

# FY 2018 UPDATE

## Trends in Naturalization Rates: FY 2018 Update



U.S. Citizenship and  
Immigration Services

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## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the [Trends in Naturalization Rate FY 2014 Update Report](#). In line with its predecessor, this report focuses on understanding the naturalization trends of lawful permanent residents (LPRs) who are eligible to naturalize. Those who obtained LPR status in the same fiscal year (FY), also known as cohort, were tracked over time to understand their tendency to naturalize within certain time frames. Specifically, we analyzed how often LPRs naturalized within 6-years,<sup>1</sup> 10-years, and 20-years. As such, this FY 2018 update only contains information up to the FY 2012 cohort, which was the most recent cohort eligible for naturalization in FY 2018.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, this report contains naturalization trends of selected LPR cohorts by region of birth, country of birth, and class of admission. The findings in this report can inform targeted regulatory and policy actions aimed at improving naturalization rates, strengthening the naturalization program, and inform outreach related to Section 5 of [Executive Order 14012](#), *Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration Systems and Strengthening Integration and Inclusion Efforts for New Americans* (February 2, 2021).

## Background

Naturalization is the process by which U.S. citizenship is granted to a noncitizen who fulfills the requirements established by Congress<sup>3</sup> in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) enacted in 1952.<sup>4</sup> Generally, a prerequisite step to naturalization is to obtain LPR status, which can be gained through a number of classes of admission (discussed below). Lawful permanent residents, also known as “green card” holders, are noncitizens who are lawfully authorized to live permanently within the United States. LPR status confers certain rights and responsibilities. For example, LPRs may work without restrictions, receive financial assistance at public colleges and universities, and join the U.S. Armed Forces. LPRs may apply to become U.S. citizens if they meet certain eligibility requirements (further discussion below). After naturalization, foreign-born U.S. citizens generally have the same rights, benefits, and responsibilities under the U.S. Constitution as native-born U.S. citizens, including the right to vote.

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<sup>1</sup> LPRs are eligible to naturalize after 5 years, see Naturalization Trends section for more detail.

<sup>2</sup> At the time of analysis, the most complete and available data set was from FY 2018.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Citizenship and Naturalization, [uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship/citizenship-and-naturalization](https://uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship/citizenship-and-naturalization).

<sup>4</sup> USCIS, Immigration and Nationality Act, [uscis.gov/laws-and-policy/legislation/immigration-and-nationality-act](https://uscis.gov/laws-and-policy/legislation/immigration-and-nationality-act).

## Eligibility for Naturalization

There are general naturalization requirements that an applicant must meet in order to become a U.S. citizen. Among other requirements,<sup>5</sup> generally the applicant must

- be age 18 or older at the time of filing for naturalization;
- be an LPR for at least 5 years;
- reside in the U.S. as an LPR for at least 5 years;
- have good moral character;
- be attached to the U.S. Constitution;
- be able to read, write, speak, and understand English; and
- successfully complete the English and civics examinations.

## Data

The data used for analyses in this report were obtained, in part, from Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS). The data is based on information collected from USCIS Form I-485, *Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status*, and Form N-400, *Application for Naturalization*. The analyses were conducted using SAS software and the Standard Management Analysis & Reporting Tool (SMART), with data from the Computer Linked Application Information System (CLAIMS) Consolidated Version 3 (CLAIMS3, also known as C3), CLAIMS Consolidated Version 4 (CLAIMS4, also known as C4), and the Electronic Immigration System (ELIS) data systems. The data systems maintain the LPR and naturalization records. The information was used to calculate the rates of naturalizations by immigrant cohorts, regions of birth, selected countries of birth, and classes of admission.<sup>6</sup> This report includes data from FY 1973 through FY 2018. At the time of analysis, only data up to FY 2018 was available.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> USCIS, General Eligibility Requirements, [uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-12-part-d-chapter-1](https://uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-12-part-d-chapter-1).

<sup>6</sup> The data were restricted to immigrants who were 18 years of age and older when they obtained LPR status.

<sup>7</sup> More current data was not used when available because cohort selections are based on latest data available (e.g., LPR 1998 and 2008 Cohorts were chosen because these were the most recent years for which a 10-year rate was available when FY 2018 was the latest data available; the use of more current data would completely change the cohort years, analyses, and results). For additional data and statistics on citizenship and naturalization see USCIS Reports and Studies <https://www.uscis.gov/tools/reports-and-studies>.

