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## NURTURING NATURALIZATION: REACHING THE HARD TO NATURALIZE

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## PROFILING THE HARD TO NATURALIZE



### Why do the analysis?

- Fostering **citizenship** is a **public good** for both **economy** & **civic engagement**
- Previous research says the high naturalization fee was one key **impediment**
- But that is not the only factor and we need detailed **profiles on eligible LPRs** to determine key strategies



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## DEFINING THE ELIGIBLE TO NATURALIZE




**Methodology:**

- Used **2010-2014 American Community Survey** (IPUMS version)
- In approach similar to Migration Policy Institute, utilized certain key “logical” conditions as well as probability estimates derived from the **Survey of Income and Program Participation** (SIPP) to identify the undocumented
- Then **calibrated** count of **undocumented** with estimates from Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS), Pew, & MPI – the remainder are **Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs)**



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## DEFINING THE ELIGIBLE TO NATURALIZE



**Table 1. Years of Eligibility for Eligible to Naturalize Population**

DHS & CSII Estimates of LPRs Eligible to Naturalize by Years of Eligibility

	DHS (January 2013)		CSII (2010-2014)	
	Count	%	Count	%
1-5 yrs	2,340,000	27%	2,095,116	24%
6-10 yrs	1,590,000	18%	1,703,552	19%
11-20 yrs	2,380,000	27%	2,461,226	28%
>20 yrs	2,490,000	28%	2,543,501	29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,790,000</b>		<b>8,803,395</b>	

- Applying the residency restrictions (five years, three if married to a U.S. citizen), we obtain a total of eligible to naturalize (8.80 million) that **matches aggregate OIS estimates** (8.79 million) as well as various distributions by: **years of eligibility**

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## DEFINING THE ELIGIBLE TO NATURALIZE

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**Table 2. Country of Birth for Eligible to Naturalize Population**

DHS & CSII Estimates of LPRs Eligible to Naturalize by Country of Birth

	DHS (January 2013)		CSII (2010-2014)	
	Count	%	Count	%
Mexico	2,670,000	30%	2,858,335	32%
Philippines	340,000	4%	256,942	3%
China	310,000	4%	303,730	3%
Dominican Rep.	300,000	3%	248,544	3%
Cuba	290,000	3%	319,237	4%
Canada	260,000	3%	284,007	3%
India	250,000	3%	405,753	5%
El Salvador	250,000	3%	341,265	4%
United Kingdom	240,000	3%	224,509	3%
Vietnam	200,000	2%	122,861	1%
South Korea	180,000	2%	160,263	2%
Haiti	160,000	2%	125,706	1%
Jamaica	160,000	2%	127,942	1%
Germany	150,000	2%	143,332	2%
Colombia	140,000	2%	141,278	2%
Rest of Countries	2,890,000	33%	2,739,691	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,790,000</b>		<b>8,803,395</b>	

- Applying the residency restrictions (five years, three if married to a U.S. citizen), we obtain a total of eligible to naturalize (8.80 million) that **matches aggregate OIS estimates (8.79 million)** as well as various distributions by: **country of origin**

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## DEFINING THE ELIGIBLE TO NATURALIZE

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**Table 3. State of Residence for Eligible to Naturalize Population**

DHS & CSII Estimates of LPRs Eligible to Naturalize by State of Residence

	DHS (January 2013)		CSII (2010-2014)	
	Count	%	Count	%
California	2,440,000	28%	2,245,770	26%
New York	1,050,000	12%	918,223	10%
Texas	950,000	11%	1,034,713	12%
Florida	830,000	9%	870,359	10%
Illinois	370,000	4%	365,773	4%
New Jersey	360,000	4%	377,059	4%
Massachusetts	200,000	2%	208,624	2%
Washington	180,000	2%	188,840	2%
Arizona	180,000	2%	208,397	2%
Virginia	160,000	2%	184,924	2%
Rest of States	2,060,000	23%	2,200,713	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,790,000</b>		<b>8,803,395</b>	

- Applying the residency restrictions (five years, three if married to a U.S. citizen), we obtain a total of eligible to naturalize (8.80 million) that **matches aggregate OIS estimates (8.79 million)** as well as various distributions by: **state of residence**

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### DEFINING THE ELIGIBLE TO NATURALIZE

- But because we are using the **2010-2014 American Community Survey**, we can estimate **individual characteristics** of the eligible to naturalize



- And we can also drive down to lower **geographic scales**, including sub-county level known as PUMA (Public Use Microdata Area)

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### DEFINING THE ELIGIBLE TO NATURALIZE

- We will be comparing the naturalization choice in two key ways:

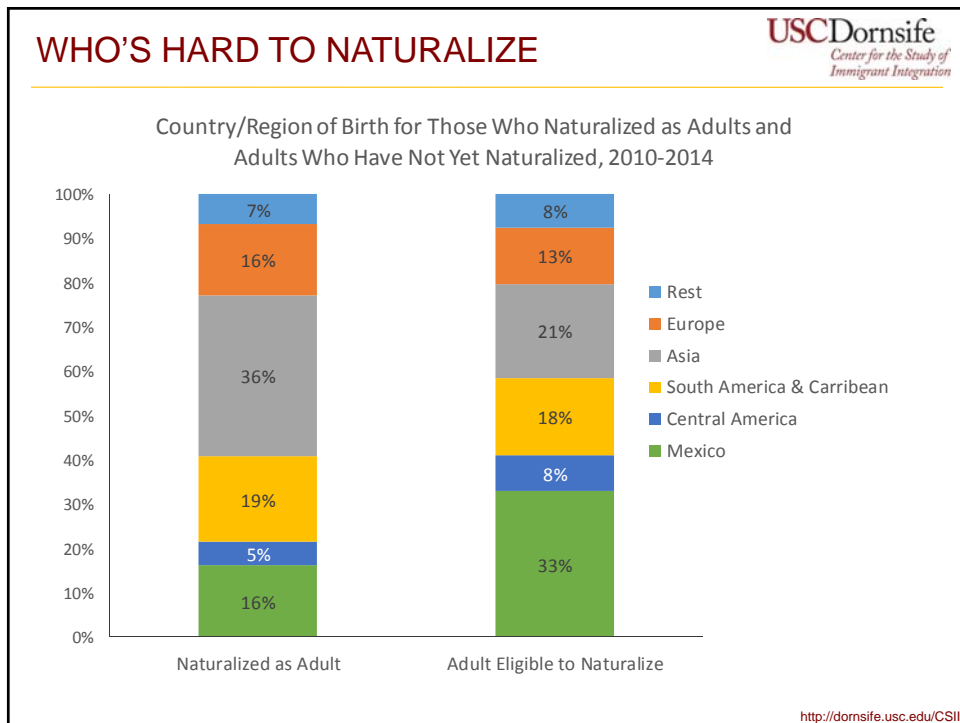
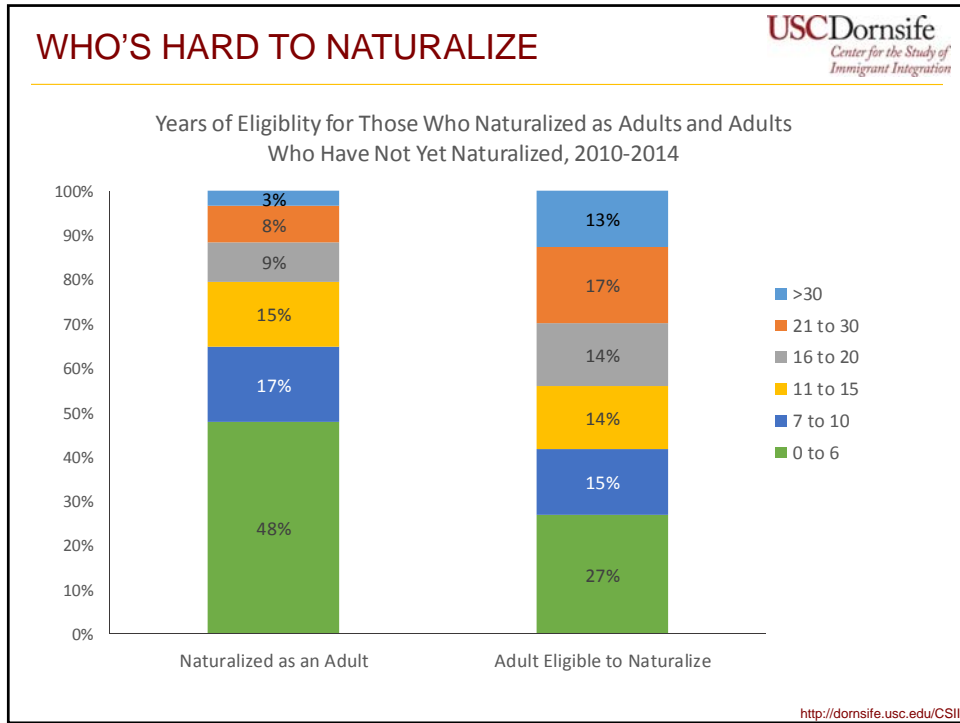
  
