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Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009

Decline in share from Mexico mostly offset by growth from Asia, Central America and sub-Saharan Africa

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Terminology

"Foreign born" refers to an individual who is not a U.S. citizen at birth or who, in other words, is born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The terms "foreign born" and "immigrant" are used interchangeably. "U.S. born" refers to an individual who is a U.S. citizen at birth, including people born in the United States, Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories, as well as those born elsewhere to at least one parent who is a U.S. citizen.

The "lawful immigrant" population is defined as naturalized citizens; people granted lawful permanent residence (previously known as legal permanent residence); those granted asylum; people admitted as refugees; and people admitted under a set of specific authorized temporary statuses for longer-term residence and work.

"Unauthorized immigrants" are all foreign-born non-citizens residing in the country who are not "lawful immigrants." These definitions reflect standard and customary usage by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and academic researchers. The vast majority of unauthorized immigrants entered the country without valid documents or arrived with valid visas but stayed past their visa expiration date or otherwise violated the terms of their admission. Some who entered as unauthorized immigrants or violated terms of admission have obtained work authorization by applying for adjustment to lawful permanent status, obtaining Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or receiving Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status. This "quasi-lawful" group could account for as much as about 10% of the unauthorized population. Many could also revert to unauthorized status.

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Decline in share from Mexico mostly offset by growth from Asia, Central America and sub-Saharan Africa

The U.S. unauthorized immigrant population – 11.1 million in 2014 – has stabilized since the end of the Great Recession, as the number from Mexico declined but the total from other regions of the world increased, according to new Pew Research Center estimates based on government data.

Among world regions, the number of unauthorized immigrants from Asia, Central America and sub-Saharan Africa rose between 2009 and 2014. The number from Mexico has steadily declined since 2007, the first year of the Great Recession, but Mexicans remain more than half (52%) of U.S. unauthorized immigrants.

Across the United States, most states saw no statistically significant change in the size of their unauthorized immigrant populations from 2009 to 2014. In the seven states where the unauthorized immigrant population declined, falling numbers of unauthorized Mexican immigrants were the key factor. Meanwhile, among the six states that had increases in their unauthorized immigrant populations, only one – Louisiana – could trace this to a rise in the number of unauthorized immigrants from Mexico.[1]

Among unauthorized immigrants, a decline from Mexico but rise from elsewhere since 2009

In millions
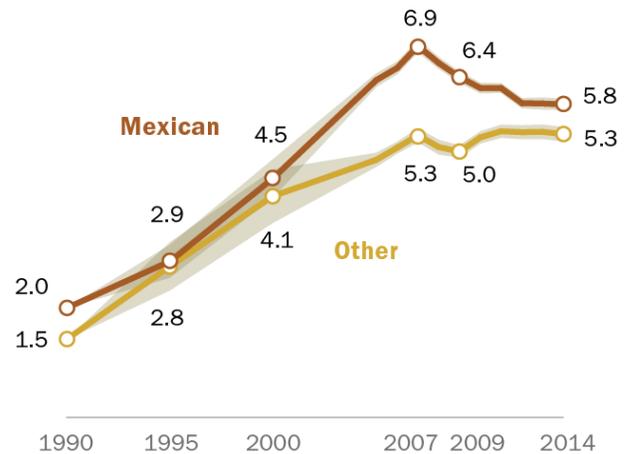
Note: Shading surrounding lines indicates low and high points of the estimated 90% confidence interval. The differences in 1995 and 2000 between Mexican and Other are not statistically significant at 90% confidence interval.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2005-2014 based on augmented American Community Survey data (IPUMS); for 1995-2004 based on March Supplements of the Current Population Survey. Estimates for 1990 from Warren and Warren (2013).
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[1] This analysis only reports change over time or differences between two estimates if they are statistically significant. The number of unauthorized immigrants may have increased or decreased in additional states, but these changes cannot be detected because they fall within the margin of error for these estimates. See Methodology for details.

These are some of the key findings from the latest Pew Research Center estimates based mainly on U.S. Census Bureau data. Details concerning the source data and methods for calculating the estimates are available in the methodology.

The recent relative stability in the estimated size of the U.S. unauthorized immigrant population is a contrast to previous periods. The number of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. rose through the 1990s and early 2000s, peaking at 12.2 million in 2007. The number of unauthorized immigrants declined in 2008 and 2009.

As the U.S. unauthorized immigrant population has

Estimated unauthorized immigrant population in the U.S. rises, falls, then stabilizes

In millions
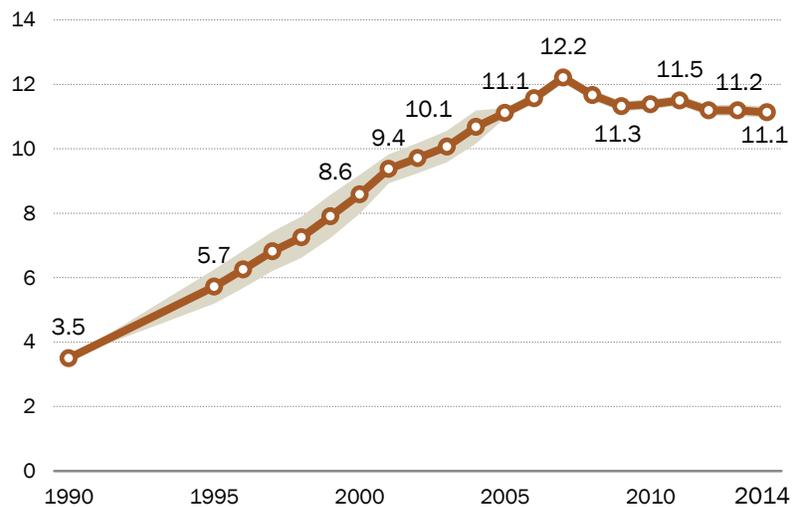
Note: Shading surrounding line indicates low and high points of the estimated 90% confidence interval. The 2009-2014 change is not statistically significant at 90% confidence interval. Data labels are for 1990, 1995, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2014.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2005-2014 based on augmented American Community Survey data (IPUMS); for 1995-2004 based on March Supplements of the Current Population Survey. Estimates for 1990 from Warren and Warren (2013).
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stabilized, it also has become more settled. In 2014, unauthorized immigrant adults had lived in the U.S. for a median of 13.6 years – meaning that half had been in the country at least that long. In 2005, the median had been eight years, before rising to 10 years in 2009, the year the recession ended.

Mexicans remain the majority of the nation's unauthorized immigrant population, but their estimated number – 5.8 million in 2014 – has declined by about half a million people since 2009. Meanwhile, the number of unauthorized immigrants from all other nations – especially those from Asia and Central America – grew by 325,000 since 2009, to 5.3 million in 2014. The decline in unauthorized immigrants from some parts of the world, mainly Mexico, was roughly balanced by an increase in unauthorized immigrants from other parts of the world, so the total U.S. unauthorized immigrant population had no statistically significant change from 2009 to 2014.

In contrast to the stable unauthorized immigrant total, the overall foreign-born population in the U.S. has gone up each year since 2009. The overall immigrant population rose by nearly 3 million from 2009 to 2014, reaching 43.6 million, even as its unauthorized immigrant component did not change.

As overall net immigration from Mexico declined, immigration from Asia did not flag – indeed, it increased somewhat. As a result, among all newly arriving immigrants to the U.S., more now come from Asia than from Latin America, a change since 2008.

Mexican unauthorized immigrant population continues to decline

After rising for decades, the number of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. who are from Mexico began to decline from a peak of 6.9 million in 2007. Though the overall U.S. unauthorized immigrant population has stabilized since the recession ended in 2009, the total number from Mexico has continued to shrink and is now more than 1 million below its 2007 peak.

A notable change that has fueled the decline in the population of Mexican unauthorized immigrants is a decrease in the number of new arrivals. Before the Great Recession, the number of new arrivals from Mexico exceeded the number of Mexican unauthorized immigrants who left the U.S. The decrease in the Mexican unauthorized immigrant population since 2009 indicates that departures have exceeded arrivals.

At the national level, the rise in unauthorized immigrants from countries other than Mexico was driven mainly by an increase in those from Central America, Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. The number of unauthorized immigrants born in India, for example, grew by about 130,000 from 2009 to 2014, to an estimated 500,000. Many unauthorized immigrants from these nations arrived with legal status and overstayed their visas, according to Department of Homeland Security statistics. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said recently that his agency is "doubling down" on preventing immigrants from Africa, the Middle East and other parts of the world from crossing illegally at the southwest border.

Recent arrivals a smaller share of U.S. unauthorized immigrants

Unauthorized immigrants increasingly are likely to have been in the U.S. for 10 years or more – 66% in 2014 compared with 41% in 2005. A declining share has lived in the U.S. for less than five years; only 14% had been in the U.S. for less than five years in 2014, compared with 31% in 2005.

This overall change has been fueled by the decline in new unauthorized immigrants, especially those from Mexico. Among Mexican unauthorized immigrants, fully 78% had lived in the U.S. for 10 years or more as of 2014, and only 7% had been in the U.S. for less than five years. Among unauthorized immigrants from nations other than Mexico, a smaller share, but still a majority – 52% – had lived in the U.S. for at least a decade in 2014. Compared with Mexicans, a higher share of unauthorized immigrants from elsewhere – 22% – had been in the U.S. for less than five years.

Larger share of unauthorized immigrants are long-term residents

% of adult unauthorized immigrants, by duration of U.S. residence
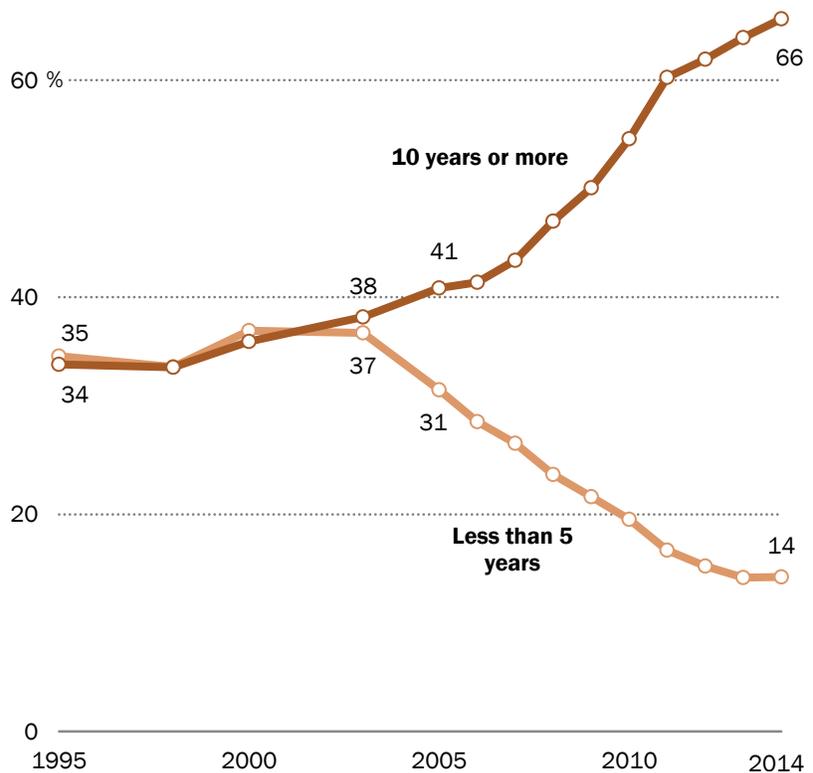
Note: Data labels are for 1995, 2003, 2005 and 2014.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2005-2014 based on augmented American Community Survey data (IPUMS); for 1995, 1998, 2000 and 2003 based on March Supplements of the Current Population Survey.
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Because of historic immigration patterns between the U.S. and Mexico, unauthorized immigrants are more likely to be long-term residents in Western states. In California, home to the largest unauthorized immigrant population in the U.S., the median length of U.S. residence is 15.6 years, meaning that at least half have lived in the U.S. since the late 1990s. Some 71% of unauthorized immigrants in California are of Mexican origin.

