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# From Pluribus to Unum: Immigrant Integration and California's Future

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Co-hosted by the New America Foundation and the  
California Research Bureau

# Preview

- California's Newcomers – An Overview
- What is Integration?
- Immigrant Integration in California
- Roadblocks
- The Integration Imperative
- What Can be Done

# California's Newcomers – An Overview

# California's Newcomers – An Overview

- 9,902,067 foreign-born individuals in California
  - 27% of all Californians
- Rankings relative to other states
  - Size of the foreign-born population: 1 out of 51
  - Percent foreign-born in the total population: 1 out of 51 (27%)
- Nearly 1 in 3 foreign-born individuals in the United States lives in California
- A mix of established and more recently-arrived immigrants:
  - Entered before 1980: 25%
  - Entered in 1980s: 26.3
  - Entered in 1990s: 29.0%
  - Entered in 2000s: 19.7%

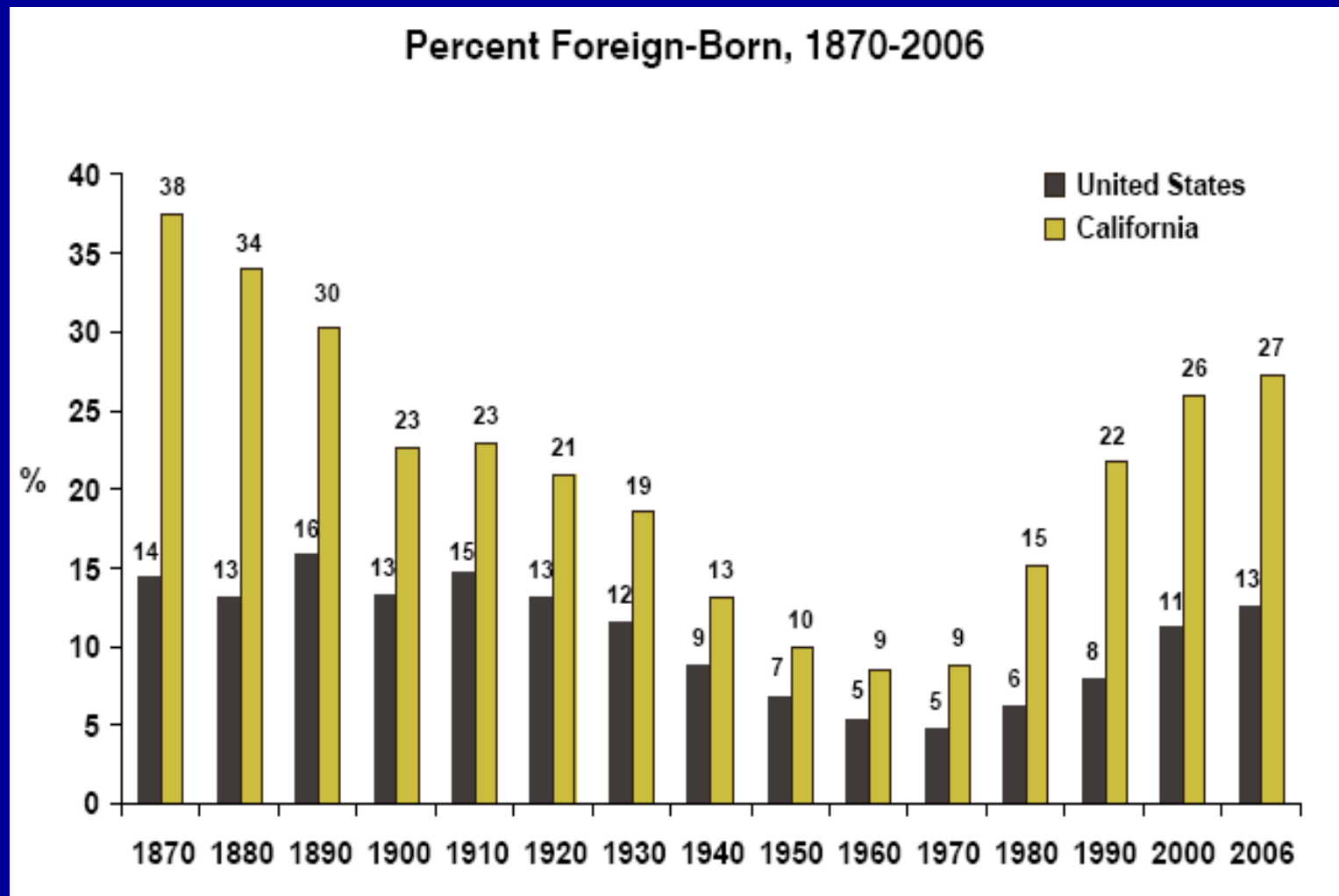
# California's Newcomers – An Overview

## Leading Countries of Origin of Immigrants in California, 2006

Country	Number of immigrants in California	
Mexico	4,396,000	← 44% of total
Philippines	750,000	← 7.6% of total
China	659,000	← 6.7% of total
Vietnam	446,000	
El Salvador	396,000	
Korea	323,000	
India	303,000	
Guatemala	241,000	
Iran	182,000	
Taiwan	163,000	
Canada	134,000	
United Kingdom	126,000	