  


- **Stock analysis:** those who naturalized as adults and those adults who have not yet naturalized
- **Flow analysis:** those who were eligible to naturalize over the last year and did so, and those who were eligible to naturalize last year and did not

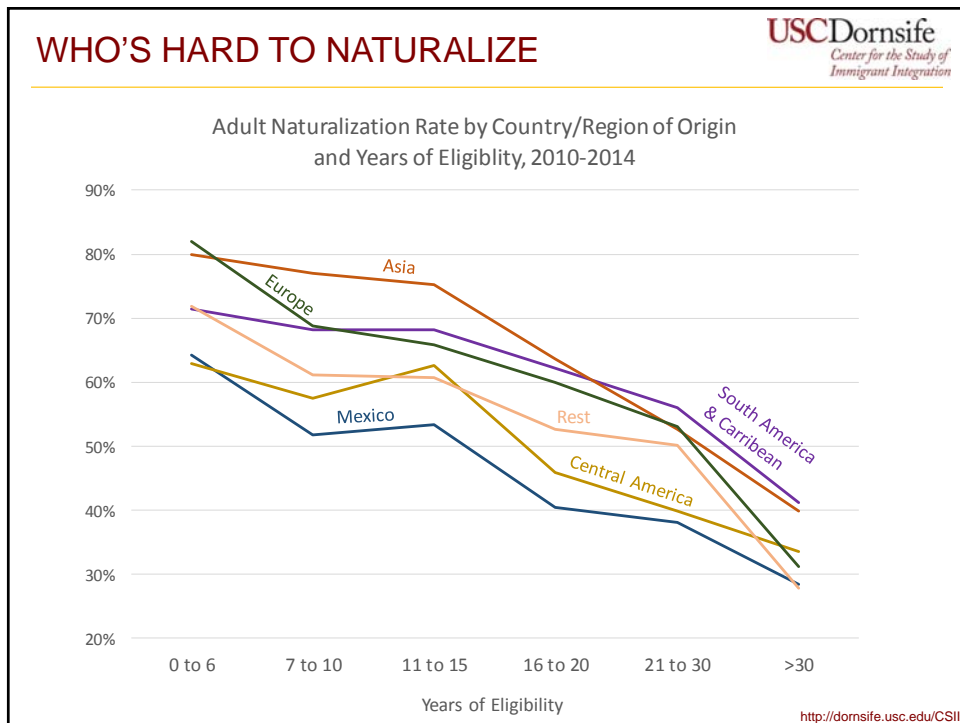
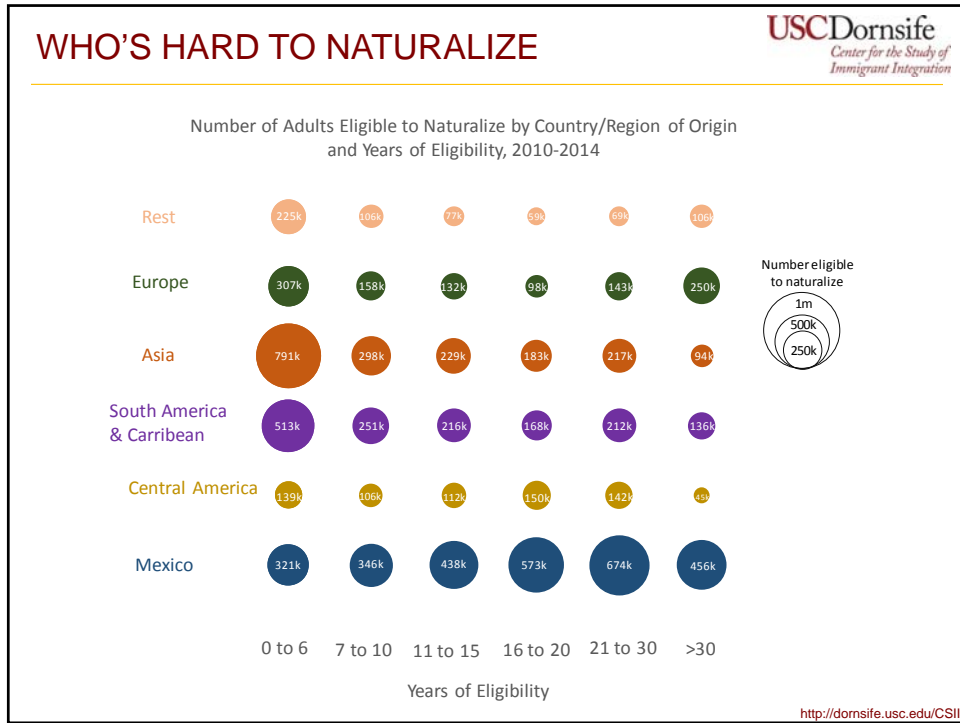