Unauthorized immigrants living in the U.S. longer

Median years of residence in U.S. for adult unauthorized immigrants

Note: Data labels are for 1995, 2000, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2014.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2005-2014 based on augmented American Community Survey data (IPUMS); for 1995, 1998, 2000 and 2003 based on augmented March Supplements of the Current Population Survey.
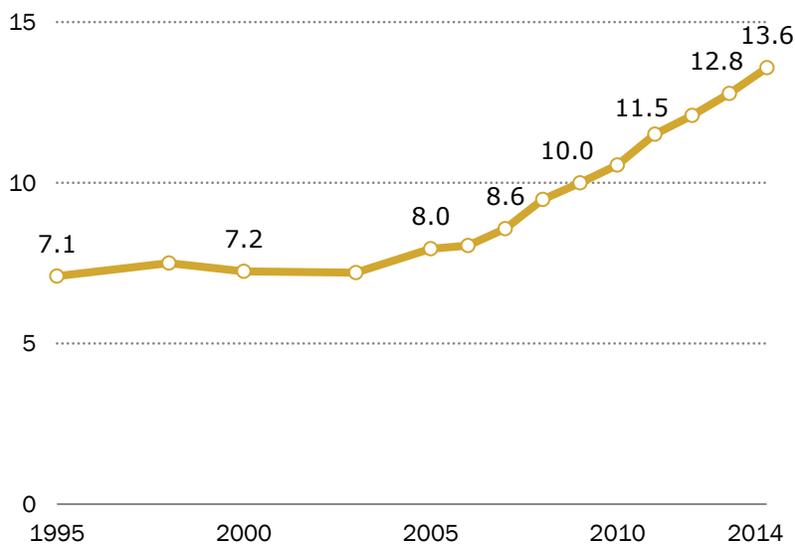"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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## Unauthorized immigrant populations rise in six states, fall in seven

Unauthorized immigrant populations changed in 13 states from 2009 to 2014. In five of the six where populations rose, the change was due to an increase in unauthorized immigrants from countries other than Mexico. In all seven states where populations declined, it was due to a decline in the number of Mexican unauthorized immigrants.

The overall estimated population of unauthorized immigrants went up in six states from 2009 to 2014. In five of them, the increase was due to the number of unauthorized immigrants from countries other than Mexico rising as the number of Mexican unauthorized immigrants either stayed the same (Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington) or declined (New Jersey). Only one state – Louisiana – saw an increase in its unauthorized immigrant population driven by an increase in Mexicans. In that state, the number of unauthorized immigrants from other countries did not change from 2009 to 2014.

The estimated population of unauthorized immigrants went down in seven states from 2009 to 2014 because of declines in the number from Mexico. In six of those states – California,

Estimated unauthorized immigrant populations grew in six U.S. states, declined in seven from 2009 to 2014
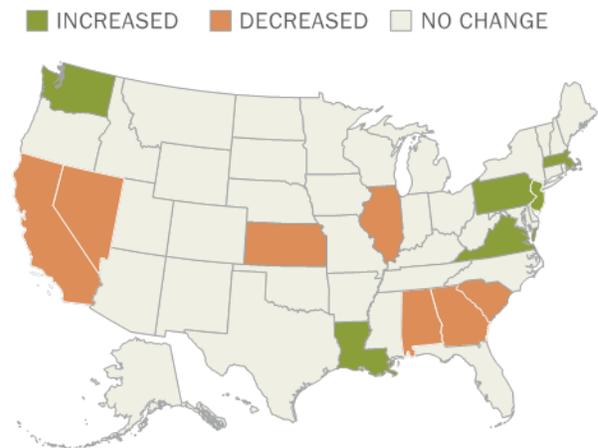
Note: Changes shown based on 90% confidence interval. Populations may have changed in additional states but these changes cannot be detected because they fall within the margin of error for these estimates.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2009-2014 based on augmented American Community Survey (IPUMS).
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Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Nevada and South Carolina – the estimated number of unauthorized immigrants from countries other than Mexico did not change. In the remaining state – Alabama – the total from other countries rose from 2009 to 2014, but the number from Mexico decreased more.

In 2014, 59% of unauthorized immigrants lived in the same six states that have housed the majority of unauthorized immigrants for decades. California, with 2.3 million, has by far the largest number, followed by Texas, Florida, New York, New Jersey and Illinois. The unauthorized immigrant population had become much more dispersed around the country as numbers

increased in nontraditional settlement areas. In 1990, 80% of unauthorized immigrants lived in the top six states; by 2005, the share had fallen to roughly the current level, 61%.

Unauthorized immigrants accounted for 3.5% of the overall population and 26% of the nation's 43.6 million foreign-born residents in 2014. The U.S. foreign-born population also included 19 million naturalized citizens, 11.7 million lawful permanent residents and 1.7 million lawful residents with temporary status (such as students, diplomats and so-called "guest workers" in the technology sector). In total, immigrants represented 13.6% of the U.S. population in 2014.

The issue of unauthorized immigration has played a prominent role in the 2016 presidential campaign. For more on the nation's view of immigrants and immigration policy, see Pew Research Center surveys on this topic.

The unauthorized immigrant estimates in this report are produced using a multistage method that first subtracts the estimated U.S. lawful foreign-born population from the total adjusted foreign-born population to derive a residual estimate of the unauthorized immigrant population. Then, the residual estimates serve as control totals in assigning legal status to individual respondents in the survey. The main source of data for 1995-2004 is the March supplement of the Current Population Survey, and for 2005-2014 it is the American Community Survey; both are conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau; see Methodology for more details.

Because they are based on updated data, the new estimates of unauthorized immigrants for states and the nation in this report supersede (and in some cases revise) previously published Pew Research Center estimates. The most notable of these revisions is that previous estimates showed a decrease in the unauthorized immigrant population in Massachusetts from 2009 to 2012; the

About one-in-four U.S. immigrants are unauthorized

Foreign-born population estimates, 2014

Unauthorized immigrants
11.1 million (25.5%)

Lawful immigrants
32.5 million (74.5%)

Naturalized citizens
19.0 million (43.6%)

Lawful permanent residents
11.7 million (26.9%)

Temporary lawful residents
1.7 million (4.0%)

Total U.S. foreign-born population: **43.6** million
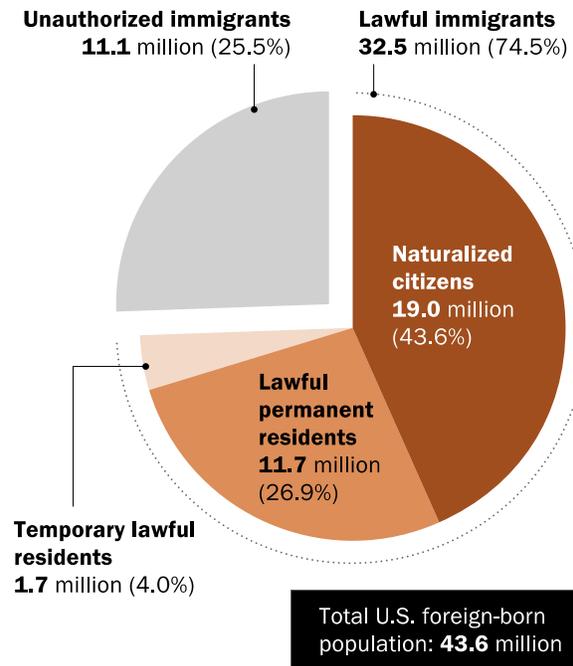
Note: All numbers are rounded independently and are not adjusted to sum to U.S. total or other totals.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2014 based on augmented American Community Survey (IPUMS).
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updated numbers show no significant change for those years and a subsequent increase by 2014. All trends have been updated to reflect current data. See Methodology for more details.

Some unauthorized immigrants are protected from deportation

Unauthorized immigrants include those who enter the country without legal permission and those who overstay their visas. About 10% of unauthorized immigrants have been granted temporary protection from deportation under two government programs. They include more than 728,000 young adults who were brought to the U.S. as children and successfully applied for President Barack Obama's 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. (An additional 4 million young adults and their parents would have been eligible under an expansion that has been blocked by a federal court.) An estimated 326,000 immigrants, mostly from Central America, have been granted Temporary Protected Status because of disease, natural disaster or conflict in their home countries. The Pew Research Center estimates of the unauthorized immigrant population also include some people who have applied for asylum status but whose applications have not been processed. As of April 2014, about 45,000 cases of principal applicants were pending; if family members are included, that total might rise to as much as 75,000.

1. Birth regions and nations

As the leading nation of origin for U.S. unauthorized immigrants, Mexico exerts the greatest influence on trends for the overall population, but other nations play a role too. From 2009 to 2014, a decline in Mexican unauthorized immigrants was mostly balanced by an increase in the number from the rest of the world, especially from Asian, Central American and sub-Saharan African nations.

The number of unauthorized immigrants from Mexico in the U.S. peaked in 2007 at 6.9 million and has declined since then, to 5.8 million in 2014. Mexico accounted for 52% of unauthorized immigrants in 2014, but that is down from 57% in 2007.

Pew Research Center analysis of Mexican and U.S. government data indicates that from 2009 to 2014, more Mexican immigrants and their families left the U.S. for Mexico than came to the U.S. from Mexico. During this time period, about 1 million Mexicans (lawful and unauthorized) and their families (including U.S.-born children) left the U.S. for Mexico, according to data from the 2014 Mexican National Survey of Demographic Dynamics (ENADID). U.S. Census Bureau data for the same period show an estimated 870,000 Mexican nationals left Mexico to come to the U.S.

In addition, U.S. Border Patrol data show a sharp decline in apprehensions of Mexican migrants in recent years. Those apprehensions, which are an indicator of flows, declined to levels not seen in 45 years for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1, 2014.

Estimated unauthorized immigrant total declines from Mexico, rises from Asia since 2009

In thousands

	2014	2009	Change*
Latin America			
Mexico	5,850	6,350	-500
Central America	1,700	1,600	+110
South America	650	725	-80
Caribbean	425	400	n.s.
Other regions			
Asia	1,450	1,300	+130
Europe, Canada	600	550	n.s.
Middle East	140	110	n.s.
Africa	275	200	+70
U.S. total	**11,100**	**11,300**	**n.s.**

*Each number in this chart is rounded based on a set of rules specified in Methodology. Subtracting the 2009 total from the 2014 total for any region may produce a different result than shown in the change column because of this rounding. The number in the change column is the more precise estimate of difference.

Note: Asia includes South and East Asia. Europe includes all central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union. The Middle East includes Southwest Asia and North Africa; Africa refers to sub-Saharan Africa only. U.S. total includes a residual from other nations that is not shown. Significant changes are based on 90% confidence interval. The symbol "n.s." means the measured change is not statistically different from zero.

Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2009 and 2014 based on augmented American Community Survey (IPUMS).

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Economics, enforcement and demographics all could be playing a role in the striking decline in the number of unauthorized immigrants from Mexico. (Admissions of lawful immigrants from Mexico also have declined slightly in recent years.)

The Great Recession of 2007-2009 reduced employment in construction and other sectors where Mexican immigrants overall are especially likely to work. Border enforcement has ramped up, as can be seen in increasing numbers of Border Patrol agents. There also has been a growth in deportations, which totaled 2.4 million from fiscal 2009 to 2014. Long-term demographic changes in Mexico mean that a smaller share of today's Mexicans are ages 15 to 29, an age span in which people are more likely to migrate.

After those from Mexico, the second-largest number of unauthorized immigrants in 2014 were from Central America, totaling 1.7 million, or 15% of the unauthorized immigrant population. Their numbers rose slightly from 1.6 million, or 14% of the total, in 2009.

The rise in Central American unauthorized immigrants is borne out by data from the U.S.-Mexico border. According to U.S. Border Patrol statistics, the number of apprehensions of people from nations other than Mexico rose sharply in 2014, to 257,000, and for the first time it surpassed the number from Mexico. They included thousands of unaccompanied children from Central America, many of whom were fleeing poverty and violence, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

Asia, encompassing South Asian nations such as India as well as East Asian countries including China, was the birthplace of 1.4 million U.S. unauthorized immigrants, or 13% of the total in 2014. In 2009, the population of unauthorized immigrants from Asia was 1.3 million, and 12% of the total. The number of unauthorized immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa ticked up, to 275,000 in 2014 from 200,000 in 2009.