## Naturalization Trends

The yearly number of naturalizations depends on operational factors, such as application processing times, and other factors such as the number of LPRs eligible to naturalize at any given time, as well as their motivation to apply and ability to pay the associated fees.<sup>8</sup>

An immigrant cohort is defined by the fiscal year when LPR status was obtained. For example, immigrants who obtained LPR status in FY 1998 are known as the FY 1998 LPR Cohort. A naturalization rate is the percentage of eligible noncitizens who naturalized within a specified time period. For example, the 6-year naturalization rate for the FY 1998 LPR Cohort (that is, noncitizens who obtained LPR status in FY 1998) is the percentage of those in the cohort who naturalized by FY 2004; the 10-year rate for the FY 1998 LPR Cohort is the percentage of those in the cohort who naturalized by FY 2008; and the 20-year rate for the FY 1998 LPR Cohort is the percentage of those in the cohort who naturalized by FY 2018. Because noncitizens who obtain LPR status are eligible to naturalize after 5 years (or 3 years if married to a U.S. citizen), this report presents the 6-year naturalization rate in addition to the 10-year and 20-year rates.

This report includes more in-depth analyses comparing 10-year naturalization rates for the FY 1998 LPR Cohort and the FY 2008 LPR Cohort by region of birth, country of birth, and class of admission. The fiscal years 1998 and 2008 were chosen because these are the most recent years for which a 10-year rate is available.<sup>9</sup>

### Naturalization Rates

Trend analyses show that the 6-, 10-, and 20-year naturalization rates have risen over time. The 6-year rate has increased from 19.8 percent for the FY 1973 LPR Cohort<sup>10</sup> to 33.7 percent for the FY 2012 LPR Cohort. This means that for those who obtained LPR status in FY 1973, only 19.8 percent naturalized within 6 years, whereas 33.7 percent of those who obtained LPR status in FY 2012 naturalized within 6 years. Similarly, the 10-year naturalization rate has increased from 31.4 percent for the FY 1973 LPR Cohort to 53.3 percent for the FY 2008 LPR Cohort. The 20-year rate has also increased, from 41.7 percent for the FY 1973 LPR Cohort to 63.7 percent for the FY 1998 LPR Cohort. See Figure 1 below.

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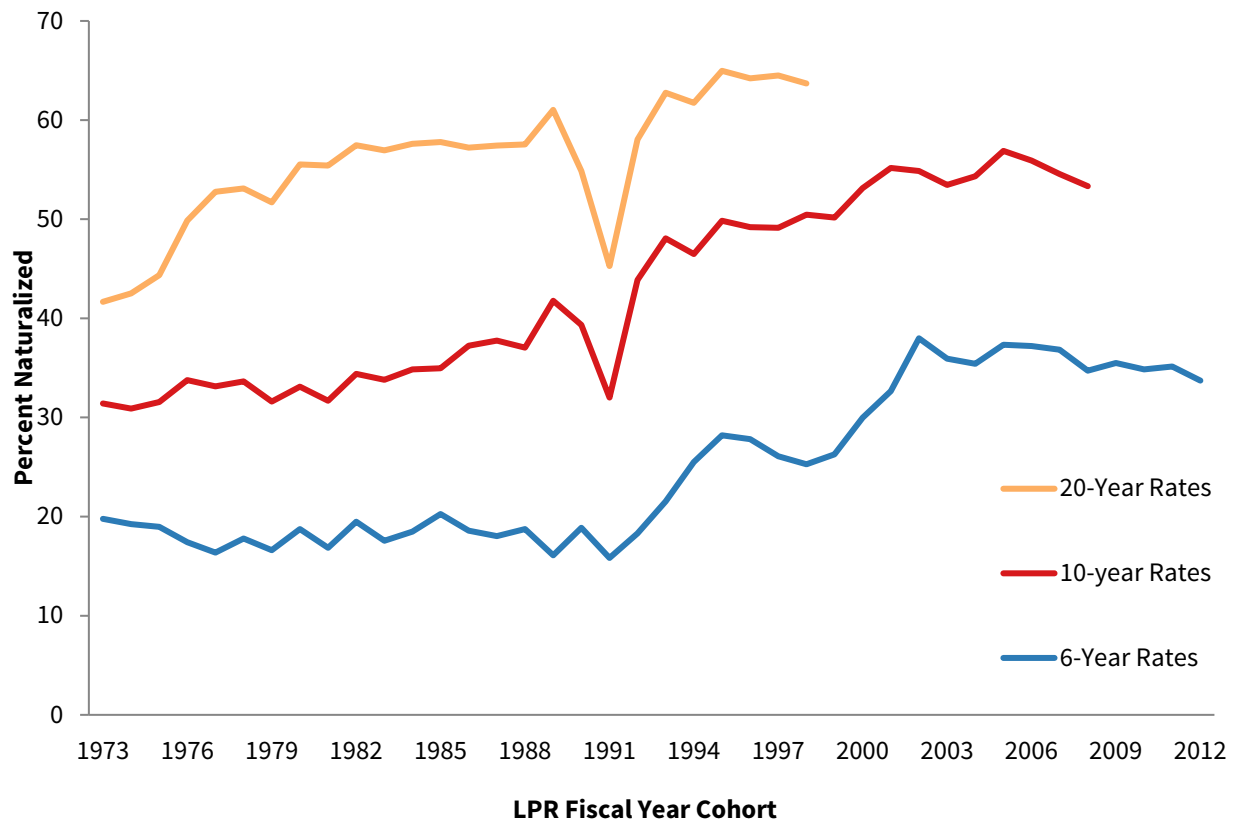
<sup>8</sup> For current filing fees for Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, see [uscis.gov/n-400](https://uscis.gov/n-400). There is no charge for filing the Form N-400 based on service in the U.S. Armed Forces.

