

Quantitative Reasoning in Public Policy

A Description of the Immigrant Population



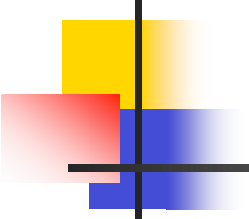
Presentation to Quantitative Methods For Public Policy
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Overview

- Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and Quantitative Reasoning
- How can Quantitative Reasoning help Policy Makers understand the Immigrant population?
 - Size
 - Origin
 - Location
- Unauthorized Immigrants
- Why do we care? Or how can this data be used?



Context for the Report: Who/What is CBO?

- Who is CBO?
 - The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is a non-partisan, budgetary arm of Congress.
- Who is our “audience” ?
 - Members of Congress, their staffs and the general public.
- What does immigration have to do with the budget?
 - A lot. Just think “Homeland Security”.



What Does This Paper Have To Do With Quantitative Reasoning?

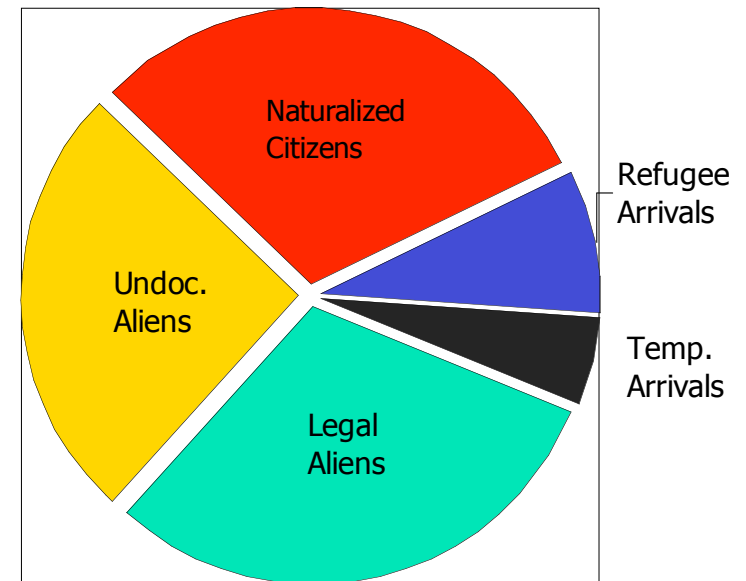
- What do numbers/quantitative reasoning bring to the policy issue of immigration?
 - Much of the debate is actually over the numbers. Who is here? What do they do? How long do they stay? Who 'should' be here?
- Is counting quantitative reasoning?
 - Often. Understanding what the numbers mean & how to count are quantitative reasoning. Data drives the debate. Numbers are short handed ways of talking about policy.
- How does understanding numbers help to inform the debate?
 - Understanding the numbers allow you to ask better questions and understand the answers.
 - Understanding the motives of those who favor a particular policy is easier.

Who are Immigrants?

Definitions are Confusing

- **Foreign-born population:** all residents of the United States who were not U.S. citizens at birth.
- **Immigrants/Legal Aliens:** persons legally admitted to the U. S. as permanent residents.
- **Refugees/Asylees:** people admitted to the U.S. because they cannot return to their country of nationality because of fear of persecution.
- **Legal temporary residents & nonimmigrants:** foreign citizens authorized to enter and reside temporarily in the U.S. for a specific purpose. (Students, tourists, business people etc.)
- **Unauthorized immigrants** are foreign citizens illegally residing in the U.S. They have entered without inspection and/or violated the terms of a temporary admission. (Also: **illegal or undocumented immigrants.**)

Legal Status of the Foreign Born Population (2002)



Source: The Urban Institute

Difficulties with the Data:

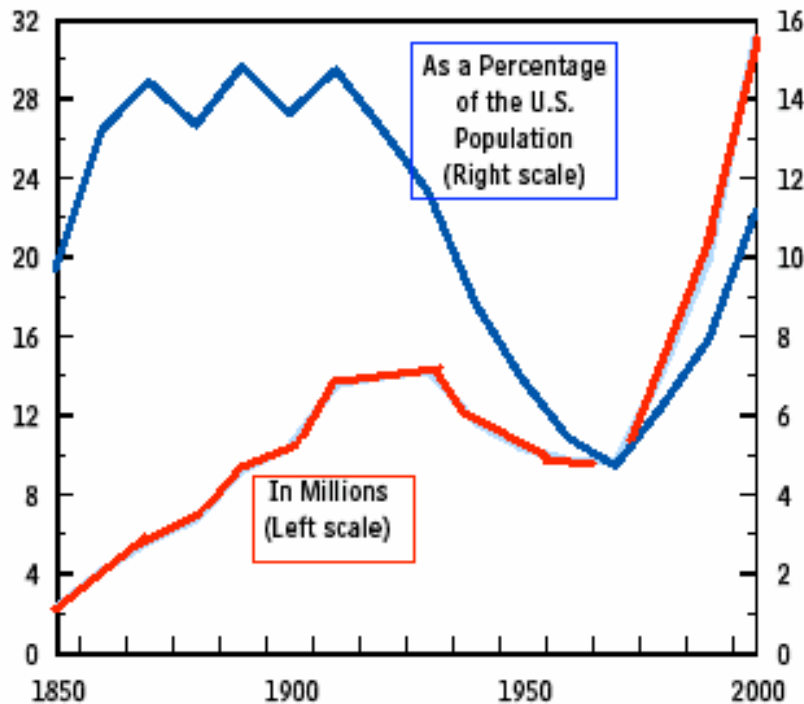
How counting is quantitative reasoning

- Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), & Department of Homeland Security (DHS) collect and generate different information/definitions of immigrants
- Other sources include: Schools, Health Departments, social service agencies, and National Survey of America's Families (NSAF)
- Unauthorized immigrants are hard to count

Size of Immigration Over Time: Raw Numbers vs. Percent of Population

The Foreign-Born Population

1850 to 2000



Source: Congressional Budget Office

Currently:

- Foreign Born: 12% of U.S. Population (33 million)
- 1.3 million per year

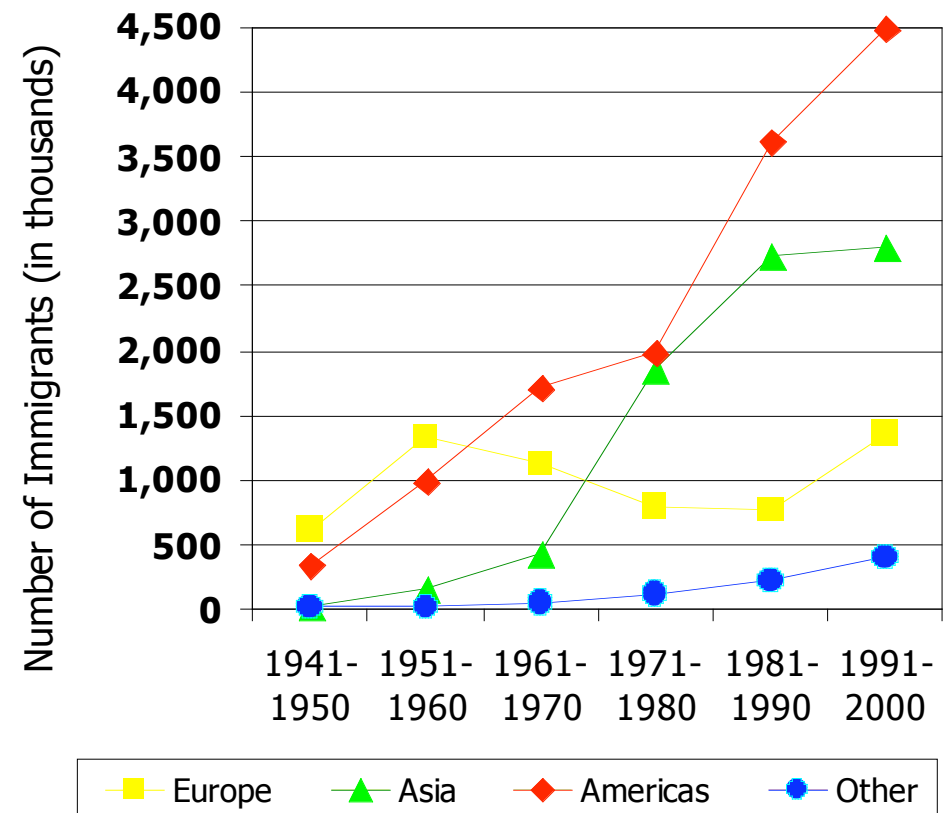
Stock Vs. Flow

Countries of Origin

- Until 1950, most Immigrants were from Europe
- Between 1991-2000, about 1/2 of Immigrants came from the "Americas"
 - 30% from Mexico
- Large shifts in immigrants' region of origin over time
- Suggestive of where new naturalized citizens will come from

Number of Immigrants, By Region of Origin (1951-2000)

