys in a single document to be completed and the data was collected for about a week.

Materials: When analyzing data when categorized, the chi Square will be performed using IBM SPSS Statistics 27 statistical analyzing software. There were no additional instructions other than the survey itself. Independent and Dependent variables were collected using multiple-choice and open-ended. Most questions were multiple choices for easier analysis. All questions were required to give at least one choice in multiple choice and short answers were required before

submission which filtered out unanswered or incomplete surveys. However, if preliminary surveys were found, I will be conducting a Complete Case Analysis.

With statistical results from past research, we can see that immigrants go through difficult and extreme conditions of mental health and financial status conditions to live and afford living in the United States. This study can improve living conditions and reduce ethnic hatred of immigrants, lawful permanent residents, and new citizens. The cost and improvements will allow greater results as immigrants fuel the United States Economy and greatly improve the future of the land of the free.

Results

After a week of open data collection, I analyzed the data using IBM Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). Only completed surveys were variables 1 and 2 used for the test. Variable 1 is “Do you and your family have a close family, relatives, or friends that are immigrants?” Variable 2 is “Do you support immigrants?”. Both variables had the option of Yes or No. This was the data collected: for Variable 1: 23 said yes and 3 said, meaning 88.46% of the population have a personal relationship with an immigrant and 11.54% do not have a personal relationship with an immigrant. On the other hand, Variable 2: 25 said Yes and 1 person said no this makes 96.15% say yes to supporting immigrants and 3.85% do not support immigrants. I then used the Chi-Square test to determine the correlation of the two variables. The Chi-Square test was able to find a correlation as the Pearson Chi-Square Asymptotic Significance value was $p < 0.05$, the result was 0.005 which is less than 0.05. $X^2 = 7.973$, $p < 0.05$. Based on the results we can reject the null hypothesis that the relationship an individual shares with an immigrant can influence them to favor and impact new citizens and immigrants of the United States.

Discussion

The purpose of this experiment was to determine if the support of new immigrants are related to individuals' relationship and past with immigrants. The results showed that they are related and individuals with personal relationships with immigrants lean to favor the new immigrants (Pie Charts 1 & 2). The last question of the survey was a qualitative analysis asking if the participants would like to continue the growth of immigrants in the United States. The results were surprising all participants responded yes or in favor of more immigrants. This was surprising as immigrants are a controversial topic and many will disagree with opposing sides. As a political party, California leans toward democracy which supports immigrants. Due to the environment, we live in with diverse ethnicity living in California most residents of California has interactions with immigrants allowing them to be more open toward different race and immigrants. In addition, another question asks “How do you think immigrant law today should change” (Pie Chart 3). The multiple choices gave 5 options:

1. 3.9% Deeper Identity check and greater requirements
2. 0% More requirements and conditions
3. 11.5 % Stay the same

4. 42.3% Less requirement

5. 42.3% Less requirement and faster results.

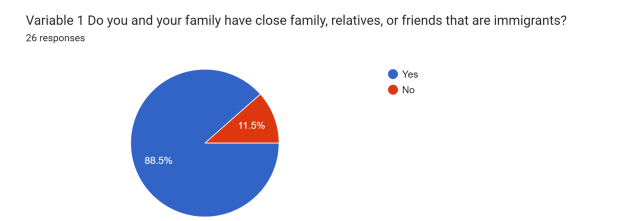
This is unique as a high percentage chose options other than stay the same meaning few understand the immigration process. Without any in dept ideas, there is a very high chance of one choosing options 2-4. However, choosing a strong side of options 1 or 5 most likely has a backup reason for being so. A challenge I had was understanding the correlations and what they mean, as the values we get. I think a greater sample size would help possibly a different state with different political parties. In the future, I would recommend adding maybe or middle answers to yes or no questions as my participants weren't given the option to, and it'll allow better analysis of the data. Initially, I was very careful when creating my survey as it can be a very argumentative topic but after this research, I feel confident for the next upcoming research or analysis I may do.

References

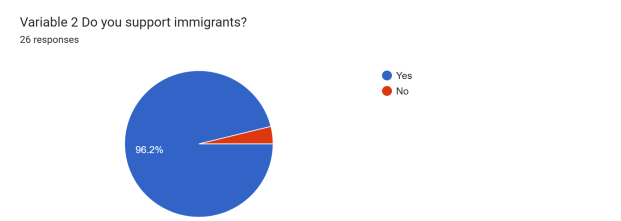
- Carr, P. J., Lichter, D. T., & Kefalas, M. J. (2012). Can immigration save small-town America? Hispanic boomtowns and the uneasy path to renewal. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 641(1), 38–57. 10.1177/0002716211433445
- Cervantes, A. G., & Menjivar, C. (2020). Legal violence, health, and access to care: Latina immigrants in rural and urban Kansas. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 61(3), 307–323. 10.1177/0022146520945048
- Fleming, P. J., Novak, N. L., & Lopez, W. D. (2019). U.S. immigration law enforcement practices and health inequities. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 57(6), 858–861. 10.1016/j.amepre.2019.07.019
- Flynn, M. A., Eggerth, D. E., Jacobson, C. J., Jr., & Lyon, S. M. (2021). Heart attacks, bloody noses, and other “emotional problems”: Cultural and conceptual issues with the Spanish translation of self-report emotional health items. *Family & Community Health*, 44(1), 1–9. 10.1097/FCH.0000000000000279
- Garcini, L. M., Murray, K. E., Zhou, A., Klonoff, E. A., Myers, M. G., & Elder, J. P. (2016). The mental health of undocumented immigrant adults in the United States: A systematic review of methodology and findings. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, 14(1), 1–25. 10.1080/15562948.2014.998849
- Goodman, A. (2020). *The deportation machine: America's long history of expelling immigrants*. Princeton University Press.
- Graefe, D. R., De Jong, G. F., Howe Hasanali, S., & Galvan, C. (2019). Immigrants, place, and health: Destination area health contexts and routine physician and dental care for children of Mexican immigrants. *The International Migration Review*, 53(2), 396–428. 10.1177/0197918318789128
- Hacker, K., Chu, J., Arsenault, L., & Marlin, R. P. (2012). Provider's perspectives on the impact of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity on immigrant health. *Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 23(2), 651–665. 10.1353/hpu.2012.0052