<sup>9</sup> The federal fiscal year begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. As such, FY 2018 was October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018.

<sup>10</sup> This is the earliest data available.

Naturalization rates are low for the FY 1990 and FY 1991 LPR Cohorts, likely because they included large numbers of noncitizens who lacked lawful immigration status and were legalized under the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986.<sup>11</sup> Noncitizens who legalized their status under IRCA generally have lower naturalization rates than noncitizens who obtained LPR status by other means.<sup>12</sup> When naturalization rates are calculated after excluding noncitizens who obtained LPR status under IRCA, the rates are similar to, or higher than, other cohorts. The FY 1991 LPR Cohort that excludes IRCA beneficiaries, for example, had 10- and 20-year naturalization rates of 49.3 percent and 63.7 percent, respectively.

**Figure 1. 6-Year, 10-Year, and 20-Year Naturalization Rates for FY 1973-2012 LPR Cohorts through FY 2018 (Percent Naturalized)**



**Source:** USCIS Office of Policy & Strategy

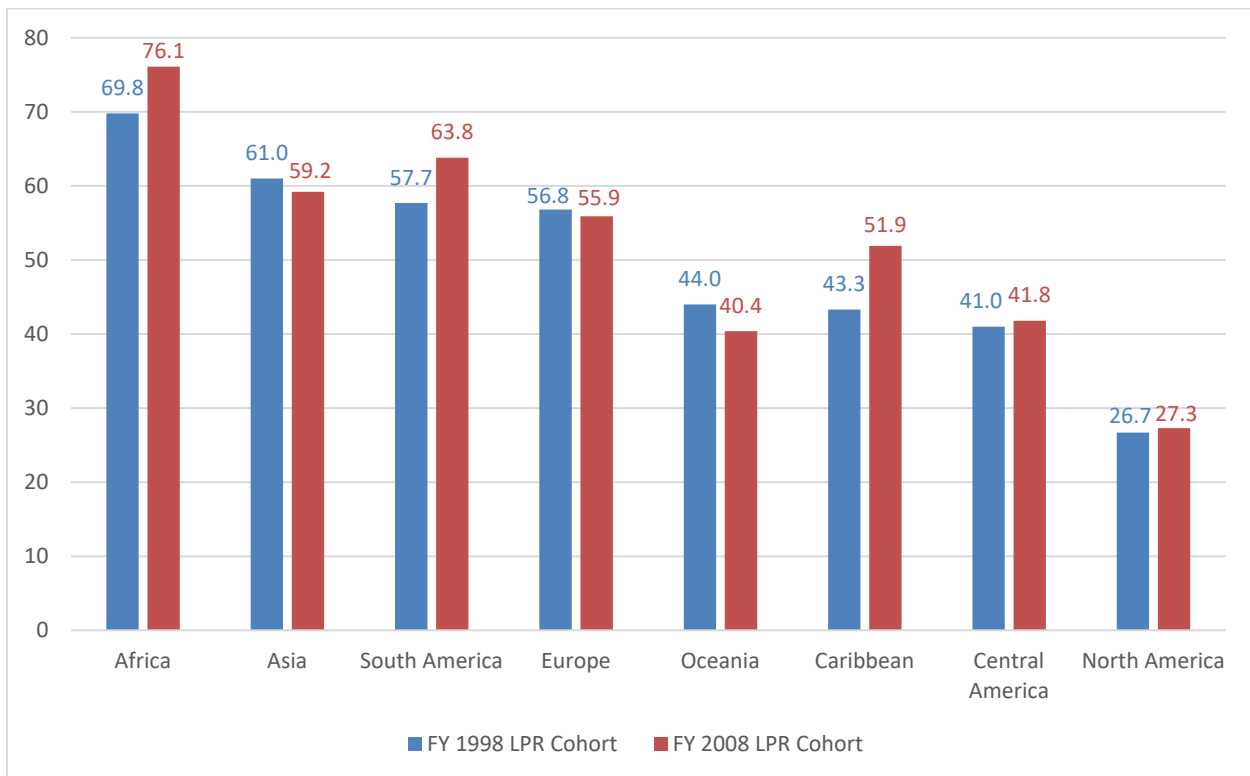
<sup>11</sup> IRCA legalized certain noncitizens who entered the United States before 1982 and had resided continuously in the United States in an unlawful status since at least January 1, 1982, and certain noncitizens employed in seasonal agricultural work for a minimum of 90 days in the year prior to May 1, 1986.

