

Citizenship 2000: Illinois Immigrants and Naturalization Needs

A Report to the Fund for Immigrants and Refugees and
the Illinois Department of Human Services

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Summary

This report presents a variety of information related to the continuing demand for citizenship services by immigrants in Illinois. Among the report's principal findings are:

Immigrants Eligible to Naturalize in January 2000

There will be an estimated 235,907 Illinois noncitizens eligible to naturalize in January 2000 on the basis of having five years of legal permanent residence. This number represents an 8.7 percent increase since April 1996, the last date for which a comparable estimate is available.

Number of Immigrants Lacking English Skills

In the next five years (2000 to 2004) 72,452 immigrants will complete five years of legal residence in Illinois but will not speak English well. The lack of English skills alone will make it difficult for many of these immigrants to qualify for naturalization.

National Origin and Race/Ethnicity of Legally Residing Noncitizens

Persons from Mexico comprise 42.5 percent of all legally residing noncitizens in Illinois, followed by Poland (8.9 percent) and India (5.3 percent).

Of the legally residing noncitizen population, 48.6 percent are of Latino origin, 30.5 percent are White, 18.5 percent are Asian/Pacific Islander, and 2.5 percent are Black.

Changes in Naturalization Rates

The percent of the foreign born who are naturalized in Illinois remained constant in the period between April 1990 and September 1996, at approximately 44.6 percent. Of the major noncitizen groups for whom data are available, the greatest increase in naturalization rate was among Korean immigrants, whose naturalization rate climbed from 45.4 percent to 54.7 percent. The greatest decline in naturalization rate was among Polish immigrants, whose naturalization rate fell from 44.5 to 38.6 percent. High levels of Polish immigration in the 1990s are an important factor in the falling naturalization rate of this group.

INS Citizenship Processing

As of November 1999, there were 81,008 citizenship cases from Illinois pending at the INS (including newly filed cases and cases awaiting citizenship oath ceremony). At current rates of activity, the INS will require 14 months to complete its existing backlog.

In FY1999, the INS completed 57,755 citizenship cases of Illinois residents. Of these, 13,882 or 24.0 percent were denied mainly because the applicant lacked sufficient knowledge of English, U.S. history and U.S. civics.

Purpose of This Report

The Fund for Immigrants and Refugees (FIR) and the Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) commissioned this report to develop a greater understanding of the current need for citizenship services in Illinois. FIR is currently reviewing proposals from organizations seeking support for their citizenship activities, and IDHS is preparing to seek citizenship-related proposals in the year 2000.

The report uses a variety of data sources to address the following issues:

- ✍ How many immigrants are eligible to apply for naturalization in Illinois?
- ✍ What are the major countries of origin of the noncitizens?
- ✍ What are the racial/ethnic characteristics of noncitizens?
- ✍ How many immigrants are becoming eligible to naturalize, yet lack sufficient English skills?
- ✍ How have the naturalization rates of different immigrant groups changed over time?
- ✍ How quickly is the INS processing citizenship applications, and how many applicants are rejected because they do not speak English well enough or do not know sufficient U.S. history and civics?

Number of Immigrants Eligible to Naturalize

Total Immigrants

The Current Population Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that on average approximately 1,118,481 foreign-born persons resided in Illinois in the 1996-1998 period. Of these persons, 35.8 percent are naturalized citizens and 64.2 percent are noncitizens with a variety of legal statuses, although the great majority are legal permanent residents. Of the noncitizens, 36.9 percent arrived in the U.S. within the past five years.

Immigrants with Five Years' Residence

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service has estimated that 194,000 adults were eligible to naturalize in Illinois as of April 1996.¹ The Service generally defined “eligible” to naturalize as having completed five years of legal permanent residence. The INS estimate increases to 217,074 when children under the age of 18 are included.²

To update the April 1996 estimate to January 2000 I account for the number of immigrants becoming eligible to naturalize since April 1996, the number of immigrants

¹ See *State Population Estimates: Legal Permanent Residents and Aliens Eligible to Apply for Naturalization*, available on the INS website at www.ins.doj.gov.

² I used the Illinois portion of all adults eligible to naturalize (3.5 percent) to apportion to Illinois an INS national estimate of 687,000 children eligible to naturalize.

who have naturalized since then, and the number of each of these two groups who have died or emigrated back to their country of origin.³ This leads to an estimated 235,907 noncitizens eligible to naturalize in Illinois in January 2000. This number represents an 8.7 percent increase since April 1996.

