

Principal Investigators

Guillermina Jasso, New York University
Douglas S. Massey, Princeton University
Mark R. Rosenzweig, Yale University
James P. Smith, RAND Corporation

Project Director:

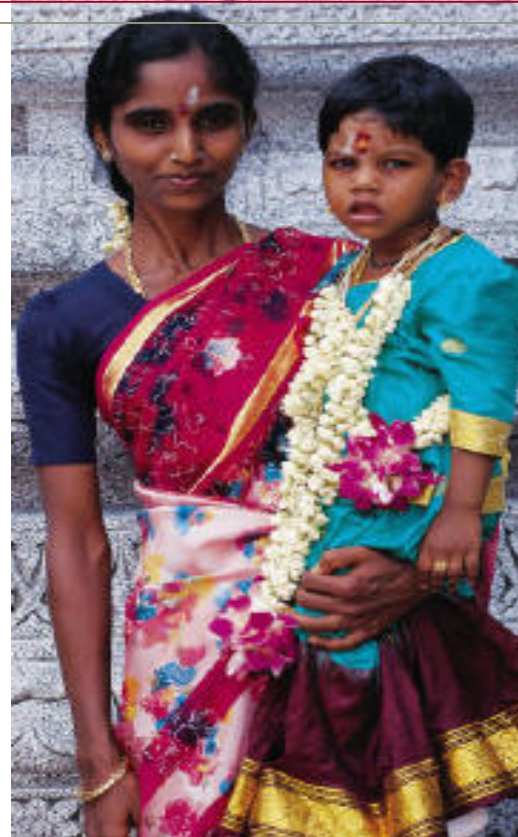
Monica Espinoza Higgins

Postdoctoral Researcher:

Bilesha Weeraratne

Associate Project Manager:

Kimberly Torres



Sampling Frame

The New Immigrant Survey is a new plan for nationally representative longitudinal studies of immigrants and their children that promises to provide new kinds of data that will help answer many of the important questions about immigration. The sampling frame is based on the electronic administrative records compiled for new immigrants by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly the INS). The first full cohort of the New Immigrant Survey, NIS-2003-1, sampled immigrants granted legal permanent residency (LPRs) during May-November 2003. The design calls for selection of two samples: (1) an Adult Sample of 12,500 immigrants described separately and (2) a Child Sample of 1,250 immigrants younger than age 18 admitted to legal permanent residence or adopted orphan and child of U.S. citizens. A follow-up survey, NIS-2003-2 had a child sample of 659 immigrants and 146 children from NIS-2003-1 who were now aged 18+.

Fielding

The baseline round was in the field in the period June 2003 to June 2004. Survey instruments were translated into seven languages (Chinese, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese) and key concepts and consent forms into an additional seven languages (Arabic, Farsi, French, Gujarati, Hindi/Urdu, Serbo-Croatian, and Ukrainian). Interviews were completed in the language of choice of the respondent. 62% of interviews with sponsor-parents of the Child Sample were administered by phone; the remainder were administered in person. Sponsor-parents were interviewed as soon as possible after their child was admitted to permanent residence. NIS-2003-2 was in the field during June 2007 to October 2009 with follow-up baseline respondents.

Funding The NIS is supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute on Aging and the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (HD33843); the National Science Foundation (SRS-9907421 and SES-0096867); the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, HHS; and the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Adopted Orphan

The NIS includes 416 interviews with sponsor-parents of children under the age of five who became legal permanent residents as adopted orphans. Unlike other immigrant children, adopted orphans are unlikely to be found in the households of Adult Sample members; only 10% of these sponsor-parents are foreign-born. Age-eligible co-resident children of the sponsor-parent completed child assessments, the child interview and were asked about in the sponsor-parent interview. Over 80% of sampled children on this visa were born in China, Russia, Guatemala or Korea (Table 1).

