

Information on naturalization rates provide an indication of the integration and assimilation of immigrants, their employability, whether they have the right to vote and their eligibility to sponsor family members for subsequent immigration. This analysis examines whether the propensity to naturalize and the demographic factors associated with naturalization have changed in recent decades.

Data are obtained from administrative records of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service, on persons granted lawful permanent residence between 1973-2003. The records were matched with alien (A-number) with subsequent naturalization records. Although the demographic information available from DHS is limited, naturalization rates calculated from these data more accurately reflect the experiences of actual cohorts of immigrants than naturalization rates calculated from Census cross-sectional data.

The first section of the analysis will be descriptive. It will include charts that display cumulative naturalization rates through 2003 by years duration in immigrant status for the cohorts and charts by selected countries/region of origin (see examples below based on data through 2002).

The second section of the analysis will use logistic regression estimates to examine whether the propensity to naturalize varies across same admission-year cohorts by country/region of birth, gender, age at immigration, occupation at immigration, class of admission (e.g. family preference, employment preference, immediate relative of U.S. citizen or refugee/asylee), and state of residence at immigration. Multinomial logit estimates will be used to examine the timing of naturalization.

Example charts:

Naturalization Rate through 2002 for Legal Immigrants Admitted for Permanent Residence between 1973-2002 by Area of Origin, Ages 16 Years and Over

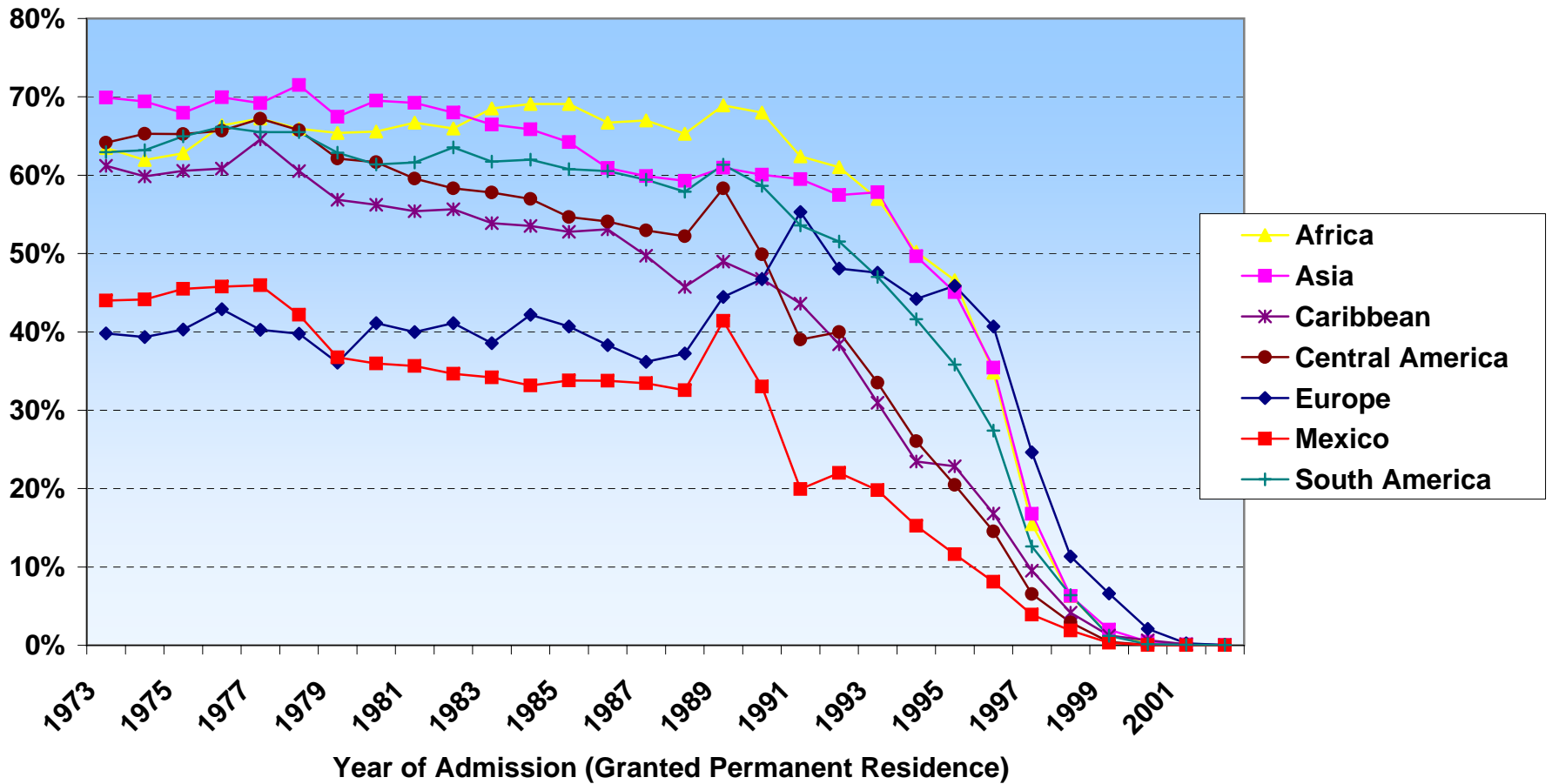


Chart 3. Naturalization Rate Through 2002 of 1974, 1984, and 1994 LPRs Born in Asian Countries and Mexico by Years Spent in Legal Immigrant Status, Ages 16 and Over