The noncitizen population in Illinois is one of the fastest-growing demographic groups in the state. In eight years between 1990 and 1998 the white, non-Latino population grew by only 0.9 percent, and the African American population grew by 7.8 percent, while the noncitizen population grew by 8.7 percent in the last four years alone. Indeed, the noncitizen population would be much larger were it not for significant efforts of community organizations to naturalize their clients and large investments in naturalization funding on the part of foundations and other philanthropic entities.

Estimated Change in Population of Immigrants Eligible to Naturalize in Illinois

April 1996	October 1996	October 1997	October 1998	October 1999	January 2000	April 1996 to January 2000 Pct. Change
217,074	224,833	224,661	246,576	239,588	235,907	8.7%

In Illinois the number of new immigrants generally outpaces the number of naturalizations in most years, although Illinois has seen a decline in legal immigration in recent years, and an increase in naturalizations. The year 1996 is the first year in at least a decade in which the number of newly naturalizing immigrants was larger than the number of new immigrants.

The number of naturalizations in 1996 -- 48,746 -- was large, and has not been achieved again since then. Naturalizations in 1997 fell to 36,755, and in 1998 they equaled only 17,635. The number of naturalizations in the year 1999 was 40,358.

³ Following the methodology of the INS in its estimation of persons eligible to naturalize in 1996, I use an annual emigration rate of 10 per 1,000 residents and an annual death rate of 6 per 1,000 residents. I do not account for inter-state migration as a population factor, but the impact on the final estimates is negligible.

New Immigrants and New Citizens in Illinois, 1987-1996

	New Legal Permanent Residents	Naturalizations	Ratio of Immigration to Naturalization
1996	42,517	48,746	0.87
1995	33,898	20,694	1.64
1994	42,400	17,946	2.36
1993	46,744	17,394	2.69
1992	43,532	10,891	4.00
1991	73,388	11,637	6.31
1990	83,858	19,868	4.22
1989	69,263	13,761	5.03
1988	27,726	6,330	4.38
1987	25,995	9,809	2.65

Immigrants with Five Years' Residence but Insufficient English Skills

The basic requirements of candidates for U.S. citizenship are

- 1) Five years of legal residence in the U.S.,
- 2) Ability to speak English,
- 3) Knowledge of U.S. history and civics, and
- 4) good moral character.

The demographic data available allow us to consider the first two of these requirements and estimate

- a) How many immigrants are becoming eligible to naturalize in the first five years of the coming century, 2000-2004, in terms of having five years' residence, and
- b) How many of these immigrants may not be prepared to naturalize because they do not speak English well.

The methodology section of this report explains in more detail the procedures used to compile these estimates. It is important to note here, however, that the 1990 census data used to calculate English ability are based on self-reported assessments of immigrants' English ability. Respondents to the census are asked to categorize themselves and other household members as speaking English only, very well, well, not well, or not at all.

I use the rate of immigrants reported to speak English "not well" or "not at all" as a proxy estimate for persons unlikely to pass the INS test of English ability. In reality, some persons who do not speak English well may indeed pass the citizenship exam. The state of Illinois and philanthropic entities such as the Fund for Immigrants and Refugees have provided substantial financial support to social service agencies that teach English geared toward helping immigrants pass the citizenship exam. These efforts help many immigrants to pass the citizenship test even though they may not be classified by the census as speaking English well.

The following three tables provide:

- 1) The total number of immigrants, by year, completing five years of residence in each year of the 2000-2004 period,
- 2) The numbers of immigrants, by year, completing five years of residence and not speaking English well, and
- 3) An estimate of the overall proportion of major immigrant groups who have five years of residence but do not speak English well.

As may be seen below, in the 2000-2004 period, at least five immigrant groups will be contributing at least 1,000 persons per year to the population with at least five years of legal residence. Immigrants from Mexico are the largest group numerically in each year with the exception of the year 2000, when more immigrants from Poland will complete five years of residence.

