NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR AMERICAN POLICY

NFAP POLICY BRIEF » NOVEMBER 2025

THE ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT, ADAPTATION AND INTEGRATION OF FAMILY IMMIGRANTS IN AMERICA

BY MARK REGETS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Real earnings increased by 76% over 12 years for immigrants from countries where family sponsorship is the primary method of immigrating to the United States.[1] This compared to real earnings growth of 23% for U.S.-born workers the same age during the same period, illustrating that family-based immigrants make significant economic progress and integrate into America, according to a new National Foundation for American Policy analysis. The research also finds that family immigrants have lower rates of incarceration and use of public assistance income than U.S.-born individuals of the same age, and that they increase their educational attainment and English proficiency over time in America.

The performance of family immigrants is consistent with the Immigrant Human Capital Investment model of rapid growth in earnings and their general situation in the United States proposed by Harriet Duleep and Mark Regets in 1999.[2] Immigrants who do not come to America to fill specific jobs often start with lower earnings but experience rapid earnings growth as they adapt and increase their skills to meet the needs of the U.S. labor market. Their adaptability creates dynamism in the U.S. economy and benefits American consumers and employers by filling niches in the U.S. labor market.

Historically, immigrants have come to America accompanied by family members or to join relatives already settled in the United States. That has not changed substantially, and it is true even for highly educated immigrants. Sixty-two percent of immigrants with a bachelor's degree and 57% with a professional degree said family was an important reason when asked why they first came to the United States.[3]

Most family immigration today consists of the Immediate Relatives of U.S. citizens—the spouses, children (under 21) and parents of American citizens. The family preference categories include the siblings, married and unmarried children (21 or older) of U.S. citizens and the spouses, children (under 21) and unmarried adult children of lawful permanent residents (green card holders).

The Immediate Relatives of U.S. citizens can enter the United States without numerical quotas, provided they pass appropriate background checks. The family preference categories are subject to numerical and per-country quotas, resulting in long wait times for individuals from several countries. There were approximately 3.8 million people on

[1] Thirty-six countries for which family sponsorship was 75% or more of permanent visas issued during FY 2005 to FY 2009.
[2] Duleep, H., Regets, M. "Immigrants and human capital investment." *American Economic Review* 89:2 (1999): 186–191. https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdf/10.1257/aer.89.2.186.
[3] NFAP analysis of National Science Foundation/NCSES 2021 Survey of College Graduates.

the family-sponsored preference waiting list as of November 2023, according to the State Department.[4] As of November 2025, only applicants whose sponsors filed before July 2001 were eligible to enter from Mexico as the married son or daughter of a U.S. citizen. Only applicants who filed before January 2008 were eligible to enter from the Philippines as the sibling of a U.S. citizen.[5]

The Dignity Act, introduced by Rep. María Elvira Salazar (R-FL), contains a provision for individuals "who are beneficiaries (including derivative beneficiaries) of an approved immigrant visa petition bearing a priority date that is more than 10 years before the alien submits an application for an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status; and who deposit a premium processing fee of $20,000 into the [newly established] Immigration Infrastructure and Debt Reduction Fund."[6]

To conduct the research, NFAP examined American Community Survey data and identified countries whose family admissions accounted for 75% or more of their legal immigration to the United States between 2005 and 2009. This methodology, while useful, could underestimate certain characteristics, such as earnings and educational levels, by excluding countries like India that have a substantial flow of individuals entering through employment-based immigrant categories. NFAP did not include India because family admissions accounted for only 55% of its legal immigration flow to America between 2005 and 2009. However, given that siblings, for example, typically have similar educational levels, one would expect the brothers and sisters of Indians who enter as family immigrants to have characteristics similar to those of Indians who enter as employment-based immigrants. Indeed, 87% of the 2005 to 2009 entry cohort from India had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 18% for those from high family admissions countries.

The countries included in this NFAP analysis as high family admissions countries, in alphabetical order, are Antigua-Barbuda, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize/British Honduras, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Czechia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Jordan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Syria, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Vietnam and Yemen.

Among the key findings:

- On average, real, inflation-adjusted earnings for family immigrants arriving between 2005 and 2009 increased by 76% over 12 years compared to 23% for U.S.-born workers the same age during the same

[4] *Annual Report of Immigrant Visa Applicants in the Family-sponsored and Employment-based preferences Registered at the National Visa Center as of November 1, 2023*, U.S. State Department.
[5] Visa Bulletin for November 2025.
[6] H.R.4393 - DIGNIDAD (Dignity) Act of 2025.

period. Haitians have relatively low earnings after entry but experienced earnings growth of 154% from 2009-11 to 2021-23. During the same period, the predominantly family immigrants from Pakistan increased their earnings by 175%, and immigrants from Vietnam experienced a 101% increase.