<sup>12</sup> For more information on IRCA, see “IRCA Legalization Effects: Lawful Permanent Residence and Naturalization through 2001,” Nancy Rytina, 2002, Office of Policy and Planning, Statistics Division, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, at [dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/irca0114int.pdf](https://dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/irca0114int.pdf).

### Naturalization Rates by Region of Birth<sup>13</sup>

Naturalization rates vary for those born in different regions of the world. The overall 10-year naturalization rate for the FY 1998 LPR Cohort was 50.5 percent, and the overall 10-year naturalization rate for the FY 2008 LPR Cohort was 53.3 percent. Comparing the 10-year naturalization rates between the FY 1998 LPR Cohort and the FY 2008 LPR Cohort, the rate of naturalizations increased in some regions of birth but decreased in others. For example, Africa and the Caribbean saw the largest naturalization rate increases (by 6.3 percentage points and 8.6 percentage points, respectively), while Asia, Europe, and Oceania saw decreases in naturalization rates between FY 1998 and FY 2008 Cohorts. Oceania, the Caribbean, Central America, and North America had the lowest 10-year naturalization rates for both the FY 1998 LPR Cohort and FY 2008 LPR Cohort. In contrast, the 10-year naturalization rates for Africa, Asia, South America, and Europe were above the overall 10-year naturalization rates for both the FY 1998 and FY 2008 Cohorts. See Figure 2 below. The 10-year naturalization rates by region for the FY 1998 and FY 2008 LPR Cohorts and additional fiscal years can be found in Table 2 of the Appendix.

**Figure 2. 10-Year Naturalization Rates for FY 1998 and FY 2008 LPR Cohorts by Regions of Birth (Percent Naturalized)**



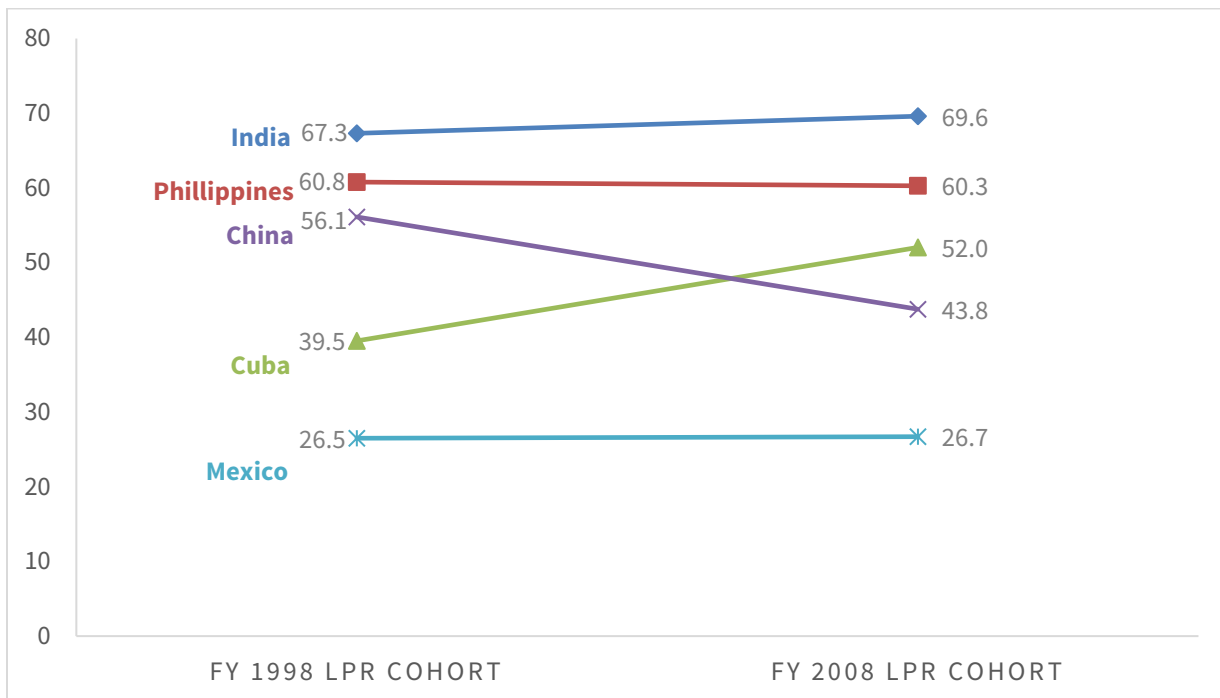
Source: USCIS Office of Policy & Strategy

<sup>13</sup> See a list of countries included in each region at [dhs.gov/geographic-regions](https://dhs.gov/geographic-regions).

