



U.S. MIGRATION METRICS

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For the full study, see:

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Living with (out) Citizenship: The Impact of Naturalization on Mortality Risk among U.S. Immigrants

Fast Facts

- This study examines the relationship between naturalization and health, specifically mortality risk, using U.S. Census survey responses from 2000 – 2020 and linked Social Security administrative data.
- Naturalized citizenship serves as a form of credential. Groups holding a credential often have greater access to resources or privileges not afforded to similar groups lacking the same status.
- Naturalization as a credential stratifies support and resources for immigrants with vulnerable or refugee legal statuses and certain lower socioeconomic status groups.

Research Design

This study longitudinally traces a nationally representative sample from the 2000 U.S. census survey to 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic. Using the U.S. Social Security administration's Numerical Identification Files (NUMIDENT), respondents' social security numbers and data are linked to their census survey responses.

Combined, these can signal changes in health and by extension mortality and citizenship status over twenty years.

Selection Effects on Health and Naturalization

Selection effects represent a bias or skew to a population, often by positively favoring or negatively excluding based on subjects' characteristics.

Those who are more likely to naturalize may be selected based on health, social conditions (i.e. age, class, education), or legal status. This study aims to address these selection effects through the longitudinal survey linked with administrative data, analyzing health and citizenship status changes for eligible noncitizen respondents over a twenty-year period.

Characteristics of the Naturalized Population

- One more year of education
- Slightly higher employment rate
- \$2,700 higher mean annual income
- Proportionally more individuals of Asian and Pacific Islander origin
- Naturalized status linked to a reduction in the odds of death
- Those with higher socioeconomic status also have associated reductions in mortality risk
- For each additional year as a naturalized citizen, there is an associated reduction in mortality risk

Characteristics of Those Eligible but Never Naturalized

- Experienced proportionally twice as many deaths as the naturalized group
- Greater proportion of nonrefugees
- Slightly lower mean number of inclusive policies in respondents' state of residence
- Proportionally more individuals of Hispanic origin