



Estimates of the Lawful Permanent Resident Population in the United States and the Subpopulation Eligible to Naturalize: 2024 and Revised 2023

Sarah Miller
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This report presents annual Office of Homeland Security Statistics (OHSS) estimates of the size and characteristics of the lawful permanent resident (LPR) population present in the United States, and on the subpopulation potentially eligible to naturalize, as of January 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024. LPRs, also known as Green Card holders, are immigrants who have been granted lawful permanent residence, but who have not yet become U.S. citizens. Estimates are tabulated by region and country of birth, initial state of residence, period of entry, age, sex, and broad class of admission. The underlying data were obtained from U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) administrative records for LPRs who entered the United States in 1980 or later, supplemented with estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) for LPRs who entered before 1980. This report includes revised 2023 estimates, utilizing improvements to the derivative citizenship methodology, and presents a consistent methodological time series from 2023 to 2024. Please see the appendix for a detailed discussion of changes to the derivative citizenship methodology. The estimation methodology is otherwise similar to that used in previous DHS estimates (see Miller and Baker 2023).

OHSS estimates there were 12.8 million LPRs living in the United States on January 1, 2024, an increase of 70,000 LPRs from the revised 2023 estimate. While the inflow of new LPRs during 2023 surpassed the pre-pandemic average of 1.1 million per year, this growth was offset by new naturalizations, derivations of citizenship status, and attrition through emigration and mortality.¹ The slight growth in the resident LPR population of 0.6 percent was a reversal from the decline observed from 2019 to 2023 (see Baker 2022; Baker and Miller 2022; Miller and Baker 2023), but still only about half of the average growth rate observed between 2015 and 2019.

A plurality of the LPR population living in the United States as of January 2024 were born in Mexico, accounting for about a quarter of the total. Over half of the 12.8 million LPRs lived in just four states: California, New York, Texas, and Florida. More than half were between the ages of 35 and 65 and females outnumbered males by a small margin. More recent entries dominated the LPR population; the largest entry cohort entered between 2015 and 2019 at a quarter of the total, followed by the 2020 to present entry cohort with 17 percent of the total LPR population living in the United States. Nearly two-thirds of the resident LPR population entered as an Immediate Relative of a U.S. citizen or through a family-sponsored preference category.

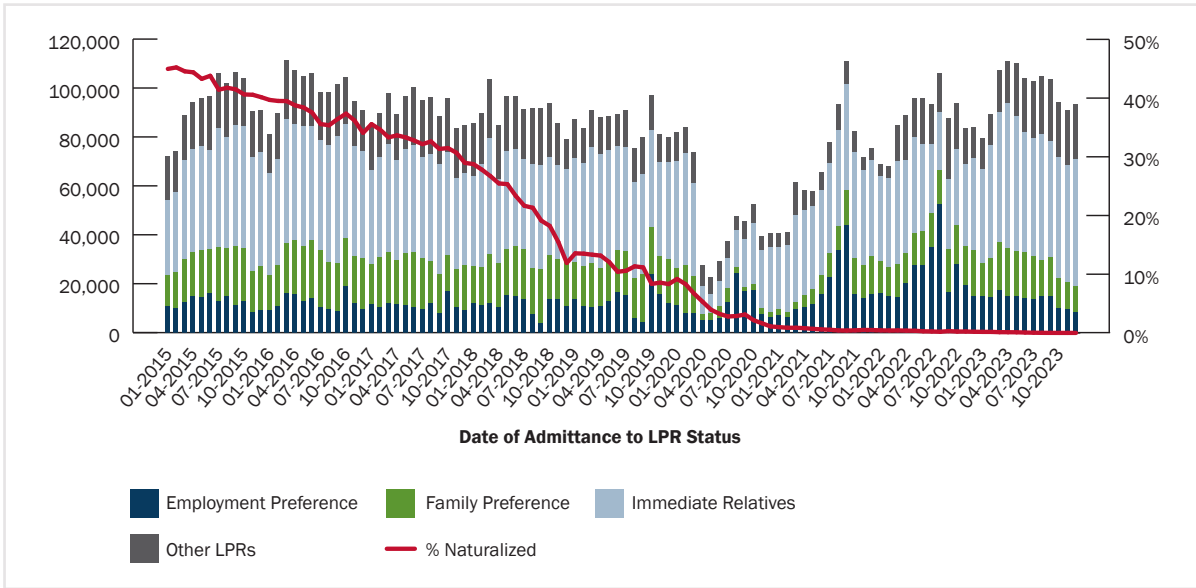
Of the 12.8 million LPRs, 8.7 million met the naturalization age and length of residency requirements as an LPR and thus were potentially eligible to naturalize on January 1, 2024.² Compared to the revised 2023 estimate of 8.9 million, this was a decrease of 210,000. Attrition from the eligible to naturalize population, due to naturalizations, derivation of citizenship status from a parent, emigration, and mortality far outpaced the number of those newly becoming eligible to naturalize in 2023. The 2018 LPR cohort satisfied their residency requirement of five years during 2023 and composed the majority of this newly eligible group. Second largest, but also smaller than typical due to the pandemic, was the portion of the 2020 LPR cohort who are eligible after only three years of residency. Decreases in the eligible to naturalize population are expected to continue through 2026 as the significantly reduced pandemic LPR cohorts of 2020 and 2021 continue to meet their residency requirements while the pre-pandemic LPR cohorts continue to naturalize (Figure 1).