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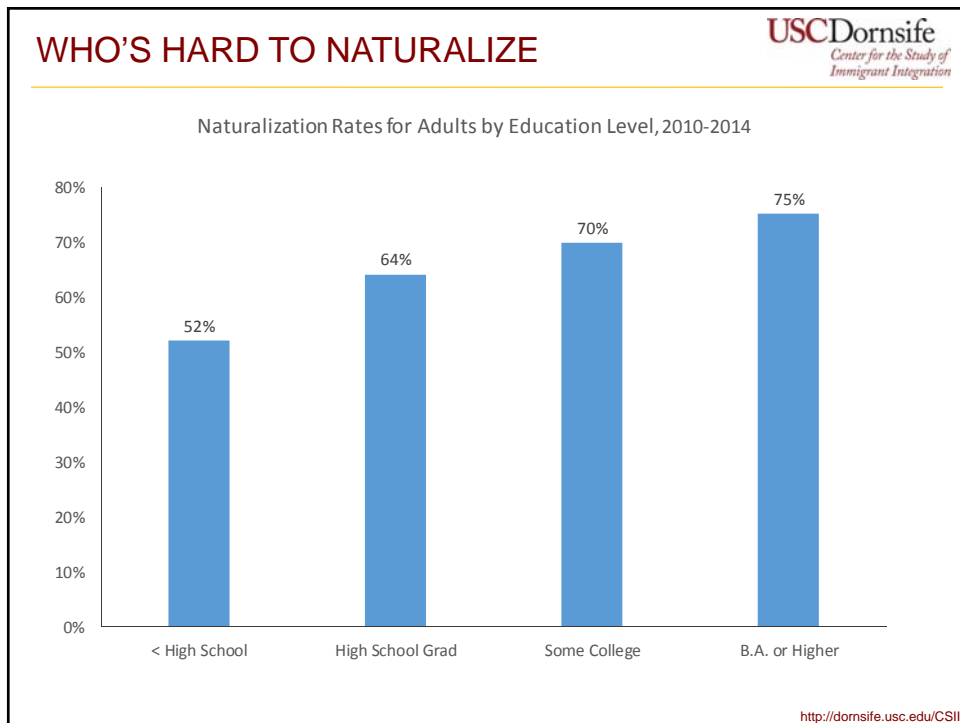
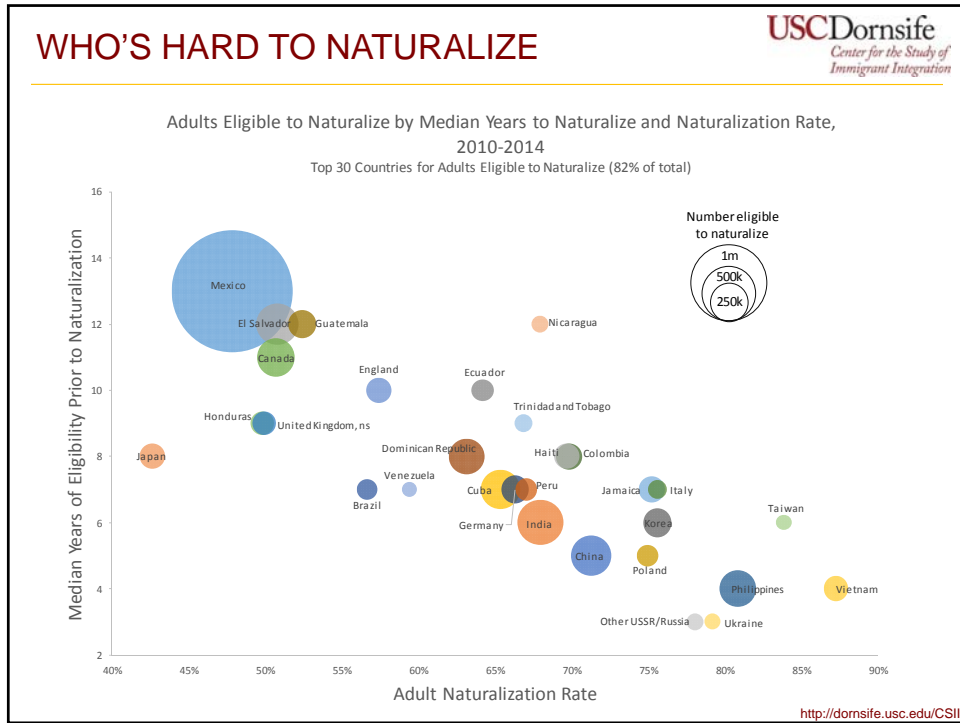
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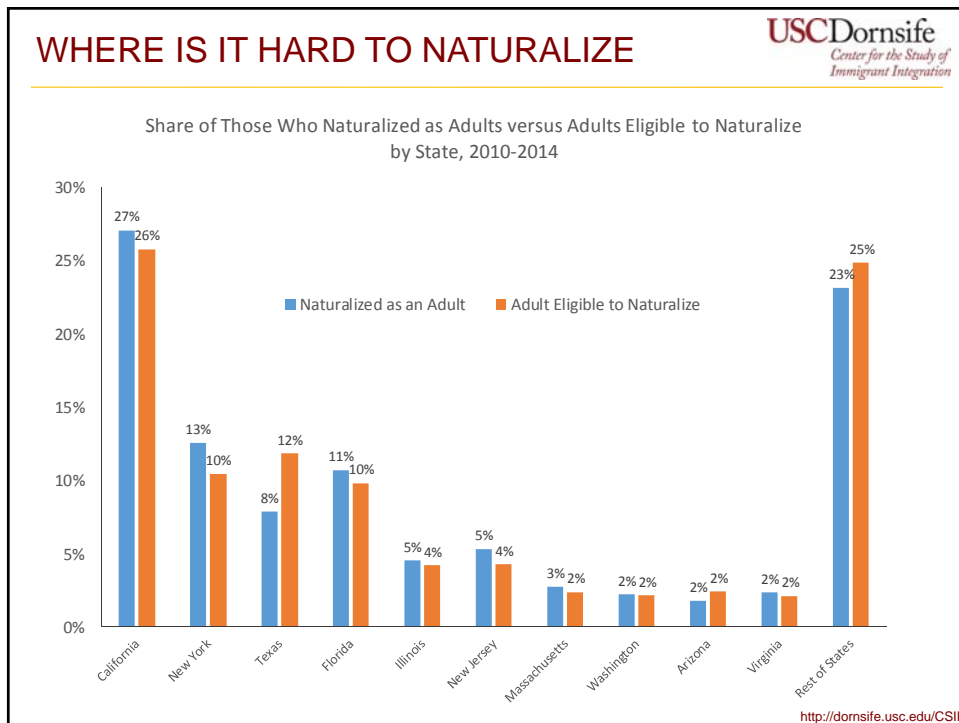
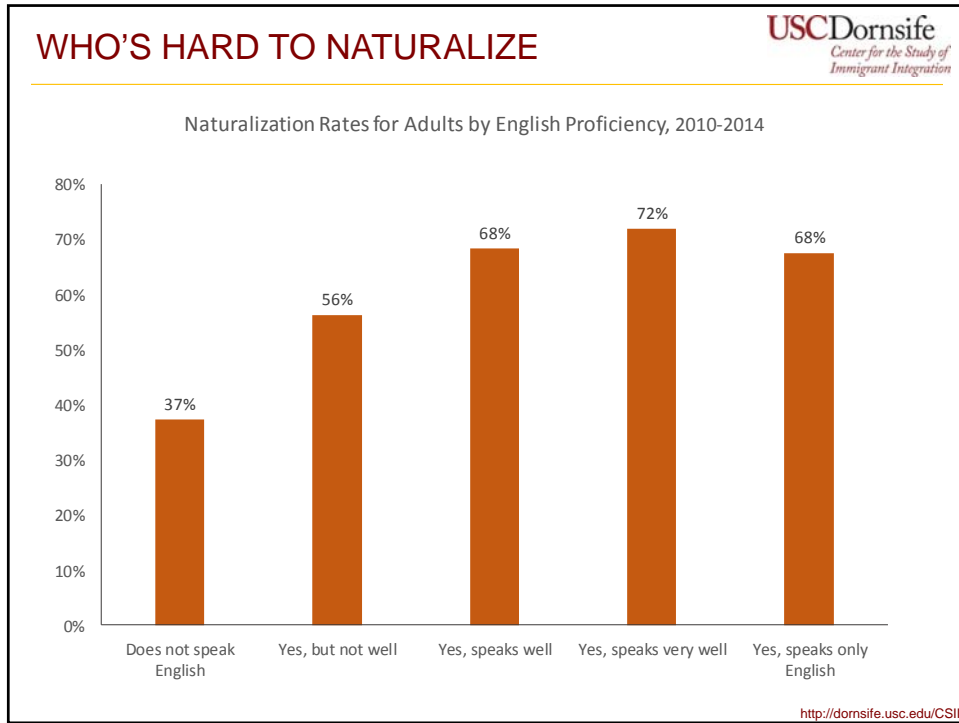
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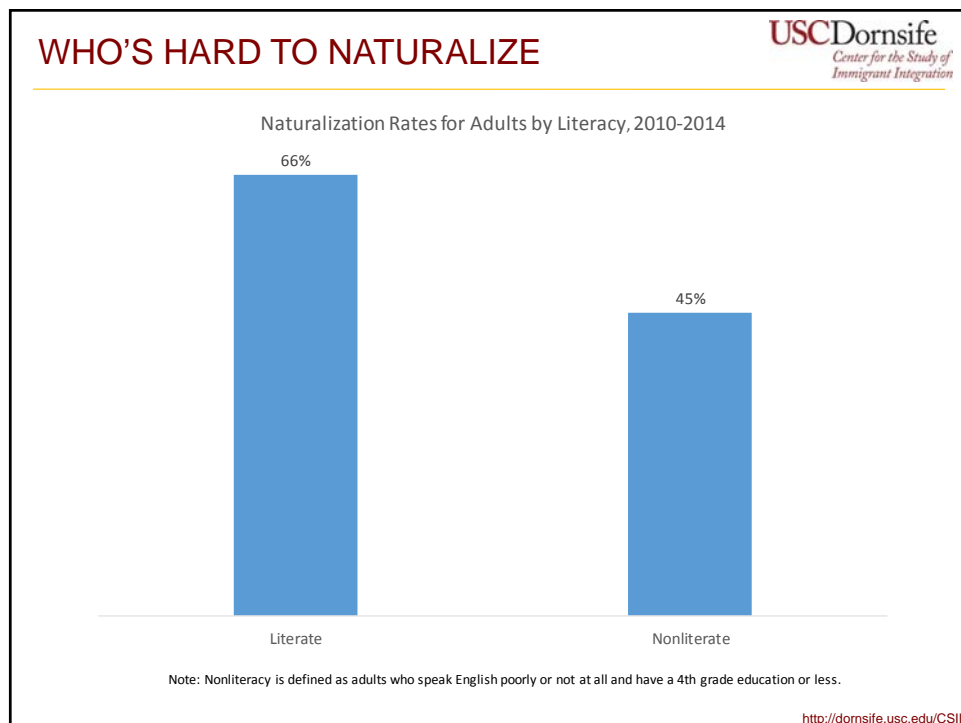
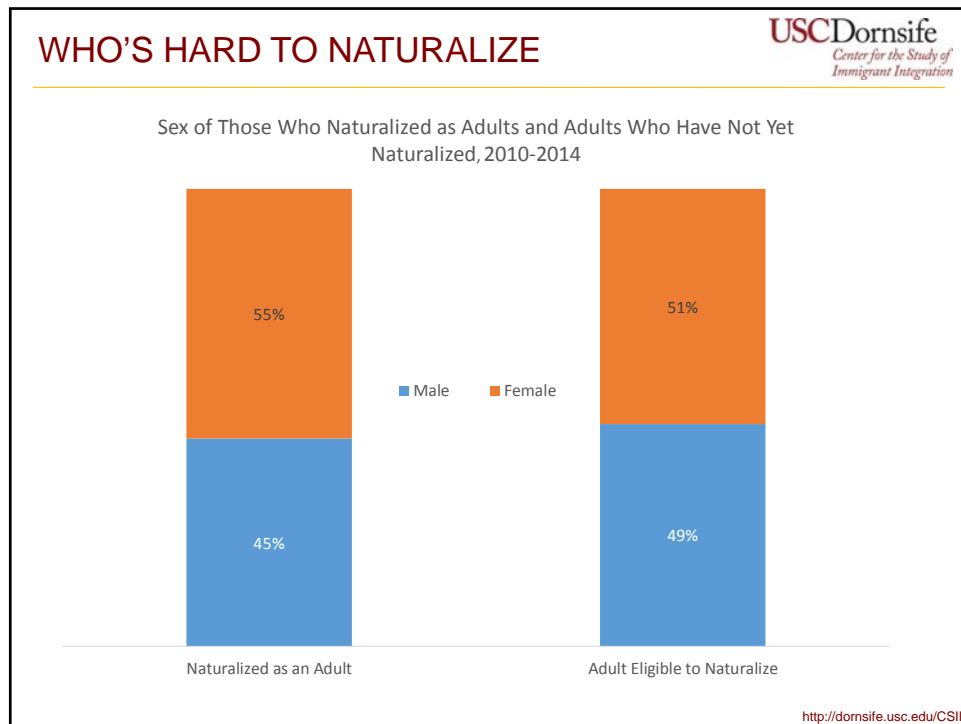


