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Unauthorized Immigrant Population: National and State Trends, 2010

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Overview

As of March 2010, 11.2 million unauthorized immigrants were living in the United States, virtually unchanged from a year earlier, according to new estimates from the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. This stability in 2010 follows a two-year decline from the peak of 12 million in 2007 to 11.1 million in 2009 that was the first significant reversal in a two-decade pattern of growth.

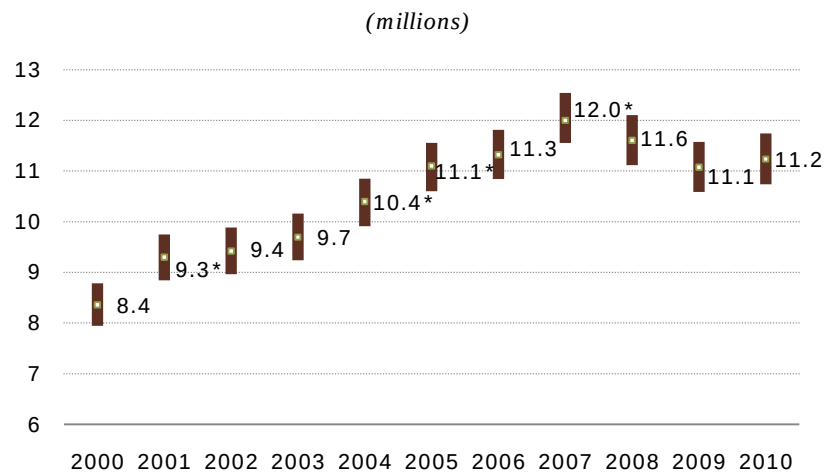
The number of unauthorized immigrants

in the nation's workforce, 8 million in March 2010, also did not differ from the Pew Hispanic Center estimate for 2009. As with the population total, the number of unauthorized immigrants in the labor force had decreased in 2009, from its peak of 8.4 million in 2007.

The number of children born to at least one unauthorized-immigrant parent in 2009 was 350,000, [essentially the same as it was a year earlier](#). An analysis of the year of entry of unauthorized immigrant parents of babies born in 2009 indicates that 61% arrived before 2004, 30% arrived from 2004 to 2007, and 9% arrived from 2008 to 2010.

According to the Pew Hispanic Center, unauthorized immigrants made up 3.7% of the nation's population and 5.2% of its labor force in March 2010. Births to unauthorized immigrant parents accounted for 8% of newborns from March 2009 to March 2010, according to the center's estimates, which are based mainly on data from the government's Current Population Survey.

Figure 1
Estimates of the U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Population, 2000-2010



Notes: Bars indicate low and high points of the estimated 90% confidence interval. The symbol * indicates the change from the previous year is statistically significant.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on residual methodology applied to March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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The decline in the population of unauthorized immigrants from its peak in 2007 appears due mainly to a decrease in the number from Mexico, which went down to 6.5 million in 2010 from 7 million in 2007. Mexicans remain the largest group of unauthorized immigrants, accounting for 58% of the total.

The decline in the population of unauthorized immigrants since 2007 has been especially marked in some states that recently had attracted large numbers of unauthorized immigrants. The number has decreased in Colorado, Florida, New York and Virginia. The combined unauthorized immigrant population of three contiguous Mountain West states—Arizona, Nevada and Utah—also declined.

Table 1
States with Changes in
Unauthorized Immigrant
Populations, 2007-2010

(thousands)

	2010	2007	Change
Decline			
Florida	825	1,050	-230
New York	625	825	-200
Virginia	210	325	-100
Colorado	180	240	-65
AZ-UT-NV	700	850	-160
Increase			
TX-LA-OK	1,800	1,550	+240

Note: Changes shown are statistically significant based on 90% confidence interval, and are the only statistically significant changes for 2007 to 2010 for individual states. Unauthorized estimates are rounded. Change is computed from unrounded data and independently rounded.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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The number of unauthorized immigrants may have declined in other states as well, but this cannot be stated conclusively because the measured change was within the margin of error for these estimates.

In contrast to the national trend, the number of unauthorized immigrants has grown in some West South Central states. From 2007 to 2010, there was a statistically significant increase in the combined unauthorized immigrant population of Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. The change was not statistically significant for these states individually, but it was for the combined three states. Texas has the second largest number of unauthorized immigrants, trailing only California.

Despite the recent decline and leveling off, the number of unauthorized immigrants living in the United States has tripled since 1990, when it was 3.5 million. The size of this population grew by a third since 2000, when was 8.4 million.

The estimates are produced using a multistage method that subtracts the legal foreign-born population from the total adjusted foreign-born population, with the residual then used as the source of information about unauthorized immigrants. The source of these data is the U.S. Census Bureau's March Current Population Surveys.

Because these estimates are derived from sample surveys, they are subject to uncertainty from sampling error, as well as other types of error. Each annual estimate of the unauthorized population is actually the middle point of a range of possible values that could be the true number. Additionally, the change from one year to the next has its own margin of error.

Because of the margin of error in these estimates, two numbers may look different but cannot be said definitively to be different. For example, there is no statistically significant difference between the estimate of the unauthorized population for 2009 (11.1 million) and the estimate for 2010 (11.2 million). Similarly, some state estimates for single years are based on small samples; especially in less populous states, two single years should not be compared.

These ranges represent 90% confidence intervals, meaning that there is a 90% probability that the range contains the true value.

Although the estimates presented here indicate trends in the size and composition of the unauthorized-immigrant population, they are not designed to answer the question of why these changes occurred. There are many possible factors. The deep recession that began in the U.S. economy in late 2007 officially ended in 2009, but recovery has been slow to take hold and unemployment remains high. Immigration flows have tended to decrease in previous periods of economic distress.

The period covered by this analysis also has been accompanied by changes in the level of immigration enforcement and in enforcement strategies, not only by the federal government but also at state and local levels. Immigration also is subject to pressure by demographic and economic conditions in sending countries. This analysis does not attempt to quantify the relative impact of these forces on levels of unauthorized immigration.

About this Report

This report estimates the size of the unauthorized immigrant population, as well as the unauthorized immigrant labor force for the nation and each state in March 2010. For the nation, it also describes this population by region or country of birth and arrival period. For some of these variables, the report provides annual trends from 2000 onward. Updating and expanding on an earlier report about U.S.-born children of unauthorized immigrants, the report provides estimates and trends for the status of children of unauthorized immigrants as well as information about their parents' period of arrival and country of origin.

The Pew Hispanic Center estimates the unauthorized immigrant population using the “residual method,” a well-developed and widely accepted technique that is based on official government data. Under this methodology, a demographic estimate of the legal foreign-born population—naturalized citizens, legal permanent residents, temporary legal residents and refugees—is subtracted from the total foreign-born population. The remainder, or residual, is the source of population estimates and characteristics of unauthorized immigrants.