Among unauthorized immigrants, Mexicans decline since 2009, while others rise in number

In millions
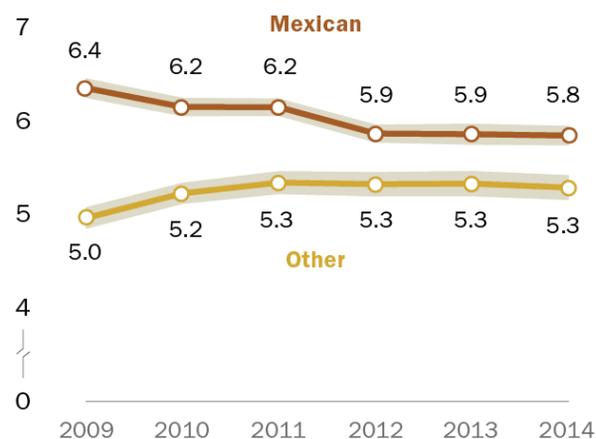
Note: Shading surrounding the lines indicates the high and low points of the estimated 90% confidence interval. The 2009-2014 change is statistically significant.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented American Community Survey (IPUMS).
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The number of unauthorized immigrants born in South America was about 650,000 in 2014, down from an estimated 725,000 in 2009. The 2014 population of U.S. unauthorized immigrants from the Caribbean (425,000) as well as Europe and Canada (600,000) remained steady since 2009. The total from Middle East nations (including North Africa), an estimated 140,000, did not change. Unauthorized immigrants from the Middle East accounted for about 1% of the total, a share that has not changed in a decade.

Although as a group, unauthorized immigrants are 26% of the U.S. foreign-born population, the share varies by origin. About half of Mexican immigrants (48%) and Central American immigrants (50%) are unauthorized, according to Pew Research Center estimates. Among South Americans, an estimated 22% are unauthorized. The shares are somewhat lower for immigrants from the Caribbean (10% of whom are unauthorized); Asia (13%); Europe and Canada (10%); and all others (13%).

Top nations of origin

Although Mexico is the nation of origin for by far the most unauthorized immigrants in the U.S., three neighboring Central American countries – El Salvador (700,000 in 2014), Guatemala (525,000) and Honduras (350,000) – also are among the top five.

About 300,000 unauthorized immigrants who are from El Salvador, Haiti and Honduras live in the U.S. with a status protecting them from being deported, due to continuing impacts from natural disasters in their birth countries that might prevent them from returning home. An estimated 195,000 Salvadorans have Temporary Protected Status that shields them from deportation, due to a series of earthquakes in their home country in 2001. About 50,000 Haitians have Temporary Protected Status because of the continuing impact of the magnitude 7.0 earthquake that occurred in 2010. And an estimated 57,000 Hondurans have Temporary Protected Status due to continuing problems stemming from a hurricane in 1998.

Several nations that are among the largest sources of unauthorized immigrants are also among the largest for *lawful* U.S. immigrants. These include not only Mexico, but India, birth country to an estimated 500,000 unauthorized immigrants in 2014, as well as China (325,000) and the Philippines (180,000); these were the top four sources of new lawful permanent residents in 2014.

Mexico and Central American nations are among top birth countries of unauthorized immigrants

In thousands

	2014	2009	Change*
Mexico	5,850	6,350	-500
El Salvador	700	650	n.s.
Guatemala	525	475	+50
India	500	350	+130
Honduras	350	325	+50
China	325	300	n.s.
Philippines	180	180	n.s.
Dominican Rep.	170	150	n.s.
Korea	160	180	n.s.
Ecuador	130	140	n.s.
Colombia	130	150	n.s.
Peru	100	120	n.s.
Haiti	100	85	n.s.
Brazil	100	140	-40
Canada	100	95	n.s.
U.S. total	**11,100**	**11,300**	**n.s.**

*Each number in this chart is rounded based on a set of rules specified in Methodology. Subtracting the 2009 population total from the 2014 population total for any country may produce a different result than shown in the change column because of this rounding. The number in the change column is the more precise estimate of difference.
Note: China includes Hong Kong and Taiwan. Significant changes are based on 90% confidence interval. The symbol "n.s." means the change is not statistically different from zero.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2009-2014 based on augmented American Community Survey (IPUMS).
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Earlier this year, the Department of Homeland Security released its first partial estimate of the number of those who overstay their permits to be in the U.S. There is some overlap between the government's estimate of the top birth countries of people who overstayed their visas and the Pew Research Center estimate of the top birth countries for all unauthorized immigrants.

Among the nations appearing on both lists (listed in descending order of the Pew Research Center estimates of the unauthorized immigrant population) are Mexico, India, China, Colombia, Brazil and Canada. Canada ranked first in the government's report on overstays, accounting for about 93,000 visitors whose visas expired in fiscal 2015, which ended Oct. 1, 2015 (so covers a different time period than the Pew Research Center estimate for calendar 2014). According to the Pew Research Center estimates, about 100,000 unauthorized immigrants from Canada lived in the U.S. in 2014.

Trends in national origins

The top countries of birth for unauthorized immigrants have been remarkably stable for at least a decade. The top six countries in 2014 were the same ones that have been among the top six since 2005 – Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Honduras and China. The remaining nations in the top 15 in 2014 – Philippines, Dominican Republic, Korea, Ecuador, Columbia, Peru, Haiti, Brazil and Canada – have all been in the top 20 for the past decade.

Among the top 15 countries of birth, the number of unauthorized immigrants declined for two and rose for three over the 2009-2014 period.

As noted previously, the number from Mexico declined since 2009. There also was a decrease, of about 40,000, in the number of unauthorized immigrants from Brazil from 2009 to 2014.

Three of the top 15 birth countries had statistically significant increases in their populations of unauthorized immigrants living in the U.S. They include Guatemala and Honduras, each with an increase of about 50,000, and India, with an increase of about 130,000. The population of unauthorized immigrants from each of these three nations also grew from 2007, the first year of the Great Recession, to 2014.

2. State unauthorized immigrant populations

Unauthorized immigrant populations rose in six U.S. states and declined in seven from 2009 to 2014.[2]

Unauthorized immigrant populations can rise or fall for a number of reasons. Immigrants may cross the border into a country, decide to leave the country or move from one state to another. Some immigrants die (a small number, because this is a young population as a group). Population totals also can decline when unauthorized immigrants are deported or convert to legal status.

Pew Research Center analysis finds that declines in unauthorized immigrants from Mexico played a key role in fueling declines in states where total unauthorized immigrant populations declined from 2009 to 2014.

In Alabama, California, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Nevada and South Carolina, the overall number of unauthorized immigrants declined from 2009 to 2014, because of declines in unauthorized immigrants from Mexico. The number of unauthorized immigrants from all other countries rose in Alabama during those years, but not as much as the number from Mexico went down. In the other six states where overall numbers decreased, the populations from nations other than Mexico did not change.

Estimated unauthorized immigrant totals changed in 13 states, stable in U.S. overall

In thousands

State	2014	2009	Change*
Increased			
Louisiana	70	55	+15
Massachusetts	210	180	+35
New Jersey	500	450	+50
Pennsylvania	180	140	+50
Virginia	300	250	+35
Washington	250	220	+40
Decreased			
Alabama	65	80	-15
California	2,350	2,500	-190
Georgia	375	425	-55
Illinois	450	500	-60
Kansas	75	95	-20
Nevada	210	230	-30
South Carolina	85	100	-15
U.S. total	**11,100**	**11,300**	**n.s.**

*Each number in this chart is rounded based on a set of rules specified in Methodology. Subtracting the 2009 population total from the 2014 population total for any state may produce a different result than shown in the change column because of this rounding. The number in the change column is the more precise estimate of difference.
Note: Significant changes are based on 90% confidence interval. The symbol "n.s." means the change is not statistically different from zero.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2009 and 2014 based on augmented American Community Survey (IPUMS).
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[2] As noted earlier, this analysis only reports change over time or differences between two estimates if they are statistically significant. The number of unauthorized immigrants may have increased or decreased in additional states, but these changes cannot be detected because they fall within the margin of error for these estimates. See Methodology for details.

The overall number of unauthorized immigrants grew in six states from 2009 to 2014. In five of them – Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington – the increase was due to rising numbers from nations other than Mexico. In the sixth state with an overall increase – Louisiana – the number of unauthorized immigrants from Mexico grew, while the number from other nations did not change.

The decline in unauthorized immigrants from Mexico was widespread, occurring not only in states where unauthorized immigration decreased, but also in the aggregate group of states where it did not. In 37 states and the District of Columbia, there was no statistically significant change in the unauthorized immigrant population from 2009 to 2014 in each state (or the District of Columbia). However, when looked at as a group, the number from Mexico declined and the number from all other countries increased.

Mexico is the leading birth country of unauthorized immigrants in at least 38 of the 50 states and District of Columbia.[3] A variety of other countries dominate the unauthorized immigrant population in other states. El Salvador is the leading birth country in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. The Philippines is the top birth country in Alaska and Hawaii. Other top birth countries include Brazil in Massachusetts, India in New Hampshire and Guatemala in Rhode Island.

Although Mexico is the origin country for just over half (52%) of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S., there are 14 states where Mexicans account for 70% or more of unauthorized immigrants as of 2014. All but Kansas, Illinois and Wisconsin are in the West, Southwest or Mountain West. The top three include New Mexico (91%), Idaho (87%) and Arizona (81%). (See appendix tables and maps for details.)

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[3] Because of small sample sizes, it is not possible to determine countries of origin for five states, including Maine, Montana, North Dakota, Vermont and West Virginia. See Methodology for more detail.

Most unauthorized immigrants live in just six states

The size of state unauthorized immigrant populations ranges from less than 5,000 in Maine, Montana, North Dakota, Vermont and West Virginia, to 2.35 million in California.

Unauthorized immigrants make up 3.5% of the total U.S. population in 2014. The states with the highest shares of unauthorized immigrants in their populations are Nevada (7% in 2014) and California (6%). But unauthorized immigrants are less than 1% of the total population in Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Vermont and West Virginia.

Nationally, unauthorized immigrants account for about a quarter (26%) of all immigrants, but that share varies widely by state. In several states, the shares are 40% or more – 48% in Arkansas, 42% in Idaho and 43% in North Carolina and 41% in Oklahoma. At the other end of the spectrum, in Maine and Vermont, the shares are 8%. (See appendix tables and maps for state totals, shares and duration of residence.)

Among states with the largest unauthorized immigrant populations, California ranks first

In thousands

	2014 Estimate	Range (+ or -)
California	2,350	60
Texas	1,650	45
Florida	850	40
New York	775	40
New Jersey	500	30
Illinois	450	30
Georgia	375	25
North Carolina	350	20
Arizona	325	20
Virginia	300	25
Washington	250	20
Maryland	250	20
Massachusetts	210	20
Nevada	210	15
Colorado	200	20

Note: Each number in this chart is rounded based on a set of rules specified in Methodology. Differences between consecutive ranks may not be statistically significant. Range based on 90% confidence interval.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS).
"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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Long-term unauthorized immigrants more likely to live in West

Overall, unauthorized immigrant adults have lived in the U.S. for a median of 13.6 years as of 2014 – meaning that half have lived in the country for longer and half for less time than that. Another way to look at length of residence is that at least half of U.S. unauthorized immigrants arrived in the country in 2000 or earlier. But median length of residence varies widely among states, from 8.6 years (Hawaii) to 16.4 years (Idaho).[4]

Among the 14 states with a median length of residence at or above that for the U.S. overall, eight are in the West. These long-duration states include California, home to the nation's largest population of unauthorized immigrants, where the median length of U.S. residence is 15.6 years, meaning that at least half of these adults have lived in the U.S. since the late 1990s.