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**DOES INCOME MATTER?**

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- To answer this question, we need to shift to a **flow analysis** – in any given year, who chooses to naturalize versus who does not naturalize
- **Why a flow analysis?** Because while certain factors do not change after naturalization (like whether you're Mexican), some variables like **income** do

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**DOES INCOME MATTER?**

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- Research has demonstrated that **naturalization** can **improve** incomes – there's a “citizen gain”
- Impact on **earnings** from attaining citizenship falls somewhere between **8** percent and **11** percent
- **Boost** in **earnings** associated with naturalization, with **additional** gains over **subsequent** years

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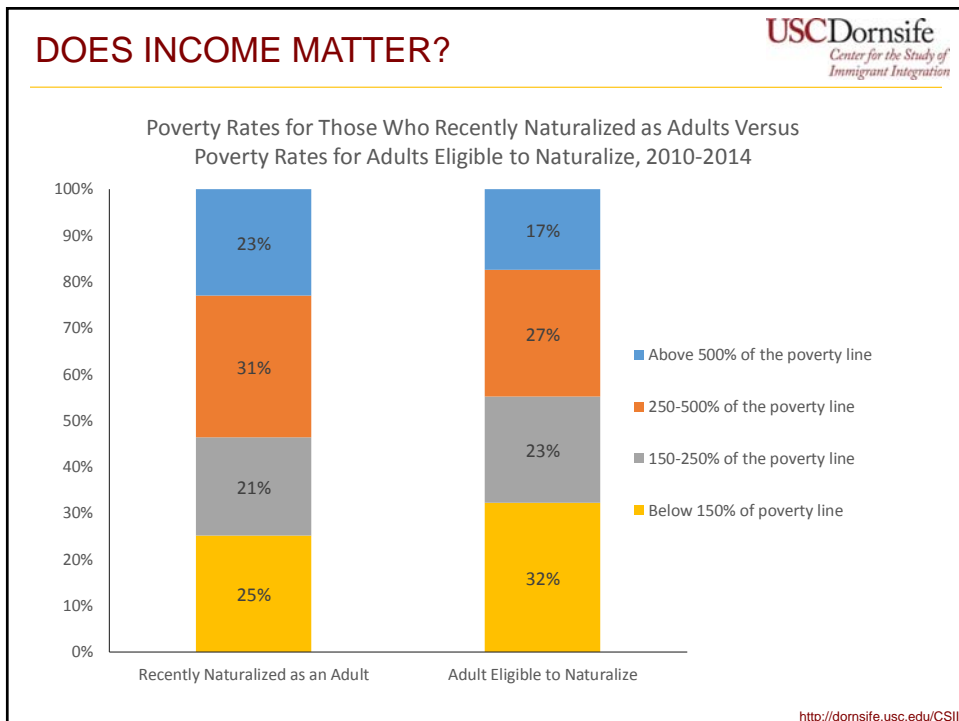
## DOES INCOME MATTER?