These Pew Hispanic Center estimates use data mainly from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of about 55,000 households conducted jointly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau. It is best known as the source for monthly unemployment statistics. Each March, the CPS sample size and questionnaire are expanded to produce additional data on the foreign-born population and other topics. The Pew Hispanic Center estimates make adjustments to the government data to compensate for undercounting of some groups, and therefore its population totals differ somewhat from the ones the government uses. Estimates for any given year are based on a March reference date.

Because of small sample size in many states and potentially large sampling variability, some state estimates presented are based on multiyear averages. For the 34 states with fewer than 50 cases of unauthorized immigrant households in the 2010 sample survey, the estimates for that year are an average of 2009 and 2010. These states are Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Estimates for other states and for the District of Columbia are based solely on 2010 data.

All 2007 state estimates were derived by calculating the average share of the national unauthorized immigrant population for 2006-2008 that was held by each state, then applying that share to the 2007 national total.

For more detail, see the Methodology appendix.

A Note on Terminology

“Foreign born” refers to an individual who is not a U.S. citizen at birth or, in other words, who is born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The terms “foreign born” and “immigrant” are used interchangeably.

“U.S. born” refers to an individual who is a U.S. citizen at birth, including people born in the United States, Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories, as well as those born elsewhere to parents who are U.S. citizens.

The “legal immigrant” population is defined as people granted legal permanent residence; those granted asylum; people admitted as refugees; and people admitted under a set of specific authorized temporary statuses for longer-term residence and work. This group includes “naturalized citizens,” legal immigrants who have become U.S. citizens through naturalization; “legal permanent resident aliens,” who have been granted permission to stay indefinitely in the U.S. as permanent residents, asylees or refugees; and “legal temporary migrants,” who are allowed to live and, in some cases, work in the U.S. for specific periods of time (usually longer than one year).

“Unauthorized immigrants” are all foreign-born non-citizens residing in the country who are not “legal immigrants.” These definitions reflect standard and customary usage by the Department of Homeland Security and academic researchers. The vast majority of unauthorized immigrants entered the country without valid documents or arrived with valid visas but stayed past their visa expiration date or otherwise violated the terms of their admission. Some who entered as unauthorized immigrants or violated terms of admission have obtained work authorization by applying for adjustment to legal permanent status or by obtaining Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Data are very limited, but this “quasi-legal” group could account for as much as 10% of the unauthorized population. Many could also revert to unauthorized status.

“Children” are people under age 18 who are not married. “Adults” are ages 18 and older.

“Children of unauthorized immigrants” or “children of unauthorized immigrant parents” include both foreign-born and U.S.-born children who live with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent.

About the Authors

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About the Pew Hispanic Center

The Pew Hispanic Center is a nonpartisan research organization that seeks to improve public understanding of the diverse Hispanic population in the United States and to chronicle Latinos' growing impact on the nation. It does not take positions on policy issues. The Center is part of the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" based in Washington, D.C., and it is funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, a Philadelphia-based public charity. All of the Center's reports are available at www.pewhispanic.org.

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Current Estimates and Trends

The shrinkage of the unauthorized immigrant population from its 2007 peak apparently has halted, at least temporarily. According to Pew Hispanic Center estimates, there were 11.2 million unauthorized immigrants living in the United States in March 2010, statistically unchanged from the March 2009 estimate of 11.1 million.

The Pew Hispanic Center's March 2009 estimate had represented the first reversal in the size of the unauthorized-immigrant population in two decades. There were 3.5 million unauthorized immigrants living in the United States in 1990, a number that grew to 8.4 million in 2000. The population leveled off for two years and grew steadily from 2003 to 2007, when it peaked at 12 million. From 2007 to 2009, it shrank by 8%.¹

Unauthorized immigrants represented 28% of the nation's foreign-born population of 40.2 million in March 2010, according to the Pew Hispanic Center estimates. The share is the same as it was in 2009 but a decline from 2007's 31%.

The other components of the foreign-born population are its 29 million legal immigrants: 14.9 million naturalized citizens, 12.4 million permanent residents and 1.7 million legal temporary migrants. The number of naturalized citizens grew significantly from 13.7 million in 2007; this increase is part of a longer-term trend in which [more immigrants are choosing to naturalize](#). The number of legal permanent residents or legal temporary migrants showed no significant change.

Table 2
Estimates of the U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Population, 2000-2010

(millions)

Year	Estimate	Range
2010	11.2	(10.7 - 11.7)
2009	11.1	(10.6 - 11.6)
2008	11.6	(11.1 - 12.1)
2007	12.0	(11.5 - 12.5)
2006	11.3	(10.8 - 11.8)
2005	11.1	(10.6 - 11.6)
2004	10.4	(9.9 - 10.8)
2003	9.7	(9.2 - 10.2)
2002	9.4	(9.0 - 9.9)
2001	9.3	(8.8 - 9.7)
2000	8.4	(7.9 - 8.8)

Notes: Range represents the bounds of the estimated 90% confidence interval. Boldface indicates the change from the previous year is statistically significant.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on residual methodology applied to March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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¹ These trends are consistent with estimates from the Department of Homeland Security, which uses a similar methodology but a different data source, the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. The DHS estimates also indicate that the unauthorized immigrant population peaked in 2007, at 11.8 million.

The decline in the size of the unauthorized immigrant population from its peak in 2007 appears to be driven mainly by a decrease in the number of such immigrants from Mexico. In 2007, there were an estimated 7 million unauthorized immigrants from Mexico. In 2010, the number of Mexican unauthorized immigrants had declined to 6.5 million.

The unauthorized population from Mexico had grown steadily from 2001, when it

was 4.8 million, to its peak level in 2007. After that, there were no statistically significant changes in the Mexican-born unauthorized population until 2010, when the number showed a decline from three years earlier.

In a report last year, the Pew Hispanic Center concluded that inflows of unauthorized immigrants from Mexico had fallen off sharply, presaging the decline found in the 2010 estimates. According to the center's estimates, an average of 150,000 unauthorized immigrants from Mexico arrived annually during the period from March 2007 to March 2009, which was 70% below the annual average of 500,000 during the first half of the decade.

In addition to reduced inflows, the other ways in which an unauthorized population could decline are via an increase in the number of migrants voluntarily leaving the country, deportations, deaths or conversion to legal status. As the Pew Hispanic Center has previously reported, although many Mexican migrants voluntarily return home each year, there is no evidence that this number has grown in recent years.