¹ The use of "pandemic" throughout this report refers to the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the pre-pandemic time period used here is calendar years 2014 through 2019.

² Most LPRs who have attained 18 years of age and satisfied their required length of residency as an LPR are eligible to naturalize, though certain LPRs who meet these core requirements may fail to qualify for other reasons, and certain noncitizens may be eligible without meeting these requirements (see *Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) §§ 312-331* and Appendix 1 for details). For the purpose of this report, "eligible to naturalize" refers to the satisfaction of these core requirements for age and length of residency; hereafter, the word "potentially" is omitted for simplicity.

Figure 1.

LPR Inflows by Category and Month and Percent Naturalized: January 2015–December 2023



Note: Naturalization percentages are defined based on naturalizations as a share of LPRs admitted in each month, not as a share of the total number of LPRs or the total eligible-to-naturalize population.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) data.

The demographic characteristics of the population eligible to naturalize remained similar to earlier years and the resident LPR population: over a quarter of eligible-to-naturalize LPRs were from Mexico (more than four times the proportion of the next highest country); nearly 60 percent resided in California, New York, Texas, or Florida; and almost the same proportion were between 35 and 65 years of age. Almost half of the eligible to naturalize population entered in the past 20 years. In terms of the sex ratio and broad class of admission, the subgroup eligible to naturalize was very similar to the larger resident LPR population.

BACKGROUND

The INA directs DHS to report annually on the size and characteristics of the LPR population to support Congress and the public’s ability to assess the impact of immigration on the United States.³ DHS collects data measuring administrative events such as the number of noncitizens granted lawful permanent residence, the number approved for naturalization, and the number requesting certification of status derivation, but the Department does not collect data on the total population of LPRs or the population of LPRs eligible to naturalize at a point in time. Further, no nationally representative surveys distinguish between LPRs and other foreign-born persons. Therefore, national population data on the major subcategories of foreign-born persons including naturalized citizens, LPRs, nonimmigrants, and unauthorized immigrants are not available and must be estimated.

METHODOLOGY

DHS estimates the size of the LPR population at a point in time in four stages. The first stage converts LPR inflow from 1980 through the estimation date into an estimate of the LPRs currently residing in the United States by accounting for naturalization, derivative citizenship, and attrition due to mortality and emigration. The second stage draws a population estimate from the ACS for noncitizens who entered the United States before 1980 and adjusts for attrition that occurred between ACS data collection and the date of this DHS estimate.⁴ The third stage generates the total LPR population size

³ INA §§ 103(d)-(e).

⁴ All noncitizens represented in the ACS who entered prior to 1980 are assumed to be LPRs. Under the registry provisions of immigration law, noncitizens are eligible for LPR status if they have lived continuously in the United States since January 1, 1972 and meet other basic requirements. Additionally, certain persons living in the United States before 1982 as unauthorized residents were permitted to adjust to LPR status under the provisions of the *Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986*.

as the sum of the estimates for the two time periods. In the fourth and final stage, the subpopulation that is eligible to naturalize is estimated by reducing the LPR population estimate to account for age and residency requirements. See Appendix 1 for a detailed discussion.