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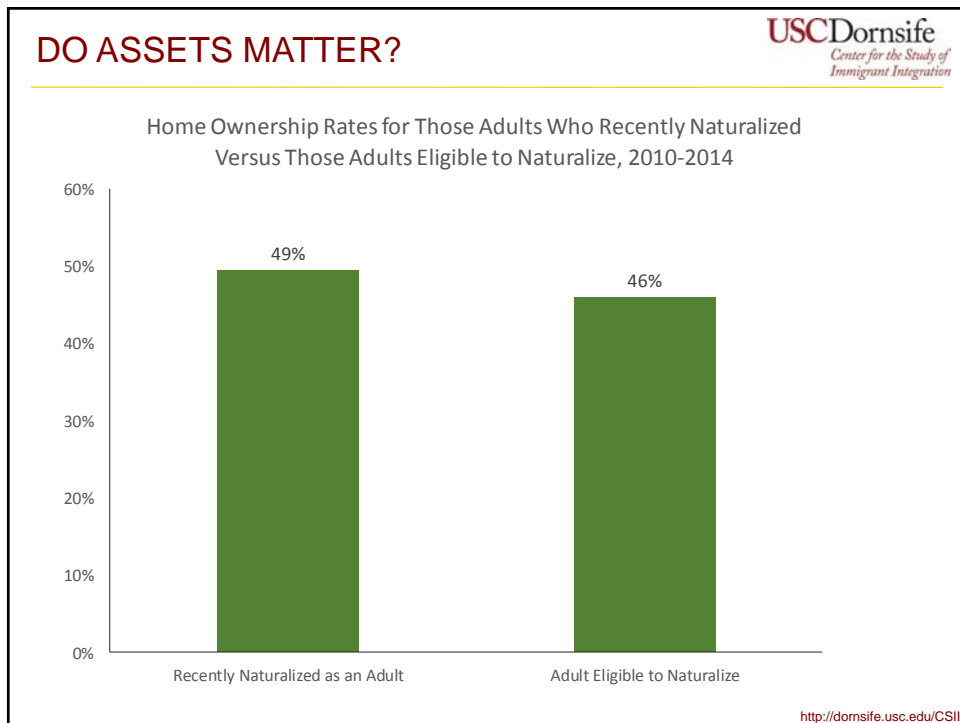
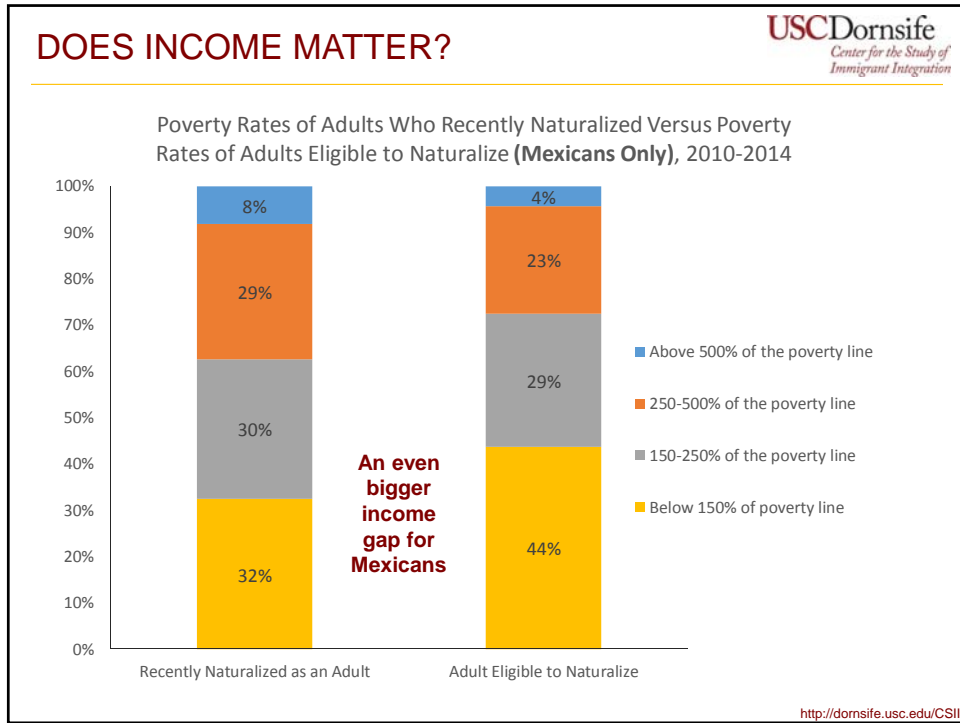


- To answer this question, we need to shift to a **flow analysis** – in any given year, who chooses to naturalize versus who does not naturalize
- So to avoid spurious relationship, we have to look at **those who recently naturalized** against the stock of **those who were eligible but did not**