Unauthorized immigrants in the West are a more long-duration population than in other regions largely because so many are from Mexico. There is a strong statistical relationship between the proportion of unauthorized immigrants who are Mexican in any given state and the median length of residence of the unauthorized immigrant population in that state. As noted previously, Mexican unauthorized immigrants are more likely to be long-term U.S. residents than those from other parts of the world. Fully 78% have been in the U.S. for a decade or more, compared with 52% of those from other areas.

Unauthorized immigrants in Western states more likely to have spent more time in the U.S.

Median years of U.S. residence for adult unauthorized immigrants in 2014
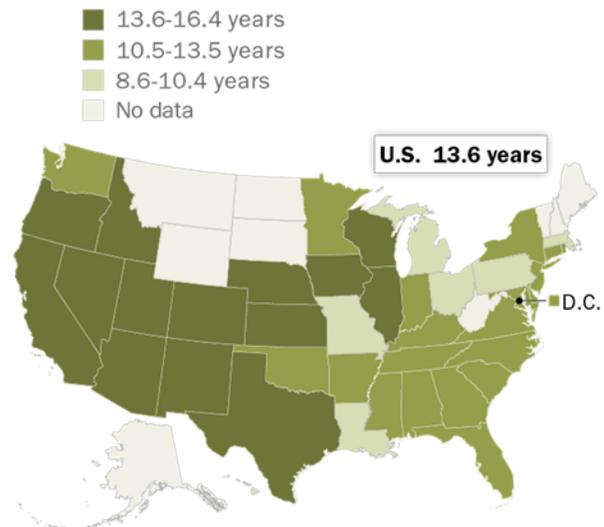
Notes: Median length of residence ranges from 8.6 years to 16.4 years. States with no data shown do not have large enough samples in the American Community Survey to determine median length of residence.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2014 based on augmented American Community Survey (IPUMS)
"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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States where populations of unauthorized immigrants have lower median years of residence are more geographically dispersed. Only five states have a median length of residence that is less than

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[4] Data on median length of residence of unauthorized immigrants are not available for nine states (Alaska, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming) due to small sample sizes in the 2014 American Community Survey.

10 years. They include Ohio (median 9.5 years), Missouri (9.4 years), Massachusetts (9.4 years), Louisiana (9.1 years) and Hawaii (8.6 years).

Acknowledgments

Methodology

Overview

The estimates presented in this report for the U.S. unauthorized immigrant population are based on a residual estimation methodology that compares a demographic estimate of the number of immigrants residing legally in the country with the total number of immigrants as measured by a survey – either the American Community Survey or the March Supplement to the Current Population Survey. The difference is assumed to be the number of unauthorized immigrants in the survey, a number that later is adjusted for omissions from the survey (see below). The basic estimate is:

Unauthorized Immigrants (U) = **Survey, Total Foreign Born (F)** - **Estimated Lawful Immigrant Population (L)**

The lawful resident immigrant population is estimated by applying demographic methods to counts of lawful admissions covering the period since 1980 obtained from the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Immigration Statistics and its predecessor at the Immigration and Naturalization Service, with projections to current years, when necessary. Initial estimates here are calculated separately for age-gender groups in six states (California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York and Texas) and the balance of the country; within these areas the estimates are further subdivided into immigrant populations from 35 countries or groups of countries by period of arrival in the United States. Variants of the residual method have been widely used and are generally accepted as the best current estimates (Baker and Rytina, 2013; Warren and Warren, 2013). See also Passel, Cohn and Gonzalez-Barrera (2013), Passel and Cohn (2008), Passel (2007) and Passel et al. (2004) for more details.

The overall estimates for unauthorized immigrants build on these residuals by adjusting for survey omissions for these six states and the balance of the country, subdivided for Mexican immigrants and other groups of immigrants (balance of Latin America, South and East Asia, rest of world) depending on sample size and state.

Once the residual estimates have been produced, individual foreign-born respondents in the survey are assigned a specific status (one option being unauthorized immigrant) based on the individual's demographic, social, economic, geographic and family characteristics in numbers that agree with the initial residual estimates for the estimated lawful immigrant and unauthorized immigrant populations. These status assignments are the basis for the characteristics reported

here (including, for example, specific countries of birth, detailed state estimates and period of arrival). A final step in the weighting-estimation process involves developing final state-level estimates that take into account trends over time in the estimates.

Comparability with previous estimates

The estimates presented here for 1990-2014 are internally consistent and comparable across years and states. The 2005-2014 estimates are based on the American Community Survey (ACS); those for 1995, 1998, 2000 and 2003, on the March Current Population Survey (CPS); and for 1990, on the 1990 census (produced by Warren and Warren, 2013). The estimates presented in this report supersede all previous published Pew Research Center estimates, especially estimates for the same dates using different data. For 2005-2014, some previous estimates have been based on the CPS rather than the ACS; see for example a 2012 Pew Research Center report covering 1995-2011 using only CPS-based estimates and a 2015 publication with ACS-based estimates for 2005-2012 and preliminary estimates for 2013-2014 based on the CPS. ACS-based estimates are superior to CPS-based estimates for the reasons discussed below. Previous Center releases since September 2013 (Passel and Cohn, 2015; Passel et al., 2014; Passel, Cohn and Gonzalez-Barrera, 2013 and related graphics) include a mix of CPS-based and ACS-based estimates, but also show CPS-based estimates for additional years – 1996-1997, 1999, 2001-2002 and 2004. These earlier estimates are consistent with estimates published here.

The estimates in this report and previous Center publications since 2013 are based on survey data consistent with the censuses of 1990, 2000 and 2010. For the 1995-2009 surveys, special weights were developed to align with both the preceding and subsequent censuses (see below). As such, population figures for these years are not identical to those published from the original surveys. Moreover, these new estimates of unauthorized immigrants differ from previous estimates published before 2013, even from earlier estimates based on the same surveys. Although differences at the national level are not generally very large, some state-level differences may be relatively greater. (See below for the basis for the revisions.)

The ACS has a much larger sample size than the CPS (see below). As such, state-level estimates of unauthorized immigrants and those for countries of birth are much more precise (i.e., have smaller margins of error) from the ACS than from the CPS. The larger sample sizes also permit more detailed analyses of the characteristics of unauthorized immigrants at the state level and for individual countries of birth.

Rounding of estimates

All estimates for unauthorized immigrant populations are presented as rounded numbers to avoid the appearance of unwarranted precision in the estimates. The rounding conventions for unauthorized immigrant estimates, dependent somewhat on data sources, are:

Greater than 10,000,000	Nearest 100,000
1,000,000-10,000,000	Nearest 50,000
250,000-1,000,000	Nearest 25,000
100,000-250,000	Nearest 10,000
ACS-based 5,000-100,000	Nearest 5,000
CPS-based 10,000-100,000	Nearest 5,000
ACS-based <5,000	Shown as <5,000
CPS-based <10,000	Shown as <10,000

Estimates for 1990 are based on the 1990 census and use ACS-based rounding conventions. These same conventions are used to round the 90% confidence intervals limits, presented as "Range (+ or -)," with one exception – limits that round to less than 5,000 are rounded to the nearest 1,000. For state and national level data on the total population or total foreign-born population, figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.

Unrounded numbers are used for significance tests, for plotting charts and for computations of differences and percentages. Where differences are reported, they are computed from unrounded estimates and then rounded separately. Because each figure is rounded separately, the rounded estimates may not add to rounded totals. Similarly, percentages computed from rounded numbers may differ from the percentages shown in this report.

Status assignments: Lawful and unauthorized immigrants

Individual survey respondents are assigned a status as a lawful or unauthorized immigrant based on the individual's demographic, social, economic and geographic characteristics so that the resulting number of immigrants in various categories agrees with the totals from the residual estimates. The assignment procedure employs a variety of methods, assumptions and data sources.

First, all immigrants entering the U.S. before 1980 are assumed to be lawful immigrants. Then, the ACS and CPS data are corrected for known over-reporting of naturalized citizenship on the part of recently arrived immigrants (Passel et al., 1997). Specifically, immigrants in the U.S. less than

six years are not eligible to naturalize unless they are married to a U.S. citizen, in which case they can naturalize after three years. Immigrants reporting as naturalized who fail to meet these requirements are moved into the noncitizen category. All remaining naturalized citizens from countries other than Mexico and those in Central America are assigned as lawful. Persons entering the U.S. as refugees are identified on the basis of country of birth and year of immigration to align with known admissions of refugees and asylees (persons granted asylum). Then, individuals holding certain kinds of temporary visas are identified in the survey and each is assigned a specific lawful temporary migration status using information on country of birth, date of entry, occupation, education and certain family characteristics. The specific visa types identified and supporting variables are:

> Diplomats and embassy employees (A visa)
> Foreign students (F, M visa)
> Visiting scholars (J visa)
> Physicians (J visa)
> Registered nurses (H-1A visas)
> Intracompany transfers (L visas)
> "High-tech" guest workers (H-1B visas)
> International organizations (G visas)
> Religious workers (R visas)
> Exchange visitors (J visas)
> Athletes, artists and entertainers (O, P visas)
> Spouses and children within the various categories

Finally, immigrants are screened on the basis of occupations, participation in public programs and family relationships with the U.S. born and lawful immigrants. Some individuals are assigned as lawful immigrants on the basis of these characteristics:

> Refugees and naturalized citizens
> Lawful temporary immigrants
> Persons working for the government or the Armed Forces
> Veterans or members of the Armed Forces
> Participants in government programs not open to unauthorized immigrants:
>> Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicare, Medicaid and food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP)
> Persons entering the U.S. before 1980

Persons with certain occupations that require lawful status or government licensing
(e.g. police officers and other law enforcement occupations, lawyers, health care
professionals)
Children of citizens and lawful temporary migrants
Most immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, especially spouses
Other family members, especially those entering the U.S before lawful residents

As result of these steps, the foreign-born population is divided between individuals with
"definitely lawful" status (including long-term residents, naturalized citizens, refugees and asylees,
lawful temporary migrants and some lawful permanent residents) and a group of "potentially
unauthorized" migrants. (See Passel, 2007 and Passel et al., 2004 for additional detail.)

One change instituted for the new status assignments using the 2013 and 2014 ACS was to assume
that virtually all Cubans entering the U.S. are lawful residents, even if they are not assigned
refugee status, because they are treated differently from other arrivals based on the Cuban
Adjustment Act of 1966. Status assignments for other years did not take this into account and, as a
result, assigned too many Cubans as unauthorized. To make adjustments for this omission, a
weighting adjustment was made in the CPS-based estimates for 1995-2003 and ACS-based
estimates for 2005-2012. In these adjustments, the weight previously assigned to unauthorized
Cubans was reassigned to unauthorized immigrants from other parts of Latin America while
keeping in place the overall total estimates for states.

The number of potentially unauthorized migrants typically exceeds the estimated number of
unauthorized migrants (from the residual estimates) by 20-35% nationally. So, to have a result
consistent with the residual estimate of lawful and unauthorized immigrants, probabilistic
methods are employed to assign lawful or unauthorized status to these potentially unauthorized
individuals. The base probability for each assignment is the ratio of the residual estimate to the
number of potentially unauthorized immigrants. These initial probabilities are first adjusted
separately for parents living with their children and all others (to ensure that an appropriate
number of unauthorized children are selected) and then by broad occupation categories.

After this last step in the probabilistic assignment process, there is a check to ensure that the
statuses of family members are consistent; for example, all family members entering the country
at the same time are assumed to have the same status. The resulting populations for unauthorized
immigrants are compared with the residual estimates; if they disagree, the assignment
probabilities are adjusted and the random assignments are repeated. The entire process requires
several iterations to produce estimates that agree with the demographically derived population
totals. At the end, the final estimates agree with the residual estimates for the six individual states

noted earlier and for the balance of the country; for lawful and unauthorized immigrants in each area born in Mexico, Latin America, Asia and the rest of the world (subject to sample size considerations); and for children, working-age men and working-age women within each category. Finally, the survey weights for the foreign-born are adjusted upward for survey omissions (undercount) so the tabulated figures agree with the adjusted analytic, demographic estimates of the total number of lawful immigrants and unauthorized migrants developed in the very first step.

