

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

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**MEASURING THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION IN
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Submitted by the Bureau of the Census¹

Introduction

1. In March 1997, the foreign-born population in the United States was 25.8 million, an increase of 6.0 million since the census in 1990.² While most of the foreign-born who migrated prior to 1970 came from European countries, a majority of the recent migrants have come from Asia and Latin America. In fact, Mexico has been the number one source of international migration for the United States in the 1990's.³
2. Presented with the challenge of integrating a large influx of international migrants into the society and economy, policy makers at the federal, state and local levels have created a demand for additional information about the foreign-born population.⁴ Until recently, the decennial census was the sole source of information about this group.⁵ While the census provided much valuable information, especially for sub-national governmental jurisdictions, more timely information was needed to complement the census base.
3. For almost sixty years, the U.S. government has used information from the Current Population Survey (CPS) to monitor social and economic trends. As a result of a Federal interagency effort, beginning in 1994, the Census Bureau received funding for the addition of several new nativity questions to the CPS.
4. In this overview paper we provide: a summary of the CPS design; a description of the new nativity questions we introduced in 1994; and a condensed discussion of some of the data quality

issues we have encountered and resolved as we develop and refine the new time series. Throughout the paper, we make limited comparisons of the CPS nativity data with census nativity data, and we allude to the internal comparability challenge we face with the new CPS nativity time series.⁶

5. Currently, we are compiling the data we have collected with the new nativity questions into an expanding time series on the foreign-born population (Table A-1). This series promises to fill a gap in our knowledge about our newest residents. Policy makers will at last have a basis for monitoring income and poverty levels, school enrollment and attainment, social program usage, and labor force participation, and assessing the progress of foreign-born families and persons as they adjust to life in the United States of America.

1. Overview of the Current Population Survey

1.1 CPS Purpose. The Census Bureau has collected information about the civilian non-institutional population of the United States using the Current Population Survey (CPS) for almost sixty years. In 1940, the primary sponsor of the CPS, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in the Department of Labor contracted with the Census Bureau to design and conduct a monthly survey that would capture statistical data about U.S. labor force activity, including employment and unemployment. In the intervening years, the CPS has included other salient items including educational enrollment and attainment; income and poverty information; and fertility and voting activity. Some of the items were included in the monthly survey (asked each month), and some of the items were part of a special questionnaire supplement included on a one time basis, or on a recurring basis in a given month each year.⁷ In January 1994, the U.S. Bureau of the Census began collecting data on the nativity, citizenship, year-of-immigration, and parental nativity of respondents, from the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS).⁸

1.2 CPS and census samples. The universe for the CPS is the civilian non-institutionalized population of the United States. The CPS interviews a scientifically selected sample of about 47,000 occupied housing units, or 122,500 persons monthly. In comparison, the census sample frame includes the resident population living in households and group quarters such as military barracks. Each housing unit in the CPS sample forms part of one of the eight panels rotated in and out of the sample over a 16 month period.⁹ Housing units enumerated in the last previous census form the basis of the CPS sample frame. In the years following the census, we update the CPS frame to reflect changes in the housing inventory.¹⁰

All of the CPS items are sample based and therefore subject to sampling and non-sampling variability. Many of the decennial census items are also sample based. Estimates from the census sample data are more accurate than those from the CPS, however. The 1990 census sample of about one-in-six of the 92 million households enumerated was designed to provide statistically reasonable estimates for very small levels of geography. The CPS sample, on the other hand, was originally designed to be representative at the national level. Design changes introduced in the 1980's made the CPS sample representative at the state level, but most of the CPS statistics are only reliable for the nation.

1.3 CPS Content. The primary goal of the CPS is the development of statistical data about the civilian labor force, but we obtain additional information about each member of the interviewed household, as well as labor-related data for the population ages 15 or over.¹¹ The monthly survey captures information about characteristics such as: age, race and sex; employment status; family characteristics; and marital status. In March of each year, we add a set of special questions, called the demographic supplement, to the core CPS questionnaire.¹² The March supplement captures additional information such as: hours and weeks worked and money income received in the previous calendar year; and social program usage.