Removals (deportations) have more than doubled over the past decade, reaching almost 400,000 in fiscal 2009. Mexicans have constituted the majority of deportations for at least the past decade. In 2009, more than 70% of deportees were Mexican, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

Table 3
Foreign-born Population
by Legal Status, 2010

(population in millions)

	Population	Share of Foreign Born
Total foreign born	40.2	100%
Legal immigrants	29.0	72%
Naturalized citizens	14.9	37%
Legal permanent resident aliens	12.4	31%
Legal temporary migrants	1.7	4%
Unauthorized immigrants	11.2	28%

Notes: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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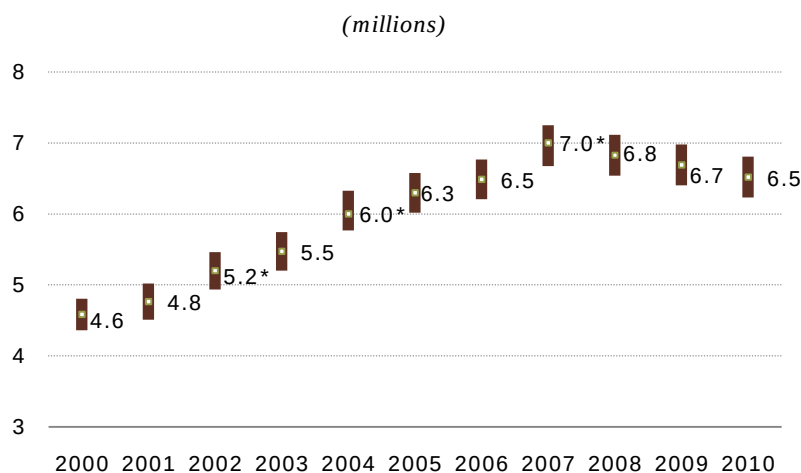
Because this population is relatively young, mortality is not likely to be an important factor. As for conversion to legal status, that is more difficult now than in the 1990s or earlier; the number of all status adjustments in the last three years is unchanged from average levels for 2001-2006, according to figures from the Department of Homeland Security's Yearbook of Immigration Statistics.

By contrast to the decline of Mexican unauthorized immigrants, the total estimated unauthorized population from other nations in Latin America was similar to what it was in 2007. The population from nations outside Latin America in 2010 also was no different from its 2007

total. Estimating change in unauthorized immigration from these nations is difficult, because the relatively small sample size makes for more volatility in year-to-year population changes.

Mexicans make up the majority of the unauthorized immigrant population, 58%, or 6.5 million. Other nations in Latin America account for 23% of unauthorized immigrants, or 2.6 million. Asia accounts for 11%, or about 1.3 million, and Europe and Canada account for 4%, or 500,000. African countries and other nations represent about 3%, or 400,000.

Figure 2
Estimates of the U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Population from Mexico, 2000-2010



Notes: Bars indicate low and high points of the approximate 90% confidence interval. The symbol * indicates the change from the previous year is statistically significant.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on residual methodology applied to March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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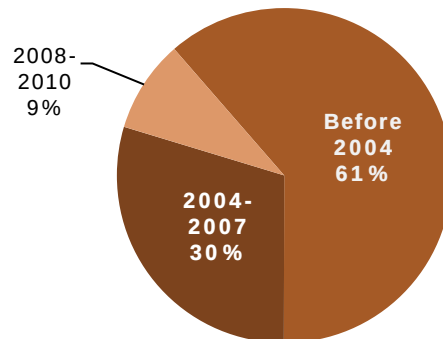
Births and Children

Among births from March 2009 to March 2010, 350,000 newborns had at least one unauthorized parent, a number that statistically is no different from the estimate of 340,000 published by the Pew Hispanic Center for 2008-2009.

These newborns represented 8% of all births during this period, the same share as for the previous year. Unauthorized immigrants represent about 4% of the U.S. population but are relatively young and have high birthrates, which is why their newborns make up a higher share of all births.

Among all births in the U.S. in 2009-2010, 74% were to U.S.-born parents and 17% to legal immigrants.

Figure 3
Parents' Period of Arrival for U.S. Births to Unauthorized Immigrants in 2009

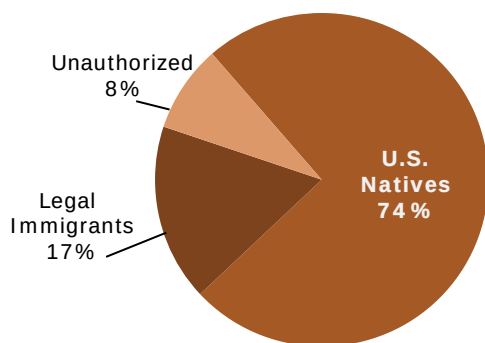


Notes: Births occurring March 2009–March 2010 based on population under age 1. Estimate is based on the most recently arrived parent. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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Figure 4
Parents' Status for Births in 2009



Notes: Births occurring March 2009 –March 2010 based on population under age 1. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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The Pew Hispanic Center analysis also examined year-of-arrival patterns for unauthorized immigrant parents of babies born from March 2009 to March 2010, to see how long the parents had been in the United States before their children were born. If year of arrival was available for both parents, the analysis used the most recently arrived parent.

According to the analysis, 9% of these unauthorized immigrants who had babies in 2009-2010 had arrived in the U.S. in 2008 or later. An additional 30% arrived from 2004 to 2007, and the remaining 61% arrived in the United States before 2004.

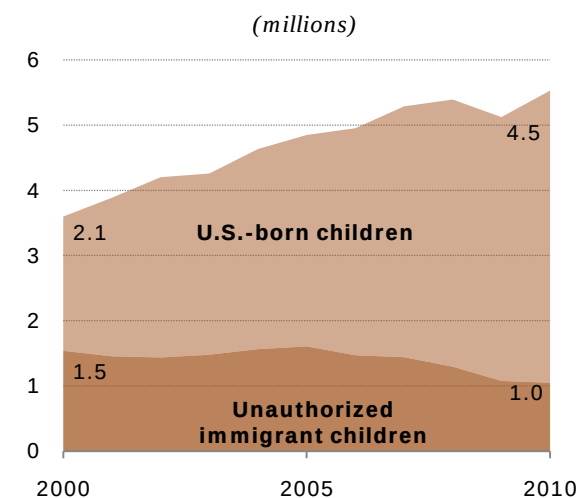
As with previous analyses, the Pew Hispanic Center finds that among all children of unauthorized immigrants—an estimated 5.5 million in 2010—a growing share was born in the United States and therefore they are U.S. citizens by birthright.

Among children of unauthorized immigrants, an estimated 4.5 million are U.S.-born; 1 million are foreign-born and therefore unauthorized. The number of unauthorized children has declined from a peak of 1.6 million in 2005. The number of U.S.-born children has more than doubled from 2.1 million in 2000.²

The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, adopted in 1868, grants an automatic right to citizenship to anyone born in the United States. In recent months, some prominent national and state elected officials have urged that this right be repealed at the national or state level, on the grounds that it attracts unauthorized immigrants to the United States. A [nationwide survey by the Pew Research Center in October](#) found that registered voters are split (46% to 46%) about whether to amend the Constitution to end birthright citizenship. A majority of Republican respondents (67%) favor amending the Constitution, compared with about half of independents (48%) and a minority of Democrats (30%).