FINDINGS

Nearly 39.6 million immigrants who entered the United States in 1980 or later became LPRs by January 1, 2024 (Table 1). Half of that total have naturalized by the end of 2023, and another 5.0 percent derived citizenship from a parent.⁵ Of the remaining 17.7 million LPRs, about 5.6 million are estimated to have died and/or emigrated, leaving a population of 12 million. After adjusting the pre-1980 arrivals for mortality and emigration, an additional 800,000 noncitizens brings the total population of LPRs living in the United States on January 1, 2024 to an estimated 12.8 million. Of those LPRs, about 8.9 million are adults who have met their residency requirement and are eligible to naturalize. Compared to 2023, the eligible to naturalize population decreased by about 210,000 (2.4 percent). While just under three-fourths of the total LPR population are eligible to naturalize, this subpopulation is very similar to the total resident population in terms of characteristics and proportions of the total.

Table 1.

Components of the Population Estimate: Revised 2023 and 2024 Estimates

	Revised 2023 Estimate	2024 Estimate
Population 1: Population of LPRs who entered in 1980+ and obtained status before the estimate date		
LPRs entered and obtained status from 1980 through the estimate date	38,360,000	39,550,000
- Naturalized by the estimate date	19,030,000	19,880,000
- Derived citizenship by the estimate date	1,930,000	2,010,000
= Non-naturalized/non-derivative subtotal	17,400,000	17,660,000
- Mortality	1,680,000	1,760,000
- Emigration	3,820,000	3,880,000
= Subtotal (remaining population of LPRs entered and obtained status in 1980+)	11,900,000	12,030,000
Population 2: Population of LPRs entered before 1980 from the ACS		
Population of LPRs entered before 1980	900,000	840,000
- Emigration and mortality adjustment	50,000	50,000
= Subtotal (population of LPRs entered before 1980)	850,000	800,000
Population 3: Population of LPRs eligible to naturalize		
Total LPR Population (non-USC) (Population 1 + Population 2)	12,750,000	12,820,000
- Ineligible total	3,860,000	4,150,000
Ineligible (minor)	940,000	940,000
Ineligible (residency requirement)	2,930,000	3,200,000
= Population of LPRs potentially eligible to naturalize	8,890,000	8,680,000

Notes: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. For exceptions to the core criteria used to indicate eligibility or lack thereof in this report, see INA §§ 312-331 and Appendix 1. For a discussion of the changes between the original and revised 2023 estimates, see methodology discussion in Appendix 1. The 2021 ACS was used for the 2023 estimates, and the 2022 ACS was used for the 2024 estimate.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS and U.S. Census Bureau data.

⁵ Certain children may automatically acquire citizenship upon the naturalization of a parent if the parent naturalizes before the child's 18th birthday (see INA §§ 320).

Three-quarters of LPRs in the United States were born in North America or Asia (Table 2). Mexico alone accounted for over half of the North American region and nearly a quarter of all resident LPRs. The top countries of birth for the LPR population were Mexico, the People’s Republic of China (China), India, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba. The subpopulation eligible to naturalize was similar to the total LPR population, but a slightly larger proportion of LPRs eligible to naturalize are from the North American region (driven by those of Mexican origin) compared to the total LPR population. More than 25 percent of the LPRs who were eligible to naturalize in 2023 were from Mexico. The next leading countries of birth after Mexico were China, with 6.0 percent, followed by the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and the Philippines with 4.0 percent each. The differences in rank among countries of birth reflects more recent immigration flows, for example, India is the third leading country of birth for remaining LPRs, but sixth among the eligible to naturalize. The top 20 countries composed over 70 percent of the LPR population eligible to naturalize.