- Juby, C., & Kaplan, L. E. (2011). Postville: The effects of an immigration raid. *Families in Society*, 92(2), 147–153. 10.1606/1044-3894.4096
- Kirmayer, L. J., Narasiah, L., Munoz, M., Rashid, M., Ryder, A. G., Guzder, J., Hassan, G., Rousseau, C., Pottie, K., & the Canadian Collaboration for Immigrant and Refugee Health. (2011). Common mental health problems in immigrants and refugees: General approach in primary care. *CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 183(12), E959–E967. 10.1503/cmaj.090292
- Lanesskog, D., Piedra, L. M., & Maldonado, S. (2015). Beyond bilingual and bicultural: Serving Latinos in a new-growth community. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 24(4), 300–317. 10.1080/15313204.2015.1027025
- Lopez, W. D., Collins, K. M., Cervantes, G. R., Reynosa, D., Salazar, J. C., & Novak, N. L. (2022). Large-scale immigration worksite raids and mixed-status families: Separation, financial crisis, and family role rearrangement. *Family & Community Health*, 45(2), 59–66. 10.1097/FCH.0000000000000322
- National Immigration Law Center. (2020). Worksite immigration raids. Retrieved February 22, 2022, from <https://www.nilc.org/issues/workersrights/worksite-raids/Links to an external site.>
- Novak, N. L., Geronimus, A. T., & Martinez-Cardoso, A. M. (2017). Change in birth outcomes among infants born to Latina mothers after a major immigration raid. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 46(3), 839–849. 10.1093/ije/dyw346
- Shibboleth authentication request. (n.d.). Retrieved February 28, 2023, from <https://web-p-ebshost-com.laccd.idm.oclc.org/ehost/detail/detail?vid=0&sid=af3d4ffe-385d-4d4f-9de3-7806464b973b%40redis&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZW hvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3D%3D#AN=2023-17659-001&db=pdh>
- Stuesse, A. (2016). *Scratching out a living: Latinos, race, and work in the deep south*. University of California Press. 10.1525/california/9780520287204.001.0001
- Thomas, K. C., Ellis, A. R., Konrad, T. R., Holzer, C. E., & Morrissey, J. P. (2009). County-level estimates of mental health professional shortage in the United States. *Psychiatric Services*, 60(10), 1323–1328. 10.1176/ps.2009.60.10.1323

Pie Chart 1

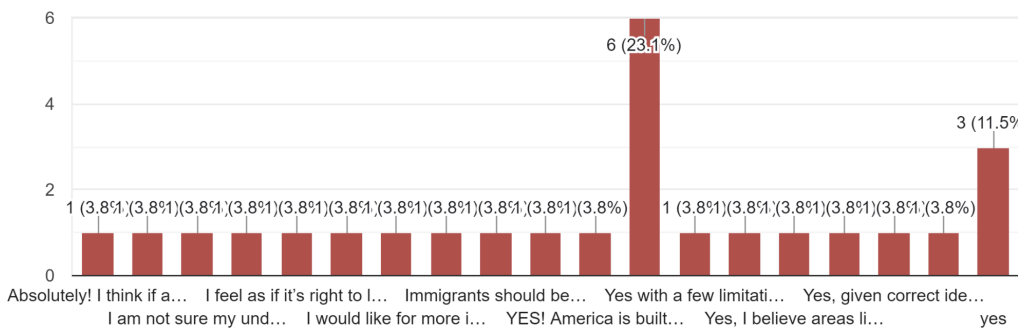


Pie Chart 2



Q10 Qualitative

Would you like immigrants to continue to become citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents?
26 responses



Would you like immigrants to continue to become citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents?				
Yes, I agree with all immigrants to become citizens because you never actually know the true meaning of why one might have to move to a different state. I believe most people wh				
I would like for more immigrants to become citizens/residents. I have seen my family members including my mom struggle becoming a citizen in the U.S, I think it should a much m				
YES! America is built off of the backs of natives, slaves and immigrants and thrives off of immigrants and diversity				
I am not sure my understanding of the word is correct, but in the US, if I am correct, it means a person who moved from another country to the US through legal methods. Under th				
Yes, I believe areas like Los Angeles are incredible because of the variation in diversity.				
I feel as if it's right to let immigrants become citizens. I have never understood when people have claimed that immigrants steal jobs. I feel as if they help keep the economy flowing				
I don't see an issue because people don't choose where to be born at so why not give them a chance at better opportunities in the U.S				
Yes				
Citizens.				
Yes				
Absolutely! I think if a person does not feel safe or feel like they would be more successful in life in a different country, they should be able to do so. It is so upsetting to think that ju				
Sure, if they want to				
Yes, immigrants are just people trying to build a better life.				
Yes, given correct identity checks.				
Yes				
I think the ability for immigrants to become citizens is a good thing. I don't know to much of the process but understand that there will always need to be safety measures to accepti				
Yes				
Yes				
yes				
Immigrants should be lawful permanent residents				
I'd love for immigrants to continue becoming citizens. If anything I wish the process was easier for them.				
yes				
Yes				
Yes, In a country that relies heavily on immigrants it's necessary. A Positive change would come of it				
Yes with a few limitations				
yes				

Pie Chart 3

How do you think immigration law today should change.

26 responses

