Session 407: Social Disproportions Between Immigrant Groups in the United States

A group of immigration activists will hold a round table discussion focusing on the varied experiences of immigrant communities in the U.S. Focus topics will be education and scholastic opportunity, social mobility, employment, and social justice as they apply to immigrant groups of different ethnicities. The discussion will also explore how these variances help us understand the immigration experience for different groups, as well as the causes of the inequities faced by different immigrant communities in the social and economic sphere.

Program Chair:
Jared C. Leung, Director, Fennemore Craig, P.C.

Moderator:
Margaret Wong, President and Managing Partner, Margaret Wong & Associates

Speakers:
Charina Garcia, President/Managing Attorney, CPG Immigration Law Group
Eve C. Guillergan, Managing Attorney, Eve Guillergan, PLLC
Olivia Lee, Associate, Minami Tamaki LLP
Ronald Nguyen, Supervising Immigration Attorney, Legal Aid of Western Missouri
Celestial Roman, Associate, Guerrero Jefferies Law Group LLP
Tsui H.Yee, Partner, Guerrero Yee LLP
DRAFT Timed Agenda for Immigration Panel at NAPABA Annual Convention

Date: Friday, November 17
Time: 3:30

Format: Margaret will moderate a round-table style discussion between the panelists. The panelists will prepare questions in advance to ask each other and discuss. We will focus the challenges that different immigrants face trying to complete their education and find work based on their age, gender, national origin, and class. We will discuss DACA and the various DREAM Acts implemented in several states. We will also look at disparities among immigrants in the business and tech sectors. Finally, we will discuss what potential Comprehensive Immigration Reform can do to ameliorate these disparities and create a more equitable immigration system. We hope that the questions and discussions will cover issues important to NAPABA and the audience.

Panelists: The panelists are all immigration attorneys with diverse backgrounds and practice areas. They will bring unique perspectives to the following areas:

- Eve Guillergan: Eve is the Principal attorney at Eve Guillergan PLLC in New York City. She has been practicing immigration law since 1992. Eve is also the Co-Chair of the Practice Management Committee for the New York Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

- Olivia Serene Lee: Olivia an Associate with Minami Tamaki LLP in San Francisco, where her immigration practice focuses on startups and emerging companies in all stages of the startup process, including pre-formation, seed funding, accelerator/incubator programs, early and late stage, acquisitions and mergers, and public offering. She currently serves on the Executive Board of the Northern California Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

- Ronald Nguyen: Ronald is the Supervising Immigration Attorney for Legal Aid of Western Missouri. Ronald is also the supervisor for the Migrant Farmworkers Project, which provides legal services to migrant farm workers in the Western District of Missouri. He is interested in pro bono immigration work because his parents were helped through the immigration process as refugees from Vietnam.

- Charina Garcia: Charina is the Managing Attorney at CPG Immigration Law Group in San Francisco where represents and counsels companies and individuals on both employment and family-based immigration matters. She has served on the Executive Board of the Northern California Chapter of AILA, and is currently the Vice-Chair of the AILA National Liaison Committee for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service’s California Service Center. Charina has served on the Board of Directors for Filipino Advocates for Justice (formerly Filipinos for Affirmative Action) and has previously served on the Board for the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California and the Asians for Job Opportunities/English Language Institute of the Bay Area.

- Tsui Yee: Tsui is an attorney at Guerrero Yee LLP in New York City. She is a Co-Chair of the Immigration and Nationality Law Committee of the Asian American Bar Association of New York and Co-Chair of the Solo and Small Firm Practice Committee of the New York County
Lawyers Association. She is also a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association; the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York; and the Asian Pacific American Law Association of New Jersey.

Celeste Roman: Celeste is an attorney at Guerrero & Jefferies Law Group where she practices exclusively in the area of immigration law, with a focus on consular processing, naturalization, family-based immigration and asylum. Prior to joining Guerrero & Jefferies, Celeste served as the pro bono law clerk for the immigration division of Fredrikson & Byron in Minneapolis.

Explanation of the panel, any house-keeping business (2 minutes)

Introduction of the Speakers (3 minutes)

Topics and Questions (55 minutes)

1. DACA
   a. What is DACA?
   b. Who applies for DACA? And who does not?
   c. Why are there disparities among immigrant groups that apply for DACA? Why are Hispanics more likely than Asians to apply for DACA?
   d. How do these disparities affect immigrants’ access to higher education and higher paying jobs?
   e. How is DACA perceived in different immigrant communities?

2. The DREAM Act in the States
   a. How are statewide DREAM Acts transforming access to education for immigrants?
   b. What are the statistics on who is applying and receiving DACA in the states that have implemented the DREAM Act? Who is going to college and who is working?
   c. What is the intersection between DREAMers and the tech/high-skilled workers community? How is the tech community supporting the DREAMers?
   d. What about DACA recipients in states that haven’t passed a DREAM Act? Are they going to college and working? How do they differ from DACA recipients in states with a DREAM Act?

3. Immigration and the Tech Industry
   a. Which immigrant groups are underrepresented in the tech industry?
   b. What is the tech industry doing to support immigration reform?
   c. How could changes to the H-1B quotas in a potential CIR bill affect the tech industry?

4. Comprehensive Immigration Reform
   a. How can CIR address these issues in economic and social disparities among immigrant groups in the US?