Source: Department of Homeland Security





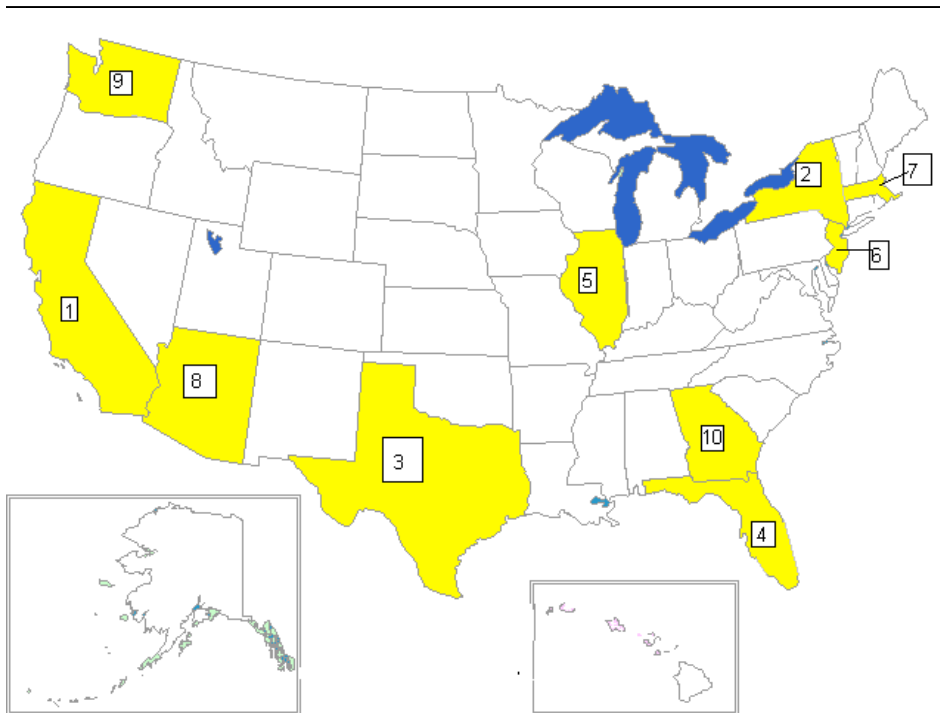
Countries of Origin and Education Level

Source: United States Census

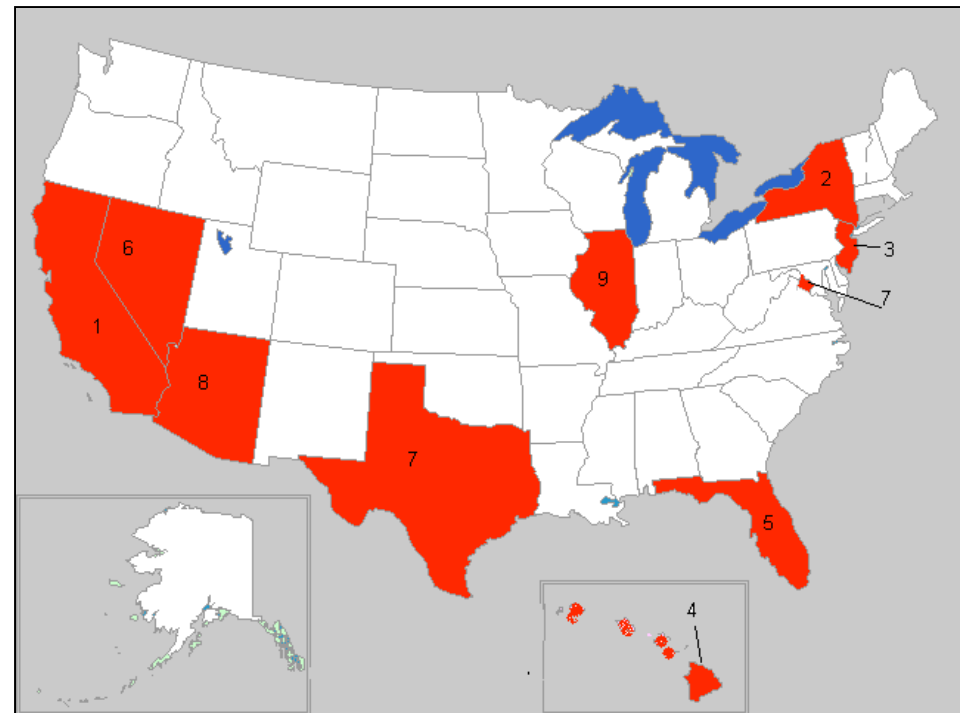
Location of Immigrants, by State

Total Number vs. Percent

Largest Number of Foreign Born By State, 2000



Largest Percent of Foreign-Born Residents by State, 2000



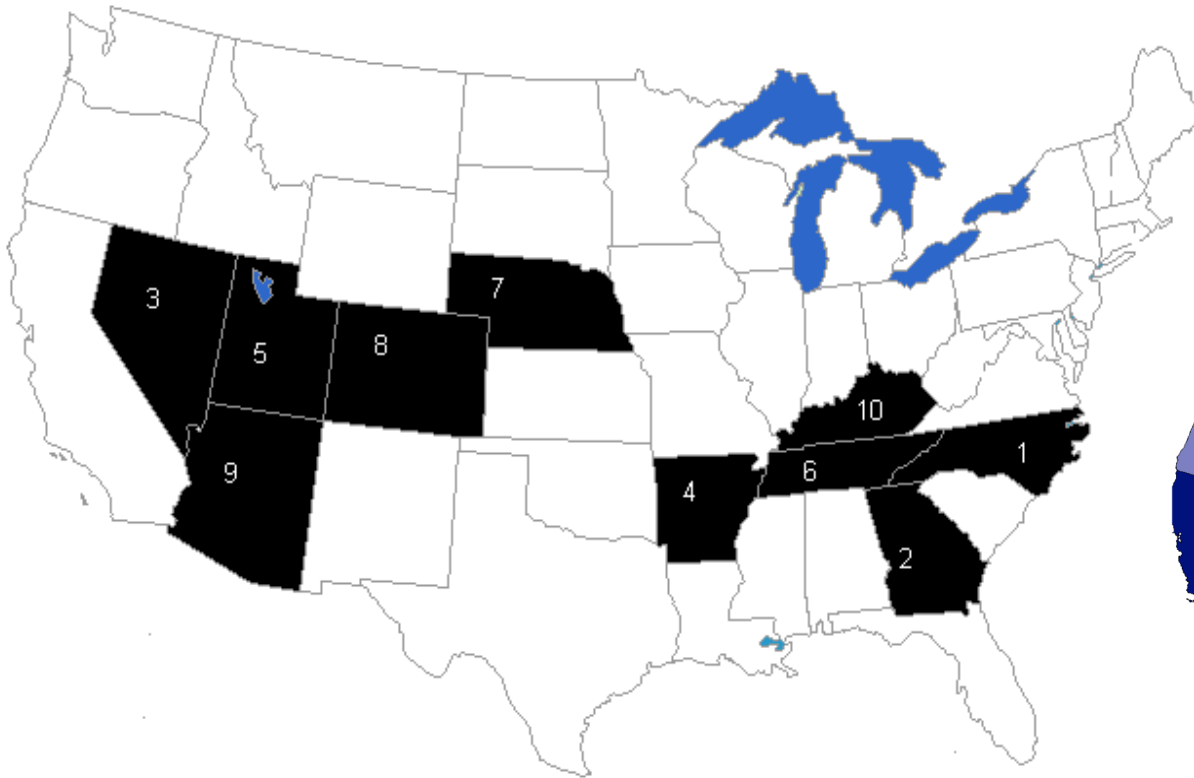
Fastest Growth in Immigrant Population by Percent, 1990-2000