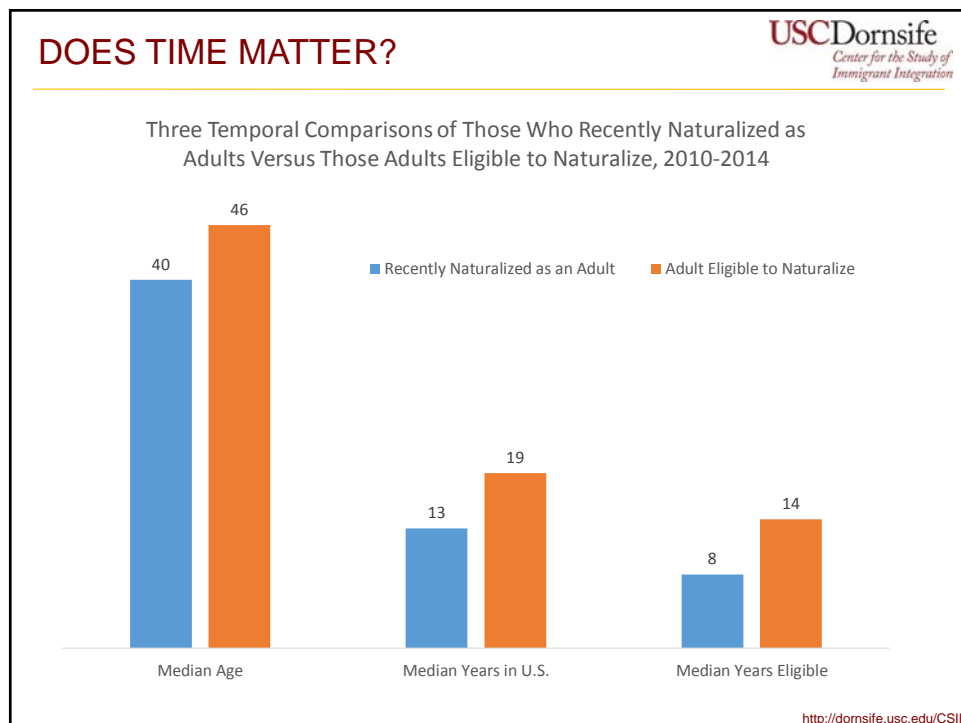
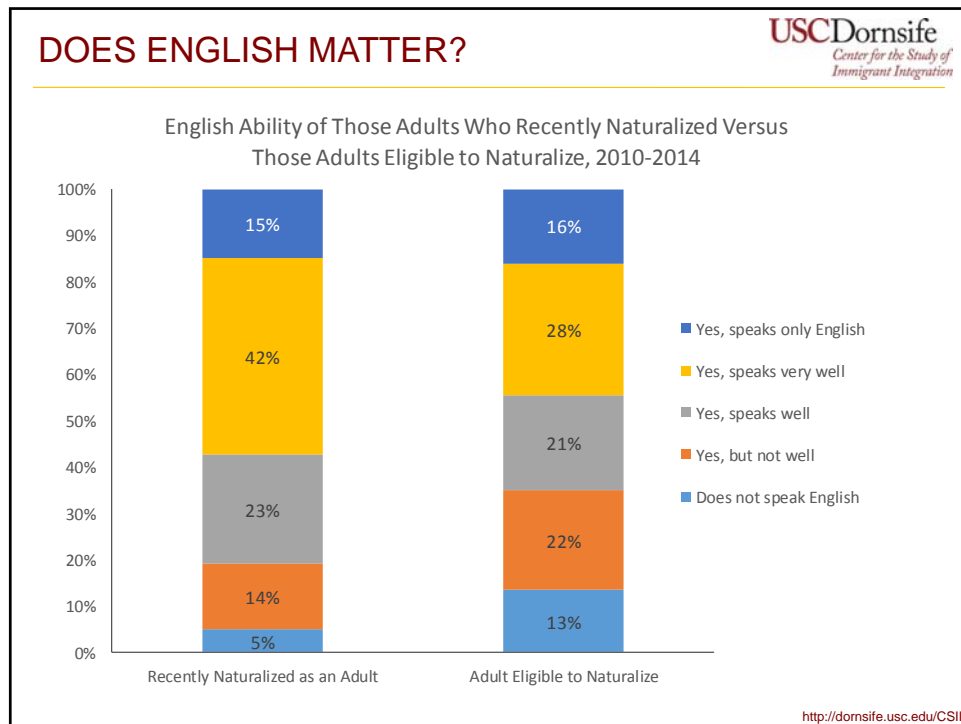
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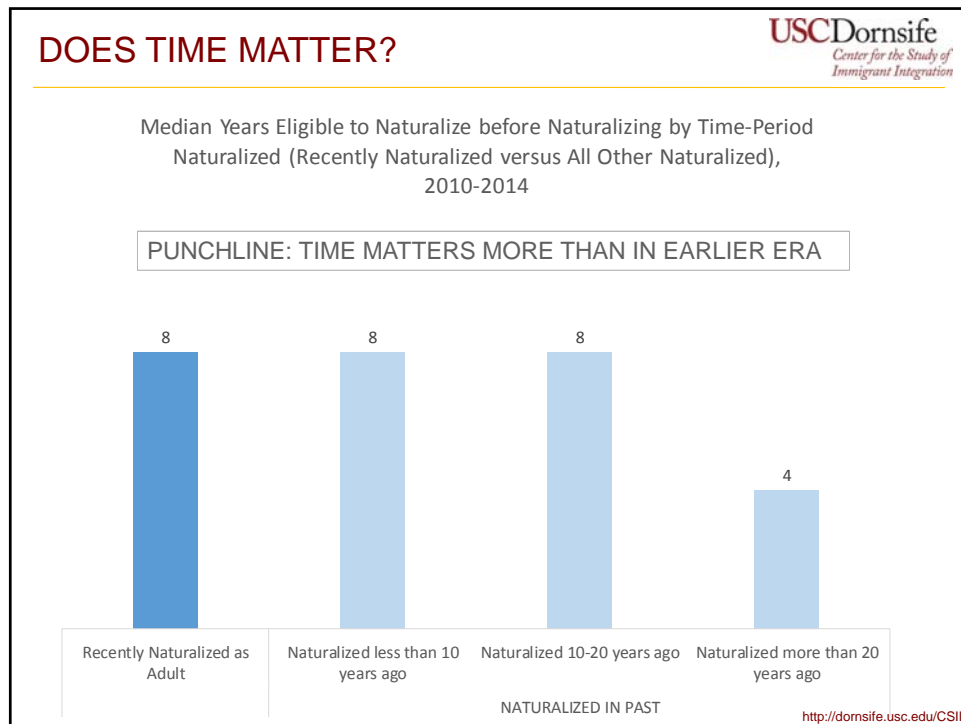
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## NATURALIZATION: BARRIERS & MOTIVATIONS

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So what do surveys say?

- Barriers
  - Primary
    - Limited English proficiency
    - Financial costs
  - Other:
    - Misinformation (unaware of fee waivers or T.A.)
    - Criminal convictions


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**NATURALIZATION: ADDITIONAL BARRIERS** 



- Economic, political, social, cultural and geographical conditions in the country of origin and community environment that they encounter in the U.S.
- Inability or difficulty to obtain dual citizenship (or other ties to home country)
- Urban concentration, isolation, and segregation
- Local context of immigrant reception



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**NATURALIZATION: MOTIVATIONS** 


- Motivators (non-economic)
  - Primary: Civil & legal rights
  - Every poll lists immigrants desire to vote as key
- Newly naturalized Latino respondents demonstrated a high propensity to vote (Ramirez et al, 2010)
  - 67.2% of those who had been granted citizenship have voted at least once
  - 84.2% of those who had been granted citizenship had registered to vote
- Heated anti-immigrant political contexts (Levin 2013; Ramirez et al 2010) and migrating for political reasons are more likely to vote (Gershon and Patonja 2014)



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## NATURALIZATION: MOTIVATIONS




- Motivators
  - Primary: **Sense of belonging** and access to information
    - Concentrations of naturalized immigrants help un-naturalized access information about benefits and procedures of naturalizing (Abascal, 2015)
    - Other reasons for naturalizing: **viewing US as a home** (12%), sense of identity as American or love for the US (18%) (Gonzalez-Barrera et al, 2013)
  - Primary: **Family**
    - Primary family related reasons for naturalizing include: sponsoring a family member (3%), for their family or children (no specific reason) (2%) (Gonzalez-Barrera et al, 2013)

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## NATURALIZATION: DEVELOPING INCENTIVES



- *Incentives* – the “thing” that motivates
  - Tangible benefits/rewards (more constant)
  - Comes from the outside/external (given by those in power)
  - *Motivation* comes from yourself – internal (more likely to vary, less concrete, and depends on the context)



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## NATURALIZATION: TRANSLATING INCENTIVES

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- Access to a broader range of employers and higher incomes
  - i.e. More money
- Right to live in the United States
  - i.e. More stability
- Ability to sway elections
  - i.e. More representation
- Right to all public benefits
  - i.e. More security