### Naturalization Rates by Selected Countries of Birth

Similar to regions of birth, naturalization rates vary by country of birth for each LPR cohort. Comparing the 10-year naturalization rates between the FY 1998 LPR Cohort and the FY 2008 LPR Cohort, there was an increase in naturalization rates and the overall number of noncitizens who obtained LPR status from many countries. For example, the 10-year naturalization rate for noncitizens who obtained LPR status from Cuba was 39.5 percent in FY 1998 compared to 52.0 percent in FY 2008, and the overall number of noncitizens who obtained LPR status from Cuba increased from 14,449 in FY 1998 to 42,139 in FY 2008.<sup>14</sup> Naturalization rates declined for noncitizens who obtained LPR status from some countries, such as China (56.1 percent in FY 1998 compared to 43.8 percent in FY 2008). The five countries listed in Figure 3 below (India, the Philippines, China, Cuba, and Mexico) were selected because noncitizens who obtained LPR status from those countries comprised over 30.0 percent of the FY 1998 and FY 2008 LPR Cohorts. The 10-year naturalization rates for the FY 1998 and FY 2008 LPR Cohorts for additional countries can be found in Table 3 of the Appendix.

**Figure 3. 10-Year Naturalization Rates for Noncitizens Who Obtained LPR Status from Selected Countries for FY 1998 and FY 2008 LPR Cohorts (Percent Naturalized)**



Source: USCIS Office of Policy & Strategy

<sup>14</sup> The number of noncitizens who obtained LPR status can be calculated by dividing the number of noncitizens naturalized by the naturalization rate. Manual calculations may differ due to rounding. See Table 3 in the Appendix.



## Immigrant Classes of Admission

The INA provides several broad classes of admission<sup>15</sup> under which noncitizens gain LPR status:

- The largest class of admission, “immediate relatives of U.S. citizens,” focuses on admitting certain relatives of U.S. citizens for the purpose of family reunification (spouses of U.S. citizens, unmarried children under 21 years old of U.S. citizens, and parents of U.S. citizens (where the U.S. citizen is age 21 or older)). There is no annual numerical limitation for this class of admission.
- Family members not included in the immediate relative class of admission may be eligible for immigration under the “family-sponsored preferences” class of admission, which are subject to annual numerical limitations.
- Those who provide skills for a U.S. employer or invest in new U.S. jobs may be eligible to immigrate under the “employment-based preferences” class of admission, subject to annual numerical limitations.
- The “refugees and asylees” class of admission consists of noncitizens seeking protection in the United States because they have been persecuted or have a well-founded fear of persecution (on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion). There are two programs: a refugee program for noncitizens (and their spouses and children) outside the United States, and an asylum program for noncitizens (and their spouses and children) in the United States.
- Those who seek to immigrate to the United States from countries with relatively low levels of immigration may be eligible to obtain an immigrant visa under the “Diversity Immigrant Visa Program” class of admission.
- The remaining admission categories are generally limited to noncitizens admitted under special legislation, such as special immigrant juveniles (SIJs), Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986, etc.<sup>16</sup>