Source: Public Policy  
Institute of California

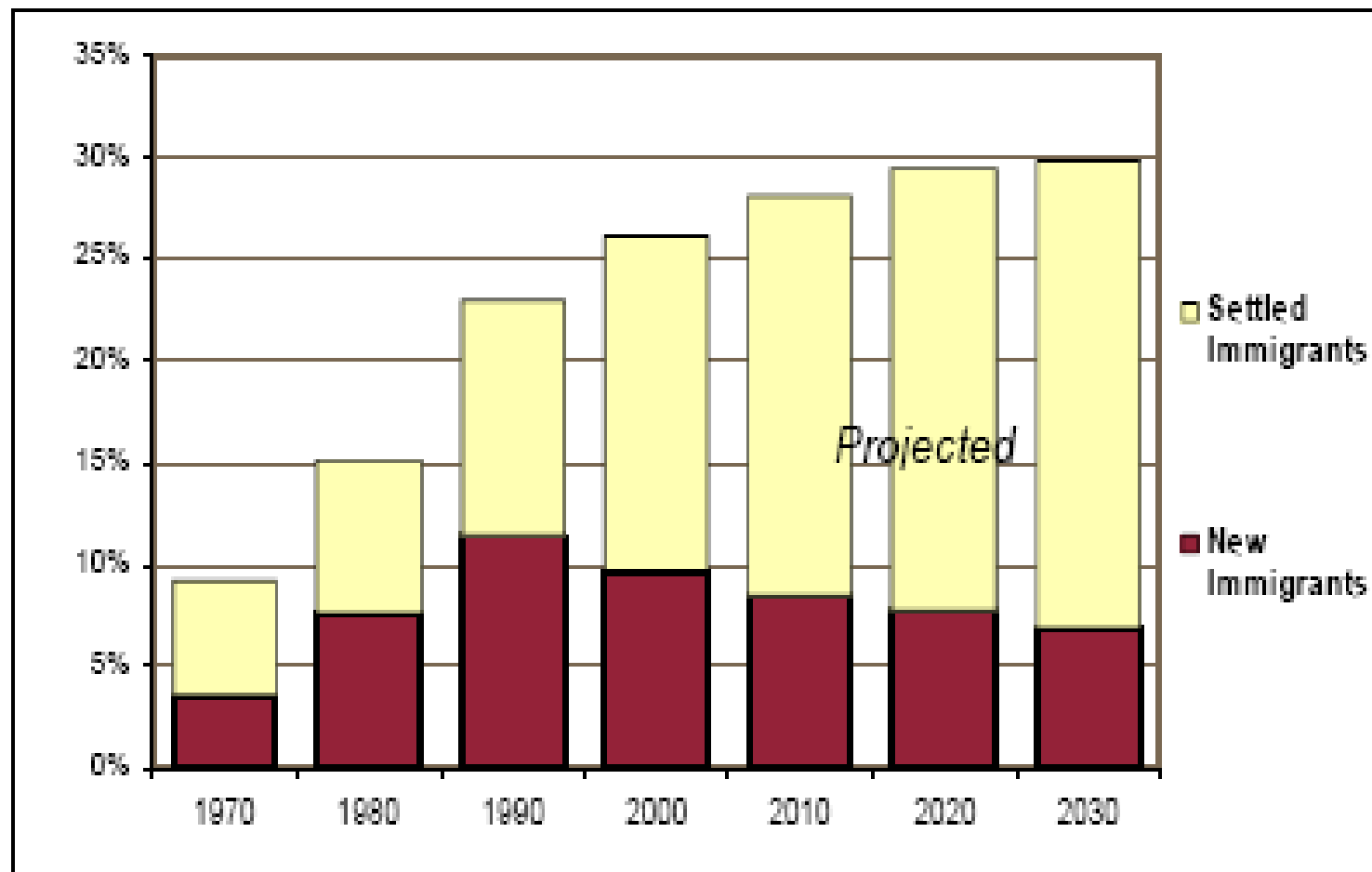
# California's Newcomers – An Overview



Source: Public Policy  
Institute of California

# California's Newcomers – An Overview

Percent Immigrant Share of the Total Population, 1970 to 2030



Source: Dowell Myers (2005): "California Demographic Futures"

# California's Newcomers – An Overview

## Unauthorized Immigrants in California:

- 2.8 million (1/4 of US total) live in California
- California's unauthorized population growth has slowed
  - 50,000 per year between 2000-2006
  - 100,000 per year in the 1990s
- Majority (64%) are from Mexico
- 1 in 11 California workers is unauthorized
- Many live in “mixed-status” families
  - 3.1 million citizen children live in a mixed-status family nationwide

# California's Newcomers – An Overview

- Children of immigrants (“2<sup>nd</sup>-generation”) also key part of picture

Table 1. California's Resident Population, by Immigrant Generation

	All Residents		Adults		Children	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
First generation	9,541,213	27.0	8,758,054	33.9	783,159	8.2
Second generation	7,363,812	20.8	3,392,859	13.1	3,970,954	41.5
Third+ generation	18,489,037	52.2	13,679,781	53.0	4,809,256	50.3

Source: Authors' tabulations from the March 2004 CPS.