Questions and Answers Time with the Audience (15 minutes)
Getting a Return on Investment: The California DREAM Act
Prepared by Roberto G. Gonzales and Aarti Kohli

A worker with a bachelor’s degree will, on average, earn $1 million more over her lifetime than a high school graduate; a worker with an advanced degree is likely to earn twice that amount. Based on data from a recent RAND study, we estimate that California will gain almost $15 million per year in net tax revenue from the estimated 1620 undocumented students currently enrolled in California’s colleges. The State has invested in the high school education (and for many, elementary and middle school as well) of undocumented children. Currently, undocumented students can legally attend college in the state of California. However, these students are not eligible to apply for post-secondary financial aid. Without such aid, it is extremely difficult for these students – most from low-income families – to afford the costs associated with pursuing higher education at a public university. The California DREAM Act (SB 1301) and Assembly Bill 2083 would provide these and other students who currently qualify for in-state tuition the opportunity to compete for state financial aid. The bill has been approved by the legislature and is currently before Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, awaiting his signature. This brief highlights recent research that sheds light on the potential impacts of SB 1301 and AB 2083.

WHO ARE UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS IN CALIFORNIA?
- Approximately 400,000 undocumented children reside in California. The majority of these children were brought to the United States before the age of 12. Although complete data is not available, most of those who pursue higher education attend community colleges.
- There were approximately 1,620 undocumented students enrolled in 2005 in the University of California and California State University systems who benefited from in-state tuition provided by California’s Assembly Bill 540. At .065 percent, undocumented students represent a miniscule number of the 2.5 million students enrolled in California’s higher education institutions. Given the rising costs of post-secondary schooling and the inability to compete for financial aid, a mere 5 to 10 percent of all undocumented students make it to college.
- According to recent research, undocumented students in California (at the CCCs, CSUs, and the UCs) exhibit higher than average levels of community and civic activity, including community education, and mentoring of peers and younger students.
- Research also shows that the cost of college is the most prohibitive barrier for undocumented students, given the economic profile of many of these students’ families, schools, and communities.

THE IMPACT ON CALIFORNIA: A benefit to the economy and to state tax revenues
- The U.S. economy faces a mismatch between the demand for educated workers and the available supply. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates that many of the occupations that will be most in demand in years to come – in computer science, and the medical and teaching professions – will rely on educated workers.
- With every step up the degree ladder, workers gain in salary and employment opportunities. According to the BLS, workers who lacked a high-school diploma in 2006 earned an average of only $419 per week and had an unemployment rate of 6.8 percent. In contrast, workers with a bachelor’s degree earned $962 per week and had an unemployment rate of 2.3 percent, while those with a doctorate earned $1,441 and had an unemployment rate of only 1.4 percent.
- In California, 12 of the 15 occupations projected to grow the fastest between 2004 and 2014 require workers with at least an Associate’s degree. Immigrants are already a large share of workers in these occupations, especially among medical scientists, computer software engineers, database administrators, and registered nurses.
• The Public Policy Institute of California projects that by 2025, 41 percent of the state's jobs will require a college education, but only 32 percent of workers in the state will have the necessary education. To bridge the gap between supply and demand, the report argues, California—and the United States overall—will need to educate more native-born youth and bring in more high-skilled workers from other countries.  
• A 1999 RAND study found that, by 30, a Mexican immigrant woman with a college degree will pay $5,300 more in taxes and cost $3,900 less in government expenses each year compared to a high-school dropout with similar characteristics.

LESSONS FROM OTHER STATES

• In Texas, undocumented students are eligible for in-state tuition and can compete for financial aid. A study released by Texas' Higher Education Coordinating Board found a significant increase in postsecondary enrollment of undocumented students—nearly 10 times greater from 2001 to 2004, with most enrolling at community colleges after the passage of the Texas law.
• A study by the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, where undocumented students are currently not eligible for in-state tuition or financial aid, projected that the state would eventually gain 2.5 million dollars from fees in a three year span if undocumented children were allowed to attend public colleges at in-state rates.

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1 Roberto G. Gonzales is an Assistant Professor at the University of Washington. Aarti Kohli is Director of Immigration Policy at the Warren Institute.
3 This calculation is based on data from Georges Venez, Richard A. Krop & C. Peter Rydell, Closing the Education Gap: Benefits and Costs, Santa Monica, CA: RAND Education, 1999. This study concludes that a worker with a college degree will pay $5,300 more in taxes and cost $3,900 less in government expenses for a total cost savings of $9,200 per year per worker.
4 The Supreme Court ruled in Plyler v. Doe (1982) that, because these children are "persons" under the Constitution and thus entitled to equal protection under the law according to the 14th Amendment, they cannot be denied access to public elementary and secondary education on the basis of their legal status.
5 We include here tuition, fees, books, and basic room and board.
8 Exact figures are nearly impossible to obtain, as numbers of enrolled undocumented AB 540 students are not routinely reported. A 2006 Committee on Higher Education analysis of SB 160 estimated that 540 students in the UC's, 1,080 students in the CSU's, and a "significant portion" of the 18,000 CCC undocumented students were eligible to benefit from institutional assistance and fee waiver provisions of the bill.
9 Jeanna Banana & Michael Fix, New Estimates of Unauthorized Youth Eligible for Legal Status under the DREAM Act, Immigration Backgrounder, Migration Policy Institute, October 2006.
15 Ibid.
December 17, 2010, 08:56 pm

DREAM Act is an acute issue for Asian Americans

We do not graduate enough home-grown science, math and engineering majors to keep up with demand. If Congress passed the DREAM Act, the U.S. could increase its competitiveness in manufacturing and other sectors immediately — something the Council on Competitiveness says we desperately need to regain our economic edge in the global economy. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the DREAM Act would generate $2.3 billion in tax revenue over 10 years while UCLA estimates that the law would inject $3.6 trillion into the economy over the next 40 years.