1.4 Survey Response. For the past two years, 1996 and 1997, the CPS household non-response rate averaged just above 6.5 percent monthly. Item non-response ranged from less than one percent for the demographic items (including place-of-birth) to higher levels for other items. For example, the labor force items rate was about 1.5 percent, and the earnings items rate was 12.0 percent. When information from the interview is missing or inconsistent, we edit the results.¹³ When we cannot obtain information about an individual by inference from a member of the same household, we use a 'hot-deck' procedure to fill in the blanks. Missing values are obtained by assigning missing information

from a case with reported data. The ‘matching’ criteria for the case without the values and the case with the values differs for each item, but often age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin are factors.

Although many 1990 census items were edited, the missing values for the ‘place of birth’ question were not supplied. All the nativity items included in the CPS have been edited for item non-response, and values have been supplied in cases with blank values. Sometimes CPS values have been changed if we edited for item inconsistency. The inclusion of questions asking ‘place of birth of mother’ and ‘place of birth of father’ in the CPS instrument provide additional information we use for editing the basic nativity questions. The ‘mother’ and ‘father’ questions have not appeared on the census form since 1970.

1.5 CPS Weighting and the census undercount. The CPS is a “controlled” survey.¹⁴ We transform the sample counts we obtain from the CPS into national population totals in two major steps. In the first step, we weight the sample data with factors based on the inverse probability of case selection, and make a few other minor modifications.¹⁵ Then, in a second stage of weighting, we compensate for the population undercounted, and the problem of bias in the representation of certain age/race/sex groups by controlling the weighted sample data to independent population estimates.¹⁶ These second-stage weights are based on three distributions: a) Age, sex and race; b) Age, sex and Hispanic origin; and c) State of residence (restricted to the population 16 and over). In comparison, the nativity data available from the 1990 census have not been adjusted for census undercount.

1.6 CPS and CAI. In January 1994, the Census Bureau introduced several major changes to the CPS including a redesign of the survey questionnaire and the use of computer assisted interviewing (CAI) techniques. Currently, Census Bureau field representatives conduct the first interview in the household with a laptop computer (CAPI). Follow-up interviews are conducted by phone with an assisted telephone instrument (CATI). The new CPS design and the advanced technology have: 1) improved question precision; 2) improved response consistency through the use of dependent interviewing procedures; 3) reduced item non-response rates with on-line data edits.

2. The Foreign Born and the CPS

2.1 The New Nativity Items. Until 1994, the decennial censuses had been the only periodic source of information about the U.S. foreign-born population.¹⁷ Questions about place of birth have been asked in every census since 1850. Citizenship questions have been asked since 1870. Place of birth of parents was asked in censuses from 1880 to 1970.¹⁸ Nativity questions have been asked in past surveys, but never on a recurring basis. In 1994, we added questions to the core CPS data collection instrument covering: a) the ‘place of birth’ of each of the members of an interviewed household; b) the ‘place of birth of parents’ of all the persons in (a); c) the ‘citizenship status of all the persons in (a); and c) the ‘year of entry’ for persons indicating in (a) they were born outside the states (See Appendix A).¹⁹

2.2. Nativity Questions and Cognitive Research. Before adding the new nativity items to the CPS, we conducted cognitive research designed to increase the validity and reliability of the information we collected. Our research showed us: a) the nativity questions could become core questions asked each month; b) these questions should follow the labor force questions, and precede the family income-related question; c) skip patterns alleviated respondent burden and improved accuracy; and d) certain

question phrasing facilitated understanding by respondents with poor English language skills or those unfamiliar with terms such as ‘born abroad,’ ‘American parent’ or ‘citizen by naturalization.’²⁰

2.3. The Foreign-born Population. We differentiate the ‘foreign-born population’ from the native population by determining who is a citizen at birth. In the CPS interview, we ask for the place of birth of every household member.²¹ If the respondent provides an answer indicating ‘born in a U.S. state,’ the interviewer enters a code for the ‘United States’.²² Citizenship is assigned in the editing process. If the respondent indicates the person in question was born in Puerto Rico or another U.S. outlying area, we assign a ‘yes’ in the citizenship question. If the respondent indicates a birthplace outside the U.S. and its outlying areas, we ask the citizenship question(s). Persons born abroad of American parents are citizens at birth. By combining birthplace and citizenship status information, we determine who is native.²³