Data sources and survey weights

The American Community Survey is an ongoing survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The survey collects detailed information on a broad range of topics, including country of birth, year of immigration and citizenship – the information required for the residual estimates. The ACS has a continuous collection design with monthly samples of about 250,000; the nominal annual sample size was about 2.9 million households for 2005-2009 with about 1.9 million included in the final sample. The initial sample was expanded to almost 3.3 million addresses for 2011 and over 3.5 million for 2012; the final sample for 2014 included more than 2.3 million addresses.

For this report, public-use samples of individual survey records from the ACS are tabulated to provide the data used in the estimation process. The public-use file is a representative 1% sample of the entire U.S. (including about 3 million individual records for each year 2005-2014) obtained from the Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series or IPUMS. The ACS began full-scale operation in 2005 covering only the household population; since 2006 it has covered the entire U.S. population. ACS data are released by the Census Bureau in September for the previous year.

The other survey data source used for residual estimates comes from March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. The CPS is a monthly survey currently of about 55,000 households conducted jointly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau. Since 2001, the March Supplement sample has been expanded to about 80,000 households; before then, the expanded March Supplement sample included about 50,000. The CPS universe covers the civilian noninstitutional population. The CPS was redesigned in 1994 and, for the first time, included the information required for the residual estimates (i.e., country of birth, date of immigration and citizenship). Some limitations of the initial March Supplement of redesigned CPS, 1994 – especially the limited coding of country of birth – preclude its use in making these estimates, so the first CPS-based estimates are for March 1995. CPS data are released by the Census Bureau in September for the previous March.

Population figures from both the ACS and CPS are based on the Census Bureau's official population estimates for the nation, states and smaller areas through a weighting process that

ensures the survey figures agree with pre-specified national population totals by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin. At the sub-national level, the two surveys differ in their target populations. The March CPS data agree with state-level totals by age, sex and race and are based on a process that imposes other conditions on weights for couples. The ACS weights use estimates for much smaller geographic areas that are summed to state totals.

The population estimates for the surveys are based on the latest available figures at the time the survey weights are estimated. This process produces the best estimates available at the time of the survey, but it does not guarantee that a time series produced across multiple surveys is consistent or accurate. Significant discontinuities can be introduced when the Census Bureau changes its population estimation methods, as it did several times early in the 2000s and in 2007 and 2008 (Passel and Cohn, 2010), or when the entire estimates series is recalibrated to take into account the results of a new census.

The estimates shown for unauthorized immigrants and the underlying survey data are derived from ACS IPUMS 1% samples for 2005-2014 and March CPS public-use files for 1995, 1998, 2000 and 2003, which have been reweighted to take into account population estimates consistent with the 1990 census, the 2000 census, the 2010 census and the most recent population estimates. The population estimates used to reweight the ACS for 2005 through 2009 and the March 2003 CPS are the Census Bureau's intercensal population estimates for the 2000s; these population estimates use demographic components of population change for 2000-2010 and are consistent with both the 2000 and 2010 censuses. Similarly, the population estimates used to reweight the CPS for March 1995, 1998 and 2000 are the intercensal population estimates for the 1990s (U.S. Census Bureau, 2013), which are consistent with the 1990 and 2000 censuses. The ACS data for 2010-2014 do not require reweighting as they are weighted to recent population estimates based on the 2010 census. The original 2005 ACS covered the household population, but not the population living in group quarters (about 8 million people). For Pew Research Center analyses, we augmented the 2005 ACS with group quarters records from the 2006 ACS but weighted to agree with the 2005 population estimates. The reweighting methodology for both the ACS and CPS follows, to the extent possible, the methods used by the Census Bureau in producing the sample weights that equal the population totals. See Passel, Cohn and Gonzalez-Barrera, 2013 for more details on weighting and adjustments for survey undercoverage.

Because of the much, much larger sample size in the ACS (3.1 million sample cases in 2014 including more than 360,000 foreign-born cases) than the March CPS (200,000 sample cases in 2014 with about 26,000 foreign-born), the ACS-based estimates should be considered more accurate than the CPS-based estimates. In this publication, we have replaced the previously published CPS-based estimates for years from 2005 onward with the new ACS-based estimates.

Other methodological issues

Adjustment for undercount

Adjustments for omissions from the surveys (also referred to as adjustments for undercount) are introduced into the estimation process at several points. The initial comparisons with the survey (based on the equation shown above) take the difference between the immigrants in the survey and the estimated lawful immigrant population. Since the comparison is people appearing in the survey, the estimated lawful immigrant population must be discounted slightly because some lawful immigrants are missed by the survey. This initial estimate represents unauthorized immigrants included in the survey. To estimate the total number of unauthorized immigrants in the country, it must be adjusted for those left out. Similarly, the estimated number of lawful immigrants appearing in the survey must also be adjusted for undercount to arrive at the total foreign-born population.

These various coverage adjustments are done separately for groups based on age, sex, country of birth and year of arrival. The patterns and levels of adjustments are based on Census Bureau studies of overall census coverage (see U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 for links to evaluation studies of the 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010 censuses; also Passel, 2001) that are adjusted up or down to reflect the results of a number of specialized studies that focus on immigrants. Census Bureau undercount estimates have generally been subdivided by race/Hispanic origin, age, and sex. So the adjustments to the Pew Research Center data use rates for countries of birth based on the predominant race of immigrants from the country – Hispanic and non-Hispanic races for white, black and Asian. Undercount rates for children do not differ by gender, but for younger adults (ages 18-29 and 30-49) the undercount rates for males tend to be higher, and for some groups much higher, than those for females. At older ages, the undercount rates are lower than for younger adults with no strong patterns of gender differences (and with some estimated overcounts).

The basic information on specific coverage patterns of immigrants is drawn principally from comparisons with Mexican data, U.S. mortality data and specialized surveys conducted at the time of the 2000 census (Van Hook et al., 2014; Bean et al., 1998; Capps et al., 2002; Marcelli and Ong, 2002). In these studies, unauthorized immigrants generally have significantly higher undercount rates than lawful immigrants who, in turn, tend to have higher undercounts than the U.S.-born population. More recent immigrants are more likely than longer-term residents to be missed. The most recent study (Van Hook et al., 2014) finds marked improvements in coverage of Mexicans in the ACS and CPS between the late 1990s and the 2000s. This and earlier work suggest very serious coverage problems with immigrants in the data collected before the 2000 census but fewer issues in the 2000 census and subsequent datasets. This whole pattern of assumptions leads to

adjustments of 10% to 20% for the estimates of unauthorized immigrants in the 1995-2000 CPS, with slightly larger adjustments for unauthorized Mexicans in those years. (Note that this means even larger coverage adjustments, sometimes exceeding 30% for adult men younger than age 40.)

After 2000, the coverage adjustments build in steady improvements in overall coverage and improvements specifically for Mexican immigrants. The improvements are even greater than noted in the research comparing Mexico and U.S. sources because the reweighted ACS and CPS data imply even greater improvements in reducing undercounts, since they incorporate results of the 2010 census. With all of these factors, coverage adjustments increase the estimate of the unauthorized immigrant population by 8% to 13% for 2000-2009 and by 5% to 7% for 2010-2014. For the overall immigrant population, coverage adjustments hovered slightly below 5% during the 1990s and trended downward to around 2% to 3% by 2014. Since the population estimates used in weighting the ACS and the CPS come from the same sources, the coverage adjustments tend to be similar.

State estimates

The initial estimates of unauthorized immigrants for states other than the six largest (California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois and New Jersey) arise from the tabulated totals of the individual microdata records assigned as unauthorized immigrants. The overall trends at the state level are assumed to progress somewhat smoothly from one year to the next, whereas the initial estimates based on status assignments may not behave in exactly that way. Accordingly, the final estimated state totals for any given year take into account the estimates for surrounding years; however, most state estimates do not require adjustment based on the trend analysis. The last step in developing the individual weights for the unauthorized immigrants involves adjusting the initial weights in each state to agree with the totals from the trend analysis. The largest adjustments are in those states where the trend analysis showed a substantial difference between the initial estimates and the trend analysis. Nonetheless, all states are adjusted so that the state totals agree as closely as possible with either the initial estimate or the trend-based estimate. At the same time, the adjustment is done so that the national totals of the state populations agree with the residual estimates for the total unauthorized immigrant population and the totals from each of the four broad regions of birth.

Compared with the most recent previously published estimates, the estimates published here bring in two additional years of ACS-based estimates, 2013 and 2014. As a result of these new data, some state totals for the last two years in the previous publication, 2011 and 2012, have been revised. Estimates for 2010 also were revised for a small number of states. The most notable revision occurred in Massachusetts where the estimates through 2012 pointed to a decline from

2009. With the new trend analysis, the revised estimate for 2012 is higher than the previously published one. Thus, the revised estimates show no change for 2009-2012. However, the new estimates for both 2013 and 2014 showed increases over the 2009 estimate for the state.

Margins of error

Estimates of the unauthorized immigrant population are computed as the difference between a deterministic, administratively-based estimate (i.e., the lawful foreign-born population, or "L" in the equation above) and a sample-based estimate (i.e., the survey total of the foreign-born population, or "F"). Consequently the margin of error (or variance) for the estimated unauthorized population is the margin of error for "F," the sample-based estimate of the foreign-born population. Thus, the margins of error are based on the variance of the foreign-born population entering since 1980.

For all years of the ACS, variances were computed with replicate weights supplied by the Census Bureau through IPUMS; for earlier CPS data, generalized variance formulas supplied in Census Bureau documentation were used to compute margins of error.

The ranges reported represent a 90% confidence interval around the estimates. They take into account the sampling error associated with the survey-based estimate. Other sources of potential error – including the variability associated with the random assignment of statuses, potential errors in the status assignment process and non-sampling error in the surveys – are not represented in the reported margins of error. For this report, statistical tests rely on a 90% confidence level.

Countries and regions of birth

Some modifications in the original CPS countries of birth were introduced to ensure that all foreign-born respondents could be assigned to a specific country or region of birth. See Passel and Cohn (2008) for a detailed treatment of how persons with unknown country of birth were assigned to specific countries.

Defining regions of the world and, in some cases, specific countries using the various data sources requires grouping areas into identifiable units and "drawing lines" on the world map. In the historical data used to construct the lawful foreign-born population, it is not possible to differentiate the individual republics within the former Soviet Union. In both the CPS and ACS microdata, not all the individual republics can be identified; some are identified in some years but not others. However, a code is assigned for USSR in all years, even when the USSR no longer

existed. Thus, for analytic purposes in this report, the former republics are grouped together and considered to be part of Europe.

For this report, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan are combined and reported as "China" because of potential inconsistencies between the administrative data sources and the surveys and because of concerns over consistency of reporting on the part of respondents. South and East Asia is defined to include Afghanistan, Pakistan and countries east of them. The Middle East includes Southwest Asia from Iran and westward to Turkey and Cyprus plus countries in North Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa is the rest of the continent. Data for North and South Korea are not generally separated in the survey data used for the estimates. Thus, data reported for persons born in Korea cover both North and South Koreans; the vast majority of Korean immigrants in the U.S. are from South Korea. A small number of unauthorized immigrants are from Oceania and from a residual "Other" category shown in ACS data. The total of the residual "other" and Oceania is included in the overall national estimates but not shown separately in any tables or figures.

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Appendix B: Additional tables

Correction (Oct. 20, 2016): In the table titled "Top countries of birth of unauthorized immigrants, by state, 2014," the share of the total U.S. unauthorized immigrant population that is from Mexico was changed to 52% (from 53%) due to a rounding error.