The issue is particularly acute for Asian Americans and the University of California system. Nearly two-thirds of Asian Americans are foreign born; one in 10 students who would be covered by the DREAM Act is Asian American. In the UC system alone, Asian Americans compose approximately 40-44 percent of the undocumented student population. Passage of the DREAM Act would mean that more of the Asian American community’s best and brightest young people can become successful and productive citizens.

In our community, there are many students like David, who also dream of becoming doctors, lawyers, scientists and military leaders in this country. It’s a national shame to waste their talent and force these young people to leave the only home they’ve known. The Senate needs to follow the House’s example and make the DREAM Act a reality today.

Karen K. Narasaki is president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center, a member of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice, which works to advance the human and civil rights of Asian Americans, and build and promote a fair and equitable society for all.
Why Is There a Disparity in DACA Application Rates Among Different Nationalities?

Written by Patrick Taured on January 16, 2014 in Administration, Deferred Action, President Obama with 0 Comments

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), President Obama’s deportation reprieve program for certain undocumented immigrants brought to the country as children. Despite this diverse participation, nationals of some countries are dramatically underrepresented in the applicant pool. Comparing the latest USCIS DACA statistics against estimates of potentially eligible individuals reveals, for example, that 65 percent of immediately eligible Mexican nationals and 61 percent of Hondurans have applied for DACA. Yet only 34 percent of Koreans and 17 percent of Filipinos have applied. What explains this disparity? It’s complicated, but here’s our best guess.

To apply for DACA you have to know about the program. As reported by the Center for American Progress, community-based organizations and ethnic media serving nationals of Mexico and other Latin American countries have done an excellent job of informing the community about the program. Relatedly, the Mexican community has enjoyed the overwhelming support of its consular network, which continues to take a number of steps (including releasing their own free smartphone app) to help Mexican nationals learn about and apply for DACA. The DACA outreach effort has been particularly strong in the Spanish-speaking world.

Further, garnering a critical mass of applicants is key. When enough members of a community go through the DACA application process and come out on the other side not only without a deportation order against themselves or family members—which, for many, is the biggest fear—but with tangible benefits like work authorization, those individuals turn into walking testimonials. They demystify the process & inspire others in the community to take what might be perceived as an intimidating plunge. This domino effect may help explain the relatively high application rates in the Mexican, Honduran, Guatemalan, and El Salvadoran communities.

A recent Pew Hispanic Center study also may provide some insight into the disparity among different nationalities. According to the study, 59 percent of foreign-born Hispanics worry “some” or “a lot” about their own deportation or that of loved ones while only 18 percent of foreign-born Asians expressed that sentiment. This doesn’t explain all of the data—and it certainly doesn’t account for outliers like Dominicans whose application rate is only 14 percent—but it may shed light on why, as a general matter, young Latin American immigrants have turned to DACA in substantially higher percentages than immigrants from Asia and other parts of the world.

Different nations’ prior experiences (or lack thereof) with immigration programs also may explain the disparities. Several of the nationalities that have applied for DACA in high numbers have previously benefited from legalization or similar drivers. Mexican nationals, for example, were the primary beneficiaries (25 percent) of the 1986 legalization; Hondurans and El Salvadorans have enjoyed Temporary Protected Status for a number of years; and many Guatemalans previously gained lawful status under a law commonly known as NACARA. DACA may be unlike IRCA, TPS and NACARA, but those programs imparted an important lesson that applies with equal force in the DACA context: if you come forward, real benefits await. These programs also gave rise to an infrastructure of legal service providers that was well-suited to meet the community’s needs when the Obama administration rolled out the DACA program.

There are likely cultural issues at play, as well. As the New York Times reported, within some Asian immigrant populations, shame associated with being undocumented is prevalent. This is in relatively stark contrast to the organized immigrant youth movement, which is largely—though by no means exclusively—composed of immigrants from Mexico and South and Central America. That movement was able to effectuate a paradigm shift in the way young undocumented immigrants think and talk about being undocumented. United We Dream and other immigrant youth organizations adopted the slogan “undocumented and unafraid,” which, as a mantra, helped them inspire their brothers and sisters to marshal the courage to apply for DACA.

With respect to even those communities that have applied for DACA in high numbers, more needs to be done to shed light on the program and its attendant benefits. With the days of overflowing clinics long gone and before the renewal rush (about which we are still awaiting final guidance from USCIS), a second wave of public education about DACA is necessary to help many young immigrants understand why the program might make sense for them.

Photo by AFS-USA Intercultural Programs
Why Immigration Is an Asian American Issue

A group of Asian Americans joins others that support reform of immigration legislation at a rally in New York, Tuesday, May 1, 2007.

By Tram Kieu | May 28, 2013

Asian Americans* are the fastest-growing immigrant population in the United States today. According to 2011 Census data, almost half of all immigrants in the United States—18.2 million—came from Asia. This group overwhelmingly supported President Barack Obama for re-election—by 68 percent—and cares deeply about fixing the immigration system.

This support for immigration reform is critical as the Senate moves to take up an immigration reform bill, S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013. Currently, family sponsorship is the most common way that Asian immigrants arrive in the United States, with 55 percent of Asian immigrants coming through the family-visa system in 2012. However, while S. 744 creates new legal pathways for immigrants to enter the country, it also threatens family reunification by removing entirely the allocation for siblings of U.S. citizens.

May marks Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. It is a celebration of

the cultures of this diverse group, as well as an opportunity to educate the public on the past and present contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the social fabric of America. As the month-long celebration wraps up, here are the facts you need to know about Asian Americans and immigration.