Table 2.
Estimated Resident LPR and Eligible to Naturalize Populations by Region and Country of Birth:
January 2023 to January 2024

Region of Birth	2023*		2024			
	LPR Population	Eligible to Naturalize	LPR Population		Eligible to Naturalize	
Total	12,750,000	8,890,000	12,820,000	100%	8,680,000	100%
Africa	820,000	440,000	810,000	6%	430,000	5%
Asia	4,090,000	2,530,000	4,100,000	32%	2,480,000	29%
Europe	1,340,000	1,020,000	1,320,000	10%	1,000,000	12%
North America	5,550,000	4,280,000	5,630,000	44%	4,190,000	48%
Caribbean	1,620,000	1,170,000	1,690,000	13%	1,140,000	13%
Central America	750,000	510,000	760,000	6%	510,000	6%
Other North America	3,180,000	2,600,000	3,180,000	25%	2,540,000	29%
Oceania	80,000	70,000	80,000	1%	60,000	1%
South America	850,000	530,000	880,000	7%	510,000	6%
Unknown	20,000	10,000	20,000	0%	10,000	0%
Country of Birth						
Total	12,750,000	8,890,000	12,820,000	100%	8,680,000	100%
Mexico	2,910,000	2,380,000	2,920,000	23%	2,320,000	27%
China, People's Republic	820,000	550,000	830,000	6%	560,000	6%
Dominican Republic	580,000	390,000	600,000	5%	390,000	4%
Cuba	500,000	390,000	550,000	4%	370,000	4%
Philippines	490,000	340,000	490,000	4%	330,000	4%
India	630,000	280,000	630,000	5%	270,000	3%
El Salvador	330,000	220,000	330,000	3%	220,000	3%
Vietnam	340,000	220,000	340,000	3%	210,000	2%
Canada	260,000	220,000	260,000	2%	210,000	2%
Korea, South	270,000	200,000	270,000	2%	200,000	2%
United Kingdom	230,000	190,000	220,000	2%	180,000	2%
Haiti	220,000	160,000	210,000	2%	150,000	2%
Jamaica	210,000	150,000	210,000	2%	140,000	2%
Colombia	200,000	130,000	210,000	2%	130,000	2%
Guatemala	180,000	120,000	190,000	1%	130,000	1%
Germany	140,000	120,000	140,000	1%	130,000	1%
Japan	130,000	120,000	140,000	1%	120,000	1%
Ecuador	120,000	80,000	120,000	1%	80,000	1%
Poland	90,000	80,000	90,000	1%	80,000	1%
Peru	110,000	80,000	110,000	1%	80,000	1%
Unknown	20,000	10,000	20,000	0%	10,000	0%
Other	3,950,000	2,450,000	3,940,000	31%	2,360,000	27%

* The estimate for 2023 has been updated compared to the previous edition of this report.

Notes: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Countries are sorted by size of the eligible to naturalize population in 2024. China does not include Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau. For exceptions to the core criteria used to indicate eligibility or lack thereof in this report, see INA §§ 312-331 and Appendix 1.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS and U.S. Census Bureau data.

Table 3 describes the initial or current state of residence for LPRs and those eligible to naturalize. ACS data on current state of residence are available for LPRs who arrived prior to 1980. For all other LPRs, the only available data are based on LPRs' state of residence at the time they obtained LPR status. Many years have passed in most of these cases, so the accuracy of these state-of-residence data depends on the extent to which in- and out-migration rates vary from state to state. With this important caveat, the most common state of residence among both the LPR population and LPRs eligible to naturalize in 2023 was California (nearly a quarter), followed by New York, Texas, and Florida (Table 3). These top four states composed nearly 60 percent of the total for both the LPR population and among those eligible to naturalize.

Table 3.
Estimated Resident LPR and Eligible to Naturalize Populations by Initial or Current State of Residence:
January 2023 to January 2024