Estimates of unauthorized immigrant population, by state, selected years 1990-2014

In thousands

	----------2014----------		2012	----------2009----------		2007	2000	1995	1990
	Estimate	Range (+ or -)	Estimate	Estimate	Range (+ or -)	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Total U.S.	*11,100*	*170*	*11,200*	*11,300*	*150*	*12,200*	*8,600*	*5,700*	*3,500*
Alabama*	65	5	65	80	5	70	35	10	5
Alaska	10	5	10	10	5	10	<10	<10	<5
Arizona	325	20	300	350	20	500	350	160	90
Arkansas	70	10	60	65	5	70	45	15	5
California*	2,350	60	2,400	2,500	65	2,800	2,250	2,050	1,450
	200	20	180	210	20	210	130	85	30
Connecticut	120	15	130	130	15	130	50	25	20
Delaware	25	5	25	20	5	25	15	<10	<5
District of Columbia	25	5	20	20	5	25	25	20	15
Florida	850	40	900	875	35	1,050	900	575	240
Georgia*	375	25	400	425	20	425	170	55	35
Hawaii	45	15	45	40	10	35	30	15	5
Idaho	45	10	40	35	10	40	30	15	10
Illinois*	450	30	500	500	30	550	375	240	200
Indiana	110	15	95	100	10	100	35	25	10
Iowa	40	10	45	45	10	40	35	15	5
Kansas*	75	10	75	95	10	70	40	25	15
Kentucky	50	10	40	50	10	40	25	<10	<5
Louisiana*	70	10	65	55	10	55	20	15	15
Maine	<5	5	<5	<5	5	<5	<10	<10	<5
Maryland	250	20	240	230	15	220	160	65	35
Massachusetts*	210	20	190	180	20	220	170	60	55
Michigan	130	20	110	110	20	140	95	60	25
Minnesota	100	20	95	90	20	85	65	45	15
Mississippi	25	5	25	30	5	25	10	<10	<5

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Estimates of unauthorized immigrant population, by state, selected years 1990-2014, continued

In thousands

| | -----------2014----------- | | 2012 | -----------2009----------- | | 2007 | 2000 | 1995 | 1990 |
	Estimate	Range (+ or -)	Estimate	Estimate	Range (+ or -)	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Missouri	55	10	65	65	15	60	35	15	10
Montana	<5	2	<5	<5	2	<5	<10	<10	<5
Nebraska	45	5	50	45	5	45	35	15	5
Nevada*	210	15	210	230	15	240	170	75	25
New Hampshire	10	5	10	10	5	10	10	<10	<5
New Jersey*	500	30	500	450	30	550	325	200	95
New Mexico	85	15	85	90	10	85	55	45	20
New York	775	40	725	800	45	1,000	750	600	350
North Carolina	350	20	350	350	15	325	220	35	25
North Dakota	<5	5	<5	<5	3	<5	<10	<10	<5
Ohio	95	15	95	100	15	90	60	40	10
Oklahoma	95	10	95	100	10	95	45	30	15
Oregon	130	15	120	140	15	150	100	50	25
Pennsylvania*	180	20	170	140	20	150	95	65	25
Rhode Island	30	5	35	35	5	35	25	15	10
South Carolina*	85	10	95	100	10	90	30	<10	5
South Dakota	5	4	<5	<5	3	<5	<10	<10	<5
Tennessee	120	10	130	120	10	120	55	30	10
Texas	1,650	45	1,650	1,600	45	1,550	1,050	725	450
Utah	100	10	100	95	10	100	70	35	15
Vermont	<5	3	<5	<5	4	<5	<10	<10	<5
Virginia*	300	25	275	250	15	250	200	65	50
Washington*	250	20	240	220	20	250	150	50	40
West Virginia	<5	3	<5	<5	2	<5	<10	<10	<5
Wisconsin	80	10	75	75	10	85	55	20	10
Wyoming	5	3	5	5	2	5	<10	<10	<5

Note: All numbers are rounded independently and are not adjusted to sum to the total U.S. figure or other totals. See Methodology for rounding rules. The symbol * means the 2009-2014 change is statistically significant at 90% confidence interval; for other states the apparent change is not significantly different from zero. Range based on 90% confidence interval.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2005-2014 based on augmented American Community Survey data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS); for 1995 and 2000 based on March Supplements to Current Population Survey; for 1990 from Warren and Warren (2013).
"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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Estimates of unauthorized immigrants in the total population and foreign-born population, by state, 2014

In thousands (unless otherwise specified)

	-----------------Population-----------------			-----------------Foreign born-----------------		
	Total	**Unauthorized immigrants**		**Total**	**% foreign-born**	**% unauthorized of foreign-born population**
		Estimate	*% of total population*			
Total U.S.	320,520	11,100	3.5	43,600	13.6	25.5
Alabama	4,860	65	1.3	160	3.3	39.5
Alaska	740	10	1.3	60	7.9	16.6
Arizona	6,770	325	4.9	950	14.1	34.5
Arkansas	2,980	70	2.4	150	5.0	47.5
California	39,050	2,350	6.0	10,700	27.4	21.9
Colorado	5,380	200	3.8	550	10.2	36.6
Connecticut	3,620	120	3.4	525	14.2	24.2
Delaware	940	25	2.7	85	8.8	31.0
District of Columbia	660	25	3.9	95	14.6	26.4
Florida	20,080	850	4.2	4,150	20.6	20.4
Georgia	10,140	375	3.6	1,050	10.1	35.6
Hawaii	1,430	45	3.2	250	17.3	18.2
Idaho	1,640	45	2.7	110	6.5	42.3
Illinois	12,940	450	3.5	1,850	14.1	24.4
Indiana	6,610	110	1.6	325	5.1	31.7
Iowa	3,120	40	1.3	160	5.2	25.8
Kansas	2,920	75	2.5	210	7.3	34.7
Kentucky	4,420	50	1.1	160	3.6	30.0
Louisiana	4,660	70	1.5	190	4.1	35.5
Maine	1,330	<5	0.3	50	3.7	8.4
Maryland	6,010	250	4.2	925	15.2	27.4
Massachusetts	6,780	210	3.1	1,100	16.0	19.4
Michigan	9,930	130	1.3	675	6.7	19.5
Minnesota	5,470	100	1.9	450	8.2	23.1
Mississippi	3,000	25	0.8	65	2.2	37.2

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Estimates of unauthorized immigrants in the total population and foreign-born population, by state, 2014, continued

In thousands (unless otherwise specified)

	-----Population-----			-----Foreign born-----		
	Total	**Unauthorized immigrants**		**Total**	**% foreign-born**	**% unauthorized of foreign-born population**
		Estimate	*% of total population*			
Missouri	6,070	55	0.9	230	3.8	23.8
Montana	1,020	<5	0.3	25	2.3	14.0
Nebraska	1,890	45	2.5	120	6.6	37.6
Nevada	2,860	210	7.2	575	19.8	36.2
New Hampshire	1,330	10	0.8	80	6.1	13.9
New Jersey	9,070	500	5.4	2,050	22.7	23.9
New Mexico	2,100	85	4.0	220	10.7	37.4
New York	19,900	775	3.9	4,600	23.1	16.8
North Carolina	9,980	350	3.4	800	7.9	43.3
North Dakota	740	<5	0.5	30	3.7	12.7
Ohio	11,610	95	0.8	500	4.3	18.7
Oklahoma	3,890	95	2.4	230	5.9	40.5
Oregon	3,990	130	3.2	400	10.1	31.7
Pennsylvania	12,820	180	1.4	850	6.6	21.8
Rhode Island	1,060	30	2.9	140	13.5	21.4
South Carolina	4,840	85	1.8	230	4.8	36.6
South Dakota	850	5	0.6	25	2.9	20.9
Tennessee	6,570	120	1.9	325	5.1	36.7
Texas	27,180	1,650	6.1	4,700	17.2	35.1
Utah	2,960	100	3.5	275	8.9	39.2
Vermont	630	<5	0.3	25	4.1	8.3
Virginia	8,360	300	3.5	1,050	12.5	28.3
Washington	7,100	250	3.6	975	13.6	26.6
West Virginia	1,850	<5	0.2	30	1.5	14.7
Wisconsin	5,770	80	1.3	275	5.0	27.0
Wyoming	580	5	1.0	20	3.6	27.4

Note: Percentages calculated from unrounded numbers. See Methodology for rounding rules.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS).
"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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Top countries of birth of unauthorized immigrants, by state, 2014

%

	#1 largest country of birth		#2 largest country of birth		#3 largest country of birth	
	Country of birth	% of unauthorized immigrant population	Country of birth	% of unauthorized immigrant population	Country of birth	% of unauthorized immigrant population
Total U.S.	Mexico	52	El Salvador	6	Guatemala	5
Alabama	Mexico	52	Guatemala	8	China	7
Alaska	Philippines	34	Thailand	22	Mexico	13
Arizona	Mexico	81	Canada	3	India	2
Arkansas	Mexico	70	El Salvador	10	Marshall Islands	6
California	Mexico	71	El Salvador	5	Guatemala	4
Colorado	Mexico	72	El Salvador	5	India	2
Connecticut	Mexico	18	Guatemala	10	India	10
Delaware	Mexico	43	India	23	Kenya	8
District of Columbia	El Salvador	37	Guatemala	7	Honduras	6
Florida	Mexico	19	Haiti	8	Honduras	8
Georgia	Mexico	56	Guatemala	7	India	5
Hawaii	Philippines	47	Micronesia	14	China	8
Idaho	Mexico	87	*	*	*	*
Illinois	Mexico	71	India	6	Poland	4
Indiana	Mexico	63	India	7	El Salvador	5
Iowa	Mexico	62	India	8	Guatemala	7
Kansas	Mexico	74	El Salvador	5	Guatemala	4
Kentucky	Mexico	50	Guatemala	8	India	4
Louisiana	Mexico	39	Honduras	26	El Salvador	5
Maine	*	*	*	*	*	*
Maryland	El Salvador	28	Mexico	11	Guatemala	11
Massachusetts	Brazil	11	Guatemala	10	China	9
Michigan	Mexico	35	India	13	China	6
Minnesota	Mexico	45	India	9	El Salvador	5
Mississippi	Mexico	69	Guatemala	5	*	*

Continued on next page

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Top countries of birth of unauthorized immigrants, by state, 2014, continued

%

	#1 largest country of birth		#2 largest country of birth		#3 largest country of birth	
	Country of birth	% of unauthorized immigrant population	Country of birth	% of unauthorized immigrant population	Country of birth	% of unauthorized immigrant population
Missouri	Mexico	39	Guatemala	9	India	7
Montana	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nebraska	Mexico	61	Guatemala	21	El Salvador	4
Nevada	Mexico	70	El Salvador	6	Philippines	5
New Hampshire	India	30	Dominican Rep	15	China	11
New Jersey	Mexico	24	India	12	El Salvador	6
New Mexico	Mexico	91	Guatemala	2	*	*
New York	Mexico	25	El Salvador	9	Dominican Rep	9
North Carolina	Mexico	60	El Salvador	7	Honduras	6
North Dakota	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ohio	Mexico	28	India	15	Guatemala	6
Oklahoma	Mexico	71	Honduras	6	Guatemala	6
Oregon	Mexico	71	Vietnam	4	India	4
Pennsylvania	Mexico	20	India	10	Dominican Rep	8
Rhode Island	Guatemala	32	Dominican Rep	15	Cape Verde	7
South Carolina	Mexico	64	Guatemala	5	India	3
South Dakota	Mexico	22	*	*	*	*
Tennessee	Mexico	49	Honduras	9	Guatemala	9
Texas	Mexico	71	El Salvador	8	Honduras	4
Utah	Mexico	72	El Salvador	4	Peru	3
Vermont	*	*	*	*	*	*
Virginia	El Salvador	25	Mexico	14	Honduras	9
Washington	Mexico	52	India	8	China	5
West Virginia	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wisconsin	Mexico	74	India	6	China	3
Wyoming	Mexico	58	*	*	*	*

Note: The symbol * indicates that the sample size of the unauthorized immigrant population is too small to produce a reliable estimate. Countries of birth shown include those with at least 1,000 unauthorized immigrants. China includes Hong Kong and Taiwan.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented 2014 American Community Survey data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS).
"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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Estimates of unauthorized immigrants, by region of birth, selected years 1990-2014

In thousands

	----------2014----------		2012	----------2009----------		2007	2005	2000	1995	1990
	Estimate	Range (+ or -)	Estimate	Estimate	Range (+ or -)	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Total U.S.	*11,100*	*170*	*11,200*	*11,300*	*150*	*12,200*	*11,100*	*8,600*	*5,700*	*3,500*
Latin America										
Mexico*	5,850	100	5,850	6,350	100	6,950	6,300	4,450	2,900	2,050
Central America*	1,700	55	1,700	1,600	50	1,500	1,350	1,050	675	525
South America*	650	45	725	725	45	900	825	625	425	200
Caribbean	425	50	475	400	45	475	450	525	425	190
Other regions										
Asia*	1,450	50	1,400	1,300	50	1,300	1,200	1,050	775	250
Europe, Canada	600	50	575	550	55	625	625	600	400	150
Middle East	140	35	130	110	30	140	120	120	75	80
Africa*	275	35	200	200	35	250	230	120	(x)	(x)

(x) Data for Africa in 1990 and 1995 not comparable to later estimates.