Mexico is more dominant as a country of origin among unauthorized-immigrant parents than it is among all unauthorized immigrants. Among children with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent, 70% have parents from Mexico, 17% from other Latin American countries, 7% from Asia, 2% from Europe and Canada, and 3% from Africa and other nations.

Figure 5
Children with at Least One
Unauthorized Immigrant Parent,
by Status, 2000-2010



Note: Children are persons under age 18 who are not married.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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² In 2009, there were an estimated 4 million U.S.-born children of unauthorized immigrants. Users are cautioned that the estimates for demographic components of change, such as births, may not be entirely consistent with apparent population change because of the potentially large sampling error in year-to-year differences.

State Settlement Patterns

Analysis of state trends from 2007 to 2010 indicates that four states had a statistically significant decline in their populations of unauthorized immigrants, and the combined population of three other contiguous states in the Mountain West decreased. There was a statistically significant increase in the combined population of three contiguous West South Central states. No other states had statistically significant change over this period.

The four individual states where the number of unauthorized immigrants declined from March 2007 to March 2010 were New York, Florida, Virginia and Colorado. Additionally, the combined unauthorized immigrant population in Arizona, Nevada and Utah also decreased during that period, although the change was not statistically significant for any of those states individually.

Florida had an estimated 825,000 unauthorized immigrants in 2010, a decline from 1.05 million in 2007. Nevertheless, Florida continued to rank third among states in the size of its unauthorized immigrant population. New York's estimated unauthorized immigrant population in 2010, 625,000, declined from an estimated 825,000 in 2007. New York ranked fourth in the size of its unauthorized population in 2010, as it did in 2007.

There were an estimated 210,000 unauthorized immigrants living in Virginia in 2010, a decline from 325,000 in 2007. In Colorado, an estimated 180,000 unauthorized immigrants lived in the state in 2010, compared with 240,000 in 2007.

In the Mountain West, the combined unauthorized immigrant population of Arizona, Nevada and Utah declined to an estimated 700,000 from an estimated 850,000 in 2007.

Table 4
States with Largest Unauthorized Immigrant Populations, 2010

(thousands)

	Estimated Population	Range
U.S. Total	11,200	(10,700 - 11,700)
California	2,550	(2,350 - 2,750)
Texas	1,650	(1,450 - 1,850)
Florida	825	(725 - 950)
New York	625	(525 - 725)
New Jersey	550	(425 - 650)
Illinois	525	(425 - 625)
Georgia	425	(300 - 550)
Arizona	400	(275 - 500)
North Carolina	325	(240 - 425)
Maryland	275	(200 - 325)
Washington	230	(140 - 325)
Virginia	210	(170 - 250)

Note: Range represents approximate 90% confidence interval around estimated population.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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Counter to the national trend, the combined unauthorized immigrant population grew in some West South Central states. In 2007, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas had a combined 1.55 million unauthorized immigrants living within their borders. In 2010, that number had grown to 1.8 million. Texas, with an unauthorized immigrant population of 1.65 million, ranks second only to California in the size of this group.

California has by far the largest unauthorized-immigrant population (2.55 million). It also is among the states where unauthorized immigrants constitute the largest shares of the overall populations. In addition to California (6.8%), other top states are Nevada (7.2%) and Texas (6.7%).

Unauthorized immigrants are concentrated in a relatively small number of states. The dozen states with the largest unauthorized numbers account for more than three-quarters (77%) of this population. Nearly a quarter (23%) lives in California. Nonetheless, unauthorized immigrants live in every state, and several of their top destinations, including Georgia and North Carolina, housed relatively few unauthorized immigrants two decades ago.

Mexicans account for half or more of the unauthorized population in all but 22 states and Washington, D.C. In seven states, they make up 80% or more of the unauthorized immigrant population. At the national level, 58% of unauthorized immigrants are Mexicans.

Among the five states with the largest unauthorized populations, Mexicans constitute less than half the stock in three of them—New York, New Jersey and Florida.

Because of small sample size in many states and potentially large sampling variability, some state estimates presented here are based on multiyear averages. For the 34 states with fewer than 50 cases of unauthorized immigrant households in the 2010 sample survey, the estimates

Table 5
States with Largest Share of
Unauthorized Immigrants in the
Population, 2010

(thousands)

	Total Population	Unauthorized	
		Population	Share
U.S. Total	305,999	11,200	3.7%
Nevada	2,655	190	7.2%
California	37,21	2,550	6.8%
Texas	24,85	1,650	6.7%
New Jersey	8,743	550	6.2%
Arizona	6,559	400	6.0%
Maryland	5,702	275	4.6%
District of Columbia	600	25	4.5%
Florida	18,49	825	4.5%
Georgia	9,722	425	4.4%
New Mexico	1,997	85	4.3%
Oregon	3,854	160	4.3%
Illinois	12,84	525	4.1%

Note: Unauthorized estimates are rounded. Percentages are computed from unrounded data. In an earlier version of this table, "District of Columbia" was incorrectly labeled "Washington."

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March 2010 Supplement to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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for that year are an average of 2009 and 2010. These states are Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Estimates for other states and for the District of Columbia are based solely on 2010 data.

All 2007 state estimates were derived by calculating the average share of the national unauthorized immigrant population for 2006-2008 that was held by each state, then applying that share to the 2007 national total.

Workers

There were 8 million unauthorized immigrants in the workforce in March 2010, down slightly from 2007, when there were 8.4 million. They represent 5.2% of the workforce, similar to their proportion for the past half-decade, when they represented 5% to 5.5% of workers.

State patterns differ widely, but generally states with large numbers or shares of unauthorized immigrants also have relatively large numbers or shares in the workforce.

States with the largest share of unauthorized immigrants in the workforce include Nevada (10%), California (9.7%), Texas (9%) and New Jersey (8.6%). Because unauthorized immigrants are more likely than the overall population to be of working age, their share in a state's workforce is substantially higher than their share of a state's population.

California also has the largest number of people in the labor force who are unauthorized immigrants (1.85 million), followed by Texas (1.1 million), Florida (600,000) and New York (450,000.).