- On average, family immigrants have higher labor force participation rates than U.S.-born workers of the same age: 78.1% for all high family admission countries vs. 76.5% for U.S.-born workers in the same age range in 2021 to 2023. More significantly, while, on average, the labor force participation rate rose by 3.8% over 12 years for family immigrants arriving between 2005 and 2009, it declined by 7.6% for U.S.-born workers in the same age range over the same period.[7]

- Family immigrants from several individual countries have very high labor force participation rates. The labor force participation rates in 2021 to 2023 reached 90% for Haitians, 87% for Jamaicans, 86% for Filipinos and 82% for family immigrants from the Dominican Republic, Peru and Ecuador—all much higher than the rate for U.S.-born workers.

- On average, the number of individuals from high family admissions countries who attain a bachelor's degree or higher increased by more than 25% over 12 years, indicating that family immigrants integrate and pursue higher levels of education to maximize their economic potential. Approximately 18% of family immigrants had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2009-11, but that rose to 23% by 2021-2023. Examining individual countries is instructive. The number of immigrants who achieved a bachelor's degree or higher increased by 93% for Haitians, 74% for Jamaicans, 42% for Vietnamese and 28% for Mexicans between 2009-11 and 2021-23.

- The vast majority of family immigrants speak English and improve with time spent in the United States. On average, 87% of individuals from high family admissions countries spoke English in 2021-23, an increase of 18% from 2009-11. The most significant improvement over this period came from immigrants from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama and Costa Rica (as a group), Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. On average, the number of individuals from high family admissions countries who spoke English "well" increased by 45% from 2009-11 to 2021-23.

[7] The research was conducted using the American Community Survey and measuring the labor force participation rate of individuals who entered the United States between 2005 and 2009 and were born in one of 36 countries where family admissions represented more than 75% of total admissions. Individuals were aged 25 to 52 during the first period (2009-11) and 37 to 64 in the second period (2021-23).

- On average, only 1.6% of individuals from high family admissions countries received public assistance income in 2021-23. That is lower than the 1.7% of U.S.-born in the same age range who received public assistance income in 2021-23.

- Family immigrants have a low rate of incarceration (in jail or prison). On average, only 1% of individuals from high family admissions countries were in jail or prison in 2009-11 compared to 1.7% for U.S.-born individuals in the same age range. The incarceration rates were between 0.0% and 0.2% for family immigrants from Bangladesh, Haiti, Pakistan, Peru and Ecuador, the Philippines, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon (as a group), Vietnam and Poland, Lithuania and Czechia (as a group.)

The low initial earnings of many family-based immigrants may not be due to low ability, but due to difficulties transferring their skills to the U.S. labor market. When this happens, immigrants have an unusually high incentive to gain new skills. The investment in new skills is most evident in new high school and college degrees. But much skill investment comes in the form of trying new jobs and working for advancement and purposeful improvement in English language skills. In the end, much of the investment in new skills hypothesized by the Immigrant Human Capital Investment Model is observed indirectly via rapid earnings growth. Rapid earnings growth for family immigrants occurs because of the rapid increase in the value of these new skills to the American economy.

FAMILY IMMIGRANTS EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT EARNINGS GROWTH

On average, real earnings for family immigrants arriving between 2005 and 2009 increased by 76% over 12 years compared to 23% for U.S.-born workers the same age during the same period.[8] Earnings were adjusted for inflation.

Earnings are the most basic measure of the success of immigrants in adapting to the U.S. labor market and contributing to the American economy. It is often the case that immigrants with low initial earnings in the United States are not truly low-skilled or low ability but rather face initial difficulty using their skills in the American labor market. As they gain new U.S.-specific skills, along with increased language skills and American credentials, they are better able to use their original skills, sometimes multiplied by their American knowledge. Such high upward mobility also has important social effects and helps explain why the initial low earnings of many immigrant groups are not associated with negative social characteristics.