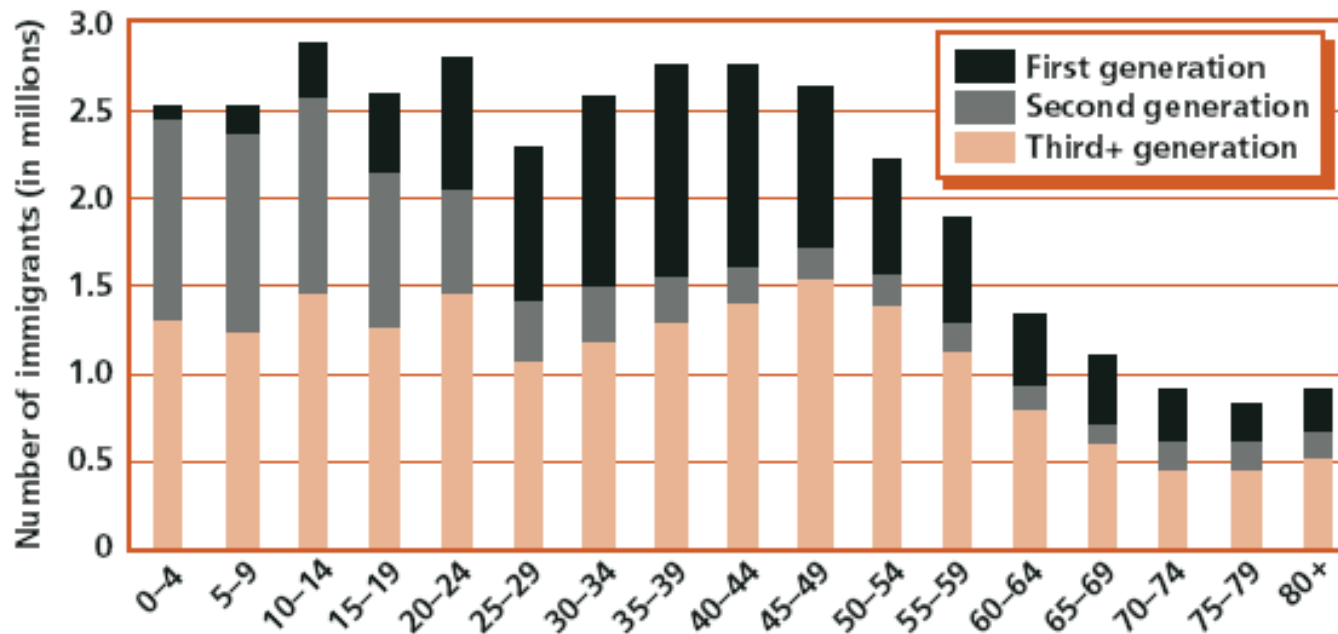
Source: Public Policy Institute of California (2005)

- Nearly half (48%) of Californians are either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>-generation (“immigrant stock”)

# California's Newcomers – An Overview

- ...and they are young...

Figure 2. Age Distribution, by Immigrant Generation in California



Source: Authors' tabulations from the March 2004 CPS.

Source: Public Policy Institute of California (2005)

What is Integration?

# What is Integration?



# What is Integration?

- Integration: “an inevitable process wherein immigrants, their descendants and the host population mutually adapt to one another over time.”
  - Inevitable doesn’t mean smooth or positive
  - Mutual – response of one group toward the other is reciprocated
  - Time – measured in generations, not minutes
- How do we know if integration is happening?
  - Socioeconomic indicators
  - Language
  - Intermarriage
  - Identity

# Immigrant Integration in California

# Immigrant Integration in California

## Socioeconomic indicators

- Socioeconomic Indicators

**Table 5. Percentage Distribution of Educational Attainment, by Immigrant Generation**

	Less Than High School Graduate	High School Graduate	Some College	College Graduate
<b>All Californians</b>	19	24	28	28
First generation	39	21	16	24
Second generation	14	26	31	29
Third+ generation	8	26	35	31
<b>Asian/Pacific Islanders</b>	14	19	22	45
First generation	16	20	20	44
Second generation	4	15	29	52
Third+ generation	7	15	33	45
<b>Latinos</b>	53	22	18	8
First generation	67	16	10	7
Second generation	35	30	26	10
Third+ generation	22	31	36	11
<b>Whites</b>	7	24	33	35
First generation	13	22	23	42
Second generation	9	25	32	35
Third+ generation	6	25	35	35

Sources: Authors' tabulations from the March CPS, 1998, 2000, 2002, and 2004, for adults ages 25 and over.  
 Note: Because of rounding, row percentages do not always add up to 100 percent.

Source: Public Policy Institute of California (2005)

# Immigrant Integration in California

## Socioeconomic indicators

- Educational Progress: 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> generation

Percentage Distribution of the Educational Attainment of First-Generation Parents and Their Second-Generation Adult Children				
Ethnic Group	Less Than High School Diploma	High School Diploma	Some College	College Graduate
<b>All ethnic groups</b>				
First-generation parents	38	30	16	15
Second-generation descendants	10	27	33	30
<b>Mexican origin</b>				
First-generation parents	75	15	7	3
Second-generation descendants	14	36	38	12
<b>Central American<sup>a</sup></b>				
First-generation parents	45	33	11	11
Second-generation descendants	10	32	43	15
<b>Southeast Asian<sup>a</sup></b>				
First-generation parents	29	22	11	37
Second-generation descendants	2	25	21	52
<b>Other Asian</b>				
First-generation parents	16	26	18	41
Second-generation descendants	1	10	23	66
<b>White</b>				
First-generation parents	25	38	20	17
Second-generation descendants	8	26	33	34

SOURCES: Authors' analysis of the *Current Population Survey* (1996–2004).