State	2023*		2024			
	LPR Population	Eligible to Naturalize	LPR Population		Eligible to Naturalize	
Total	12,750,000	8,890,000	12,820,000	100%	8,680,000	100%
California	2,890,000	2,160,000	2,880,000	22%	2,120,000	24%
New York	1,580,000	1,130,000	1,570,000	12%	1,100,000	13%
Texas	1,360,000	970,000	1,370,000	11%	930,000	11%
Florida	1,260,000	870,000	1,320,000	10%	850,000	10%
New Jersey	570,000	380,000	580,000	5%	370,000	4%
Illinois	500,000	360,000	500,000	4%	350,000	4%
Massachusetts	340,000	210,000	340,000	3%	210,000	2%
Washington	300,000	180,000	300,000	2%	180,000	2%
Arizona	240,000	180,000	250,000	2%	180,000	2%
Virginia	280,000	180,000	280,000	2%	170,000	2%
Georgia	270,000	170,000	270,000	2%	170,000	2%
Pennsylvania	270,000	170,000	270,000	2%	160,000	2%
Maryland	240,000	150,000	240,000	2%	150,000	2%
Michigan	200,000	130,000	200,000	2%	130,000	1%
North Carolina	200,000	120,000	200,000	2%	120,000	1%
Colorado	150,000	110,000	160,000	1%	100,000	1%
Connecticut	140,000	100,000	140,000	1%	100,000	1%
Nevada	130,000	90,000	130,000	1%	90,000	1%
Ohio	160,000	100,000	160,000	1%	90,000	1%
Oregon	110,000	80,000	110,000	1%	80,000	1%
Unknown	40,000	20,000	30,000	1%	20,000	1%
Other	1,520,000	1,030,000	1,520,000	12%	1,010,000	12%

* The estimate for 2023 has been updated compared to the previous edition of this report.

Notes: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. States are sorted by size of the eligible to naturalize population in 2024. Residency data are based on residency at time of entry for LPRs arriving after 1980 and based on current state of residence as reported in the 2022 Census ACS for LPRs arriving prior to 1980; for exceptions to the core criteria used to indicate eligibility or lack thereof in this report, see INA §§ 312-331 and Appendix 1.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS and U.S. Census Bureau data.

The sex ratio among both the resident LPR population and those eligible to naturalize leaned slightly female (Table 4). This sex ratio has remained stable over time among LPRs. Females outnumbered males at 52 percent among the total LPR population, driven by larger female LPR inflows and lower mortality rates. The larger female share is partially offset for the eligible to naturalize population (51 percent) because female LPRs also naturalize at a higher rate.⁶

⁶ See Baker, 2022.

Table 4.**Estimated Resident LPR and Eligible to Naturalize Populations by Sex:
January 2023 to January 2024**

Sex	2023*		2024			
	LPR Population	Eligible to Naturalize	LPR Population		Eligible to Naturalize	
Total	12,750,000	8,890,000	12,820,000	100%	8,680,000	100%
Female	6,630,000	4,560,000	6,680,000	52%	4,450,000	51%
Male	6,130,000	4,330,000	6,140,000	48%	4,220,000	49%

* The estimate for 2023 has been updated compared to the previous edition of this report.

Notes: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. For exceptions to the core criteria used to indicate eligibility or lack thereof in this report, see INA §§ 312-331 and Appendix 1.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS and U.S. Census Bureau data.

Table 5 describes the age distribution of the LPR and the eligible to naturalize populations. Both the resident LPR and eligible to naturalize population had nearly the same age distribution in 2024 as compared to the revised 2023 estimate. These age distributions have remained largely stable over time, with only minor growth in the older populations. The eligible to naturalize group were older than the larger LPR population, with almost two-thirds of the eligible to naturalize aged 45 and older compared to just over half of the total LPR residents. These differences are largely explained by younger immigrants' higher tendency to naturalize.

Table 5.**Estimated Resident LPR and Eligible to Naturalize Populations by Age Group:
January 2023 to January 2024**

Age Group	2023*		2024			
	LPR Population	Eligible to Naturalize	LPR Population		Eligible to Naturalize	
Total	12,750,000	8,890,000	12,820,000	100%	8,680,000	100%
00-17	940,000	0	940,000	7%	0	0%
18-24	890,000	520,000	860,000	7%	480,000	6%
25-34	1,950,000	1,270,000	1,940,000	15%	1,190,000	14%
35-44	2,270,000	1,490,000	2,280,000	18%	1,440,000	17%
45-54	2,270,000	1,740,000	2,270,000	18%	1,680,000	19%
55-64	2,130,000	1,800,000	2,190,000	17%	1,820,000	21%
65-74	1,410,000	1,230,000	1,450,000	11%	1,250,000	14%
75 and over	900,000	830,000	890,000	7%	820,000	9%

* The estimate for 2023 has been updated compared to the previous edition of this report.