**FIGURE 1**

**Asian Americans today**
Growing numbers, growing population

18.2+ million

Today's Asian American population
More than 18.2 million Asian Americans from East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Subcontinent currently live in the United States.


**Largest ethnicities**
These six groups make up the largest Asian American ethnicities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>4,007,372</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>3,439,930</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Indian</td>
<td>3,190,419</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>1,866,681</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>1,734,354</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>1,289,192</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Residence**
States such as Hawaii, California, and New Jersey have some of the largest Asian American populations, but Nevada and Arizona represent two states with the fastest-growing populations between 2000 to 2010.
Asian Americans are the new face of immigration

Asia now represents the largest sending region for immigrants. In 2010, 36 percent of new immigrants to the United States came from Asia, compared to 31 percent from Latin America. These numbers mark a dramatic departure from just a decade ago, in 2000, when new Hispanic immigrants outnumbered Asian immigrants three to one. According to the Pew Research Center, Asian Americans are the fastest-growing racial group in the United States, growing 46 percent over the past decade.

Growing political clout

Asian Americans are a growing political force, with an electorate that increased 128 percent between 1996 and 2008. In the 2012 election, Asian Americans turned out in large numbers for President Barack Obama, providing 1.5 million votes for his re-election. This election also marked a significant shift for groups such as Vietnamese Americans and Filipino Americans, groups that have historically identified as Republicans: They supported the president by 61 percent and 62 percent, respectively. And looking toward the future, the Asian American electorate is expected to more than double by 2040.

Strong support for immigration reform

Asian Americans strongly support immigration reform, with 58 percent in favor of a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. And with 1.3 million unauthorized immigrants from Asia—roughly 12 percent of all unauthorized immigrants—immigration is an important and personal issue to this community. In addition, Asian immigrants are drivers of naturalization: In 2012, 4 out of 10 of the top countries providing new American citizens were in Asia, contributing 34 percent of all naturalized individuals last year.

Family unity is key

Family sponsorship is the most common pathway through which Asian immigrants arrive in the United States. Under current immigration law, immediate relatives such as parents, spouses, and children of U.S. citizens can immigrate outside of numerical
limitations, and other relatives, such as spouses and children of permanent residents, adult married children, and the siblings of U.S. citizens, are subject to a cap of at least 226,000 visas per year. In 2012, 55 percent of all Asian immigrants who became permanent residents, or green card holders, did so through the family-preference categories.

But while many Asian immigrants come to the United States each year, many would-be immigrants—mothers, brothers, children, and other relatives—are stuck waiting for a visa slot to become free. There are currently 1.8 million Asian family-based visa applicants waiting to be reunited with their families living in the United States—36 percent of all people in the visa backlog. Waiting periods for people from the region can stretch into decades: Immigrants from China and India can wait as long as 12 years, while those from the Philippines can wait up to 23 years.

The Senate bipartisan “Gang of 8” reform plan creates flexible legal channels for immigration and eliminates this backlog. But it also threatens family reunification by removing the current category for the siblings of U.S. citizens and by placing age caps on adult married children of citizens. As Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) pointed out in a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in April, siblings are an integral part of the family structure who “help each other find jobs, provide emotional and financial support and care for each other’s families.”

The Senate immigration plan would also put the approximately 267,000 people in the United States who are both undocumented and LGBT identified on a pathway to citizenship. It does not, however, include provisions for binational same-sex couples to have the same right to sponsor their partners as heterosexual couples. With 15 percent of the LGBT undocumented population coming from Asia, LGBT inclusion in immigration reform is a serious issue for the Asian American community.

**Education and the DREAM Act are also critical**

As a group, Asian Americans hold high levels of education: 49 percent of Asian adults ages 25 and older hold a college degree, higher than any other race or ethnic group. But this “model minority” myth hides great distinctions between groups. Half of all Vietnamese, and more than 60 percent of Hmong, Laotian, and Cambodian adults ages 25 or older, for example, do not have more than a high school degree. Even more importantly, this myth marginalizes the needs of unauthorized Asian immigrant students.

More than 200,000 unauthorized Asian Americans in the United States are eligible for the DREAM Act—roughly 1 in 10 DREAMers—which would provide legal status for unauthorized immigrants who came to the country at a young age and who complete high school and some college or military service in the United States. The DREAM Act—provisions of which are currently contained within S. 744, the Senate immigration reform bill—would ensure that young aspiring Americans, including those from Asia, have access to the American Dream.
Conclusion

Asian Americans comprise a growing share of the immigrant population and represent diverse communities with varying social, economic, and political circumstances. Their voices on critical issues such as immigration reverberate to all immigrants. The Senate immigration reform plan is not perfect, but it would put the 1.3 million unauthorized Asian immigrants on a pathway to citizenship and help ensure equality and inclusion for this community.

Tram Kieu was an intern with the Immigration team at the Center for American Progress.

* The term Asian American includes any person from Asia living in the United States from East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Indian subcontinent/South/South Central Asia as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

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U.S. Hispanic and Asian populations growing, but for different reasons

BY ANNA BROWN

The distinction of being the fastest-growing racial/ethnic group in the United States has alternated between Asians and Hispanics in recent decades. Since 2010, though, Asians have had the edge. New Census Bureau data estimate that the U.S. Hispanic population topped 54 million as of July 1, 2013, an increase of 2.1% over 2012. Meanwhile, the Asian population grew to 19.4 million, with a growth rate of 2.9%.