Table 1
Real Earnings Growth of Family Immigrants

Country of Birth	2009-2011	2021-2023	Earnings Growth
Pakistan	$ 28,703	$ 78,906	174.9%
Haiti	$ 18,502	$ 46,912	153.6%
Jordan, Syria and Lebanon	$ 31,681	$ 79,527	151.0%
Vietnam	$ 21,229	$ 42,666	101.0%
Bangladesh	$ 22,344	$ 43,252	93.6%
Dominican Republic	$ 21,643	$ 36,828	70.2%
Peru and Ecuador	$ 25,031	$ 42,084	68.1%
El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, Costa Rica	$ 19,954	$ 33,382	67.3%
Mexico	$ 20,107	$ 32,277	60.5%
Philippines	$ 39,184	$ 62,691	60.0%
Jamaica	$ 30,146	$ 47,981	59.2%
Poland, Lithuania, and Czechia	$ 37,628	$ 58,404	55.2%
Other High Family Admissions Countries	$ 32,612	$ 54,399	66.8%
All High Family Admissions Countries	**$ 23,372**	**$ 41,182**	**76.2%**
U.S.-Born with the Same Age Range	$ 52,783	$ 64,873	22.9%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy analysis and estimates using the American Community Survey for 2009-2011 and 2021-2023. Note: The analysis measures individuals who entered the United States between 2005 and 2009 and were born in one of 36 countries where family admissions accounted for more than 75% of total admissions. Individuals were aged 25 to 52 during the first period and 37 to 64 in the second period. Both wage and self-employment earnings are included and converted to 2025 dollars to adjust for inflation using the Personal Consumption Expenditures deflator.

[8] The effect of the share of family admissions upon earnings growth is explored for a wider range of countries in Duleep, H., Regets, M. "Family-friendly and human-capital-based immigration policy." IZA World of Labor 2017. https://wol.iza.org/articles/family-friendly-and-human-capital-based-immigration-policy/long.

Haitians have relatively low earnings after entry but experienced earnings growth of 154% from 2009-11 to 2021-23. During the same period, family immigrants from Pakistan increased their earnings by 175% and family immigrants from Vietnam experienced a 101% increase.

The research measured the earnings growth of individuals who entered the United States between 2005 and 2009 and were born in one of 36 countries where family admissions accounted for more than 75% of total admissions. Individuals were aged 25 to 52 during the first period (2009-11) and 37 to 64 in the second period (2021-23).

FAMILY IMMIGRANTS HAVE HIGH LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES

After a period of time in the United States, family immigrants have higher labor force participation rates than U.S.-born workers the same age: 78.1% for all high family admissions countries vs. 76.5% for U.S.-born workers in the same age range in 2021 to 2023. More significantly, while, on average, the labor force participation rate rose by 3.8% over 12 years for family immigrants arriving between 2005 and 2009, it declined by 7.6% for U.S.-born workers in the same age range over the same period.[9] While the lower initial labor force participation rate partially reflects greater initial difficulties in the labor market, an additional explanation is a much higher rate of school attendance—sometimes by one family member while others work.

Family immigrants from several individual countries have very high labor force participation rates. The labor force participation rates in 2021 to 2023 reached 90% for Haitians, 87% for Jamaicans, 86% for Filipinos and 82% for family immigrants from the Dominican Republic, Peru and Ecuador—all much higher than the rate for U.S.-born workers.

The increase in the labor force participation rate over time also shows significant integration into the U.S. economy. Between 2009-11 and 2021-23, the labor force participation rate rose by 35% for Pakistanis, 24% for individuals from Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, 17% for Haitians and 12% for Vietnamese, while it fell by 7.6% for U.S.-born workers in the same age range.

[9] The research was conducted using the American Community Survey and measuring the labor force participation rate of individuals who entered the United States between 2005 and 2009 and were born in one of 36 countries where family admissions represented more than 75% of total admissions. Individuals were aged 25 to 52 during the first period (2009-11) and 37 to 64 in the second period (2021-23). The decline in U.S.-born labor force participation is due to aging within this cohort, along with the immigrant entry cohort—NFAP estimates using Current Population Survey data show nearly identical labor force participation by U.S.-born 37 to 64-year-olds between the two periods.