Notes: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. For exceptions to the core criteria used to indicate eligibility or lack thereof in this report, see INA §§ 312-331 and Appendix 1.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS and U.S. Census Bureau data.

Table 6 describes entry cohorts of the resident LPR and eligible to naturalize populations, where entry cohort is defined by when individuals first entered the United States, not necessarily when LPR status was obtained. As a result, some individuals who have been present more than five years are not yet eligible to naturalize because they only recently became LPRs. For example, only about 80 percent of the 2010-2014 cohort are eligible to naturalize as of January 2024 despite having been in the United States for over a decade.

Given over 3 million LPRs had not yet satisfied the U.S. residency requirement for naturalization eligibility and nearly one million more were still minors, differences exist between the LPR population and the subgroup eligible to naturalize by entry cohort. Among the resident LPR population, the largest entry cohort was the 2015 through 2019 period at a quarter of the total. Just over half of this cohort were eligible to naturalize, making it the largest among the eligible to naturalize at a fifth of the total as well. The second largest entry cohort of the resident LPR population were the most recent arrivals, those who have entered since 2020. However, less than 1.0 percent of that cohort were eligible to naturalize as of January 1, 2024. The second largest entry cohort among those eligible to naturalize was the 2010 to 2014 arrivals, 13 percent of the total resident LPR population but 16 percent of those eligible to naturalize.

The numbers for the more recent entry years will continue to swell as current LPRs enter adulthood and/or satisfy their residency requirements. The number of eligible-to-naturalize pre-1980 entrants will continue to decline, mostly due to mortality instead of emigration or naturalization, because the bulk of those LPRs are well established and less likely to emigrate, but they are also well past the usual ages for naturalization.

Table 6.

Estimated Resident LPR and Eligible to Naturalize Populations by Period of Entry: January 2023 to January 2024

Entry Period	2023*		2024			
	LPR Population	Eligible to Naturalize	LPR Population		Eligible to Naturalize	
Total	12,750,000	8,890,000	12,820,000	100%	8,680,000	100%
<1980	850,000	850,000	800,000	6%	800,000	9%
1980-1984	510,000	510,000	490,000	4%	490,000	6%
1985-1989	760,000	750,000	730,000	6%	720,000	8%
1990-1994	810,000	760,000	770,000	6%	730,000	8%
1995-1999	870,000	790,000	820,000	6%	760,000	9%
2000-2004	1,110,000	1,020,000	1,040,000	8%	960,000	11%
2005-2009	1,280,000	1,150,000	1,190,000	9%	1,090,000	13%
2010-2014	1,790,000	1,460,000	1,610,000	13%	1,350,000	16%
2015-2019	3,530,000	1,600,000	3,180,000	25%	1,740,000	20%
2020+	1,250,000	0	2,190,000	17%	40,000	0%

* The estimate for 2023 has been updated compared to the previous edition of this report.

Notes: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. The year an individual entered may precede the year in which that individual obtained LPR status. For exceptions to the core criteria used to indicate eligibility or lack thereof in this report, see INA §§ 312-331 and Appendix 1.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS and U.S. Census Bureau data.

The majority of the resident LPR population and the subgroup eligible to naturalize are family based LPRs: 40 percent were admitted as the immediate relative of a U.S. citizen while an additional 20 percent were admitted through family-sponsored preference (Table 7). The third largest group among the resident LPR population was employment-based preference, while it was the fifth largest group among the subgroup eligible to naturalize. Refugees and asylees were the third largest group eligible to naturalize. U.S. immigration policy has long prioritized family reunification, as evidenced by the size of family based LPRs. The proportionally larger group of employment-based LPRs among the resident population compared to the eligible to naturalize population may be due to the large inflow of recent LPRs after the pandemic, when unused family-sponsored visas were reallocated to employment-based preferences. These recent arrivals have not yet satisfied their residency requirement.

Table 7.