**Promoting the incentives**



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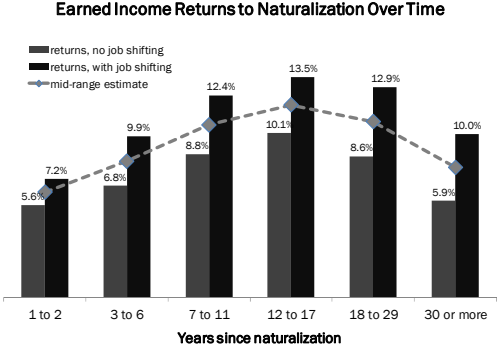
## MEASURING THE POTENTIAL GAINS

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### Economic Gains

- Apply national **mid-range** estimate found in **"Citizen Gain"** to states
- Estimate **cumulative earnings gains over 10 years** from increasing naturalization rates enough to **halve the pool of the eligible-to-naturalize in five years**

**Earned Income Returns to Naturalization Over Time**

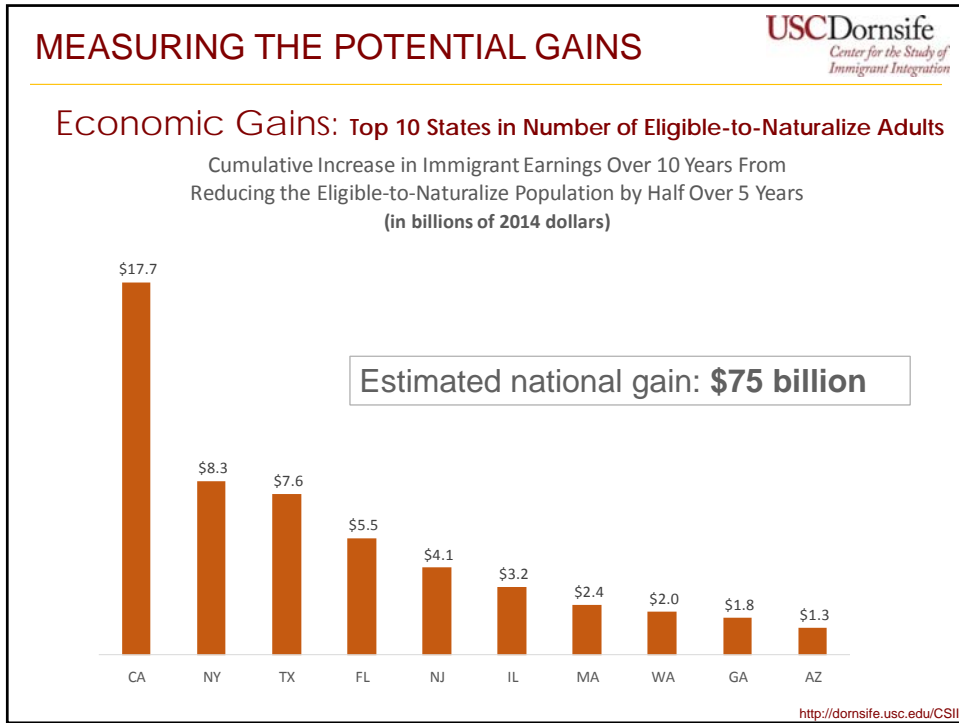


Years since naturalization	returns, no job shifting	returns, with job shifting	mid-range estimate
1 to 2	5.6%	7.2%	
3 to 6	6.8%	9.9%	
7 to 11	8.8%	12.4%	
12 to 17	10.1%	13.5%	13.5%
18 to 29	8.6%	12.9%	
30 or more	5.9%	10.0%	



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### MEASURING THE POTENTIAL GAINS

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#### Civic Gains

- Strengthen **democracy** through increased **voter representation**

**NO TAXATION!**  
  
**WITHOUT REPRESENTATION!**

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## MEASURING THE POTENTIAL GAINS



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### Civic Gains

- How we measure it?
  - Eligible-to-naturalize adults divided by the voting-eligible population – or Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)

*In other words...*

- How much would the voting-eligible population increase under full naturalization of eligible adults?



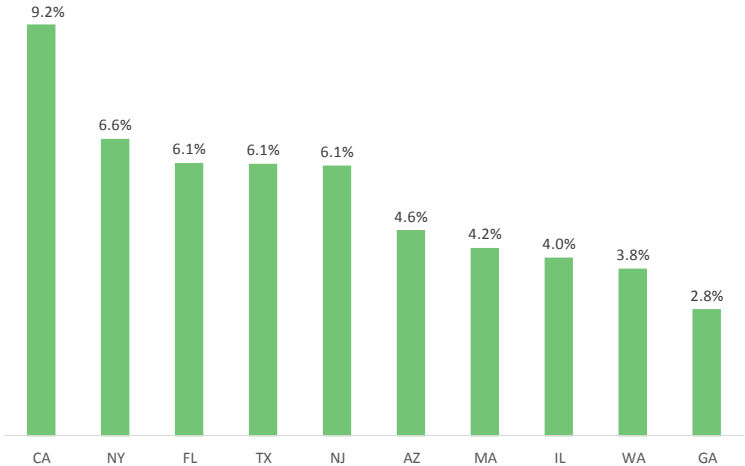
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## MEASURING THE POTENTIAL GAINS

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### Civic Gains: Top 10 States in Number of Eligible-to-Naturalize Adults