Table 2
Labor Force Participation Rates of Family Immigrants

Country of Birth	2009-2011	2021-2023	Percentage Change in Labor Force Participation Rate
Haiti	77.2%	90.0%	+16.6%
Jamaica	85.7%	86.9%	+1.4%
Philippines	78.8%	86.0%	+9.1%
Dominican Republic	77.9%	81.7%	+4.9%
Peru and Ecuador	80.1%	81.6%	+1.9%
Vietnam	72.2%	81.2%	+12.4%
Poland, Lithuania, and Czechia	72.7%	80.8%	+11.2%
El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, Costa Rica	80.5%	80.8%	+0.4%
Jordan, Syria and Lebanon	61.1%	75.6%	+23.7%
Bangladesh	64.1%	73.4%	+14.5%
Pakistan	54.0%	72.9%	+35.0%
Mexico	74.2%	72.6%	-2.2%
Other High Family Admissions Countries	70.1%	81.2%	+15.8%
All High Family Admissions Countries	75.3%	78.1%	+3.8%
U.S.-Born with the Same Age Range	82.7%	76.5%	-7.6%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy analysis and estimates using the American Community Survey for 2009-2011 and 2021-2023. Note: The analysis measures individuals who entered the United States between 2005 and 2009 who were born in one of 36 countries where family admissions were more than 75% of total admissions. Individuals were aged 25 to 52 during the first period and 37 to 64 in the second period.

FAMILY IMMIGRANTS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THEIR EDUCATION LEVELS

On average, the number of individuals from high family admissions countries who attain a bachelor's degree or higher increased by more than 25% over 12 years, indicating that family immigrants integrate and pursue higher levels of education to maximize their economic potential. Approximately 18% of family immigrants had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2009-11, but that rose to 23% by 2021-2023. (Approximately 30% of U.S.-born individuals in the same age range have a bachelor's degree or higher.)

Examining individual countries is instructive. The number of immigrants who achieved a bachelor's degree or higher increased by 93% for Haitians, 74% for Jamaicans, 42% for Vietnamese, 28% for Mexicans and 24% for individuals from the Dominican Republic between 2009-11 and 2021-23. Over 21% of the Haitians who entered between 2005 and 2009 were in school during 2009-2011, despite being in the 25-52 age range.

The number of immigrants who earned a high school degree or higher increased by 19.5% for individuals from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama and Costa Rica (as a group), 14.7% for Haitians, 11% for people from the Dominican Republic and 8% for Mexicans between 2009-11 and 2021-23.[10] On average, individuals from high family admissions countries increased the proportion with a high school degree or higher by 11.5%, from 57.4% to 64% between 2009-11 and 2021-23.

Table 3
Increase in Attainment of a Bachelor's Degree or Higher Among Family Immigrants

Country of Birth	2009-2011	2021-2023	Percentage Change in Attainment of a Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Haiti	9.8%	18.9%	+93.4%
Jamaica	13.8%	24.1%	+73.9%
Vietnam	15.9%	22.7%	+42.4%
Mexico	8.4%	10.8%	+27.6%
Dominican Republic	18.7%	23.1%	+23.8%
Peru and Ecuador	23.0%	27.1%	+17.8%
El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, Costa Rica	9.1%	10.2%	+11.2%
Poland, Lithuania, and Czechia	46.5%	49.0%	+5.5%
Pakistan	58.1%	60.0%	+3.1%
Philippines	63.3%	64.5%	+1.8%
Jordan, Syria and Lebanon	49.9%	50.1%	+0.3%
Bangladesh	53.3%	51.2%	-3.9%
Other High Family Admissions Countries	27.8%	28.9%	+3.9%
All High Family Admissions Countries	18.4%	23.1%	+25.7%
U.S.-Born with the Same Age Range	30.6%	30.9%	+0.7%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy analysis and estimates using the American Community Survey for 2009-2011 and 2021-2023. Note: The analysis measures individuals who entered the United States between 2005 and 2009 and were born in one of 36 countries where family admissions accounted for more than 75% of total admissions. Individuals were aged 25 to 52 during the first period and 37 to 64 in the second period.

The research may underestimate educational attainment among family immigrants by excluding countries, such as India, with less than 75% of their total immigration admissions derived from family immigration. Family immigration

[10] The research was conducted using the American Community Survey and measuring the education level of individuals who entered the United States between 2005 and 2009 and were born in one of 36 countries where family admissions represented more than 75% of total admissions. Individuals were aged 25 to 52 during the first period (2009-11) and 37 to 64 in the second period (2021-23).

accounted for approximately 55% of Indian immigration to the United States during the examined entry period. Countries with a high level of employment-based immigrants typically have family members, particularly siblings, with similar levels of education. Still, in a diverse economy, admitting only individuals with bachelor's degrees or higher would eliminate a significant reason why immigrants are economically valuable—their ability to adapt and fill niches across the U.S. skill spectrum.