Source: Public Policy Institute of California (2005)

# Immigrant Integration in California

## Socioeconomic indicators

- Educational Progress: 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> generation

Percentage Distribution of the Educational Attainment of Second-Generation Parents and Their Third-Generation Adult Children

Ethnic Group	Less Than High School Diploma	High School Diploma	Some College	Bachelor's Degree
<b>All ethnic groups</b>				
Second-generation parents	25	39	19	16
Third-generation descendants	9	36	29	26
<b>Mexican origin</b>				
Second-generation parents	54	28	13	5
Third-generation descendants	18	39	33	11
<b>Asian</b>				
Second-generation parents	13	42	30	15
Third-generation descendants	2	21	41	36
<b>White (not Hispanic)</b>				
Second-generation parents	21	42	20	18
Third-generation descendants	8	36	27	29

SOURCES: Authors' analysis of the *Current Population Survey* (1996–2004).

Source: Public Policy Institute of California (2005)

# Immigrant Integration in California

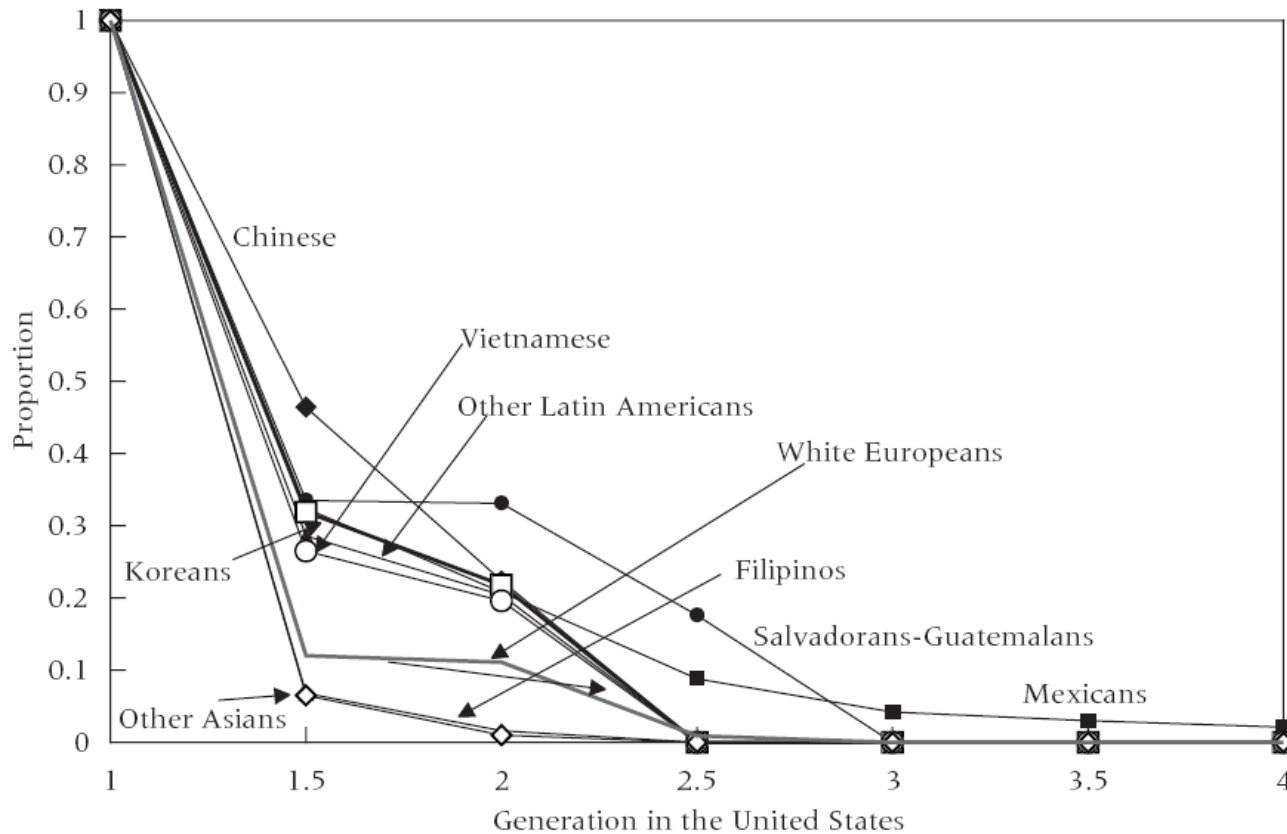
## Socioeconomic indicators

- Overall story: significant intergenerational progress, but...
- Some groups (Asia-origin) doing better than others (Latino-origin)
- Why?
  - Parents' background (education, income, English proficiency, legal status)
    - Background in sending country
  - Expectations of peers and educators
  - School and neighborhood effects

# Immigrant Integration in California Language

- English is NOT threatened

FIGURE 2 Proportion of immigrant group members who speak mother tongue at home by generation



Rumbaut, Massey, Bean (2006)