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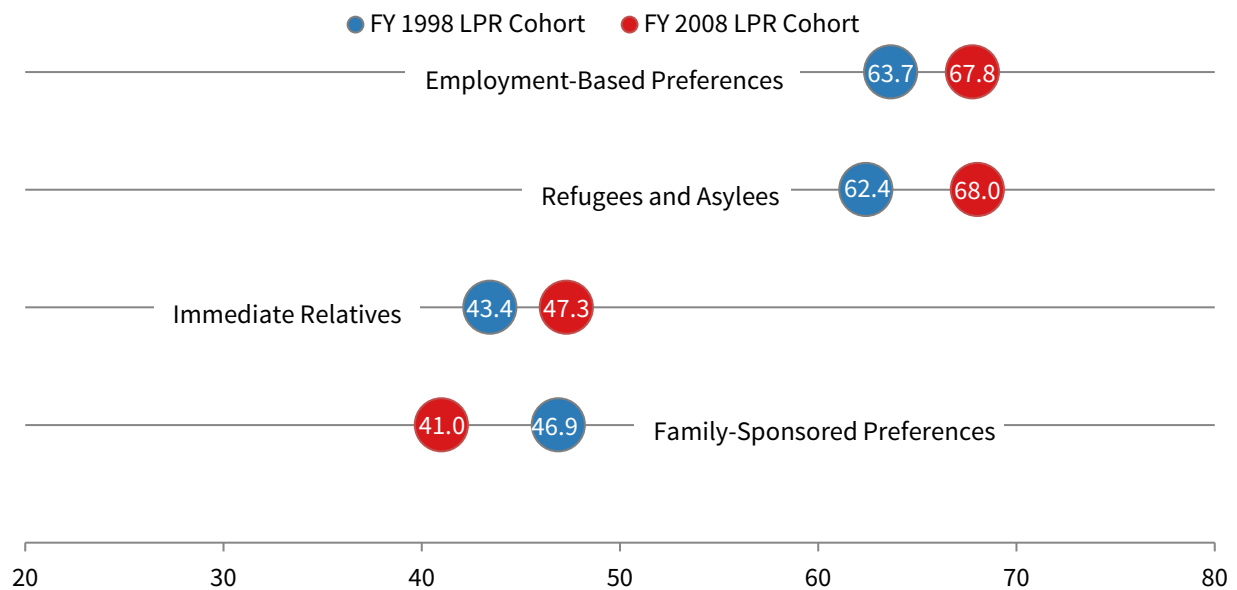
<sup>15</sup> Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigrant Classes of Admission, [dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/lawful-permanent-residents/ImmigrantCOA](https://dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/lawful-permanent-residents/ImmigrantCOA).

<sup>16</sup> DHS, Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR), [dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/lawful-permanent-residents](https://dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/lawful-permanent-residents).

### Naturalization Rates by Class of Admission<sup>17</sup>

For the FY 1998 LPR Cohort, immigration under the employment-based preferences had the highest naturalization rate, followed in order by those who were admitted as refugees and asylees, under the family-sponsored preferences,<sup>18</sup> and as immediate relatives of U.S. citizens.<sup>19</sup> For the FY 2008 LPR Cohort, refugees and asylees had the highest naturalization rate, followed by those admitted under employment-based preferences, as immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, and under family-sponsored preferences. The 10-year naturalization rates for the FY 1998 and FY 2008 LPR Cohorts increased for all classes of admission outside of the ‘Other’ category, except for the family-sponsored preference, which decreased. Ten-year naturalization rates for refugees and asylees increased the most (from 62.4 percent in FY 1998 to 68.0 percent in FY 2008), while the 10-year naturalization rate for family-sponsored preferences decreased from 46.9 percent in FY 1998 to 41.0 percent in FY 2008.

**Figure 4. 10-Year Naturalization Rates for FY 1998 and FY 2008 LPR Cohorts by Select Classes of Admission (Percent Naturalized)**



Source: USCIS Office of Policy & Strategy

<sup>17</sup> Class of admission reflects the immigration category held when becoming a LPR. The four classes of admission depicted in Figure 4 comprised more than 89 percent of admissions for both the FY 1998 and FY 2008 LPR Cohorts.

<sup>18</sup> Preference categories apply to family members who are not immediate relatives, such as adult sons and daughters of U.S. citizens, brothers and sisters of adult U.S. citizens, and adult sons and daughters of LPRs. The visas allotted for these categories are subject to annual numerical limits. A visa becomes available to a preference category based on the priority date. In family-based immigration, this is generally the date a petition was filed with USCIS.

<sup>19</sup> Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens include spouses, children (unmarried and under 21), and parents (where the petitioning U.S. citizen is 21 or older).