Hispanic Population Growth Fueled Mainly by U.S. Births; Asians by Migration

Percent of total population change from 2012 to 2013 accounted for by...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Increase (births minus deaths)</th>
<th>International Migration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>Hispanics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>Hispanics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Asians include mixed-race populations, regardless of Hispanic origin.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2013 population estimates

U.S. births have been the primary driving force behind the increase in the Hispanic population since 2000 and that trend continued between 2012 and 2013. The Census Bureau estimates that natural increase (births minus deaths) accounted for 78% of the total change in the U.S. Hispanic population from 2012 to 2013.
By comparison, growth in the Asian American population has been fueled primarily by immigration (http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/06/19/the-rise-of-asian-americans/). Fully 74% of Asian adults in 2012 were foreign born according to Pew Research Center analysis of Census data, and international migration accounted for about 61% of the total change in the Asian American population from 2012 to 2013. (Asian American figures represent the population who reported their race alone or in combination with one or more races, and includes Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.)

The different sources of population change are reflected in the demographic profiles of Asians and Hispanics. For example, the median age of Asians is 36.3, reflecting its larger share foreign born, compared with Hispanics at 28.1, reflecting the importance of U.S. births to populations growth.

Geographically, Asians and Hispanics are situated similarly across the country with majorities of each population concentrated in the west. For Hispanics, New Mexico still has the highest Hispanic population share at 47% while California has the largest overall Hispanic population (14.7 million). Texas, the second largest state by Hispanic population, saw the largest numeric increase in Hispanic population from 2012 to 2013, as it grew by 213,000 people. The Hispanic population increased the fastest in North Dakota—17% over 2012 to about 21,000 in 2013. (North Dakota boasted the highest population growth rates for every major racial and ethnic group except Native Americans and Alaskan Natives.)

California also has the largest Asian population (6.1 million) and Hawaii has the largest Asian population share (56%, the only state in which Asians are a majority). California was also home to the largest numeric increase between 2012 and 2013, with a net increase of 142,000 Asians. Just as with Hispanics, North Dakota saw the highest rate of Asian population increase between 2012 and 2013—up 8.4%.

Anna Brown (http://www.pewresearch.org/author/abrown/) is a Research Assistant with the Pew Research Center’s Hispanic Trends Project and Pew Research Center’s Social and Demographic Trends project.
Why Are So Few Chinese Youth Applying for DACA?

A year after a deportation reprieve became available to undocumented youth, analysts are noticing a trend: Very few Chinese immigrants are applying for it.

"We suspected this was the case, that there would be low numbers," said Anoop Prasad, a staff attorney from the Immigrant Rights Program at the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco who has worked with many Chinese applicants.

Mexican youth make up the largest number of those eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and also had the highest rate of applications, with 64 percent or 637,000 applications according to the Migration Policy Institute (MPI). But the absence of Chinese youth from the top 20 countries that applied for DACA came as a surprise to researchers -- especially since Chinese rank in 9th place in terms of eligibility.

"Even though Chinese are eligible, they're not applying at a high rate to appear in the statistics the Department of Homeland Security put out," said Jeanne Batalova, MPI's senior policy analyst and demographer. "Some did apply, but they didn't make it to the top."

MPI estimates that more than 15,000 Chinese youth are eligible to apply for deferred action. The information released by the U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Services (USCIS) doesn't show how many Chinese youth have applied.

Other nationalities with low application rates included Filipinos (16 percent of those eligible applied for DACA) and Dominicans (14 percent). Chinese participation fell below 10 percent, with fewer than 1,400 applicants.

‘Fearing for my family’

It took Amy Lin two months to decide to apply for deferred action. She was concerned about how the deportation reprieve would affect the rest of her family.

"I was fearing for my family because they don't have the same protection," said Lin, a 21-year-old who came to the United States from Taiwan when she was 12. "That's the same for a lot of Chinese and Asian undocumented people."

Asian Students Promoting Immigrant Rights through Education (ASPIRE), an organization Lin volunteers with in San Francisco, has been working on getting information to undocumented Asian youth to apply for deferred action -- but it hasn’t been easy.

"It's like outing yourself to the public and community," Lin said.

Lin has come across Chinese youth who are reluctant to apply due to fear of immigration authorities locating their immigrant family, not being able to afford the $464 application fee, language barriers, or simply a lack of access to information.

The challenges faced by Chinese youth to apply for DACA are similar to those of other immigrant groups.

More than 1 million young people in the United States could be eligible for the DACA program but only a little over half a million have applied since the benefit became available on Aug. 15, 2012, according to the MPI report.

The role of ethnic media

Advocates say one possible explanation for the low participation of Chinese youth could be related to a difference in media coverage among various ethnic communities.
"I think coverage in the Latino community on TV and the newspapers on immigration issues is far more thorough than in the Chinese press," said Prasad.

Major Spanish-language TV networks like Univision and Telemundo provide daily, if not hourly, updates on immigration reform and DACA, even reporting live from workshop sessions and town halls.

Betty Lin, a reporter for the World Journal in Washington, D.C., explained that most Chinese American ethnic media outlets cover immigration and DACA in response to news events, but they don't see as much demand from their readers to learn about it.

"They are [more] interested in things that happen in China," she said.

Prasad has another plausible explanation for the low number of applications: Some might be waiting for immigration reform to pass in Congress and since DACA doesn't have a deadline to apply, they don't see it as urgent.

"I think a lot of people are going to wait and see what happens with immigration reform, so it doesn't make sense for them to apply for deferred action and then pay again for a legalization application," said Prasad.