Table 6
Unauthorized Immigrants in U.S. Civilian Labor Force, 2000-2010

Year	(millions)	
	Estimated Labor Force	Share of Labor Force
2010	8.0	5.2%
2009	7.8	5.1%
2008	8.2	5.3%
2007	8.4	5.5%
2006	7.8	5.2%
2005	7.4	5.0%
2004	6.8	4.6%
2003	6.5	4.4%
2002	6.4	4.4%
2001	6.3	4.3%
2000	5.5	3.8%

Note: Includes employed and unemployed workers.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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Appendix A: Additional Figures and Tables

Table A1
States with Largest Share of
Unauthorized Immigrants in the
Labor Force, 2010

(thousands)

	Total	Unauthorized	
	Labor Force	Estimate	Share
U.S. Total	154,939	8,000	5.2 %
Nevada	1,367	140	10.0%
California	18,811	1,850	9.7%
Texas	12,261	1,100	9.0%
New Jersey	4,679	400	8.6%
Arizona	3,116	230	7.4%
Georgia	4,777	325	7.0%
Florida	9,064	600	6.6%
Maryland	3,100	190	6.2%
District of Columbia	339	20	6.1%
Illinois	6,719	375	5.6%
New Mexico	909	50	5.6%
North Carolina	4,658	250	5.4%

Note: Labor force estimates include employed and unemployed workers. Unauthorized estimates are rounded. Percentages are computed from unrounded data.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March 2010 Supplement to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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Table A2
States with Largest Number of
Unauthorized Immigrants in the
Labor Force, 2010

(thousands)

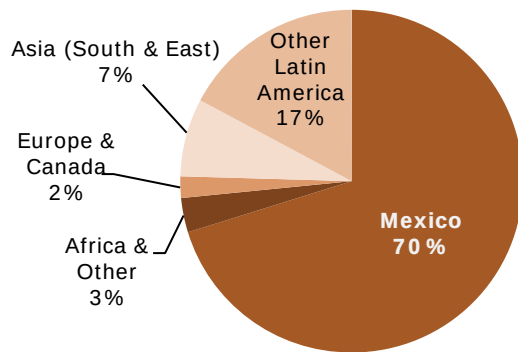
	Total	Unauthorized	
	Labor Force	Population	Share
U.S. Total	154,939	8,000	5.2 %
California	18,811	1,850	9.7%
Texas	12,261	1,100	9.0%
Florida	9,064	600	6.6%
New York	9,742	450	4.7%
New Jersey	4,679	400	8.6%
Illinois	6,719	375	5.6%
Georgia	4,777	325	7.0%
North Carolina	4,658	250	5.4%
Arizona	3,116	230	7.4%
Maryland	3,100	190	6.2%
Washington	3,623	190	5.1%
Virginia	4,082	160	3.9%

Note: Labor force estimates include employed and unemployed workers. Unauthorized estimates are rounded. Percentages are computed from unrounded data.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March 2010 Supplement to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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Figure A1
Parents' Country of Birth for
Children of Unauthorized
Immigrants, 2010

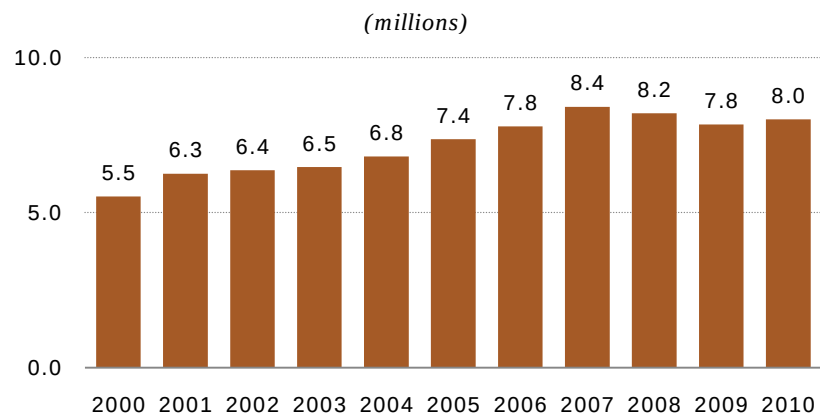


Notes: Includes parents of U.S.-born and immigrant children under 18 years old. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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Figure A2
Unauthorized Immigrants in the U.S. Civilian
Labor Force, 2000-2010



Note: Includes employed and unemployed workers.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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Table A3 – Estimates of Unauthorized Immigrant Population by State, Selected Years 1990 to 2010

	(thousands)						
	2010		2007		2005	2000	1990
	Estimated Population	Range	Estimated Population	Range	Estimated Population	Estimated Population	Estimated Population
U.S. Total	11,200	10,700 - 11,700	12,000	11,500 - 12,500	11,100	8,375	3,525
Alabama	120	(75 – 160)	110	(55 – 160)	60	25	5
Alaska	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5
Arizona	400	(275 – 500)	500	(400 – 575)	450	300	90
Arkansas	55	(35 – 75)	55	(40 – 70)	45	30	5
California	2,550	(2,350 - 2,750)	2,750	(2,600 - 2,900)	2,650	2,300	1,500
Colorado	180	(140 – 230)	240	(210 – 275)	240	160	30
Connecticut	120	(90 – 150)	110	(90 – 140)	85	75	20
Delaware	25	(20 – 35)	30	(25 – 40)	25	15	5
District of Columbia	25	(20 – 35)	30	(25 – 35)	25	25	15
Florida	825	(725 – 950)	1,050	(950 - 1,150)	925	575	240
Georgia	425	(300 – 550)	475	(400 – 575)	425	250	35
Hawaii	40	(30 – 50)	30	(25 – 40)	25	25	5
Idaho	35	(20 – 45)	35	(25 – 40)	30	25	10
Illinois	525	(425 – 625)	500	(425 – 550)	350	475	200
Indiana	110	(70 – 160)	100	(80 – 130)	85	65	10
Iowa	75	(45 – 100)	55	(40 – 75)	55	25	5
Kansas	65	(45 – 85)	70	(55 – 90)	60	55	15
Kentucky	80	(40 – 120)	45	(30 – 60)	50	20	5
Louisiana	65	(35 – 90)	35	(20 – 55)	25	20	15
Maine	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5
Maryland	275	(200 – 325)	275	(220 – 300)	250	120	35
Massachusetts	160	(120 – 200)	190	(140 – 230)	200	150	55
Michigan	150	(110 – 190)	120	(85 – 140)	120	95	25
Minnesota	85	(60 – 100)	110	(85 – 140)	85	55	15
Mississippi	45	(20 – 70)	40	(20 – 60)	40	10	5
Missouri	55	(35 – 75)	45	(25 – 65)	40	30	10
Montana	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5
Nebraska	45	(25 – 60)	50	(35 – 60)	45	30	5
Nevada	190	(150 – 230)	240	(200 – 275)	190	140	25
New Hampshire	15	(10 – 20)	20	(10 – 25)	15	<10	<5
New Jersey	550	(425 – 650)	600	(525 – 675)	475	325	95
New Mexico	85	(60 – 110)	80	(60 – 100)	65	55	20
New York	625	(525 – 725)	825	(725 – 925)	675	725	350
North Carolina	325	(240 – 425)	375	(300 – 450)	375	210	25
North Dakota	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5
Ohio	100	(65 – 140)	100	(70 – 130)	100	55	10
Oklahoma	75	(55 – 95)	55	(40 – 70)	60	50	15
Oregon	160	(110 – 220)	140	(100 – 180)	140	110	25
Pennsylvania	160	(110 – 210)	140	(90 – 180)	150	85	25
Rhode Island	30	(25 – 35)	30	(25 – 35)	30	20	10
South Carolina	55	(30 – 75)	70	(45 – 95)	55	45	5
South Dakota	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5
Tennessee	140	(95 – 180)	160	(110 – 210)	130	50	10
Texas	1,650	(1,450 - 1,850)	1,450	(1,350 - 1,600)	1,400	1,100	450
Utah	110	(70 – 150)	120	(90 – 150)	95	65	15
Vermont	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5
Virginia	210	(170 – 250)	325	(250 – 375)	275	150	50
Washington	230	(140 – 325)	170	(120 – 220)	200	160	40
West Virginia	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5
Wisconsin	100	(65 – 140)	90	(65 – 120)	100	50	10
Wyoming	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<5

Notes: State ranges represent approximate 90 percent confidence intervals. Estimates for 2010 are averages of 2009 and 2010 for 34 states; estimates for 2009 are derived from the average distribution across states in 2006-2008.