## Appendix

**Table 1. 6-Year, 10-Year, 20-Year, and Cumulative Naturalization Rates by LPR Cohort**

LPR Cohort (Fiscal Year)	6-Year		10-Year		20-Year		Cumulative Rate as of 2018 <sup>a</sup>	
	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)
1973	53,810	19.8	85,476	31.4	113,393	41.7	163,432	60.1
1974	51,312	19.2	82,382	30.9	113,354	42.5	160,916	60.3
1975	50,228	19.0	83,563	31.6	117,461	44.3	161,586	61.0
1976	61,294	17.4	118,834	33.8	175,494	49.9	222,937	63.3
1977	54,687	16.4	110,763	33.1	176,360	52.8	215,896	64.6
1978	74,190	17.8	140,314	33.6	221,464	53.1	273,109	65.5
1979	46,487	16.6	88,471	31.6	144,715	51.7	177,096	63.3
1980	70,872	18.7	125,183	33.1	210,005	55.5	248,594	65.7
1981	71,146	16.9	133,725	31.7	233,892	55.4	277,738	65.8
1982	75,112	19.5	132,561	34.4	221,521	57.5	257,777	66.9
1983	70,456	17.6	135,627	33.8	228,558	57.0	268,858	67.0
1984	73,449	18.5	138,491	34.9	228,891	57.6	266,721	67.1
1985	85,726	20.3	147,941	35.0	244,574	57.8	282,996	66.9
1986	83,210	18.6	166,823	37.2	256,316	57.2	295,292	65.9
1987	81,799	18.0	171,198	37.8	260,467	57.4	298,712	65.9
1988	92,779	18.7	183,484	37.1	284,948	57.5	318,779	64.4
1989	139,562	16.1	362,239	41.8	529,237	61.0	583,448	67.3
1990	242,016	18.9	504,502	39.3	703,797	54.9	785,042	61.2
1990 <sup>b</sup>	126,603	26.0	222,128	45.7	297,321	61.2	320,511	65.9
1991	257,253	15.8	520,246	32.0	735,701	45.3	835,166	51.4
1991 <sup>b</sup>	142,691	27.4	257,261	49.3	332,080	63.7	353,469	67.8
1992	137,619	18.3	329,731	43.9	436,253	58.0	470,789	62.6
1993	144,274	21.5	322,194	48.1	420,598	62.8	447,352	66.7
1994	151,147	25.5	275,470	46.5	365,851	61.7	386,657	65.3
1995	146,768	28.2	259,442	49.9	338,128	65.0	352,403	67.7
1996	187,593	27.8	331,869	49.2	433,203	64.2	448,537	66.5
1997	155,082	26.1	292,018	49.1	383,413	64.5	391,609	65.9
1998	122,032	25.3	243,563	50.5	307,481	63.7	307,481	63.7
1999	122,968	26.3	234,721	50.2			285,304	61.0
2000	191,040	30.0	338,659	53.1			403,521	63.3
2001	271,033	32.7	457,891	55.2			537,110	64.7
2002	317,989	38.0	459,273	54.9			526,654	62.9

**Table 1. 6-Year, 10-Year, 20-Year, and Cumulative Naturalization Rates by LPR Cohort Continued**

LPR Cohort (Fiscal Year)	6-Year		10-Year		20-Year		Cumulative Rate as of 2018a	
	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)
2003	197,674	35.9	294,102	53.5			331,405	60.2
2004	270,528	35.4	415,000	54.3			466,018	61.0
2005	332,527	37.3	506,806	56.9			555,675	62.4
2006	375,506	37.2	564,352	55.9			607,548	60.2
2007	310,072	36.8	459,277	54.6			486,395	57.8
2008	307,940	34.7	473,078	53.3			473,078	53.3
2009	322,252	35.5					459,205	50.6
2010	291,339	34.8					390,087	46.7
2011	298,605	35.1					361,225	42.5
2012	279,694	33.7					279,694	33.7

**Footnotes**

<sup>a</sup> The cumulative naturalization rate is the percentage of all noncitizens who obtained LPR status in a given year who have become citizens. Cumulative naturalization rates through FY 2018 were calculated for each LPR cohort. More recent cohorts generally have lower cumulative naturalization rates because they have spent less time in LPR status.

<sup>b</sup> Excludes noncitizens who obtained LPR status under IRCA.

**Notes**

1) The data reflects the most up-to-date data available at the time the database is queried, March 24, 2020.

2) Counts may differ from previous reports due to system updates and post-adjudicative outcomes.

**Source:** USCIS Office of Policy & Strategy

**Table 2. 10-Year Naturalization Rates for FYs 1978, 1988, 1998, and 2008 LPR Cohorts by Region of Birth**

Region <sup>1</sup>	1978 LPR Cohort		1988 LPR Cohort		1998 LPR Cohort		2008 LPR Cohort	
	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)
All Regions	140,314	33.6	183,484	37.1	243,563	50.5	473,078	53.3
Africa	3,684	42.3	8,919	55.4	22,221	69.8	63,520	76.1
Asia	87,493	51.5	93,269	47.6	102,323	61.0	193,415	59.2
Caribbean	16,084	24.3	27,835	32.6	23,911	43.3	55,202	51.9
Central America	4,298	29.7	8,279	36.9	11,046	41.0	15,854	41.8
Europe	12,158	22.2	14,720	28.0	36,295	56.8	47,648	55.9
North America	6,819	9.8	16,693	18.7	26,546	26.7	44,150	27.3
Oceania	495	16.3	579	19.2	1,352	44.0	1,735	40.4
South America	9,157	30.4	13,175	43.8	19,864	57.7	51,489	63.8
Unknown	126	35.3	15	68.2	5	1.1	65	13.7

**Footnote:**

<sup>1</sup> See a list of countries included in each region at [dhs.gov/geographic-regions](https://dhs.gov/geographic-regions).

**Notes**

- 1) The data reflects the most up-to-date data available at the time the database is queried, March 24, 2020.
- 2) Counts may differ from previous reports due to system updates and post-adjudicative outcomes.
- 3) Total counts include some countries of birth where data is missing or unknown that could not be matched to region.