Child of U.S. Citizen

The NIS includes 394 interviews with sponsor-parents of children under the age of 18 who became legal permanent residents of Child of U.S. Citizen visas. 25.5% of sampled children on this visa were born in Mexico (Table 1). Sampled children ages 8-12 were eligible for the Child Interview and children 5-17 were asked about in the parent section of the interview that included questions on health, schooling and language ability. Once a sampled child turns 18, that child becomes eligible for his or her own interview.

Questionnaire Content

NIS survey instruments for the baseline round obtained information on a variety of topics, including health, schooling, marriage and family, languages and English language skills, labor force participation, earnings, use of government services, networks, travel, and religion. In successive rounds, as in NIS-2003-2, the instruments will track changes over time.

A large component of the NIS survey instruments is/will be comparable to instruments used in the major U.S. longitudinal surveys, thus facilitating comparisons of immigrants and the native-born.

Child Content

Special attention is paid to immigrant children and the children of immigrants, including assessment of their academic abilities, skills and achievements. Parents are asked questions about each of their children on migration, education, employment, and fertility. Parents complete a longer section on select children that includes health, language skills, and school subjects. A brief child interview covering those areas is administered to select children.

NIS-2003 child assessments are the Digit Span for Memory test and the Woodcock Johnson III, Tests 1,5,9, and 10 of Achievement. The HOME-SF was administered to parents.

Response

The NIS-2003-1 Child Sample achieved a 64.8% response rate with 810 completed interviews.

The NIS-2003-2 Child Sample achieved a 48.7% response rate. (53.3% response rate with 350 completed interviews from the sampled 659 children from round 1 and 28.1% response rate with 41 completed interviews from the sampled 146 children from round 1 who are now adults.)

Data

NIS-2003-1: Data, codebooks and questionnaires are available on the NIS website, <http://nis.princeton.edu>. Data are available for download by all researchers in SAS, Stata and SPSS formats.

NIS-2003-2: Data expected in late 2013.

Child Sample: By the numbers...

NIS-2003-1: 810 sponsor-parents of Child Sample immigrants completed the Child Proxy Interview; 581 spouses of sponsor-parents completed the Spouse Interview; 194 children ages 8-12 completed the Child Interview; 503 children completed the Memory for Digit Span assessment; 483 children of the sponsor-parents completed select Woodcock Johnson III Tests of Achievement.

NIS-2003-2: 350 sponsor-parents completed the Child Proxy Interview, and 41 respondents completed the New Adult Main Child interview.

Table 1. Country of Birth of Child Sample Immigrants by Visa Type, Weighted Results. Child of U.S. Citizen Visa N=394, Adopted Orphan Visa N=416

Countries in data	Child of US Citizen	Adopted Orphan
China	2.7%	37.5%
Russia	1.1%	22.6%
Guatemala	0.9%	11.2%
Korea	1.6%	9.1%
Ukraine	0.7%	3.4%
Colombia	6.1%	2.8%
India	0.2%	1.4%
Philippines	5.9%	0.7%
Jamaica	2.9%	0.6%
Nigeria	2.4%	0.4%
Ethiopia	0.5%	0.3%
Vietnam	2.4%	0.2%
Mexico	25.5%	--
Dominican Republic	6.6%	--
Haiti	2.8%	--
El Salvador	2.3%	--
Peru	2.0%	--
Canada	1.2%	--
United Kingdom	0.8%	--
Cuba	0.4%	--
Poland	0.4%	--
Unknown	0.2%	--
Country total	69.3%	90.0%
Add'l countries in regions		
Europe & Central Asia	3.2%	7.1%
Latin America & The Caribbean	10.9%	--
East Asia, South Asia	8.0%	2.0%
African Sub-Saharan	4.0%	0.7%
Middle East & North Africa	4.3%	0.2%
Oceania	0.2%	--
Region total	30.7%	10.0%
Overall total	100%	100%

For more information

E-mail: nisopr@princeton.edu

Web: <http://nis.princeton.edu>