Sources: Estimates for 2010, 2007 and 2005 are Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. Estimates for 2000 based on tabulations from 5 percent Public-Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) by Passel et al. 2004. Estimates for 1990 from Warren 2003. See Methodology.

Table A4 – Number and Share for Labor Force and Total Population of Unauthorized Immigrants, for States, 2010
(thousands)

	Labor Force			Population		
	Total	Unauthorized Immigrants Estimate	Share	Total	Unauthorized Immigrants Estimate	Share
U.S. Total	154,939	8,000	5.2 %	305,999	11,200	3.7 %
Alabama	2,263	95	4.2%	4,695	120	2.5%
Alaska	358	<10	<1.5%	690	<10	<1%
Arizona	3,116	230	7.4%	6,559	400	6.0%
Arkansas	1,305	40	3.0%	2,865	55	1.8%
California	18,811	1,850	9.7%	37,210	2,550	6.8%
Colorado	2,664	120	4.6%	4,994	180	3.6%
Connecticut	1,853	85	4.5%	3,497	120	3.4%
Delaware	434	20	4.5%	883	25	3.0%
District of Columbia	339	20	6.1%	600	25	4.5%
Florida	9,064	600	6.6%	18,492	825	4.5%
Georgia	4,777	325	7.0%	9,722	425	4.4%
Hawaii	612	30	4.6%	1,253	40	3.1%
Idaho	768	20	2.8%	1,529	35	2.2%
Illinois	6,719	375	5.6%	12,841	525	4.1%
Indiana	3,168	70	2.3%	6,382	110	1.8%
Iowa	1,741	55	3.2%	2,996	75	2.5%
Kansas	1,417	45	3.3%	2,750	65	2.4%
Kentucky	2,081	55	2.6%	4,276	80	1.8%
Louisiana	2,068	40	2.0%	4,462	65	1.4%
Maine	678	<10	<1%	1,301	<10	<0.5%
Maryland	3,100	190	6.2%	5,702	275	4.6%
Massachusetts	3,509	130	3.7%	6,658	160	2.4%
Michigan	4,886	100	2.0%	9,873	150	1.5%
Minnesota	2,947	60	2.1%	5,228	85	1.6%
Mississippi	1,223	35	2.9%	2,871	45	1.6%
Missouri	3,057	40	1.3%	5,983	55	0.9%
Montana	513	<10	<1%	975	<10	<0.5%
Nebraska	1,006	30	3.0%	1,788	45	2.4%
Nevada	1,367	140	10.0%	2,655	190	7.2%
New Hampshire	754	10	1.6%	1,316	15	1.2%
New Jersey	4,679	400	8.6%	8,743	550	6.2%
New Mexico	909	50	5.6%	1,997	85	4.3%
New York	9,742	450	4.7%	19,474	625	3.2%
North Carolina	4,658	250	5.4%	9,387	325	3.5%
North Dakota	375	<10	<0.5%	634	<10	<0.5%
Ohio	5,922	70	1.2%	11,493	100	0.9%
Oklahoma	1,798	55	3.0%	3,646	75	2.0%
Oregon	2,024	110	5.3%	3,854	160	4.3%
Pennsylvania	6,264	110	1.7%	12,439	160	1.3%
Rhode Island	570	20	3.7%	1,034	30	3.0%
South Carolina	2,171	45	2.1%	4,514	55	1.2%
South Dakota	443	<10	<1.5%	802	<10	<1%
Tennessee	3,020	95	3.1%	6,262	140	2.2%
Texas	12,261	1,100	9.0%	24,858	1,650	6.7%
Utah	1,359	75	5.4%	2,812	110	3.8%
Vermont	360	<10	<0.5%	618	<10	<0.5%
Virginia	4,082	160	3.9%	7,808	210	2.7%
Washington	3,623	190	5.1%	6,748	230	3.4%
West Virginia	769	<10	<0.5%	1,806	<10	<0.5%
Wisconsin	3,093	65	2.0%	5,600	100	1.8%
Wyoming	292	<10	<1.5%	542	<10	<1.5%

Notes: Labor force estimates include both employed and unemployed workers. Percentages are computed from unrounded data.

Sources: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on residual methodology applied to March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

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Appendix B: Methodology

Unauthorized Immigrants—Overview

The data presented in this report on unauthorized and legal immigrants were developed with essentially the same methods used for previous reports (Passel and Cohn 2010, 2009, 2008). The state-level estimates for 2010 and 2007 are based on a variant of previous methods (e.g., Passel and Cohn 2010, Pew Hispanic Center 2006). The national and state estimates use a multistage estimation process, principally using March Supplements to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly survey of about 55,000 households conducted by the Census Bureau for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; the sample is expanded to about 80,000 households for the March supplement.

The first stage in the estimation process uses CPS data as a basis for estimating the number of legal and unauthorized immigrants included in the survey and the total number in the country using a residual estimation methodology. This method compares an estimate of the number of immigrants residing legally in the country with the total number in the CPS; the difference is assumed to be the number of unauthorized immigrants in the CPS. The legal resident immigrant population is estimated by applying demographic methods to counts of legal admissions covering the period from 1980 to the present, which are obtained from the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Immigration Statistics and its predecessor at the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The initial estimates here are calculated separately for age-gender groups in six states (California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois and New Jersey) and the balance of the country; within these areas, the estimates are further subdivided into immigrant populations from 35 countries or groups of countries by period of arrival in the United States. Variants of the residual method have been widely used and are generally accepted as the best current estimates. For more details, see Passel and Cohn 2010, 2008; and Passel 2007.

Then, having estimated the number of legal and unauthorized immigrants in the March CPS Supplements, we assign individual foreign-born respondents in the survey a specific status (one option being unauthorized immigrant) based on the individual's demographic, social, economic, geographic and family characteristics. The data and methods for the overall process were developed initially at the Urban Institute by Passel and Clark (especially 1998) and were extended by work of Passel, Van Hook and Bean (2004) and by subsequent work at the Pew Hispanic Center.