3. Data Comparability Issues

3.1 Changes that affect comparability of the CPS data that the user must accommodate.

3.1.1 The 1990 Census base design. Following the census, every ten years the Census Bureau recalibrates the CPS sampling frame. Beginning in April 1994 and ending in June of 1995, the Census Bureau phased in a new CPS sampling frame based on the 1990 census. Prior to April 1994, the frame had been based on the 1980 census. Nativity data collected before July 1995, are not exactly comparable with data collected after this date, although most of the differences concern sub-national areas.²⁴

3.1.2. CPS Sample reduction. The eligible CPS sample was reduced in January 1996 from 56,000 to 50,000 households.²⁵ The reduction affected the New York and Los Angeles samples, although these areas are still self-representing in our national labor force series, which shows data for the total population by race and sex. We had over-sampled the areas in the past to provide the local governments with additional information about population subgroups, including the diverse concentrations of foreign-born living in these metro areas. The sample cuts affect the reliability of the estimates for these groups.²⁶

3.1.3. CPS 96 reflects June 30, 1993 metropolitan areas. Concurrent with the introduction of the new sampling frame, the Census Bureau phased in the new 1993 Metropolitan Area definitions. Sub-national geography changes were introduced, that may affect tabulations for the foreign born in metropolitan areas.

3.2 Problems we addressed as a part of the data development process:

3.2.1 The addition of ‘county of origin’ choices in CPS nativity question. After we evaluated the nativity data collected in 1994, we determined that the number of country designations available in the survey instrument was insufficient. Table A.1 shows the original list of countries we identified in 1994. We could not identify about four million of the 23 million foreign born, who are listed in Table A.1 as ‘Other Country’. Beginning in 1995, we increased the number of country designation choices available on the CPS CAI screens to over 100.²⁷

3.2.2. Processing Problems. Following the introduction of the new ‘place of birth’ screens, the 1994, 1995, and 1996 data for country of birth appeared inconsistent for a few selected countries. Although

sampling variation is always a factor, these differences seemed to fall outside sampling error. For example, the decrease between 1994 and 1996 in those reporting Vietnam as a place of birth (496,000 to 47,000) was excessive. Further review of the data revealed that a processing error, now corrected, caused these inconsistencies.²⁸

3.2.3 Revised Race Weighting. In the second stage of the weighting process, the CPS data are calibrated iteratively and sequentially to agree with three sets of numbers (Section 1.5 above). Until December 1995, the un-weighted data and the self-weighted data included five race groups: a) White; b) Black; c) Asian and Pacific Islander (API); d) American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN); and e) Other. The race controls for second stage weighting do not include an 'Other' race group, however, but rather use three exhaustive and mutually exclusive race groups: a) White; b) Black; and c) AIAN/API. In the second stage weighting process, persons responding 'Other' were added to the last race group. As a result, the second stage weight for the AIAN/API population was compressed to accommodate the additional persons, who were usually White Hispanics. The result of this displacement was a total sample weight about 30 percent too low for the API/AIAN population for the March 1995 CPS. And, consequently, the weighting problem affected the Asian origin foreign born population (those most likely to be API).

Since January 1996, we have excluded 'Other' as a race category in the CPS data (persons responding 'other' in the interview were edited into one of the four race groups). To improve the consistency of the 1995 to 1997 time series data, we re-calibrated the March 1995 data to reflect four races.²⁹ Table A.2 shows two place-of-birth distributions based on 1) the old March 1995 file (five races), and 2) the new March 1995 file (four races). We have also included ratios for each set of sample estimates listed in these two distributions. Note that most Asian countries show a change factor of about one-third, while the countries listed for Europe and the Americas are not significantly different. The comparative time series displayed in Table A.1 indicates that increasing the number of persons reporting a country in Asia as a place of birth, in the 1995, makes the CPS series more internally consistent and more consistent with the 1990 census data

3.3 Problems we are currently addressing:

3.3.1 Citizenship changes over time. To become a naturalized citizen, most immigrants must reside in the United States for five years.³⁰ Since we do not ask CPS respondents about their immigration status, we are not exactly sure how many people become citizens between the time they enter and leave our survey sample. Currently, we ask the citizenship question only one time, when a new person is first included in the survey. As we noted above, each household is in the survey for four consecutive months, rotated out for eight months, and then rejoins the sample for four more months. Currently, we are exploring the feasibility of re-asking the citizenship question when respondents rejoin the survey in their 5th month so that we can develop an estimate of the change in citizenship status.