Note: All numbers are rounded independently and are not adjusted to sum to the total U.S. figure or other totals. See Methodology for rounding rules. Range based on 90% confidence interval. Asia includes South and East Asia. Europe includes all central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union. The Middle East includes Southwest Asia and North Africa; Africa refers to sub-Saharan Africa only. U.S. total includes a residual from other nations that is not shown. The symbol * means the 2009-2014 change is statistically significant at 90% confidence interval; for other regions the apparent change is not significantly different from zero.

Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2005-2014 based on augmented American Community Survey data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS); for 1995 and 2000 based on March Supplements to Current Population Survey. Estimates for 1990 from Warren and Warren (2013).

"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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Share of unauthorized immigrants, by region of birth, selected years 1990-2014

% of U.S. unauthorized immigrant population

	2014	2012	2009	2007	2005	2000	1995	1990
Total	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Latin America								
Mexico	52.5	52.4	56.1	56.8	56.7	51.9	50.8	58.4
Central America	15.4	15.4	14.2	12.2	12.2	12.0	11.9	15.2
South America	5.9	6.5	6.5	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.5	5.6
Caribbean	3.8	4.3	3.5	4.0	4.0	6.2	7.5	5.3
Other regions								
Asia	12.9	12.7	11.5	10.8	10.7	12.0	13.4	7.0
Europe, Canada	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.2	5.6	7.1	7.1	4.2
Middle East	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.3	2.3
Africa	2.5	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.0	1.4	(x)	(x)

(x) Data for Africa in 1990 and 1995 not comparable to later estimates.
Note: Percentages calculated from unrounded numbers. Asia includes South and East Asia. Europe includes all central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union. The Middle East includes Southwest Asia and North Africa; Africa refers to sub-Saharan Africa only. U.S. total includes a residual from other nations that is not shown.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2005-2014 based on augmented American Community Survey data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS); for 1995 and 2000 based on March Supplements to Current Population Survey. Estimates for 1990 from Warren and Warren (2013).
"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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Estimates of unauthorized immigrants, for largest countries of birth, selected years 1990-2014

In thousands

	----------2014----------		2012	----------2009----------		2007	2005	2000	1995	1990
	Estimate	Range (+ or -)	Estimate	Estimate	Range (+ or -)	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Mexico*	5,850	100	5,850	6,350	100	6,950	6,300	4,450	2,900	2,050
El Salvador	700	40	675	650	30	600	575	500	325	300
Guatemala*	525	30	525	475	30	400	375	200	150	120
India*	500	35	450	350	30	325	325	240	120	30
Honduras*	350	30	350	325	20	300	250	140	80	40
China	325	35	325	300	35	325	250	325	200	80
Philippines	180	30	210	180	30	190	190	120	150	70
Dominican Republic	170	30	170	150	30	200	180	180	170	45
Korea	160	20	180	180	20	180	150	110	160	25
Ecuador	130	25	130	140	20	150	130	90	50	35
Colombia	130	25	160	150	20	180	150	150	110	50
Peru	100	20	120	120	20	150	120	100	95	25
Haiti	100	25	120	85	20	110	90	130	65	65
Brazil*	100	20	100	140	15	180	180	90	55	20
Canada	100	20	120	95	10	95	110	55	70	25

Note: All numbers are rounded independently and are not adjusted to sum to the total U.S. figure or other totals. See Methodology for rounding rules. Range based on 90% confidence interval. Countries shown are those with 100,000 or more unauthorized immigrants in 2014 (based on rounded estimates). Birth countries with the same estimated population are shown alphabetically; differences between consecutive ranks may not be statistically significant. China includes Hong Kong and Taiwan. The symbol * means the 2009-2014 change is statistically significant at 90% confidence interval; for other countries the apparent change is not significantly different from zero.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2005-2014 based on augmented American Community Survey data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS); for 1995 and 2000 based on March Supplements to Current Population Survey. Estimates for 1990 from Warren and Warren (2013).
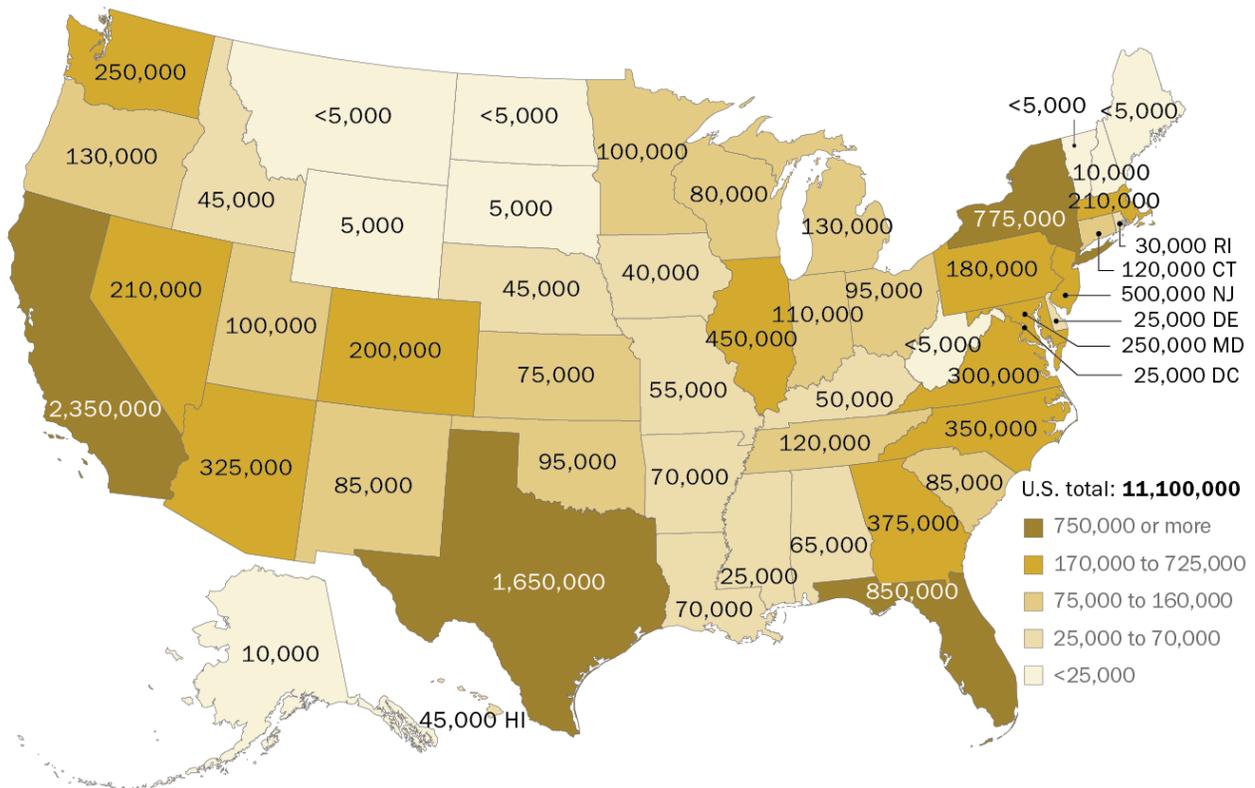"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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Appendix C: Additional maps

Correction (Oct. 20, 2016): In the map titled "Mexicans as estimated share of unauthorized immigrant population, by state, 2014," the share of the unauthorized immigrant population in Nebraska that is from Mexico was changed to 61% (from 62%) due to a rounding error.
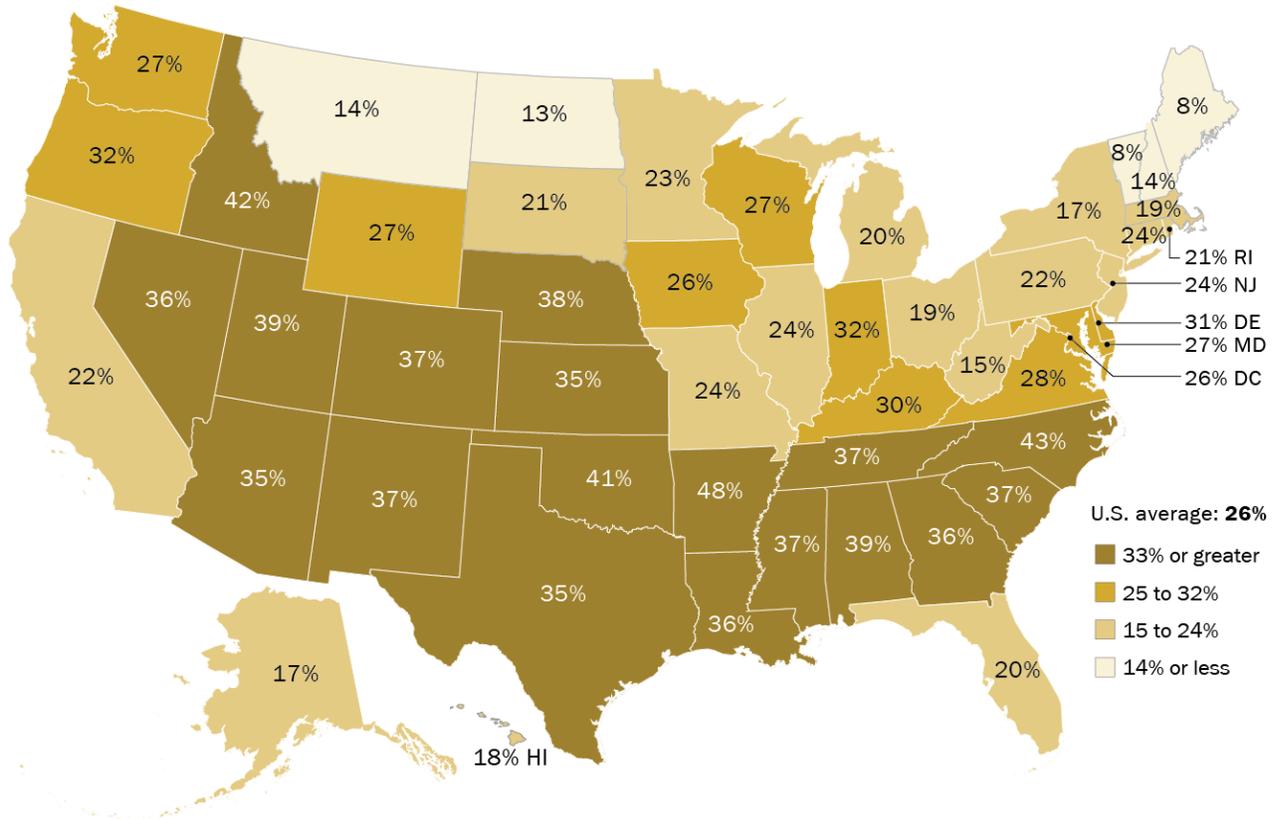
Estimated unauthorized immigrant population, by state, 2014

Note: Population figures are rounded. See methodology for rounding rules.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS).
"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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Unauthorized immigrants as estimated share of all immigrants, by state, 2014

27%
14%
13%
8%
32%
8%
42%
14%
27%
23%
27%
19%
36%
21%
17%
24%
39%
38%
20%
22% RI
26%
22%
24% NJ
22%
32%
19%
31% DE
37%
35%
24%
27% MD
15%
28%
26% DC
35%
37%
24%
41%
48%
30%
37%
43%
35%
37%
37%
37%
39%
36%
17%
36%