The final step adjusts the estimates of legal and unauthorized immigrants counted in the survey for omissions. The basic information on coverage is drawn principally from comparisons with Mexican data, U.S. mortality data and specialized surveys conducted at the time of the 2000 Census (Bean et al. 1998; Capps et al. 2002; Marcelli and Ong 2002). These adjustments increase the estimate of the legal foreign-born population, generally by 1-3% and the unauthorized immigrant population by 10-15%. The individual survey weights are adjusted to account for immigrants missing from the survey. These augmented files serve as a basis for the detailed tabulations of the family, social, economic and geographic characteristics presented here and in previous reports.

All estimates shown for 2000-2009 are identical to those in Passel and Cohn 2010 and Passel and Taylor 2010. The estimates for 2000-2008 use specially developed survey weights for the CPS to ensure consistency across the years in the underlying population figures. (See Passel and Cohn 2010 for a detailed discussion of the need for these weights and about their development.)

State-level Estimates

State-level estimates should be treated with some caution because they are based on much smaller samples than the national estimates. Estimates from single years can be extremely volatile, so measurement of trends over time can be unreliable. To provide interpretable trends, previous estimates have relied on multiyear averages and regression methods (Passel and Cohn 2010, 2009; Pew Hispanic Center 2006).

The estimates presented here for states in 2010 are based on tabulations of the augmented March 2010 CPS file where the sample sizes exceed 50 unauthorized immigrant households (unweighted). There are 16 states and the District of Columbia where the single-year estimates are used for 2010: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Virginia and Washington. These states had more than 81% of the nation's estimated unauthorized immigrants in 2010. For the 34 states with fewer than 50 unauthorized immigrant households, the estimates shown for 2010 are an average of 2009 and 2010 CPS-based estimates. These states are Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. For these same states, the workforce estimates in 2010 also are based on 2009-2010 averages. The total number of unauthorized

immigrants does not differ significantly for these two years and the distribution across states is more similar for 2009 and 2010 than for any pair of years between 2000 and 2010. The very high degree of similarity suggests that averaging to reduce sampling variability does not distort the trend analysis.

The state estimates for 2007 are derived by averaging the distributions of unauthorized immigrants across states. These average percentages were then applied to the national total for 2007 of 12.0 million unauthorized immigrants to derive the state estimates. The use of three years of data reduces substantially the margin of error of the resulting estimates. The distributions across states are quite similar for these years. The dissimilarity index for the 2006-2007 pair is smaller than all others except the 2009-2010 pair noted above. The index for 2007-2008 is the fifth smallest, behind 2009-2010, 2006-2007, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. Margins of error for the state-level estimates are derived with replicate weights developed by the Census Bureau for the March Current Population Surveys of 2005-2010 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010).