# Immigrant Integration in California

## Intermarriage

Figure 5

**Percent of Husbands and Wives Interracially Married by Nativity and Citizenship, for Blacks and Asians, 2000**

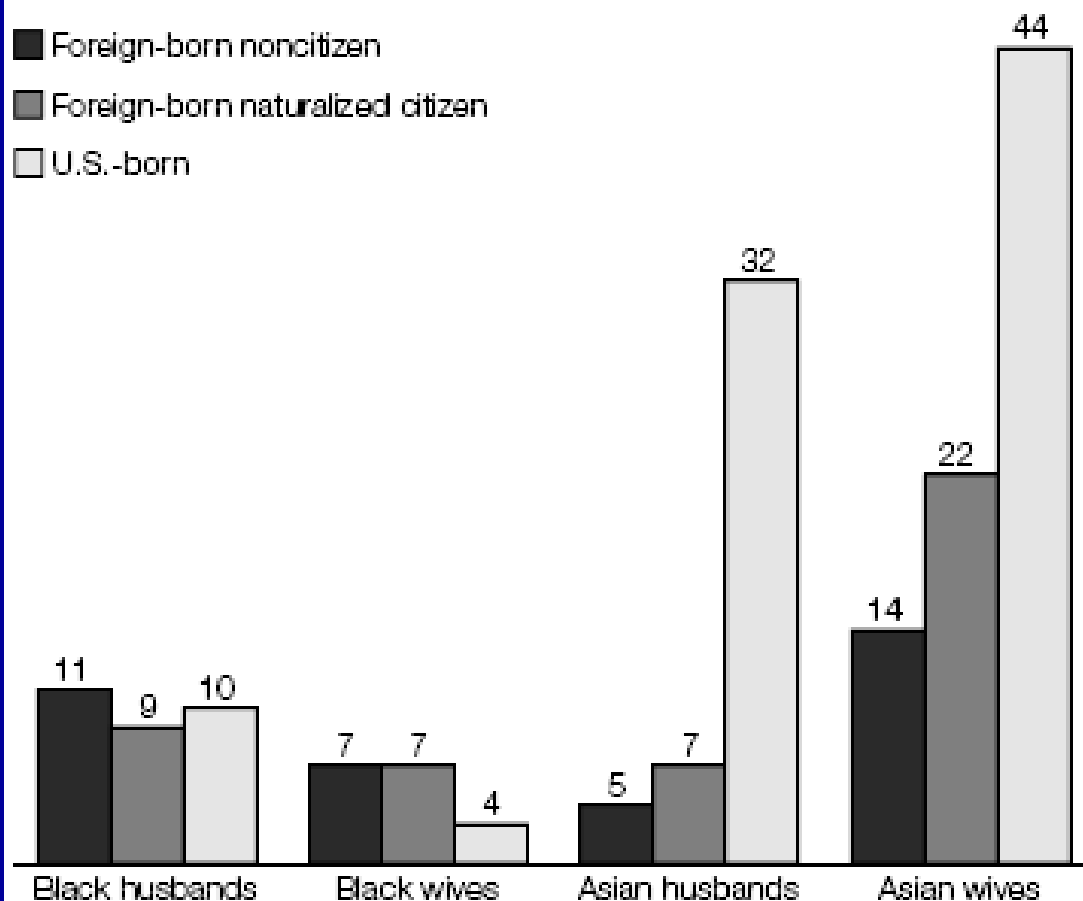
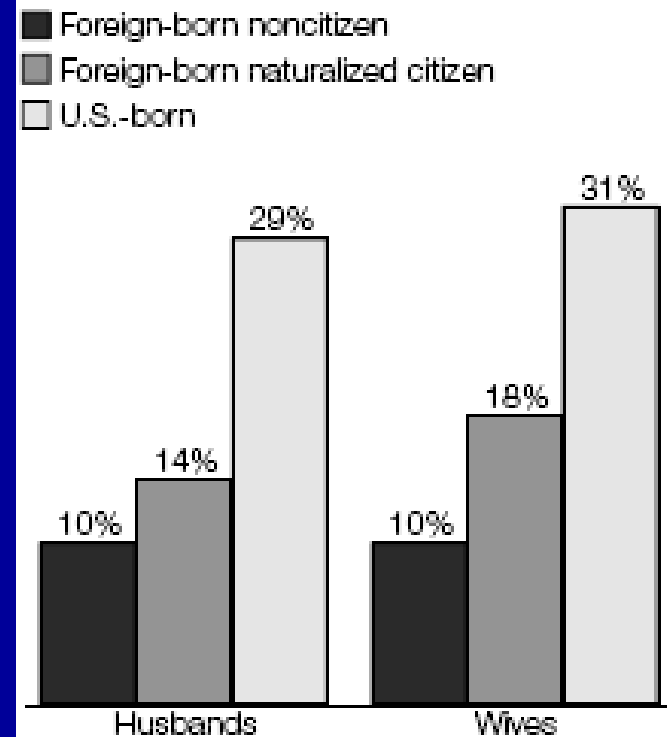


Figure 11

**Percent Married Hispanics With a Non-Hispanic Spouse, by Nativity and Citizenship, 2000**



Source: Authors' analysis of the Census 2000 Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files.