**Source:** USCIS Office of Policy & Strategy

**Table 3. 10-Year Naturalization Rates for FYs 1978, 1988, 1998, and 2008 LPR Cohorts by Select Countries of Birth**

Country <sup>1</sup>	1978 LPR Cohort		1988 LPR Cohort		1998 LPR Cohort		2008 LPR Cohort	
	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)
All Countries	140,314	33.6	183,484	37.1	243,563	50.5	473,078	53.3
Brazil	206	14.9	561	27.9	2,125	61.1	7,084	66.2
Canada	935	8.4	1,131	13.0	2,124	30.0	3,918	34.8
China	6,939	49.1	11,800	48.9	14,955	56.1	29,616	43.8
Colombia	2,013	25.4	3,350	44.2	5,146	57.3	16,812	68.5
Cuba	6,692	29.1	4,940	33.0	5,711	39.5	21,929	52.0
Dominican Republic	1,967	14.0	4,236	23.4	4,071	28.7	8,772	39.8
El Salvador	1,233	29.8	3,333	37.5	4,091	34.2	6,083	37.8
Guatemala	764	26.1	1,313	30.9	2,296	44.5	4,027	39.4
Haiti	1,493	28.9	10,522	34.2	4,704	48.4	10,451	56.1
India	6,349	39.4	8,385	40.2	19,822	67.3	38,101	69.6
Iran	2,029	42.4	6,516	51.4	4,408	65.1	8,551	68.6
Jamaica	3,370	27.2	5,043	36.9	5,827	57.4	8,738	62.3
Mexico	5,876	10.1	15,540	19.3	24,412	26.5	40,126	26.7
Nigeria	166	18.1	1,925	60.9	4,363	73.1	7,752	75.5
Pakistan	1,542	52.4	2,342	54.0	5,885	66.0	11,019	72.1
Peru	1,496	36.8	2,371	49.4	4,346	55.2	7,347	58.4
Philippines	15,649	55.2	22,495	58.5	16,054	60.8	25,389	60.3
South Korea	8,380	44.9	5,899	26.0	4,878	50.8	9,818	47.1
United Kingdom	1,256	13.2	1,611	15.5	2,159	30.7	4,460	38.6
Vietnam	31,124	58.9	10,100	56.4	8,741	68.1	14,547	60.2

**Footnote**

<sup>1</sup> These are the 20 countries with the highest numbers of noncitizens who obtained LPR status for the FY 2008 LPR Cohort.

**Notes**

1) The data reflects the most up-to-date data available at the time the database is queried, March 24, 2020.

2) Counts may differ from previous reports due to system updates and post-adjudicative outcomes.

**Source:** USCIS Office of Policy & Strategy

**Table 4. 10-Year Naturalization Rates for FYs 1978, 1988, 1998, and 2008 LPR Cohorts by Classes of Admission**

Class of Admission <sup>1</sup>	1978 LPR Cohort		1988 LPR Cohort		1998 LPR Cohort		2008 LPR Cohort	
	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)	Number of Noncitizens Naturalized	Naturalization Rate (Percent)
All Classes of Admission	140,314	33.6	183,484	37.1	243,563	50.5	473,078	53.3
Employment-based preferences	10,014	42.6	20,259	48.0	37,829	63.7	91,039	67.8
Family-sponsored preferences <sup>2</sup>	43,904	33.8	55,375	40.1	57,796	46.9	65,262	41.0
Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens <sup>3</sup>	30,516	28.6	60,066	32.8	97,135	43.4	194,016	47.3
Refugees and Asylees	43,376	50.8	26,629	47.5	24,573	62.4	91,941	68.0
Other (Diversity Visa, IRCA, SIJs, etc.)	12,504	17.5	21,155	28.0	26,230	70.7	30,820	64.0

**Footnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Class of admission reflects the immigration category held when becoming an LPR.

<sup>2</sup> Preference categories apply to family members who are not immediate relatives, such as adult sons and daughters of U.S. citizens, brothers and sisters of adult U.S. citizens, spouses and unmarried children (those under the age of 21) of permanent residents, and unmarried adult sons and daughters (those 21 years of age or older) of permanent residents. The visas allotted for these categories are subject to annual numerical limits. A visa becomes available to a preference category based on the priority date. In family-based immigration, this is generally the date a petition was filed with USCIS.

<sup>3</sup> Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens include: spouses, children (unmarried and under 21), and parents (where the petitioning U.S. citizen is 21 or older).

**Notes**

1) The data reflects the most up-to-date data available at the time the database is queried, March 24, 2020.

2) Counts may differ from previous reports due to system updates and post-adjudicative outcomes.

**Source:** USCIS Office of Policy & Strategy