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# Data on Immigrants and Immigrant Integration

Panel on the Integration of Immigrants into  
American Society

Committee on Population

Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education

# Panel Members

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# Panel Charge

1. Summarizing what is known about how immigrants and their descendants are integrating into American society;
2. Discussing the implications of this knowledge for informing various policy options;
3. Identifying any important gaps in existing knowledge and data availability.

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# Data on Immigrants and Immigrant Integration

- Integration at the individual level
- Integration as an intergenerational phenomenon
- The report attempts to evaluate both\*
- The panel concluded that key data are not available

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# Main Data Sources for Integration Issues

- Administrative data
- Surveys
  - Government
  - Nongovernment
- Qualitative Data

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# Measuring Legal Status

- Administrative sources
- Survey data
- Qualitative data
- Data on Undocumented Immigrants

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# Data on the Second Generation

- Minor children living in households with foreign-born parents
- Few surveys ask adults about parents' birthplace – (push to get question on ACS)
- No nationally representative survey beyond CPS (limited subnational groups and geographies)

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# Challenges

- Ambiguity in duration and intent to settle
- Small sample size
- Lack of longitudinal data
- Capturing contexts of reception

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# Data Recommendations

- Add birthplace of parents question to ACS
- Test & add question about legal status on CPS
- Include provision for longitudinal survey in new immigration legislation
- Make more administrative data available to researchers & public
- Big surveys like GSS, NLS, and Adolescent Health Survey should oversample immigrants, esp. Asian and non-Mexican Hispanic groups

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