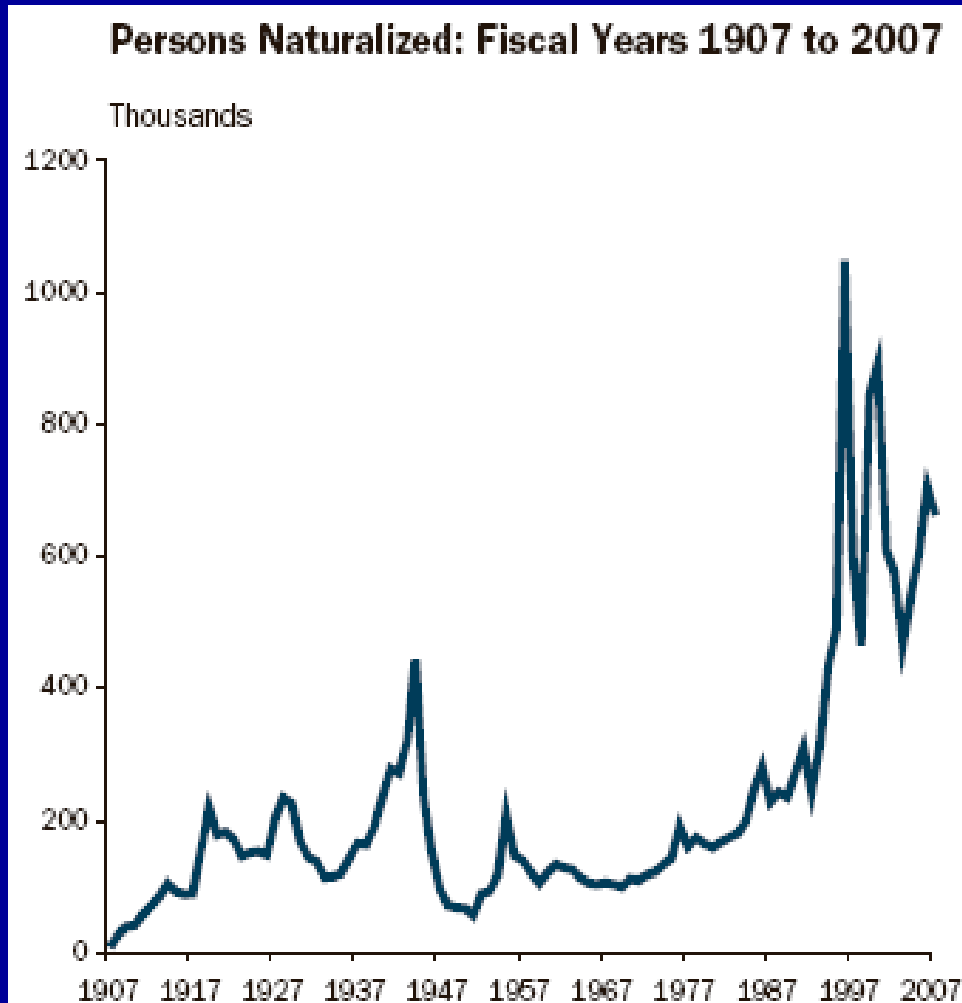
Source: Lee and Edmonston (2005)

# Immigrant Integration in California

## Identity

- Identity is a moving target.
- Immigrants and their descendants change the mainstream as they enter into it.
- Change in identity takes place as people pursue their economic interests
  - “Assimilation is what happens when people make other plans.”
- Citizenship is one way to think about identity.
  - Indicates ties to a particular country

# Immigrant Integration in California Identity



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, N400 naturalization data, Fiscal Years 1907 to 2007.

## California:

- 181,684 (19% increase) in 2007
- 28% of all naturalizations in 2007
- 3 of top 10 metro areas in % of naturalizations
- 3 million eligible LPRs in 2005 had not naturalized; another 736,000 will be eligible by 2010

# Roadblocks




# Roadblocks

- 1. Public Education – engine of integration that is running in low gear

Source: California Department of Education, Bee research

**Statewide, deep disparities in dropout rates exist among ethnic groups.**

**Four-year dropout rate**

American Indian/Alaska native	31.3%	
Asian	10.2%	
Pacific Islander	27.9%	
Filipino	11.9%	
Hispanic/Latino	30.3%	
African American	41.6%	
White	15.2%	
Multiple/no response	30.6%	

Source: California Department of Education

Mitchell Brooks/mbrooks@sacbee.com

Source: Sacramento Bee 7/17/08

# Roadblocks

- 2. Legal status – too many kids growing up without authorization or in households with unauthorized parents
- Hurts integration because
  - Kids can't plan for a future in California's workforce
  - Parents are less apt to be visibly involved in kids' lives
  - Parents are stuck in low-paying jobs
  - No hope of full, formal participation in American society