The undocumented stigma

In recent years, "Dreamers" -- young people who came to the United States as children -- have challenged U.S. immigration authorities by "coming out" as "undocumented and unafraid."

But the message doesn't seem to have the same resonance among all communities or generations.

Immigration advocates underscore that there are divisions among Chinese immigrants -- just like with Latinos -- when it comes to those who apply for legal documents and those who remain undocumented.

"It's hard for people to come out and say they're undocumented, because they're afraid of repercussions of what people in their community will think," said Susan Hsieh, a membership manager and spokesperson for Chinese for Affirmative Action in San Francisco.

"We have a lot of work to do in terms of getting rid of the stigma of being undocumented," she said.

Prasad adds that it isn't just undocumented immigrants who are cautious.

"I don't think there's a feeling that they are completely safe," said Prasad. "We see older clients in Chinatown that are very afraid that if they don't get their citizenship, their green card will be taken [away]."

Some parents and older generations may be reluctant to see their kids apply for DACA, Prasad said. Part of the concern, he said, comes from the U.S. history of discrimination against Chinese, such as the Chinese Exclusion Act. The act made Chinese ineligible for citizenship and imposed restrictions on their migration and work in the United States all the way until 1943.

"There's a lot of collective fear in the community," said Prasad.

Language barriers also represent a challenge to those who are seeking legal help.

"If you're outside a metropolitan area, you will have difficulty getting legal services," said Prasad.

Finding interpreters who speak Mandarin and Cantonese at the level that they can explain legal terminology, which can be a challenge in cities, is often more difficult in rural areas.

The whole family

Although he knows of no instances in which immigration authorities went after the families of DACA applicants, Prasad says the decision of whether to apply for deferred action is one that must be considered in terms of how it will affect the whole family.

When Amy Lin first heard about DACA she went home to tell her mother. Lin, who was raised by a single mom who worked as a caregiver, said it was a relief to be able to help her financially.

"I told my mom this is something that I can apply [for] and get a work permit. She was very happy," said Lin.

She explained it to her mother, who is originally from Burma, in a mixture of Mandarin and Burmese, since her mother's English is limited.

"I was fortunate that she supported me," she said. But at the same time, Lin has mixed feelings about the benefit she got under DACA, which she calls a "baby step."

"Every time I walk home," she said, "I feel so much shame that I wasn't able to do enough for my family."
From Germany to Mexico: How America’s source of immigrants has changed over a century

BY JENS MANUEL KROGSTAD (HTTP://WWW.PEWRESEARCH.ORG/AUTHOR/KROGSTAD/) AND MICHAEL KEEGAN (HTTP://WWW.PEWRESEARCH.ORG/AUTHOR/MKEEGAN/)

Where Each State’s Largest Immigrant Population Was Born
Top nation of origin by state

http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/05/27/a-shift-from-germany-to-mexico-for-americas-immigrants/
With more than 40 million immigrants, the United States is the top destination in the world (http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2013/10/25/5-challenges-to-estimating-global-migration/) for those moving from one country to another. Mexico, which shares a nearly 2,000-mile border with the U.S., is the source of the largest wave of immigration in history (http://www.pewhispanic.org/2012/04/23/net-migration-from-mexico-falls-to-zero-and-perhaps-less/) from a single country to the United States.

But today's volume of immigrants, in some ways, is a return to America's past. A century ago, the U.S. experienced another large wave of immigrants. Although smaller at 18.2 million, they hailed largely from Europe (http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/02/07/second-generation-americans/#three-great-waves). Many Americans can trace their roots to that wave of migrants from 1890-1919, when Germany dominated as the country sending the most immigrants to many of the U.S. states, although the United Kingdom, Canada and Italy were also strongly represented.

In 1910, Germany was the top country of birth among U.S. immigrants, accounting for 18% of all immigrants (or 2.5 million) in the United States. Germans made up the biggest immigrant group in 17 states and the District of Columbia, while Mexico accounted for the most immigrants in just three states (Arizona, New Mexico and Texas). Behind Germany, the second-most number of immigrants in the U.S. were from Russia and the countries that would become the USSR (11%, or 1.6 million).
Mexico Replaces Germany as America’s Top Immigrant Source

Since 1965, when Congress passed legislation to open the nation’s borders, immigrants have largely hailed from Latin America and Asia (http://www.pewresearch.org/next-america/#Immigration-Is-Driving-Our-Demographic-Makeover). In states that have attracted many immigrants, the current share of immigrants is below peaks reached more than a century ago. Today there are four states (California, New York, New Jersey and Florida) in which about one-in-five or more people are foreign born (http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/05/14/15-states-with-the-highest-share-of-immigrants-in-their-population/). California peaked in 1860 at 39.7%, when China was the top country of birth among immigrants there. Meanwhile, New York and New Jersey peaked in 1910 at 30.1% (Russia and the USSR) and 26.2% (Italy), respectively.

Today, five times as many immigrants in the U.S. are from Mexico than China, the country with the second-highest number of immigrants (5% of all immigrants in the U.S., or 2.2 million). Mexico is the birthplace of 29% (or 11.7 million) of all immigrants in the United States. Immigrants born in Mexico account for more than half of all the foreign born in four states: New Mexico (72.4%), Arizona (60.2%), Texas (59.7%) and Idaho (53.5%).

http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/05/27/a-shift-from-germany-to-mexico-for-americas-immigrants/
Despite Mexico's large numbers, immigrants come to the U.S. from all over the world. India is the top country of birth among immigrants in New Jersey, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, even though only about one-in-ten immigrants in each state are from India. Canada is the top country of birth for immigrants in Maine (27%), New Hampshire (14%), Vermont (23%), North Dakota (19%) and Montana (25%). Filipinos account for a large share of immigrants in Hawaii (45%) and Alaska (30%).