FAMILY IMMIGRANTS HAVE GOOD AND IMPROVING ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

The vast majority of family immigrants speak English and improve with time spent in the United States. On average, 87% of individuals from high family admissions countries spoke English in 2021-23, an increase of 18% from 2009-11. The greatest improvement over this time period was seen among immigrants from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama and Costa Rica (as a group), Mexico and the Dominican Republic.[11]

Table 4
Increase in Ability to Speak English Among Family Immigrants

Country of Birth	2009-2011	2021-2023	12-Year Change in Ability to Speak English
Bangladesh	94.8%	96.7%	+1.9%
Dominican Republic	67.9%	83.4%	+22.7%
El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, Costa Rica	64.2%	81.7%	+27.2%
Haiti	89.7%	98.2%	+9.4%
Jamaica	99.9%	99.8%	+0.0%
Jordan, Syria and Lebanon	95.7%	98.8%	+3.3%
Mexico	64.5%	79.4%	+23.1%
Pakistan	94.9%	98.1%	+3.4%
Peru and Ecuador	82.6%	92.0%	+11.5%
Philippines	99.7%	99.5%	-0.2%
Poland, Lithuania, and Czechia	94.5%	97.0%	+2.7%
Vietnam	80.6%	90.9%	+12.8%
Other High Family Admissions Countries	90.7%	95.4%	+5.2%
All High Family Admissions Countries	73.5%	86.6%	+17.8%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy analysis and estimates using the American Community Survey for 2009-2011 and 2021-2023. Note: The analysis measures individuals who entered the United States between 2005 and 2009 and were born in one of 36 countries where family admissions accounted for more than 75% of total admissions. Individuals were aged 25 to 52 during the first period and 37 to 64 in the second period.

[11] The research was conducted using the American Community Survey and measuring the English language level of individuals who entered the United States between 2005 and 2009 and were born in one of 36 countries where family admissions represented more than 75% of total admissions. Individuals were aged 25 to 52 during the first period (2009-11) and 37 to 64 in the second period (2021-23).

Another indication of how immigrants integrate and improve with time spent in America: on average, the number of individuals from high family admissions countries who spoke English "well" increased by 45% from 2009-11 to 2021-23.[12]

Family Immigrant Use of Public Assistance Income is Low

On average, only 1.6% of individuals from high family admissions countries received public assistance income in 2021-23. That is lower than the 1.7% of U.S.-born in the same age range who received public assistance income in 2021-23.

The research used the American Community Survey to measure the public assistance income received by individuals who entered the United States between 2005 and 2009 and were born in one of 36 countries where family admissions accounted for more than 75% of total admissions. Individuals were aged 37 to 64 in 2021-23.

Table 5
Receipt of Public Assistance Income

Country of Birth	Receipt of Public Assistance Income (2021-2023)
Bangladesh	2.8%
Dominican Republic	2.3%
El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, Costa Rica	1.2%
Haiti	2.0%
Jamaica	2.6%
Jordan, Syria and Lebanon	2.1%
Mexico	1.1%
Pakistan	1.9%
Peru and Ecuador	1.0%
Philippines	1.8%
Poland, Lithuania, and Czechia	1.8%
Vietnam	2.9%
Other High Family Admissions Countries	2.7%
All High Family Admissions Countries	1.6%
U.S.-Born with the Same Age Range	1.7%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy analysis and estimates using the American Community Survey for 2021-2023.
Note: The analysis measures individuals who entered the United States between 2005 and 2009 and were born in one of 36 countries where family admissions accounted for more than 75% of total admissions. Individuals were aged 37 to 64 in 2021-2023.

[12] Ibid.

FAMILY IMMIGRANTS ARE LESS LIKELY TO COMMIT CRIMES THAN U.S. BORN

Family immigrants have a low rate of incarceration (in jail or prison). On average, only 1% of individuals from high family admissions countries were in jail or prison in 2009-11 compared to 1.7% for U.S.-born individuals in the same age range. The incarceration rates were between 0.0% and 0.2% for family immigrants from Bangladesh, Haiti, Pakistan, Peru and Ecuador, the Philippines, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon (as a group), Vietnam and Poland, Lithuania and Czechia (as a group).