- Immigrants are moving to less traditional destination states.

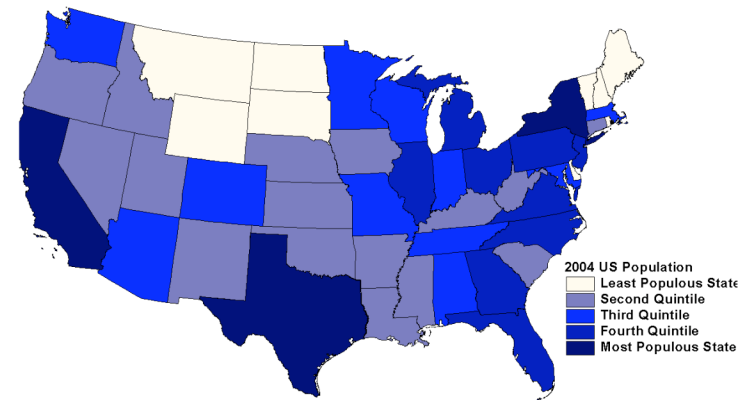
Growth Rate:

NC 274%

KY 135%



U.S. Population





How to count Immigrants

- **Concept of a Baseline**
 - How do we understand change?
 - How do we make sure that we only count people once?
- **Net Inflow**
 - Net Inflow: Counts the **changes** in the number of foreign born
- **Gross Inflow**
 - Raw number of entrants. May count multiple entrances by one person as multiple immigrants
- **Basic Estimating Procedure**
 - **Start** with a base of foreign-born residents;
 - **Add** to the base: estimates of newly arrived legal immigrants, refugees and asylees;
 - **Subtract** number of foreign-born U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have left or died;
 - **Add** the net flows of non-immigrants (including undocumented immigrants).



Unauthorized Immigrants

- Lots of Uncertainty: No records on many
- Analysts make assumptions/"educated guesses" about:
 - Census Rate of undercount
 - Rates of Emigration and Mortality
 - Treatment of immigrants with ambiguous status
- Currently between 8-11 million
 - Immigration and Naturalization Service, (INS), Census Bureau, and Urban Institute Estimates

Estimating Example: INS Estimate of Unauthorized Immigrants (2000)

Part 1:

- 📁 January 1990: 3.5 million unauthorized immigrants
- 📄 From 1990-2000: 2.0 million leave unauthorized population (become legal, leave the U.S, or die.)
- 📄 Total: 1.5 million from before 1990

Part 2:

- 1990-1999: **Add** 12.6 million foreign born residents reported **entering** the U.S. (Census)
- **Adjust** for Census Undercount → 13.5 million
- **Subtract** 8.0 million (Legal entrants of any variety)
- **Total:** 5.5 million unauthorized new arrivals

1.5 Million (from part 1) + 5.5 Million (from part 2) = 7.0 Million



What Can You Do With This Data?

- Identify where immigrants live (within states and communities)
- Understand Population movement/settlement (throughout the Country).
- Build community institutions that target appropriate populations
- Project welfare caseloads
- Lobby – influence comes with data
- Provide appropriate services like health care, housing, language skills, etc.
- Develop school curriculums



Summary

- CBO is
 - Independent & Nonpolitical with non-bureaucratic staff
 - Has an Advisory role and provides information to all in a timely fashion
- Thinking about the Immigrant Population based on Size, Origin, and Location help us think about “solutions” in different ways
- A lot of uncertainty regarding number of Unauthorized Immigrants
- Numbers are powerful tools in the policy debate