

*California and  
Los Angeles County's  
Shrinking Flow of New  
Immigrants:  
Application of the ACS*

Dowell Myers

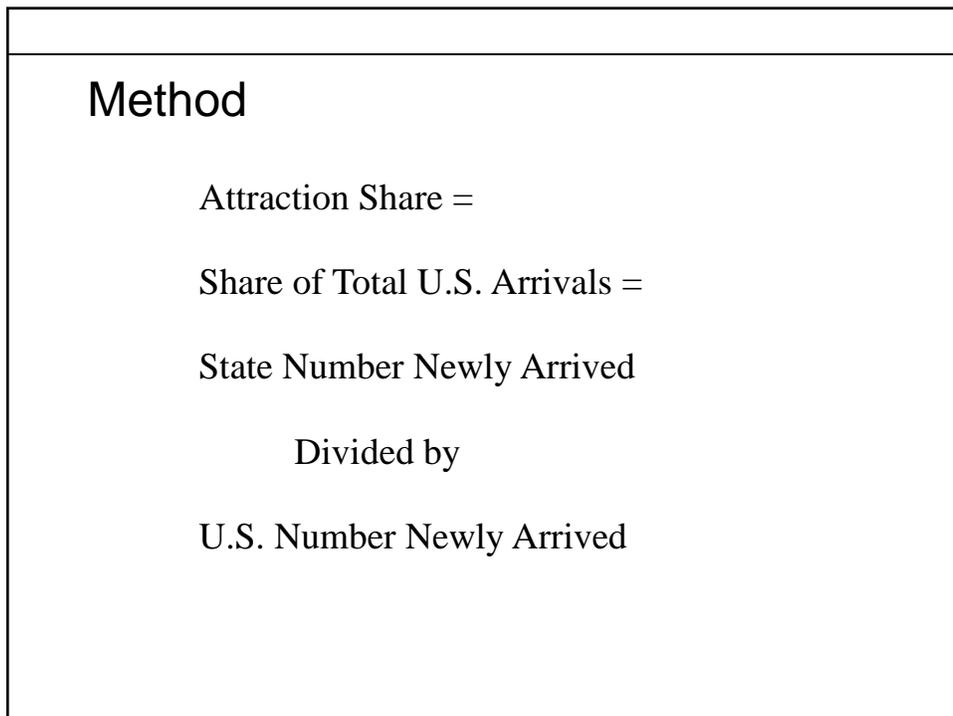
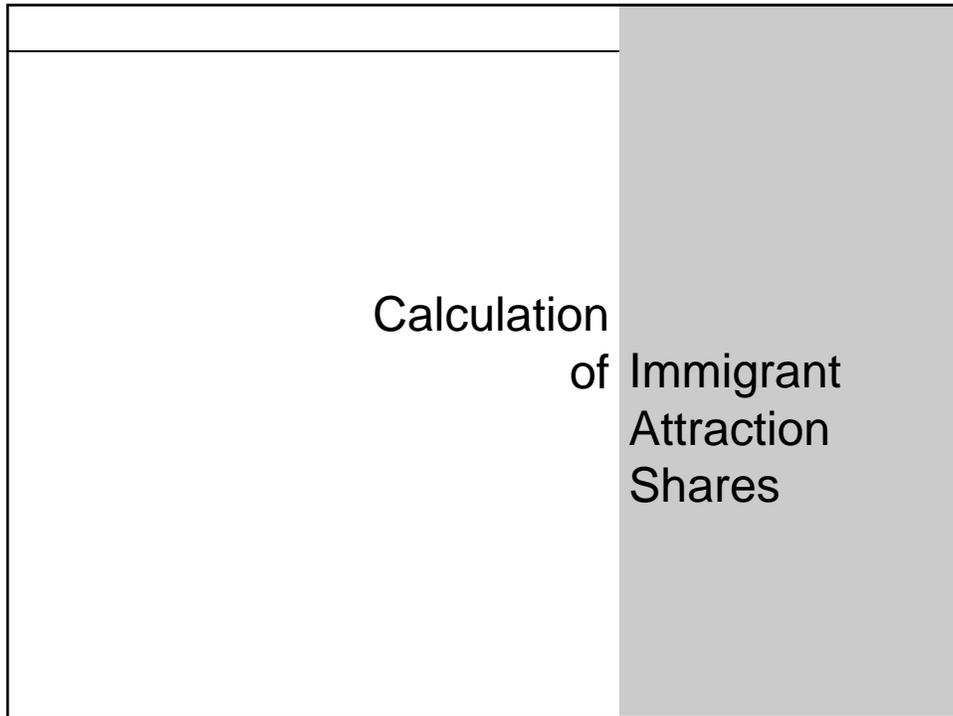
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## Key Question

How can we best use the American Community Survey to measure the annual volume of immigration?



	prior to 1990	prior to 2005	change 1990 to 2005	
California	37.6%	20.9%	-16.7%	(a) New arrivals in 10 years prior to 1990 and 2000 or in 5 years prior to 2005.  Note: The 12 states identified are all those that had 2.0% or larger share of the U.S. immigrant arrivals in the 1990s.
New York	13.7%	8.7%	-5.0%	
Texas	8.3%	10.6%	2.3%	
Florida	7.6%	9.2%	1.6%	
Illinois	4.3%	4.4%	0.1%	
New Jersey	4.4%	4.4%	0.0%	
Georgia	1.0%	3.2%	2.2%	
Arizona	1.4%	3.0%	1.7%	
Massachusetts	2.6%	2.7%	0.1%	
Washington	1.5%	2.5%	1.0%	
Virginia	1.8%	2.3%	0.5%	
North Carolina	0.6%	2.5%	1.9%	
<b>All Other</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>25.6%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	
Total US	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	Data Source: 1990 PUMS; 2005 American Community Survey