Illinois Immigrants Completing Five Years of Residence, by Year					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Mexico	7,900	5,025	11,715	8,213	8,213
Poland	11,165	4,436	5,530	7,044	7,044
Philippines	2,539	2,546	2,516	2,534	2,534
Korea	770	576	655	667	667
India	3,241	2,984	3,829	3,351	3,351
Guatemala	466	355	461	427	427
China	1,900	1,090	1,280	1,423	1,423
Former U.S.S.R.	2,970	3,365	2,350	2,895	2,895
Cuba	81	93	109	94	94
Vietnam	734	576	777	696	696
Other	10,634	9,788	13,295	11,239	11,239
Total	42,400	30,834	42,517	38,584	38,584

Data for years 2003 and 2004 are based on estimates: see Methodology section

Similarly, in most years the largest group of immigrants without sufficient English skills is from Mexico, followed by immigrants from Poland. No other group, of those profiled, will have at least 1,000 persons completing five years residence with low English skills.

Estimated No. of Immigrants Completing Five Years' Residence but Not Speaking English Well, by Year

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Mexico	4,582	2,915	6,795	4,606	4,663	23,560
Poland	4,801	1,907	2,378	1,868	2,567	13,521
Philippines	216	216	214	210	210	1,067
Korea	407	305	346	347	348	1,753
India	655	603	773	314	343	2,688
Guatemala	167	127	165	148	149	756
China	766	439	44	126	250	1,624
Other	4,137	4,927	5,058	7,206	6,154	27,482
Total	15,730	11,439	15,774	14,823	14,685	72,452

Among the major immigrant group profiled below, Mexican immigrants are the group most likely to lack sufficient English skills. Of Mexican immigrants completing five years of residence in the 2000-2004 period, the majority, 57.4 percent, are not likely to speak English well. Second to the Mexican immigrants are Koreans, of whom 52.6 percent of the persons completing five years of residence do not speak English well.

Immigrants Completing Five Years' Residence: Total and Those Not Speaking English Well, 2000-2004

	Estimated No. Completing 5 Years' Residence in 2000-2004 Period	Estimated No. Without Sufficient English Skills by 2004	Pct. Without Sufficient English Skills
Mexico	41,067	23,560	57.4%
Poland	35,218	13,521	38.4%
Philippines	12,668	1,067	8.4%
Korea	3,335	1,753	52.6%
India	16,757	2,688	16.0%
Guatemala	2,137	756	35.4%
China	5,165	1,624	31.4%
Other	76,572	27,482	35.9%
Total	192,918	72,452	37.6%

National Origin and Racial/Ethnic Characteristics of Noncitizens

Estimating the Current Immigrant Population

The Current Population Survey annually provides estimates of the national origins and racial/ethnic characteristics of the foreign born in Illinois. On average, about 660 foreign born persons are in households actually interviewed by the CPS each year in Illinois.⁴ To increase the sample size of foreign born and improve the reliability of the CPS data, I followed a commonly used procedure and combined three years of CPS data to create an average estimate representing the 1996-1998 period.

I also factored out of the CPS approximately 85,000 cases of foreign-born immigrants from Mexico who are most likely undocumented. This procedure is necessary so that estimates of noncitizens taken from the CPS are based only on legally residing persons. (This estimation process is described in more detail in the methodology section of this paper.)⁵

In the process of compiling the estimate of legally residing Mexican immigrants I also created estimates of legal immigrants, undocumented immigrants and refugees/asylees from various places of origin, which are of interest in understanding the nature of Illinois immigrants, their places of origin and their legal status. These estimates, along with 1994 estimates on which they are based, are presented below. It is also important to note that estimating the undocumented population is an inherently difficult task, although the estimates below generally conform to estimates made nationally by researchers.

⁴ The CPS does not inquire about or provide data on the technical immigration status of respondents (e.g., legal immigrant, asylee, etc. The CPS estimates of noncitizens include a small, unknown number of persons legally residing who are not legal permanent residents, i.e., persons with temporary work permits, persons residing under color of law, etc.

⁵ Previous research has shown that, in Illinois, only the Mexican-origin population has large numbers of undocumented persons represented in the CPS. While there are notably large groups of undocumented persons from other countries, particularly Poland, in Illinois, they are not significantly present in the CPS. It is not necessary to factor out from the survey an estimate of these other groups. See Passel and Clark *Taxes Paid by Illinois Immigrants* published by the Illinois Immigrant Policy Project (Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and Latino Institute) in 1996.

Estimates of Components of Illinois Foreign-Born Population

	Mar-94	Mar-97	Pct. of Total
Foreign Born	1,209,500	1,366,745	100.0%
Mexico	456,600	504,336	36.9%
LPR Entrants	317,800	333,822	24.4%
Undocumented	138,800	170,513	12.5%
Poland	151,900	176,272	12.9%
LPR Entrants	98,600	112,436	8.2%
Undocumented	47,000	57,739	4.2%
Asylee	6,400	6,098	0.4%
All Other	601,000	686,138	50.2%
LPR Entrants	499,600	560,523	41.0%
Undocumented	58,300	71,620	5.2%
Refugee/Asylee	43,100	53,994	4.0%

Note: the term "LPR" in this table refers to all persons who have acquired legal status at some point, including persons who have subsequently naturalized.