3.3.2 Write-in the answer to the nativity question The addition of the new 'place of birth' screens improved our reporting accuracy for this item, but we still have about 20 cases per month with no value provided by the respondent because the interviewer does not understand the response, perhaps due to the respondent's inability to speak English. We are evaluating a change to the CAI instrument that would allow the interviewer to write-in a response for 'place of birth' and then subject matter experts would code the information before processing.

4. The New Nativity Data

The new Current Population Survey nativity questions provide us an opportunity to collect a rich and useful body of information about a growing segment of the population of the United States of America. With the data from the CPS, policy makers will have access to information that tracks the process by which these new entrants become integrated into the U.S. economy and society, and will no longer be limited to the once-every-ten-years snapshot provided by the decennial census.

TABLE A1. U.S. FOREIGN BORN BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH, 1990 CENSUS and CPS 1994-1997
(Shown after the 1995 processing error was corrected and with four races for 1995)

Total Foreign Born (rounded to the nearest thousand)					
Country	*1990 Census	1994 CPS	**1995 CPS	**1996 CPS	1997 CPS
ALL COUNTRIES	19'767	22'570	24'492	24'557	25'777
EUROPE					
France	123	121	126	129	114
Germany	737	625	588	523	578
Greece	184	168	148	124	142
Hungary	114	111	86	94	60
Ireland	176	149	155	208	193
Italy	602	483	449	463	445
Poland	403	410	530	490	433
Portugal	218	187	154	146	184
England	421	454	512	473	484
Scotland	108	83	90	88	117
ASIA					
Cambodia	123	150	151	153	150
China	549	565	689	801	940
Hong Kong	153	142	145	124	166
India	467	493	543	757	748
Iran	219	226	222	244	290
Japan	301	306	358	286	305
South Korea	589	533	706	550	591
Laos	178	139	256	248	174
Philippines	947	1'033	1'345	1'164	1'132
Taiwan	253	273	243	269	360
Thailand	111	131	189	163	136
Vietnam	563	496	624	740	770
AMERICAS					
Canada	772	679	677	660	542
El Salvador	491	718	655	701	607
Guatemala	238	365	311	347	446
Honduras	115	157	182	191	212
Mexico	4'524	6'264	6'741	6'679	7'017
Nicaragua	178	283	240	241	239
Cuba	771	805	779	772	913
Dom. Republic	366	556	521	515	632
Haiti	234	328	291	396	440
Jamaica	347	427	514	506	397
Trin./Tobago	120	111	99	121	197
Columbia	301	371	335	369	364
Ecuador	150	190	214	227	246
Guyana	125	125	144	118	199
Peru	152	220	259	206	225
OTHER COUNTRY	3'347	3'693	4'221	4'271	4'589

*1990 census counts include allocation of country not reported (808,158), but do not include an adjustment for undercount. CPS controls are adjusted for the census undercount.

** CPS data reflect four race distribution for 1995 and processing corrections.

Filename: c98ECTAB: JGR/ADS; 1/5/98

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Appendix A

The next few questions ask about each household member's country of birth.

NATVTY In what country (were/was) born? (Enter Code) _____

MNTVTY In what country was 's mother born? _____

FNTVTY In what country was 's father born? _____

(country codes not provided)

AUTOMATED SKIP PATTERN:

If NATVTY = US (1) --> END sequence for this person

If NATVTY = PR (2) or OA* (3) --> go to INUSYR*

If MNTVTY and FNTVTY = US (1), PR (2) or OA* (3) --> go to INUSYR*

ALL OTHERS --> go to CITIZN

CITIZN (Are/Is) . . . a CITIZEN of the United States?

(1) YES --> go to CITTYP A

(2) NO --> go to INUSYR

(3) DK --> go to INUSYR*

(4) R --> go to INUSYR*

CITTYP A (Were/Was) . . . born a citizen of the United States?