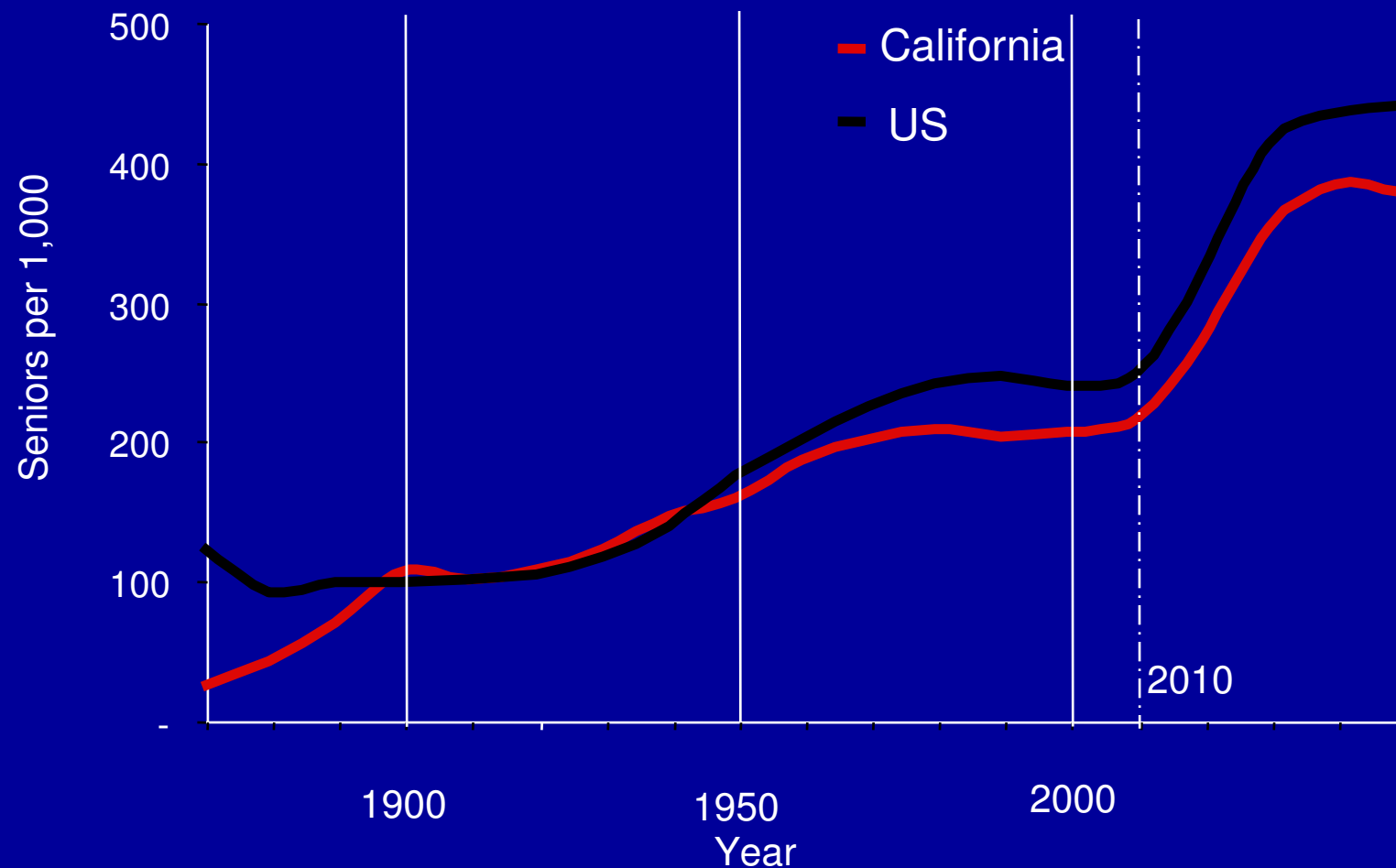
# The Integration Imperative

# The Integration Imperative

- Integration is crucial to California's prosperity
- Imperative becomes clear by looking at two significant demographic changes:
  - 1. Graying of population
  - 2. Growth of immigrant-stock population