Note: 1994 estimates are from Passel and Clark

A number of interesting observations may be made of the above estimates. The total foreign born population grew by an estimated 13.0 percent in the three year period between 1994 and 1997.⁶ The Mexican foreign born grew by 10.5 percent and the Polish foreign born grew by 16.0 percent.⁷

The table above also shows that approximately 78.1 percent of the foreign-born population in Illinois has gained legal status at some point, and 21.9 percent is in an undocumented status. Approximately 67.2 percent of the Polish foreign-born population and 66.2 percent of the Mexican foreign born population have acquired legal status.

National Origin and Ethnicity

After adjustment to factor out undocumented immigrants, as described above, the CPS may be used to determine the national-origin and racial characteristics of legally residing noncitizens in Illinois. As seen below, Mexican noncitizens comprise nearly 43 percent of the population, followed by noncitizens from Poland, at almost nine percent, and noncitizens from India, at slightly more than five percent. Thus more than half of all noncitizens are represented by a relatively few countries of origin.

In terms of their racial/ethnic characteristics, nearly half of the legally resident noncitizens in Illinois are Latino (48.6 percent). Some 30.5 percent are White, 18.5 percent are Asian/Pacific Islander, and 2.5 percent are Black.

⁶ Note that these are estimates of the actual foreign-born population, and represent a larger number than the population estimate of the CPS, which are subject to undercounting and survey error.

⁷ Polish immigrants constituted the largest number of legal immigrants in the 1990-1995 period. See Paral, *New Immigrants and Refugees in Illinois: A Profile of 1990-1995 Arrivals* published by the Latino Institute in 1998.

**Noncitizen Population by Country of
Origin, Illinois 1997**

Total	633,128
Mexico	42.5%
Poland	8.9%
India	5.3%
Vietnam	3.3%
Philippines	2.6%
USSR (former)	2.2%
Other	35.3%

**Noncitizen Population by Major
Racial/Ethnic Group, Illinois
1996-1998**

Total	100.0%
Latino	48.6%
White	30.5%
Black	2.5%
Asian Pacific Islander	18.5%

Naturalization Rates of Different Groups

This section examines how the naturalization rates of different immigrant groups have changed in recent years, given the high level of naturalization activity that has occurred.⁸ I define “naturalization rate” as the percent of all foreign-born persons who have naturalized. As seen in the table below, most of the larger immigrant populations in Illinois have seen an increase in their naturalization rate. The greatest increases are among immigrants from Korea and Vietnam.

The increase in naturalization among Korean immigrants is notable given the findings discussed previously in this report showing Korean immigrants to have relatively low levels of English proficiency. Immigrants from Poland, however, show an overall decline in their naturalization rate of 5.9 percentage points, declining from 44.5 percent naturalized in 1990 to 38.6 in 1996.

Immigration has been outpacing naturalization among the Polish foreign-born population. Between the time of the 1990 census and September 1996, the ratio of Polish immigration to naturalizations was 3.5 to 1. By way of contrast, the number of new immigrants from Korea barely exceeded the number of naturalizations of Korean immigrants in the same period (the ratio of new Korean immigrants to newly naturalized Koreans was 1.03 to 1).⁹

Estimated Change in Naturalization Rates Over Time for Selected Countries

	Change in Percentage								Points, Apr 90 to Sep 96
	Apr-90	Sep-90	Sep-91	Sep-92	Sep-93	Sep-94	Sep-95	Sep-96	
Mexico	24.3%	22.8%	20.5%	20.3%	20.8%	21.3%	22.6%	27.8%	3.5
Poland	44.5%	43.7%	43.0%	39.7%	37.3%	35.4%	35.9%	38.6%	-5.9
Philippines	60.9%	61.3%	61.0%	60.6%	60.6%	60.8%	60.8%	61.5%	0.6
Korea	45.4%	45.9%	46.0%	46.5%	47.9%	49.7%	52.3%	54.7%	9.3
India	36.8%	37.5%	37.0%	36.9%	37.6%	38.3%	38.8%	41.3%	4.5
China	46.6%	47.3%	47.2%	47.0%	47.1%	47.0%	46.8%	47.9%	1.4
Vietnam	43.0%	44.6%	45.5%	45.2%	46.1%	47.0%	47.6%	49.9%	6.8
All Countries	44.6%	43.7%	41.7%	41.0%	41.1%	41.2%	41.9%	44.6%	0.0