Table 6
Family Immigrants and Rate of Institutionalization (Jails and Prisons)

Country of Birth	Rate of Institutionalization
Bangladesh	0.0%
Dominican Republic	0.4%
El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, Costa Rica	1.1%
Haiti	0.2%
Jamaica	0.7%
Jordan, Syria and Lebanon	0.0%
Mexico	1.5%
Other High Family	0.3%
Pakistan	0.0%
Peru and Ecuador	0.1%
Philippines	0.2%
Poland, Lithuania, and Czechia	0.1%
Vietnam	0.1%
Other High Family Admissions Countries	0.3%
All High Family Admissions Countries	1.0%
U.S.-Born with the Same Age Range	1.7%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy analysis and estimates using the American Community Survey for 2021-2023.
Note: The analysis measures individuals who entered the United States between 2005 and 2009 and were born in one of 36 countries where family admissions accounted for more than 75% of total admissions. Measures years 2009-2011. Individuals were aged 25 to 52.

The research was conducted using the American Community Survey and measuring rates of incarceration for individuals who entered the United States between 2005 and 2009 and were born in one of 36 countries where family admissions represented more than 75% of total admissions. Individuals were aged 25 to 52 in 2009-11.

Rapid Advancement of Family Immigrants is Consistent with the Immigrant Human Capital Investment Model

These findings might be best understood using a model of immigrant behavior proposed by Duleep and Regets in 1999.[13] The low initial earnings of many family-based immigrants may not be due to low ability, but rather to difficulties in transferring their skills to the U.S. labor market.

When this happens, immigrants have an unusually high incentive to gain new skills. Because of low wages, the opportunity cost of spending time in school or in entrepreneurship is low. In addition, the value of new American-earned skills or credentials is very high for immigrants—they receive a market return from both the new skills and the skills they brought with them that might previously have been unusable in the American labor market.

We see the investment in new skills most directly in new high school and college degrees. But much of the skill investment comes from the willingness to try new jobs and work for advancement. In addition, at least some of the improvement in English language skills is due to purposeful effort rather than just time in the United States. In the end, much of the investment in new skills hypothesized by the Immigrant Human Capital Investment Model is observed indirectly via rapid earnings growth. Rapid earnings growth occurs because of the rapid increase in the value to the American economy of these new skills and older skills immigrants are able to adapt to American economic needs.

[13] Duleep, H., Regets, M. "Immigrants and human capital investment." *American Economic Review* 89:2 (1999): 186–191. https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdf/10.1257/aer.89.2.186.

Appendix Table 1
Permanent Residence: Top 25 Countries of Birth for Family Admissions (FY 2023)

Country of Birth	Total Family Admissions	Percent Family
Mexico	153,140	84.8%
Dominican Republic	68,280	99.1%
India	46,930	60.1%
Cuba	38,260	46.9%
Philippines	32,670	66.4%
Vietnam	32,260	89.6%
China, People's Republic	26,730	45.1%
Colombia	20,970	84.5%
Jamaica	20,510	95.6%
El Salvador	17,270	65.9%
Bangladesh	15,850	83.8%
Haiti	14,820	95.9%
Brazil	14,300	49.5%
Nigeria	11,570	73.3%
Peru	11,100	88.2%
Venezuela	9,840	53.4%
Ecuador	9,170	81.2%
Honduras	8,450	59.8%
Guatemala	8,020	51.1%
Pakistan	7,780	70.0%
Canada	6,160	51.9%
Korea, South	6,110	38.7%
Iran	5,890	51.4%
Guyana	5,770	98.5%
Jordan	5,570	78.0%
All Other Countries of Birth	158,550	47.7%
All Countries of Birth	755,970	64.4%

Source: *2023 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics*, Department of Homeland Security; National Foundation for American Policy calculations.

About the Author

Mark Regets is a Senior Fellow at the National Foundation for American Policy. Mark is a scholar with the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA-Bonn), and the Global Labor Organization. Mark was an economist in the National Science Foundation's (NSF) National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, which produces NSF's biennial *Science and Engineering Indicators*. He has also been an Adjunct Associate Professor at Georgetown University, a member of OECD working groups on high skill migration and Chinese human resources, and IZA's (Germany) representative to the EU's European Network on Human Mobility. He earned a Ph.D. in economics from the State University of New York at Binghamton.

About the National Foundation for American Policy

Established in 2003, the National Foundation for American Policy (NFAP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-partisan public policy research organization based in Arlington, Virginia, focusing on trade, immigration and related issues. Advisory Board members include Columbia University economist Jagdish Bhagwati, Cornell Law School professor Stephen W. Yale-Loehr, Ohio University economist Richard Vedder and former INS Commissioner James Ziglar. Over the past 24 months, NFAP's research has been written about in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and other major media outlets. The organization's reports can be found at www.nfap.com. X.com: **@NFAPResearch** Bluesky: @NFAPResearch.bsky.social