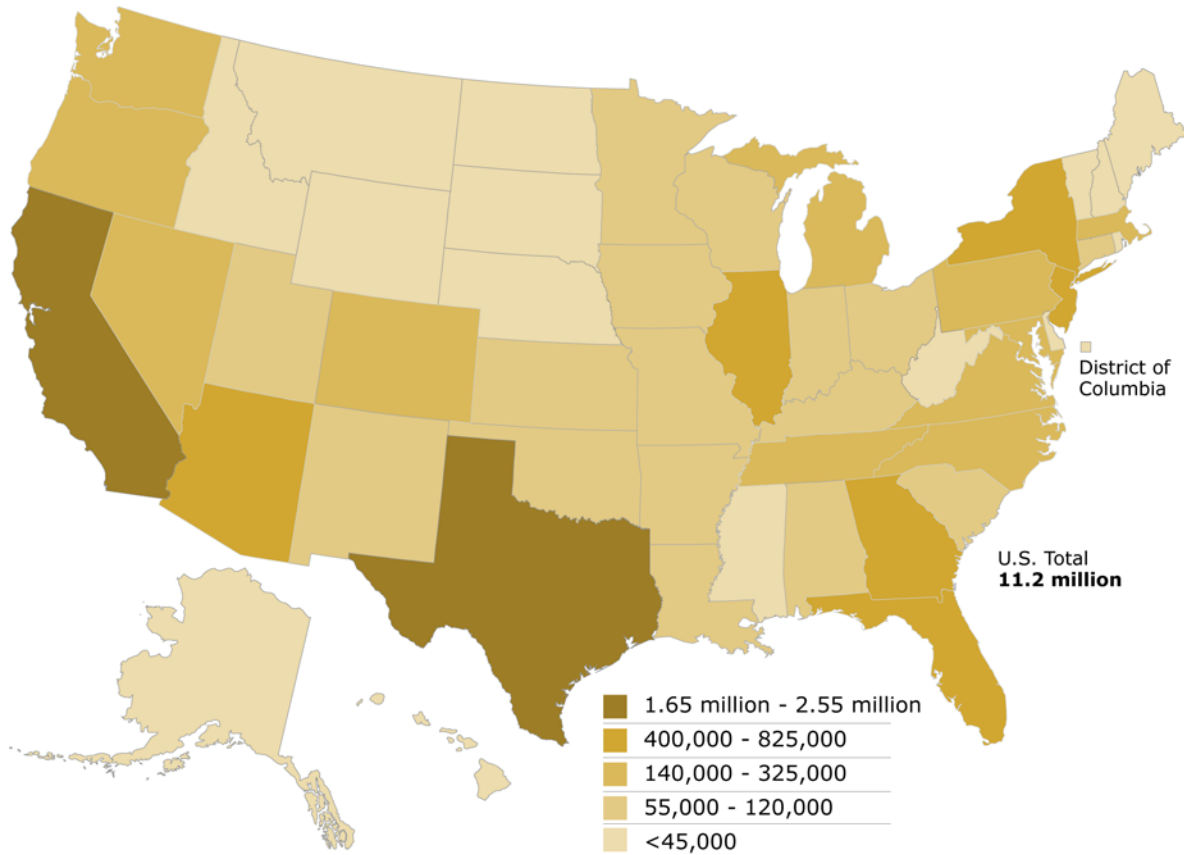
Rounding of Estimates

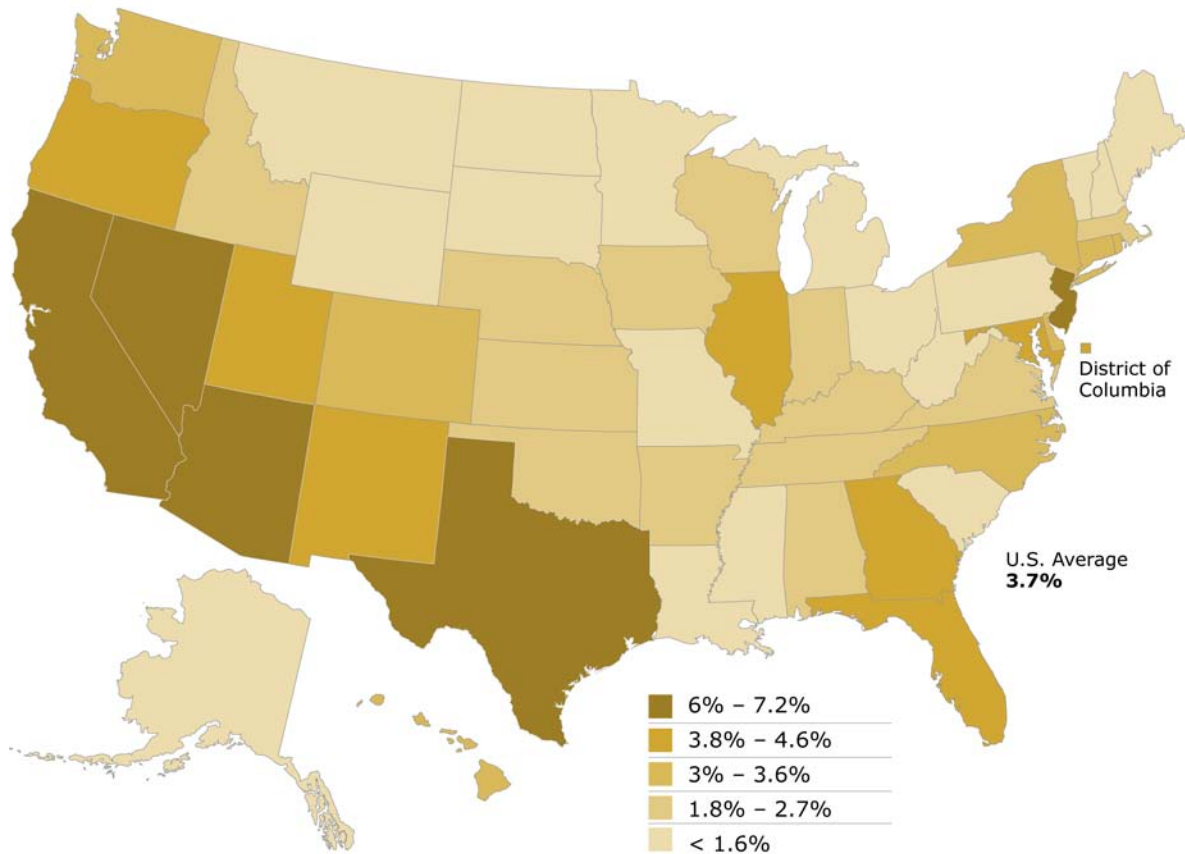
All state-level estimates for unauthorized immigrant populations are presented as rounded numbers to avoid the appearance of unwarranted precision in the estimates. No estimates smaller than 10,000 are shown. Estimates in the range of 10,000-100,000 are rounded to the nearest 5,000; estimates in the range of 100,000-250,000 to the nearest 10,000; estimates smaller than 1 million to the nearest 25,000; and estimates larger than that to the nearest 50,000. The same rounding conventions are applied to all state-level estimates of unauthorized immigrant populations and labor force for 2000 and later and, more generally, to most of the data presented on unauthorized immigrants.

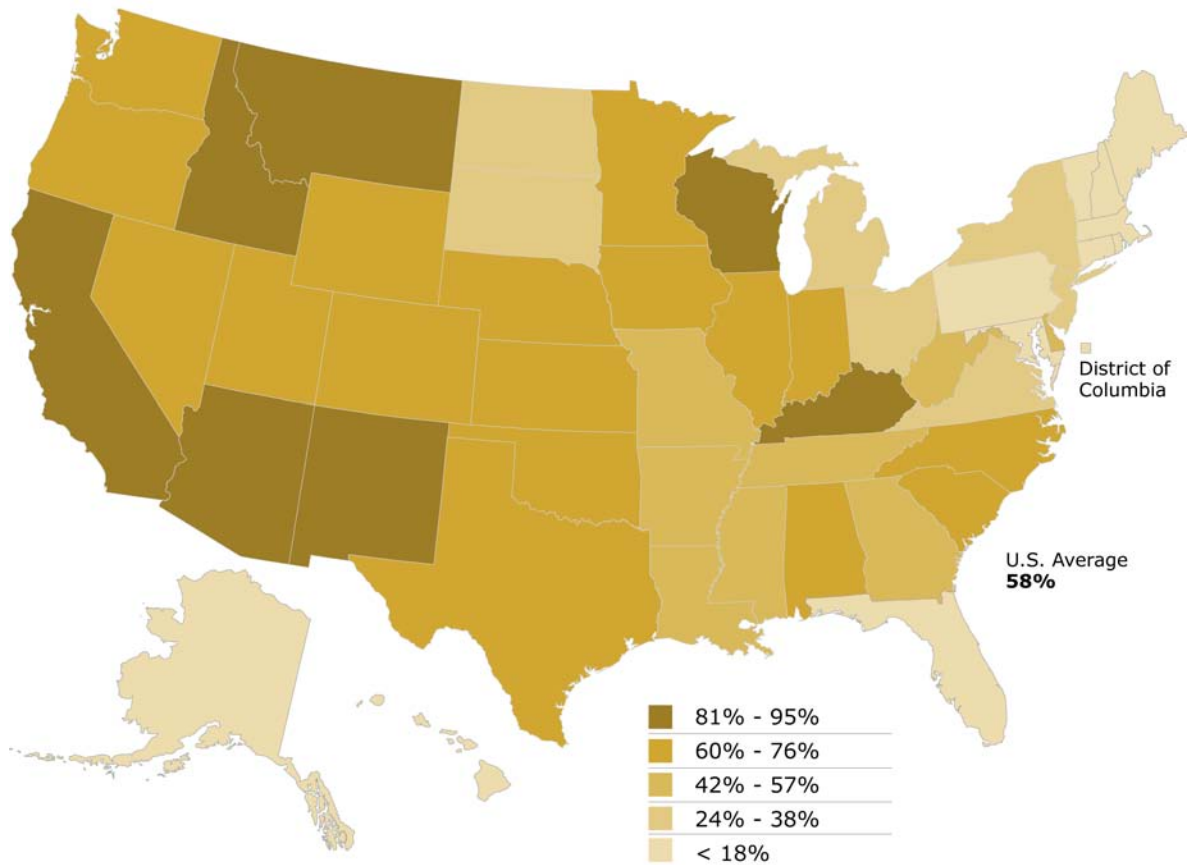
Appendix C: Maps

Map C1: Population by State

Unauthorized Immigrant Population by State, 2010



Map C2: Share of State Population**Unauthorized Immigrant Share of Population**
by State, 2010

Map C3: Share Mexican**Mexicans as Share of Unauthorized Immigrants**
by State, 2010

Map C4: Percent of Labor Force**Unauthorized Immigrants as Share of Labor Force**
by State, 2010