Calculation  
of Immigrant  
Arrival Flow  
and  
Trend

## Method

Annual Number of New Immigrant Residents

= Number Recently Arrived

(e.g. 1995-2000 or 2000 to 2006)

Divided by

Number of Years in Interval

Assumption: 5 years prior to census

But 6.5 years prior to 2006 ACS

## Published Table from 2007 ACS

C05005. YEAR OF ENTRY BY NATIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES -

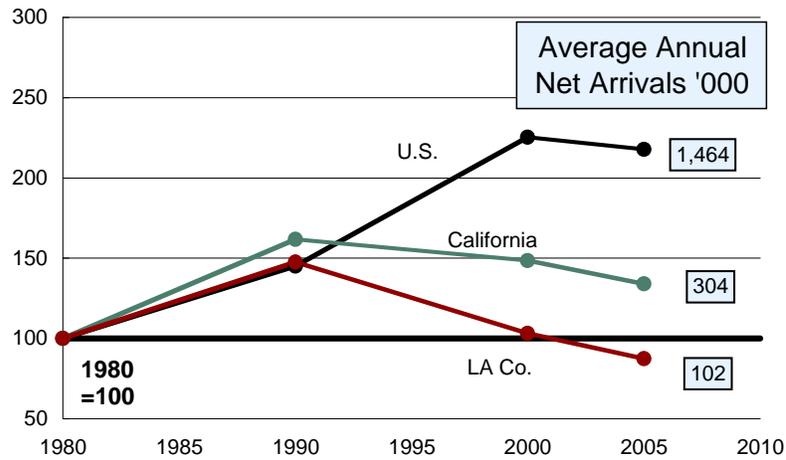
Universe: POPULATION BORN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

	United States		California		Los Angeles County	
	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-
Total:	41,858,574	120,874	10,395,284	45,911	3,654,764	28,707
Entered U.S. 2000 or later:	11,192,914	97,756	2,287,030	40,491	738,838	19,807
Native	641,660	20,164	60,374	5,443	12,678	2,165
Foreign born	10,551,254	97,330	2,226,656	40,298	726,160	19,396

Years = 7.5    1,406,834                      296,887                      96,821

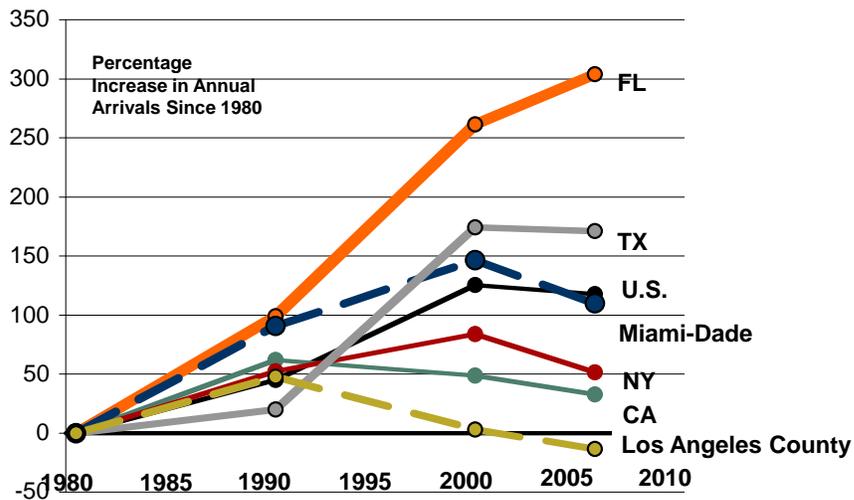
Note: Not shown here are additional year of entry categories in table C05005: 1990-99, 1980-89, and pre 1980

## How This Work Was Rendered by *The Economist* Magazine

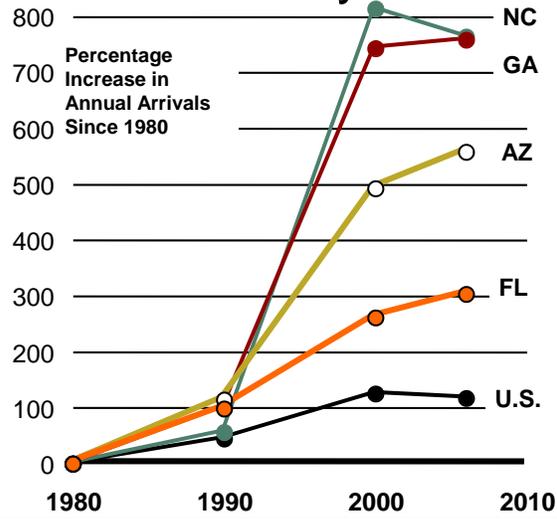


Source: Dowell Myers compilation from 1980, 1990 and 2000 censuses and American Community Survey; also *Immigrants and Boomers*, Figure 3.8.

## Annual Immigration Declining in Traditional Major Gateways



## Annual Immigration Slows in Newer Gateways after 1990s



Final  
Thoughts  
on Using the  
ACS for  
Measuring  
Immigrant  
Growth

1. Great to have annual state/local data
2. Published data hold us to a wide and growing interval: 2000-06 in 2006, 2000-09 in 2009
3. Uncertainty about how many years to use in the average: only half the current year?
4. Uncertainty also about how to compare to the prior censuses: use the first 3 months of the census year?

## Thank You

For more information  
Google "popdynamics"

### Dowell Myers

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