# The Integration Imperative

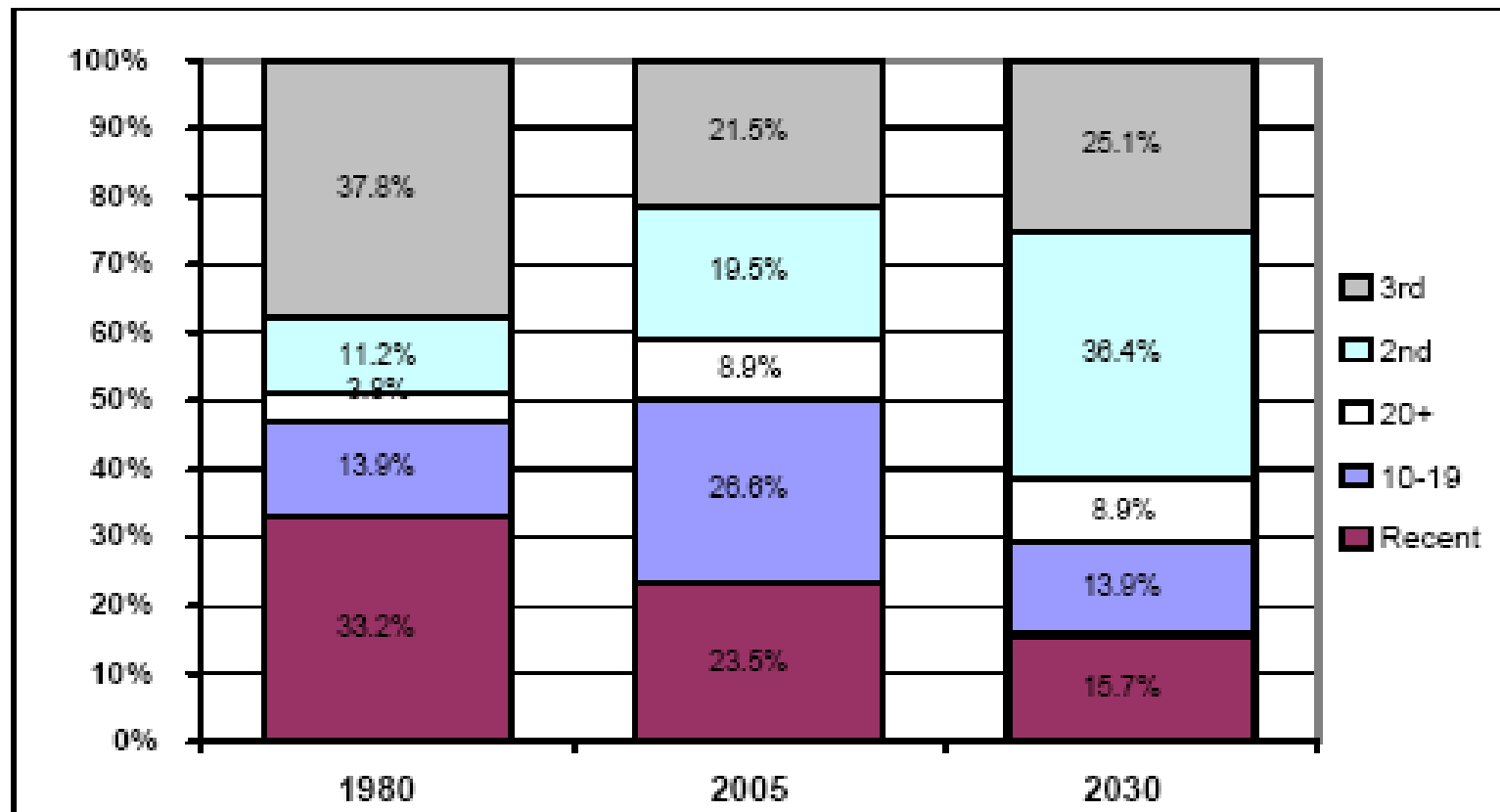
Ratio of Seniors per 1000 Working-Age Residents, ages 25-64



Source: Dowell Myers (2007)

# The Integration Imperative

Percent of California Latinos Age 25-34 who are Recent Immigrants, Longer Settled, or Native-Born Second and Third Generation



Source: Dowell Myers (2005)

# The Integration Imperative

- Tomorrow's workers and leaders will come from today's immigrant stock

Share of Growth in Working Age Population,  
Past and Coming 25 Years,  
Accounted for by Different Generations

25-year Change		
<i>By Nativity and Generation</i>	1980 to 2005	2005 to 2030
Native-Born, Third Generation	22.4	1.1
Native-Born, Second Generation	10.8	59.5
Foreign-Born	66.9	39.3
Total Change	100.0 8,049,383	100.0 6,064,961
<i>By Nativity, Generation, and Hispanic Origin</i>	1980 to 2005	2005 to 2030
Native-Born, Third Generation		
Hispanic	10.1	23.9
Other	12.2	-22.7
Native-Born, Second Generation		
Hispanic	10.5	43.3
Other	0.3	16.2
Foreign-Born		
Hispanic	39.7	23.7
Other	27.1	15.7
Total Change	100.0 8,049,383	100.0 6,064,961

Source:  
Dowell  
Myers  
(2005)

What Can be Done

# What Can be Done

- 1. Do what we are already doing, but better...
- Public education is the engine of integration, and it needs powering.
  - Helps people “make other plans”
- Santa Ana Unified and San Jose Unified – majority-minority school districts with low dropout rates
  - What are they doing right?
- Better funding ESL classes
  - Overenrolled
  - Shortage of teachers (a role for retirees?)
  - Benefit to immigrant newcomers and California natives

# What Can be Done

- 2. Pass California Dream Act and push for passage of federal Dream Act
  - Too many kids have no chance of contributing to economy because of legal status
- 3. Consider State Integration Initiative
  - Focus on English-language acquisition
  - Focus on citizenship
  - Examples: Santa Clara County, Illinois, New Jersey and Massachusetts

# Questions? Comments?

- Additional resources:

## Organizations

- USCIS – Welcome to USA.gov ([www.welcometousa.gov](http://www.welcometousa.gov))
- National Center on Immigrant Integration ([www.migrationinformation.org/integration](http://www.migrationinformation.org/integration))
- Santa Clara County Immigrant Relations and Integration Services ([www.immigrantinfo.org](http://www.immigrantinfo.org))
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights – Immigrant Integration ([www.icirr.org](http://www.icirr.org))
- Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration – ([www.newiowans.org](http://www.newiowans.org))
- Littleton Immigrant Integration Initiative ([www.connectingimmigrants.org](http://www.connectingimmigrants.org))

## Books

- Myers, Dowell. 2007. *Immigrants and Boomers: Forging a New Social Contract for the Future of America*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Fix, Michael. 2007. *Securing the Future: U.S. Immigrant Integration Policy, A Reader*. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute.
- Singer, Audrey, Susan W. Hardwick, and Caroline B. Brettell. 2008. *Twenty-First-Century Gateways: Immigrant Incorporation in Suburban America*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.
- Kasinitz, Phillip, John Mollenkopf, Mary C. Waters, and Jennifer Holdaway. 2008. *Inheriting the City: Immigrant Origins, American Lives*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.