(1) Yes --> go to INUSYR

(2) No --> go to CITTYP B

(3) DK --> go to CITTYP B*

(4) R --> go to INUSYR*

CITTYP B Did . . . become a citizen of the United States through naturalization?

(1) Yes --> go to INUSYR

(2) No --> go to INUSYR

(3) DK --> go to INUSYR*

(4) R --> go to INUSYR*

INUSYR When did . . . come to live in the United States?

(1) YEAR 19 _____

(2) _____ years --> programmed exact year verification

*(3) DK**

*(4) R**

** PR= Puerto Rico; OA= Outlying Area; DK= Don't Know; R= Refused.*

END NOTES

¹ Prepared for the Conference Section: Use of sample surveys and censuses to measure international migration stocks and flows, by J. G. Robinson and A. D. Schmidley, Bureau of the Census, Washington.

² These numbers come from the March 1997 Current Population Survey. The 25.8 million foreign-born represent 9.7 percent of the U.S. population. To date the largest proportion foreign born occurred in 1890 (14.8 percent) and the lowest in 1970 (4.7 percent). See also, *The President's Comprehensive Report on Immigration, 1996* (forthcoming from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in 1998) for an overview of the contribution of immigration to the growth of the population of the United States in recent years.

³ The U.S.-Mexico border divides an area settled by the Spanish in the 1500's, hence the city names, San Diego, Los Angeles, Las Cruces, San Antonio, and El Paso in the U.S. Mexican-Americans and Mexican nationals are a mix of Spanish, German, Italian, and other 'international migrants' as well as native American Indian. It is not uncommon to see parents, children, brothers, sisters, and cousins residing on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. The influx of persons from Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America countries into the U.S. ensures that the Hispanic population will become the U.S. largest minority group early in the next century.

⁴ Last year, the U.S. government enacted the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996* and the *Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996*. Both of these new laws contain provisions requiring monitoring of the effects of the legislation on the welfare of foreign born and children.

⁵ The Immigration and Naturalization Service collects information about the flow of legally admitted international migrants at the time of their entry into the U.S., and when they apply for naturalization papers.

⁶ We are preparing a more in-depth paper to address the issues raised in this overview. This paper, entitled, "How Well Does the Current Population Survey Measure the Foreign Born Population in the United States", will be presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America in Chicago, Illinois, April 1998.

⁷ The items included in the monthly interview are generally labor force participation questions. Demographic items, such as age, race, and sex, are generally asked once of each respondent, but are carried forward as longitudinal or control card items and therefore de facto monthly items.

⁸ Excerpt from, *Bulletin No.2: Further Labor Force and Income Statistics for the Foreign Born Using the March, 1994 Current Population Survey*, prepared by Scott M. Came under contract with the U.S. Department of Labor, Division of Immigration Policy and Research, October 1995.

⁹ Part of the sample is changed each month. Each monthly sample is divided into eight representative sub-samples or rotation groups. A given rotation group is interviewed for a total of eight months, divided into two equal periods. The rotation group is in the sample for four consecutive months, out for eight months and back in the sample for four consecutive months. In each monthly sample, one of the groups is in the sample for the first month, one for the second month, and so on. Under this plan, 75 percent of the sample is common from month to month, and 50 percent from year to year for the same month. This procedure provides a substantial amount of month-to-month and year to year overlap in the sample, thus providing better estimates of change and reducing discontinuities in the series of data without burdening any specific group of households with a unduly long period of inquiry. (Paraphrased from *Employment and Earnings*, 1997; pp.233).

¹⁰ Sampling and non-sampling errors are important factors associated with the development of statistics derived from the CPS data. A thorough discussion of these topics is beyond the scope of this paper, but the

reader is referred to the “Current Population Survey Source and Accuracy Statement.” This statement accompanies every product the Census Bureau develops with CPS data, and it is distributed on paper and electronic disk (U.S. phone code --301-437-2422 or via e-mail [pop @ census. gov]); or via the Census Bureau Home Page on the Internet.

¹¹ **Employment and Earnings**; January 1997; U.S. Department of Labor

¹² The supplement name creates a semantics problem. Although it is called the ‘demographic supplement’, many of the questions would be judged by economists and sociologists as non-demographic. The Bureau of Labor Statistics simply refers to it as the March Supplement.