Estimated Resident LPR and Eligible to Naturalize Populations by Broad Class of Admission: January 2024

Broad Class of Admission	2024			
	LPR Population		Eligible to Naturalize	
Total	12,820,000	100%	8,680,000	100%
Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens	5,180,000	40%	3,480,000	40%
Family-sponsored preferences	2,610,000	20%	1,800,000	21%
Refugees and asylees	1,320,000	10%	960,000	11%
Employment-based preferences	1,620,000	13%	710,000	8%
IRCA legalization	390,000	3%	390,000	5%
Diversity	400,000	3%	190,000	2%
Other	410,000	4%	330,000	4%
ACS- Unknown	800,000	6%	800,000	9%

Notes: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. The Other category contains the unknown class of admission for LPRs who entered after 1980. The LPRs who entered before 1980 and who are measured through the ACS are listed separately as the ACS does not measure class of admission. Classes are sorted by size of the eligible to naturalize population. For exceptions to the core criteria used to indicate eligibility or lack thereof in this report, see INA §§ 312-331 and Appendix 1.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics analysis of USCIS and U.S. Census Bureau data.

Appendix 1:

DETAILED METHODOLOGY

Stage 1: LPRs who entered in 1980 or later. Stage 1 starts with administrative records of LPR admissions and adjustments to LPR status for all persons who entered and obtained LPR status in 1980 or later.⁷ That population is then reduced by subtracting out LPRs who entered the United States prior to 1980 and LPRs who naturalized or derived citizenship status from a parent prior to the estimate date.⁸ Finally, attrition due to mortality and emigration is estimated based on risk for each LPR in each year from acquisition of LPR status through the estimate date, with mortality risk drawn from National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) life tables by age and sex, and emigration risk drawn from an emigration schedule adapted from U.S. Census Bureau emigration risk research.

Naturalization. LPRs who subsequently naturalized are excluded by matching individual LPR and naturalization records by Alien Registration Number.⁹

Derivative Citizenship. In most cases, LPRs under 18 years of age automatically acquire U.S. citizenship upon the naturalization of one or both parents.¹⁰ Derivative citizens may choose to apply for a certificate documenting citizenship or forego a certificate in favor of a U.S. passport, but they are not required to obtain official documentation, and many may choose not to do so.¹¹

In previous editions of this report where only summary data were available, the approved certificates were randomly assigned to minor LPRs proportionally based on their year of admittance to LPR status distribution. In this report, newly available microdata on certificates of citizenship are incorporated and matched to LPR records by alien registration number. Also newly available data on LPRs who submit their green card when applying for a U.S. passport provide an additional method to identify derivative citizens. This secondary data source allows for a more complete picture of derivative citizenship as some LPRs may opt for the passport over the certificate. Random assignment was still used for certificates approved prior to Fiscal Year 2012, but they are now allocated based on the observed distribution of time between LPR admittance and certificate approval. Despite newly available microdata and an updated methodology, the number of derivative citizens is likely still an undercount due to individuals who do not obtain official proof. This means that too few derivative citizens are subtracted from the LPR inflow in Stage 1, but the extent of underestimation (and the resulting over-estimate of the remaining LPR population) is unknown.

The new derivative citizenship methodology has several effects on the revised 2023 estimates compared to the original estimates previously published. The revised methodology identifies more total derivative citizens and more long-term residents than recent arrivals as derivative citizens compared to the original 2023 estimate. The shift to more recent arrivals among resident LPRs yields lower estimates of emigration given the population has fewer years of accumulated emigration risk. The revised methodology estimates a slightly larger resident LPR population due to these changes, and a smaller eligible to naturalize population because there are more recent arrivals who have not yet met their residency requirement for naturalization.

⁷ All noncitizens who entered prior to 1980 are assumed to be LPRs; see footnote 5.

⁸ Some persons who became LPRs in 1980 or later entered the United States under a different status before 1980.

⁹ Alien registration numbers (also called A-numbers) are unique personal identifiers assigned to a noncitizen by DHS.

¹⁰ Prior to February 2001, children obtained derivative citizenship upon the naturalization of both parents. *The Child Citizenship Act of 2000*, Pub.L. 106-395, amended the INA to allow for derivative citizenship based on the naturalization of a single parent, applying to children under 18 years of age as of February 27, 2001.