⁸ To develop these estimates I begin with 1990 census data showing the number of noncitizens and naturalized citizens for the largest groups in Illinois. I project these rates into the future by adding in the number of new immigrants and the number of newly naturalized citizens for each group. The only source of data on immigrant naturalizations by country is the annual Yearbook of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. Unfortunately, the INS Yearbook does not provide sufficient naturalization data for certain countries that are of interest in Illinois, including Guatemala and the nations comprising the former Soviet Union.

⁹ More than 10,000 immigrants from Poland arrived in each of years 1993 and 1994, more than twice the level of succeeding years. The large numbers of newly arriving immigrants from Poland result in part from persons in Poland being able to take advantage of special "diversity" visas made available by the Immigration Act of 1990.

INS Processing of Citizenship Cases

Immigrants residing in Illinois who wish to naturalize must file their citizenship application with an INS regional service center in Lincoln, Nebraska. This regional center completes a check to see that applications appear to be complete (e.g., that they include the necessary filing fees, have been signed, etc.) and that the applicant appears to be eligible for citizenship (e.g., has completed five years of residence). The Nebraska facility also schedules appointments for applicants to have their fingerprints taken, and then verifies that the fingerprints do not reveal criminal history.

After this work has been completed, the regional processing center forwards the applications to the Chicago INS district, which conducts an interview with citizenship applicants to determine whether the information in their application is still accurate and whether they have sufficient knowledge of English, U.S. history and U.S. civics. The regional processing center in Nebraska has been forwarding between 10,900 to 15,500 citizenship applications per quarter to the INS district in Chicago in the last year.

As of November 1999 there were 55,254 citizenship applications from Illinois residents pending at the Nebraska facility, and another 25,754 applications that had been completed by Nebraska but were still pending in the Chicago office. This is a total of 81,008 pending applications.¹⁰

In the most recent quarter (July-September 1999) the INS office in Chicago completed 17,375 cases, or 5,792 cases per month.¹¹ At this rate, the Chicago INS district will require about 14 months to clear the entire backlog of pending citizenship applications (81,008 pending applications / 5,792 completions per month = 14.0).

Months to Clear Pending Citizenship Cases

Pending Citizenship Cases	81,008
Cases Completed per Month	5,792
Months to Complete all Pending Cases	14

Over the last year the Chicago district has speeded up its citizenship processing. In each of the last four quarters the Chicago office has completed a larger number of applications than it has received from Nebraska. In the July to September 1999 quarter the Service processed 4,000 more applications than it received. We do not have information, however, on whether the Nebraska facility is also processing citizenship cases more quickly.¹²

¹⁰ These statistics were provided by the INS at an 11-23-99 meeting with community organizations.

¹¹ These and other statistics on processing rates and case dispositions are taken from form G-22.3 provided to the author by the INS Statistics Branch in Washington, DC.

¹² Advocates also note that they know of numerous citizenship applicants whose applications have been with the INS for three or four years without being processed.

INS Citizenship Case Processing in Illinois, FY1999

	Oct-Dec 98	Jan-Mar 99	Apr-Jun 99	Jul-Sep 99
New Cases	10,988	10,661	15,442	13,375
Completed Cases	11,243	13,149	15,988	17,375
Net Change in Caseload	(255)	(2,488)	(546)	(4,000)

Note: These are cases processed by Chicago INS District and do not include cases handled at the Nebraska regional service center.

Of the cases completed by the Chicago INS District over the past year, between two-thirds and three quarters have been awarded citizenship. Less than one percent of cases have been rejected for fraud, but one-third to one-quarter of all completed cases in Chicago have been denied for “Other Reasons,” typically because the applicant failed the test of English and U.S. history and civics.¹³

Some 24.8 percent of applicants were rejected for “Other Reasons” in the July-September 1999 period. Applying this rate of rejection to the 81,008 pending applications allows us to project that 20,090 citizenship applicants will fail to become citizens in the roughly 14 months in which their citizenship cases will be handled by the INS. As stated, most of these 20,090 rejections will be for lack of English ability and/or insufficient knowledge of U.S. history and civics.