**Immigrant Share of Population**

*Percent of U.S. population that is foreign born*

![Graph showing the percentage of the U.S. population that is foreign born over time](chart)

- 1910: 14.9%
- 1920: 13,700,000 immigrants
- 1930: 92,250,000 total U.S. population
- 1940: 39,894,000 immigrants
- 1950: 309,231,000 total U.S. population
- 1960: 50% of all immigrants from 1965 to present are from Latin America
- 2010: 12.8%


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Note: Countries are defined by their modern-day boundaries, which may be different from their historical boundaries. For example, China includes Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. Russia and the former USSR countries are combined in this analysis, even though the Soviet Union was only in existence between 1922 and 1991. Birthplace is self-reported by respondents.

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Blog

Frustrated by Lack of Immigration Reform, Silicon Valley “Tech Titans” Fund Effort to Aid DREAMers

by Mahwish Khan on 03/07/2012 at 11:02am

Some of Silicon Valley’s big names are lending support to Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC.org). Via The Wall Street Journal, we get details on this major development involving a commitment by some significant players from tech world, including the widow of Apple’s Steve Jobs, to support DREAMers:

A group of Silicon Valley technology leaders, impatient with attempts to rewrite immigration laws, is funding efforts to help undocumented youths attend college, find jobs and stay in the country despite their illegal status.

The group includes Jeff Hawkins, inventor of the Palm Pilot; and the family foundations of Andrew Grove, co-founder of Intel Corp.; and Mark Leslie, founder of the former Veritas Software Corp. Laurene Powell Jobs, widow of Apple Inc. co-founder Steve Jobs, has for years supported undocumented students through her organizations that help low-income high-school students.

The Silicon Valley money is part of a broader response by individuals and states to Congress, which hasn’t passed the Dream Act. That federal legislation would offer a path to legalization for illegal immigrants who graduate from a U.S. high school and attend college or join the military.

“We think Congress’s inaction...is devastating for these students and tragic for the country,” said Ms. Powell Jobs, who was one of the first in the tech community to champion the Dream Act by lobbying her congresswoman and writing an op-ed piece supporting the legislation.

The focus of the Silicon Valley philanthropists is Educators for Fair Consideration, or E4FC, a nonprofit that gives scholarships, career advice and legal services to students brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

This is a welcome development and a signal that some of the greatest entrepreneurial minds in the United States grasp the value of the DREAMers, even if too many members of Congress still don’t.

Tagged as: America’s Voice, Dream Act and Immigrant Youth, Economies/jobs/workers
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Overview

Throughout our history, the United States has benefited from attracting many of the most talented minds on the planet. As a nation of immigrants, the United States found a winning formula; they pursued opportunities they could not find elsewhere and we as a country gained their entrepreneurship, intellect, hard work and skills, and the thousands of jobs they created in the United States.

Though there has been an ongoing public debate about immigration, an essential category is often a footnote: high-skilled, legal immigration. Specific visa classifications have been created to attract the world’s best and brightest to the United States. The most common are the H-1B and L-1, temporary visas that allow highly skilled foreign nationals to

http://www.techamerica.org/public-policy-advocacy/all-industry-priorities/immigration-reform/
work in the United States for up to seven years. Employers who apply for an H-1B visa must not harm the working conditions of the current workforce, and they must pay the visa holder the prevailing or actual wage for that position (whichever is higher). But is the system meeting the needs of an economy that is fueled by skills and innovation at a time when other countries are aggressively competing for the same talent?

Holders of H-1B and L-1 visas are often forced to leave the country because their green card applications are not approved by the time their visas expire. H-1B visas, also known as high-skilled immigrant visas, are critical to the technology community. We have the jobs available yet lack the workforce to fill them.

Foreign graduates of American universities often cannot obtain visas or green cards to stay in the country, despite having multiple employment offers. And many in the pipeline would like the opportunity to come to the United States but simply choose to seek opportunities in countries where they feel more wanted.

They are confounded by the bureaucracy. The waiting periods are too long and the regulations too inflexible. Foreign nationals of any single country can receive no more than seven percent of available green cards in a specific year. In effect this discriminates against individuals from populous nations that possess huge talent pools, like China and India.

If the best talent in the world cannot get into the United States, we face a true threat to our economic and national security. It is in our national self-interest to recognize the enormous contributions immigrants have made to our technical dominance.

One of every four scientists and engineers in the United States is foreign-born. They fill our graduate schools and research labs. In terms of doctoral degrees, 54 percent of math degrees, 60 percent of computer science degrees, and 65 percent of engineering degrees awarded in the United States go to foreign nationals. Because they often pay full tuition, their financial support makes many graduate programs economically viable.

Many foreign graduates choose to stay — if they are allowed. They conduct the basic and applied scientific research that has so often formed the knowledge base for innovative products, companies, and industries. The United States even benefits from those foreign nationals who do return home after graduation. These individuals become the political and business elites in their countries.

Returning home with an American education, they retain positive impressions of the United States that foster strong friendships and linkages for a lifetime. By deterring those who want to stay, we lose their intellectual abilities and innovations. We force our companies to follow them abroad. We lose the new companies, wealth, and thousands of high-paying jobs they would have created. By kicking out tomorrow’s Albert Einstein, Andy Grove, or Sergey Brin, we help competing nations enhance their talented labor pools by chopping away at our own.