¹³ We do not edit all the items for inconsistency as we can learn much from the original information. For example, in the years when we include an item asking ‘Where did you live five years ago’, the information we glean from this question can provide some basis for evaluating information collected from the ‘year of entry’ question.

¹⁴ For more information about the two-stage weighting procedure the Bureau of the Census uses to develop

D. Current Population Survey Technical Documentation, 1997; and Technical Paper No.63.

¹⁵ We make a non-response adjustment of about 6% to 7%, as well as some other minor adjustments.

¹⁶ We estimate about four million persons residing in the United States on census day were not enumerated in 1990. This under-enumeration is known as the ‘estimated net census undercount’.

¹⁷ The terms ‘foreign born’ and ‘immigrant’ are sometimes used interchangeably, but from the perspective of the U.S. Census Bureau, they differ operationally and statistically. Foreign born refers to any person not a U.S. citizen at birth, who resides in the United States. The foreign-born population includes: persons who have become U.S. citizens; persons admitted in an immigrant status who are living in the U.S. at the time of the CPS interview; persons admitted in a refugee status currently residing in the U.S.; persons who have entered and reside the U.S. without documents; persons who have entered the U.S. with non-immigrant visas and overstayed the time limit on their visas; persons currently admitted on student visas; persons currently admitted on work visas; and long term business visitors. Immigrants are a special category of the foreign born recognized by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Immigration is a legal and transitory event that usually occurs only once, and in a given year for most individuals.

¹⁸ The census of 1870 asked only if parents were foreign born.

¹⁹ The United States of America consists of fifty states and the District of Columbia. The Bureau of the Census refers to the fifty states and DC as “the states”. Persons who move to the U.S. from outlying areas such as Puerto Rico are asked, “When did you come to the United States to Live”, but they are citizens at birth and therefore not foreign born.

²⁰ See, Wellens, Tracy. (1993) *Report on the Cognitive Evaluation of the Nativity Questions for the Current Population Survey*. Center for Survey Methods Research. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington DC 20233

²¹ New respondents are added through the introduction of a new rotation panel or when an old housing unit is replaced.

²² All states receive the same code in the CPS. In the decennial censuses each state has a unique code.

²³ We do ask ALL persons born outside the states ‘When did [the person] come to the United States to live?’ We want to know about the movement of the foreign born and citizens from abroad. Currently, we do not re-ask these questions, although we plan to begin re-asking the citizenship question when a household returns to the survey after the eight months rotation. Also, see footnote #1.

²⁴ For example, shifts in the foreign born population may not mirror shifts in the total population distribution, although this is probably not the case as many of the high growth areas are also areas of increased foreign-born population growth.

²⁵ The eligible sample excludes vacant housing.

²⁶ CPS sample areas are generally larger than a single local neighborhood. As different parts of the sample area are included each year, different neighborhoods will be included or dropped. If the population sample for area is reduced, the odds of a given neighborhood (and its inhabitants) being included in the survey are also reduced. The newly arrived foreign born tend to cluster in selected neighborhoods, (not randomly scattered). In successive years, as we shift sample selection from one neighborhood to another through a CPS primary sampling area, members of specific foreign-born groups may fall in or out of the sample. This may have occurred, in New York City with the Jamaican and Dominican Republic foreign born populations (Table A.1).

²⁷ For consistency we show the original countries throughout this paper, although much more information is available.

²⁸ Following the introduction of the new nativity screens to the survey instrument in 1995, we had not revamped our processing procedures, and ‘place of birth’ data were being coded incorrectly. Responses for ‘place of birth’ for countries beginning with letters at the end of the alphabet were dropped and ‘blanked’. Next, these ‘blank’ cases were assigned new values based on our editing specifications. Since we use a ‘hot deck’ procedure, where missing values are provided from donor cards, and the matching donors were likely to be drawn from a pool with large numbers of persons born in China, India, or the Philippines, the ‘blank’ place of birth values were mostly changed to these latter countries.

²⁹ Both the 1996 and 1997 data are based on four race groups. We have not yet re-calibrated the 1994 data.

³⁰ Spouses have a three year wait. Natural and adopted child immigrants must meet other criteria.