Disposition of Completed INS Cases in Illinois, FY1999

	Oct-Dec 98	Jan-Mar 99	Apr-Jun 99	Jul-Sep 99
Pct of Completed Cases Given Oath	64.7%	68.7%	80.2%	75.2%
Pct of Completed Cases Denied for Fraud	0.6%	0.8%	0.2%	0.0%
Pct of Completed Cases Denied for Other Reasons	34.7%	19.2%	19.7%	24.8%
Pct. Transferred to Other Districts	0.0%	11.4%	0.0%	0.0%

¹³ The high denial rate for “Other Reasons” in the Oct-Dec period may be due to the INS entering data of approximately 3,000 cases previously denied.

Methodology

Data Sources Used in This Report

The 1990 census is in many ways the best source of data on the need for citizenship services in Illinois. Yet we are nearly 10 years past the date at which 1990 census data were collected, and the high levels of naturalization activity of recent years call for information to be compiled that uses more current sources of data. In this report, then, I utilize more recent sources of statistics on naturalization where possible, though there are some trade-offs to this method.

The Current Population Survey has important information on immigrants in Illinois, yet the types of information available from the CPS are more limited than the census, primarily because of the relatively small sample size of the CPS survey. To somewhat counteract the small sample of immigrants in the CPS, I combine three years of CPS data to create information that represents the average of a three-year period (1996-1998).

The other source of data that I use consists of administrative data compiled by the INS on naturalizations and immigrant entries occurring since the 1990 census. I do use 1990 census data on various national-origin groups to address the question of how many of the immigrants about to complete five years' of residence will have sufficient English skills.

Estimating Immigrants with Five Years of Residence Becoming Eligible to Naturalize

In my estimates, the number of immigrants completing five years of residence in a given year equal the actual or estimated number of immigrants arriving in Illinois five years earlier. I do not account for mortality, emigration or interstate migration in these estimates, though these effects should be minor. The estimates for immigrants arriving in Illinois in 1994 and 1996 are derived from the statistical yearbooks of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. The data for 1995 are derived from *New Immigrants and Refugees in Illinois: A Profile of 1990-1995 Arrivals*, published by the Latino Institute in 1998; these estimates exclude a small number of persons who arrived prior to April 1990 yet who adjusted their status to legal immigrant in 1995. There are no data currently available on the number of immigrants entering Illinois in 1997 and 1998, so for these years I created an estimate that equals the average of the 1994-1996 period.

To estimate English ability for persons completing five years of residence in the 2000-2004 period, I use 1990 census data for Illinois noncitizens with five years or less residence who speak English well or better. The small number of certain immigrant groups in the 1990 census, including persons from otherwise highly visible areas such as Vietnam and the former Soviet Union, prevent their inclusion in these estimates.

Estimating Mexican Undocumented in the Current Population Survey

Studies have shown that a substantial number of undocumented Mexican immigrants are included in the CPS in Illinois.¹⁴ To accurately use the CPS data on immigrants, then, it is necessary to factor out the undocumented Mexican immigrants present in the survey. I accomplish this by upgrading a set of estimates of the foreign-born population in Illinois created by the Urban Institute for the Illinois Immigrant Policy Project¹⁵ for 1994.

The 1994 estimates, which were carefully constructed using detailed demographic techniques, provide an estimate of the number of legal immigrants and the number of undocumented from Mexico, Poland and Other Countries. To update the 1994 estimates, I factor in the legal immigrants, refugees and asylees who have arrived in Illinois since that date using data from the INS Statistical Yearbook and the annual reports of the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. I factor in an estimate of the growth of the undocumented population using rates of growth extrapolated from INS estimates of the national undocumented population for the years 1992 and 1996. I also apply emigration and mortality rates (previously cited) to develop a detailed estimate of major components of the foreign-born population for March 1997.

This estimation finds that Illinois has a population of about 333,822 foreign-born Mexican immigrants who either naturalized or have legal resident status. Subtracting the 333,822 legally residing Mexican immigrants from the CPS estimate of 418,971 foreign-born Mexicans leaves a residual category of about 85,149 Mexican foreign born persons included in the CPS who are likely to be undocumented.

¹⁴ See Passel and Clark *Taxes Paid by Illinois Immigrants*, published in 1996 by the Illinois Immigrant Policy Project (IIPP). The IIPP was a joint project of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and the Latino Institute.

¹⁵ *ibid.*, Passel and Clark.