¹¹ The Form N-600, *Application for Certificate of Citizenship*, currently carries a filing fee of \$1,385 (\$1,335 if filed online), though some individuals may qualify for a fee waiver (application Form I-912, *Request for a Fee Waiver*). Alternatively, a U.S. passport card and/or book can be obtained for a child for \$50 to \$165, depending on the age of the child. Note that a Certificate of Citizenship does not expire, whereas a U.S. passport card and/or book does expire.

Mortality and Emigration. Reliable, direct measurements of LPR mortality and emigration do not exist, so attrition due to mortality and emigration is estimated for each year from acquisition of LPR status through the estimate date. LPRs are survived forward (i.e., reduced for mortality) using NCHS mortality rates from 1999–2001 decennial life tables by age and sex (see Arias et al, 2008).¹² Emigration is estimated using a schedule based on research on emigration of the foreign-born population by the U.S. Census Bureau (see Ahmed and Robinson, 1994), adapted into a schedule for use with the LPR population (see Warren, 2003).¹³ Warren’s schedule assumes an emigration rate of 3.258 percent in the first year and decreases each subsequent year’s rate by 5.0 percent. In addition, individuals who obtained LPR status as refugees and asylees, having escaped persecution in their previous home countries, are assumed to emigrate at a rate of 0.0 percent.¹⁴

While COVID-19 is expected to have affected the rates of both emigration and mortality, the exact magnitude and/or direction of these impacts is still unknown. It is likely mortality rates increased, but future research is needed to determine the exact adjustments to emigration and mortality schedules to account for the influence of COVID-19.

Stage 2: LPRs who entered before 1980. Stage 2 starts with the 2022 one-year ACS Public Use Microdata Sample data on noncitizens and naturalized citizens who entered before 1980. While the ACS represents the average value over a calendar year, to produce an estimate as of a specific date, it is treated in this analysis as the midpoint of 2022 and shifted forward to the estimate date by applying one and a half years of mortality and emigration risk. Mortality and emigration are calculated using the same schedules as in Stage 1, but with risk zeroed out for all years prior to the ACS estimate year.

Stage 3: Full LPR population. The total LPR population is the sum of the Stage 1 population of LPRs who entered in 1980 or later and the Stage 2 population of LPRs who entered before 1980.

Stage 4: LPR Subpopulation Eligible to Naturalize. LPRs generally become eligible to naturalize after turning 18 years of age and meeting U.S. residency and other requirements. The population eligible to naturalize is estimated by first filtering the LPR population to those 18 years of age and older, and then filtering to those who have met the residency requirements based on class and year of admission.

Most LPRs are required to meet a five-year residency requirement after obtaining LPR status, but persons adjusting to LPR status as spouses of U.S. citizens generally are only subject to a three-year requirement, and the five-year clock starts earlier for persons adjusting to LPR status under certain other classes of admission. For asylees adjusting to LPR status, the date of LPR admission is rolled back to one year prior to the date on which the LPR application was approved, so asylees are assumed to be eligible to naturalize after four years as an LPR. For immigrants adjusting to LPR status as refugees, Lautenberg parolees, or through cancellation of removal, the date of LPR admission is rolled back to the date of arrival in the United States as a refugee, the date of parole, or the date of cancellation of removal. This report assumes that two years elapse between the earlier dates and the date of approval of the application for permanent residence so that these LPRs are eligible to naturalize three years after obtaining LPR status.¹⁵

¹² This method may overestimate mortality because immigration favors younger, healthier people, and because older or less healthy immigrants may be more likely to emigrate than members of the native-born population.

¹³ Attrition due to emigration must be estimated because reliable, direct measurements of LPR emigration do not exist.

¹⁴ See Baker 2021 on limitations of this approach.

¹⁵ Several other exceptions to the five-year residency requirement exist, most of which affect small numbers of immigrants. For example, under certain circumstances (e.g., military service in time of hostilities), certain noncitizens may be permitted to naturalize without first becoming an LPR, and some categories (e.g., INA §§ 319(b)) do not require prior residence or a specified period of physical presence in the United States. Other LPRs, such as those not found to be of good moral character, may not be eligible to naturalize regardless of length of residency (see INA Title III for details).

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