U.S. average: **26%**

- 33% or greater
- 25 to 32%
- 15 to 24%
- 14% or less

18% HI

20%

Note: Percentages calculated from unrounded numbers.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented 2014 American Community Survey.
"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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Estimated unauthorized immigrant share of population, by state, 2014

3.6%

0.3%

0.5%

1.9%

0.3%

3.2%

2.7%

0.6%

1.3%

1.3%

0.3%

0.8%

3.1%

1.0%

1.3%

3.9%

3.4%

7.2%

3.5%

2.5%

1.3%

1.6%

0.8%

1.4%

2.9% RI

3.8%

0.2%

5.4% NJ

6.0%

2.5%

0.9%

3.5%

3.5%

2.7% DE

1.1%

4.2% MD

4.9%

4.0%

1.9%

3.4%

3.9% DC

2.4%

2.4%

1.8%

6.1%

0.8%

1.3%

3.6%

U.S. average: **3.5%**

1.3%

1.5%

- 5.0% or more
- 3.5 to 4.9%
- 2.5 to 3.4%
- 1.6 to 2.4%
- 1.5% or less

4.2%

3.2% HI

Note: Percentages calculated from unrounded numbers.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS).
"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"
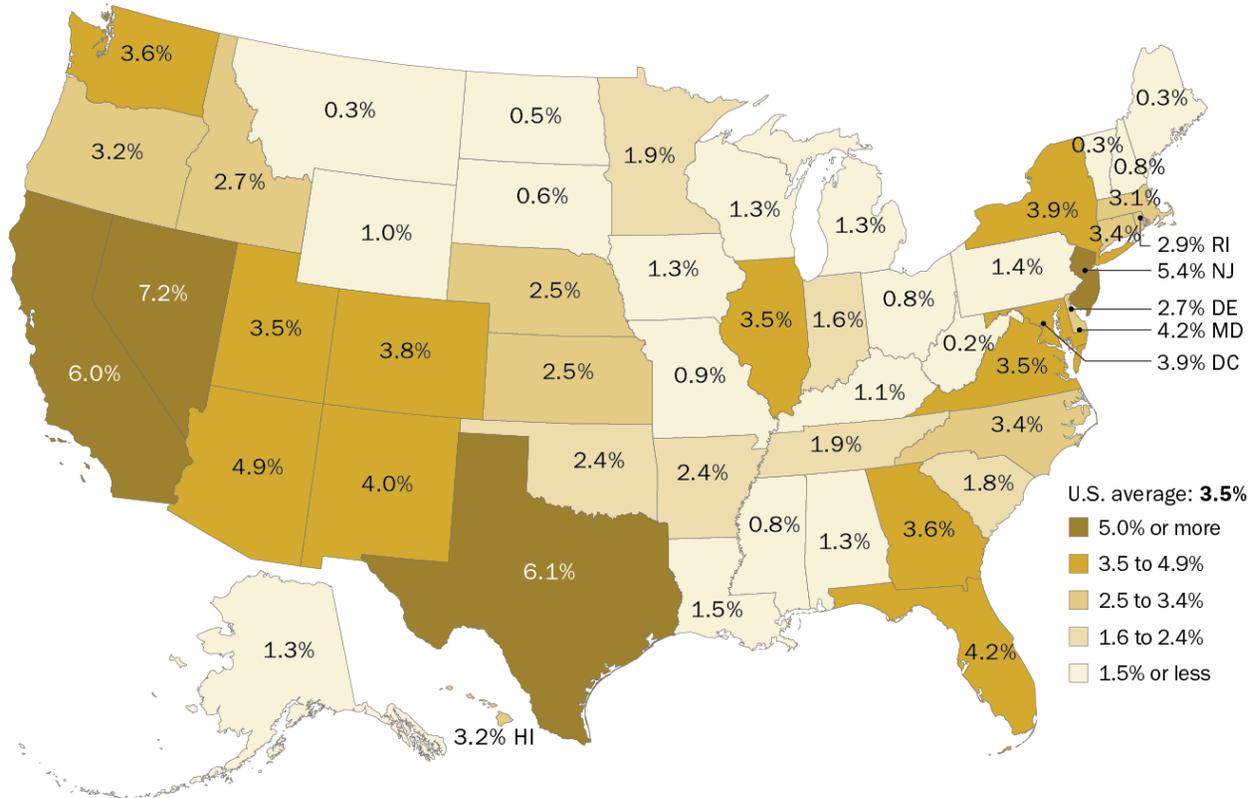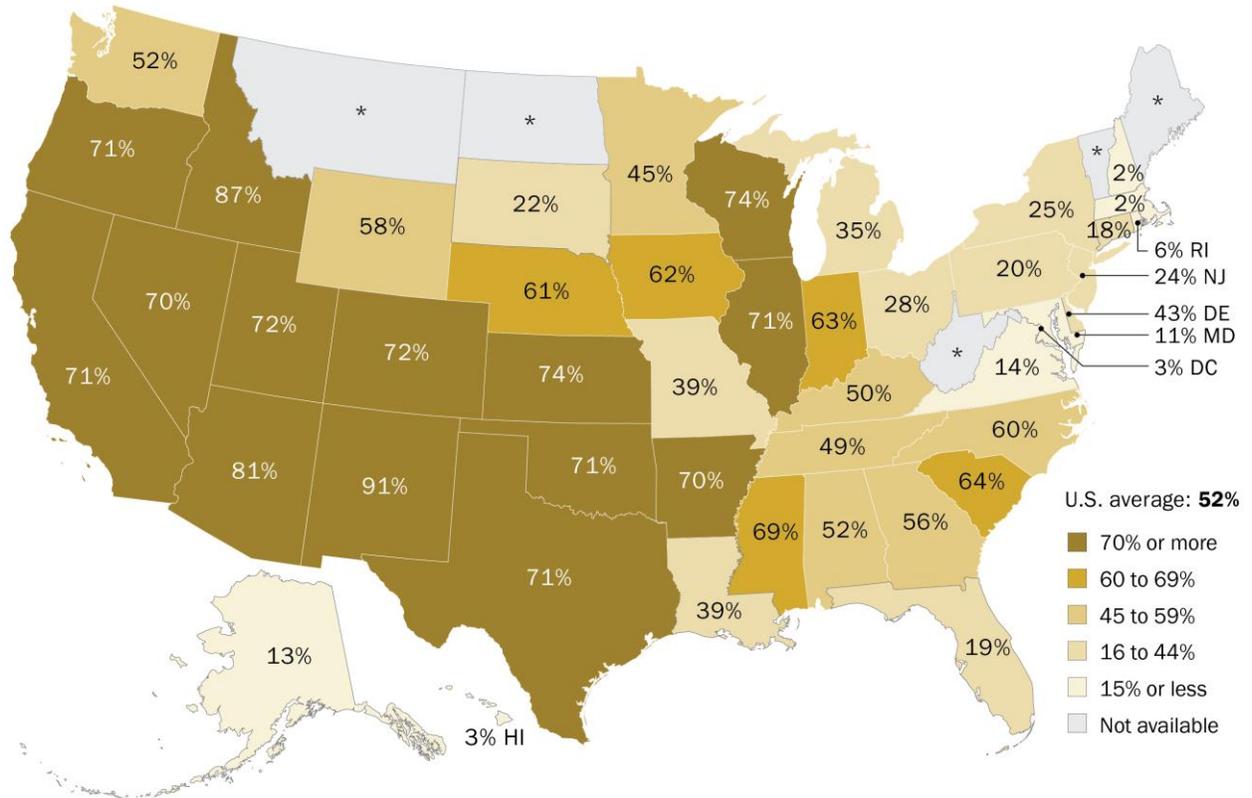
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Mexicans as estimated share of unauthorized immigrant population, by state, 2014

52%

71%

87%

*

*

45%

74%

*

2%

58%

22%

35%

25%

2%

18%

6% RI

24% NJ

70%

72%

61%

62%

71%

63%

28%

20%

43% DE

72%

11% MD

71%

74%

39%

50%

14%

3% DC

81%

91%

71%

70%

49%

60%

64%

69%

52%

56%

U.S. average: 52%

71%

39%

19%

70% or more

60 to 69%

45 to 59%
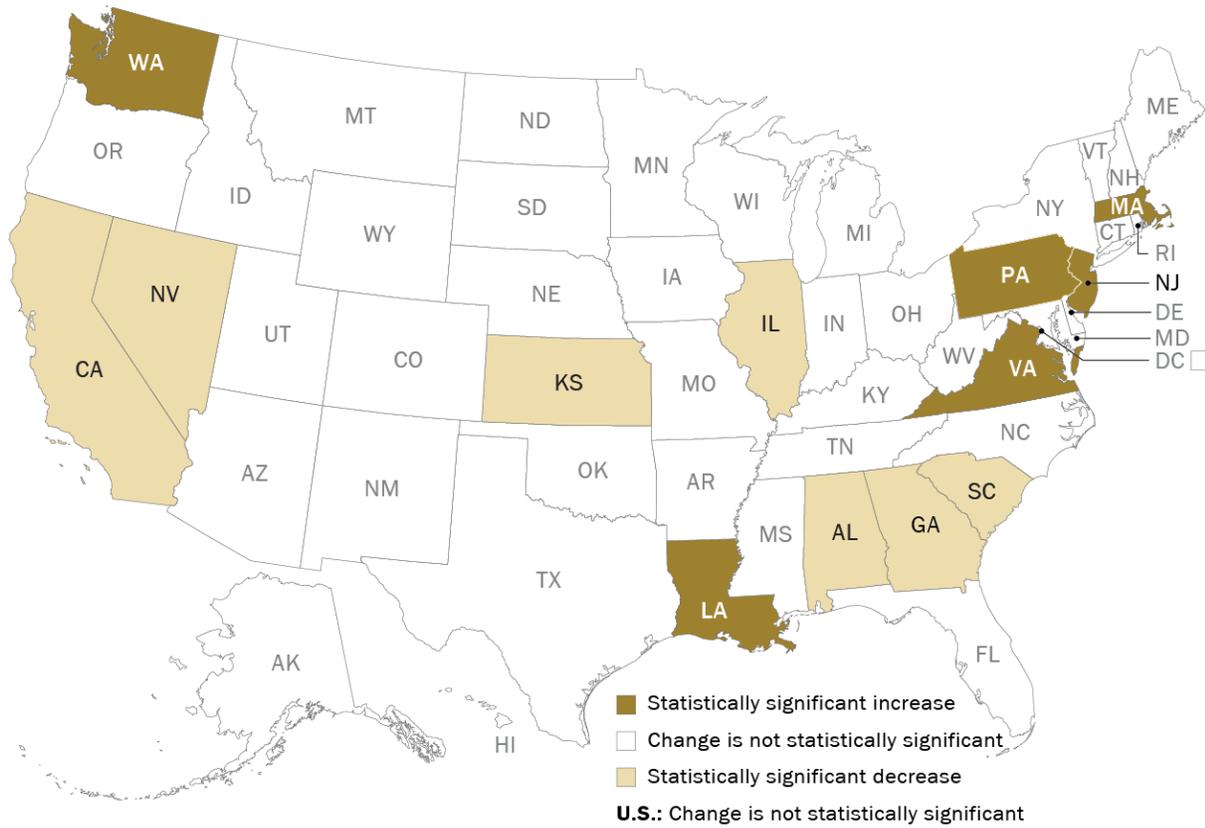
13%

16 to 44%

3% HI

15% or less

Not available

Note: Percentages calculated from unrounded numbers. The symbol * indicates that the size of the unauthorized immigrant population is too small to produce a reliable estimate for that state.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS).
"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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Change in estimated unauthorized immigrant population, by state, 2009 to 2014

■ Statistically significant increase
□ Change is not statistically significant
■ Statistically significant decrease

U.S.: Change is not statistically significant

Note: Changes shown are statistically significant based on 90% confidence interval.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented 2009 and 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS).
"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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