The immigrant contribution to the U.S. is undeniable and high skilled foreign immigrants continue to drive substantial economic growth. More than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies in the U.S. were founded by immigrants or their children. Additionally, researchers discovered that Fortune 500 companies founded by immigrants or children of immigrants, like IBM, employ more than 10 million people worldwide. And the revenue generated by these companies is greater than the GDP of every country in the world outside the U.S., except China and Japan, with combined revenues of $4.2 trillion. Fortune 500 companies founded by immigrants alone employ more than 3.6 million people—equivalent to the entire population of Connecticut.

Many of America’s greatest technology brands — Apple, Google, AT&T, eBay, General Electric, and IBM, to name just a few — owe their origin to a founder who was an immigrant or the child of an immigrant.

And if we don’t fix our immigration system and make it innovation friendly, that next great invention may be tuned away at the border.
Policy Environment

TechAmerica believes that our current immigration system is hindering current and future competitiveness, innovation, and job creation in the U.S. As such, high-skilled immigration reform must be a major legislative priority in the 113th Congress.

The political climate seems to be changing but while there is general agreement that the system is broken, finding consensus on how to fix the problem is hard.

An estimated 12 million immigrants are living in the US illegally. Those who have applied to immigrate through various legal channels face backlogs of many years. Temporary work visa numbers for highly skilled workers continue to run out in the middle of the government fiscal year, even when unemployment rates remain high. US immigration law has generally changed only incrementally since a major reform law was passed in 1986.

TechAmerica remains deeply committed to fixing the broken immigration system. TechAmerica urges Congress to pass commonsense reform of our immigration system during this session. Meaningful immigration reform is necessary for our country’s technology sector employers to out-innovate our competitors in the global marketplace. Equally important is for the US economy to benefit from access to the cutting-edge talents of highly skilled, foreign-born individuals, many of whom are currently being educated in US colleges and universities.

We strongly support a fair and equitable system for H-1B and L-1 visas that balances the needs for both access to talent with effective enforcement to mitigate any unnecessary waste, fraud or abuse. The long term solution is to build a consistent pipeline of STEM educated students in the U.S. but the tech industry’s immediate need can only be met by allowing technology companies’ access to the best and brightest highly-skilled immigrants from around the world. By reforming the current H1-B visa regulations, which limit the per country numerical limitations for employment based permanent resident visas (“green cards”), we can achieve this near-term goal.

A strong piece of legislation that TechAmerica supported in the 112th Congress known as the StartUp Act 2.0 has been re-introduced as the StartUp Act 3.0. This bill tackles several issues critical to the innovation economy including immigration reform by creating new STEM and entrepreneur visa categories and eliminating the per-country cap. TechAmerica also supports the Immigration Innovation Act of 2013 (I-Squared), which increases the cap of employment based nonimmigrant H1-B visas, more adequately utilizes unused green card numbers approved by the previous Congress, excludes highly qualified applicants from the visa cap such as individuals with degrees in STEM fields.

High-skilled immigration reform must address the challenges and limitations skilled industries and employees face with nonimmigrant visas (the H-1B and the L-1) and permanent resident visas (Green Cards). In addition, reform legislation needs to promote effective and transparent visa processing, adjudication, and reporting requirements.

TechAmerica Position

Reforms we support:

- Promote policies that enable access to the best and brightest talent from around the world.
- Enable companies to continue investing in initiatives to develop the next generation of home grown workers, entrepreneurs, and high-tech developers essential for innovation and economic growth.
- Allow for Green Cards outside of the annual cap for foreign-born students who earn a graduate degree in the fields of STEM from a U.S. college or university, so long as there is a job offer in the U.S. for the graduate in the field in which the degree was received. This is critical as under current projections there will be a 50 percent shortfall in the number of college graduates in these fields over the next 8 years.**
• Repeal of the existing per-country limits on Green Cards.
• Reforms to reduce and prevent Green Card backlogs, including recapture of unused Green Cards, and exempting spouses and children from the annual Green Card caps.
• Enforcement rules, such as market-based wage and benefit requirements and displacement standards that protect American workers, promote U.S.-based investments, and facilitate global trade and U.S. exports.
• The annual cap on those who enter the country on H-1B visas is a detriment to innovation. Exceptions to the H-1B cap should be given to:
  
  ◦ Shortage occupations;
  ◦ Workers of extraordinary ability such as Nobel Prize winners;
  ◦ Highly educated professionals who worked in the U.S. for 3 years prior to applying for an H-1B and who have an advanced degree in science, technology, engineering or math;
  ◦ Those visa holders who are currently engaged in the Green Card process.
  ◦ Allow H-1B professionals who have not violated their visa to have an automatic renewal that does not count against the cap.
  ◦ Allow L-1 professionals who have not violated their visa to have an automatic renewal.
  ◦ A fair and equitable system for employment-based visas, in particular H-1B and L-1 visas, sensible transparent adjudication procedures and enforcement requirements that do not create undue operational restrictions or impose unreasonable cost for law-abiding companies but that punishes companies that violate the system.

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Featured Meetings & Events

TechAmerica Reception at NCSL Legislative Summit
August 19, 2014 5:00 PM to August 19, 2014 7:00 PM

SLG Dinner with Stu Davis
August 20, 2014 6:00 PM to August 20, 2014 8:30 PM

Global Trade Compliance Best Practices Conference
October 07, 2014 7:00 AM to October 07, 2014 5:00 pm

50th Annual Vision Conference
October 28, 2014 8:00 AM to October 29, 2014 5:00 PM

See More Meetings & Events

http://www.techamerica.org/public-policy-advocacy/all-industry-priorities/immigration-reform