The United States

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Immigrant Integration: The Impact of Federalism on Public Policy

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States of Interest

- Border States
- Old Immigrant States
- Miscellaneous
Federal Preeminence
Fiscal Year 2009 Admissions

Total New Admissions = 1.13 million
Family Admissions Dominate Flows (66%)

Immediate Relatives of U.S. citizens: 47%
Family-sponsored visas: 16%
 Refugees and Asylees: 19%
 Employment visas: 13%
 Diversity visas: 4%
Task Force on New Americans

- American identity is civic
- Common civic identity is compatible with religious and cultural diversity
- Democracy, liberty, equal opportunity
- English language

- Citizenship Is an Identity
- Emphasis on Naturalization
- Membership in American political community as integral to self-identity
- Government’s role is to emphasize political assimilation
- Culture and religion outside the scope of government

- Community groups are the primary agents of integration
- Federal government should complement and bolster community group actions
Teacher standards for ELL instruction: 33 states
- Require teachers demonstrate competence in ELL instruction: 3 states
- Incentives to earn ESL license: 11 states
- Banned or restricted native-language instruction: 7 states
States that offer In-State College Tuition to Undocumented Immigrants
Average Annual Income

- $ Naturalized Earnings
- $ Native Earnings
- $ Foreign Born Earnings

States: New Jersey, California, Illinois, Nationwide, New York, Florida, Texas, New Mexico
Unemployment, 2000-08 Average

% Hispanic or Latino Native

% Hispanic or Latino Foreign Born

% Native

% Foreign Born

California
Illinois
Texas
New York
Nationwide
New Jersey
Florida
Naturalization Rates

- Blue line: % Foreign Born Population Naturalized
- Red line: % Population Foreign Born

States: New York, New Jersey, Florida, Illinois, California, Nationwide, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona

Y-axis: 0 to 60
Conclusions: Fiscal Federalism

- States and localities cannot survive without federal funds
- Access to federal funds induces states and localities toward promoting integration and naturalization
- Texas: Federal Funds as Percentage of All Funds (an example of the big picture):
Conclusions: The Naturalization Effect

• Relative success of naturalized foreign born is striking

• Naturalized immigrants successful across socioeconomic indicators

• Pattern largely independent of state

• Most successful immigrants are the target of federal integration policies

• Result of federal government concentrating resources on naturalization?