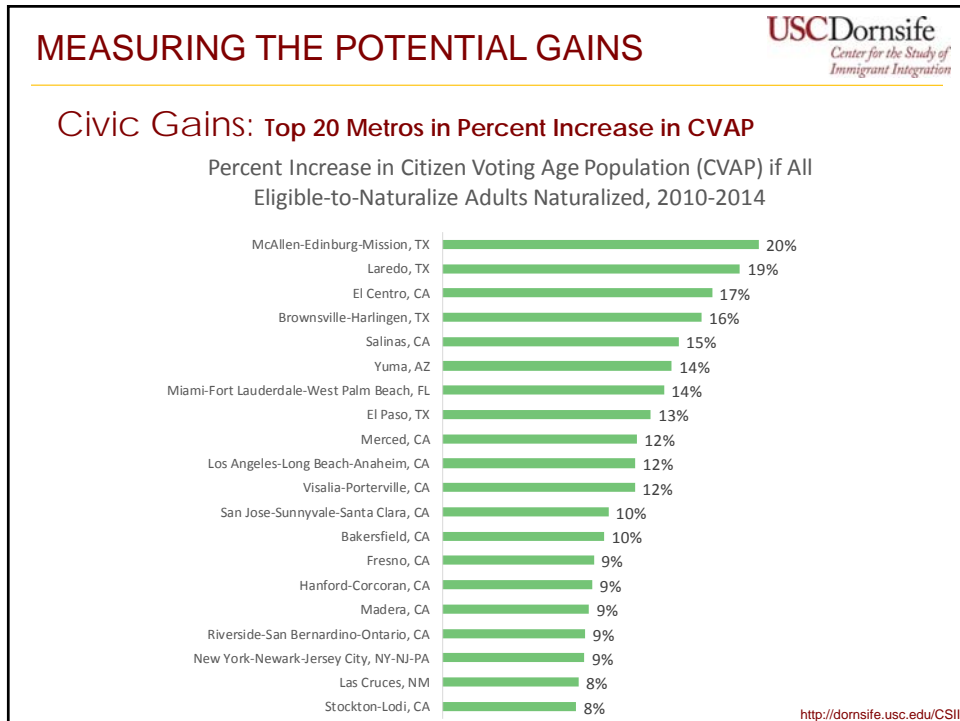
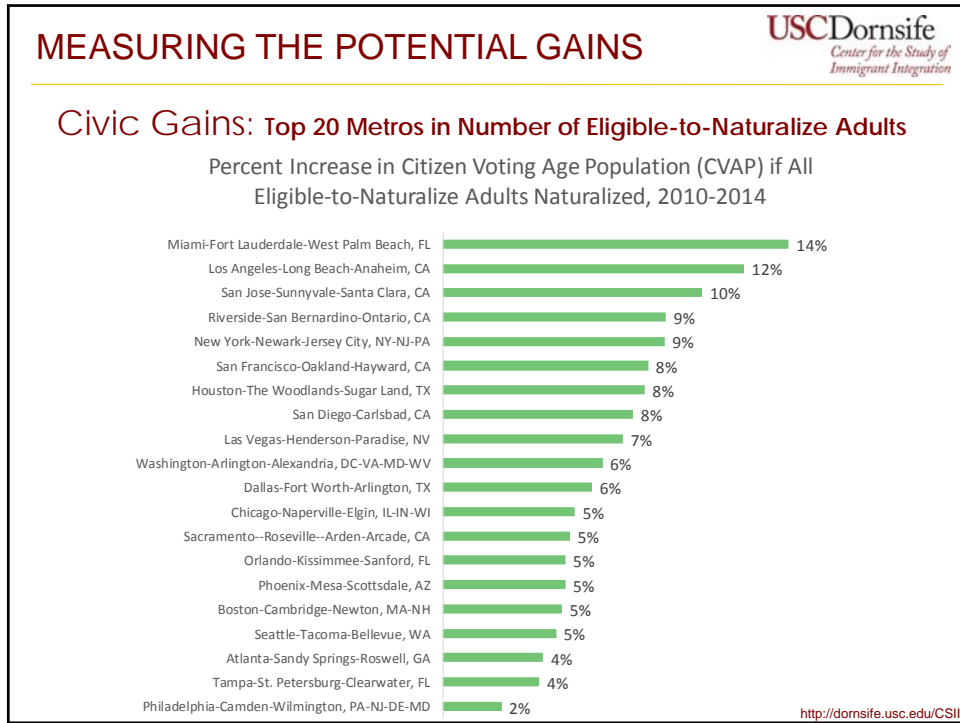
Percent Increase in Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) if All Eligible-to-Naturalize Adults Naturalized, 2010-2014



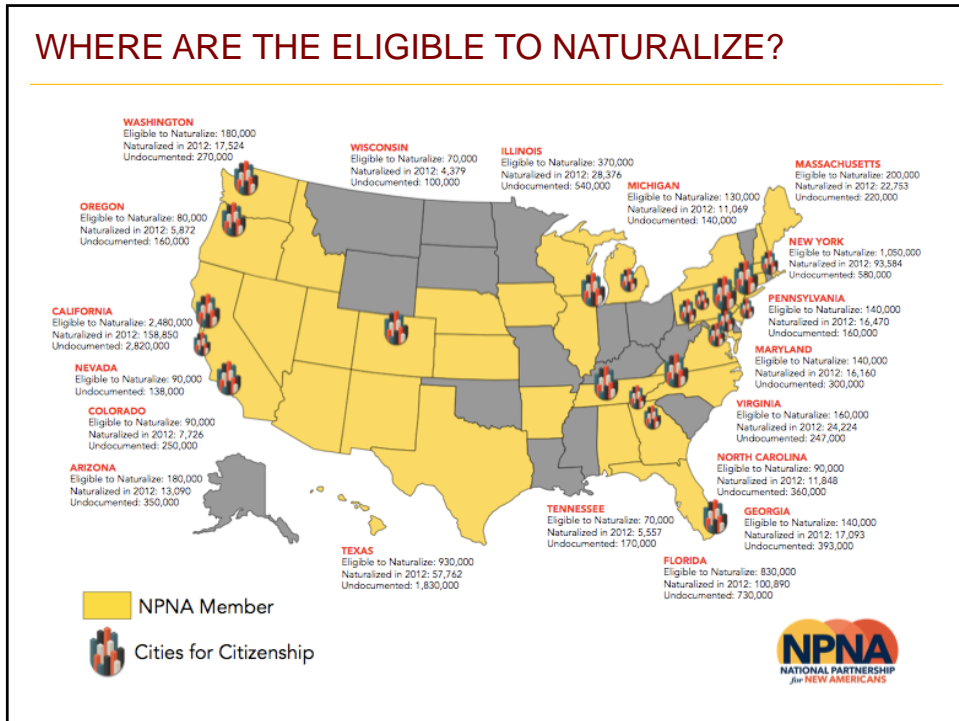
State	Percent Increase in CVAP
CA	9.2%
NY	6.6%
FL	6.1%
TX	6.1%
NJ	6.1%
AZ	4.6%
MA	4.2%
IL	4.0%
WA	3.8%
GA	2.8%

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### WHERE ARE THE ELIGIBLE TO NATURALIZE?

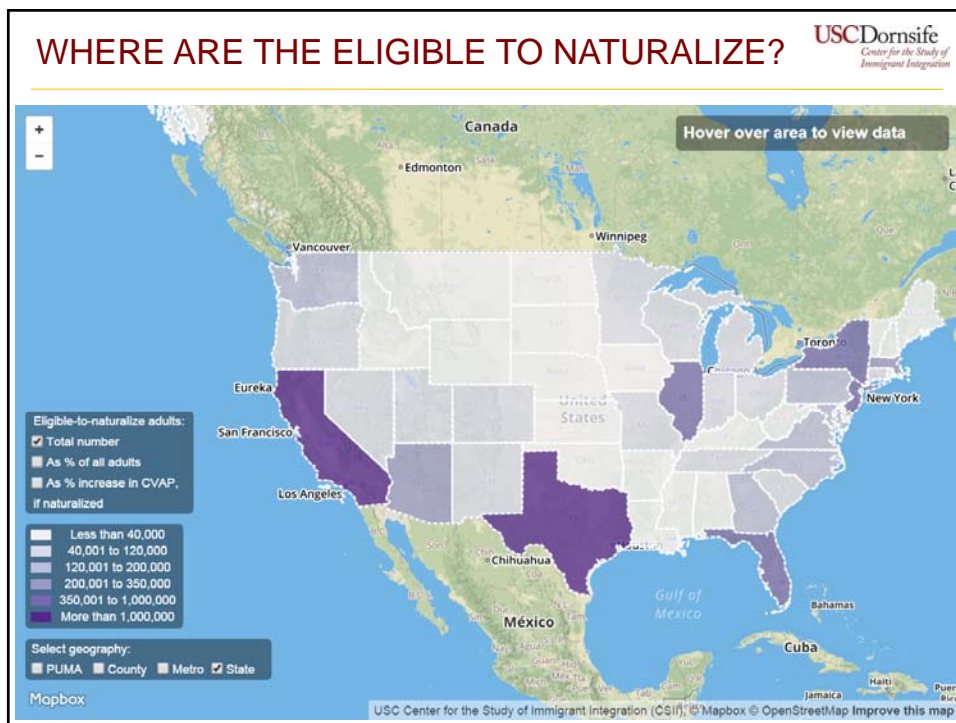
New  
CSII Interactive Map  
Live Demo

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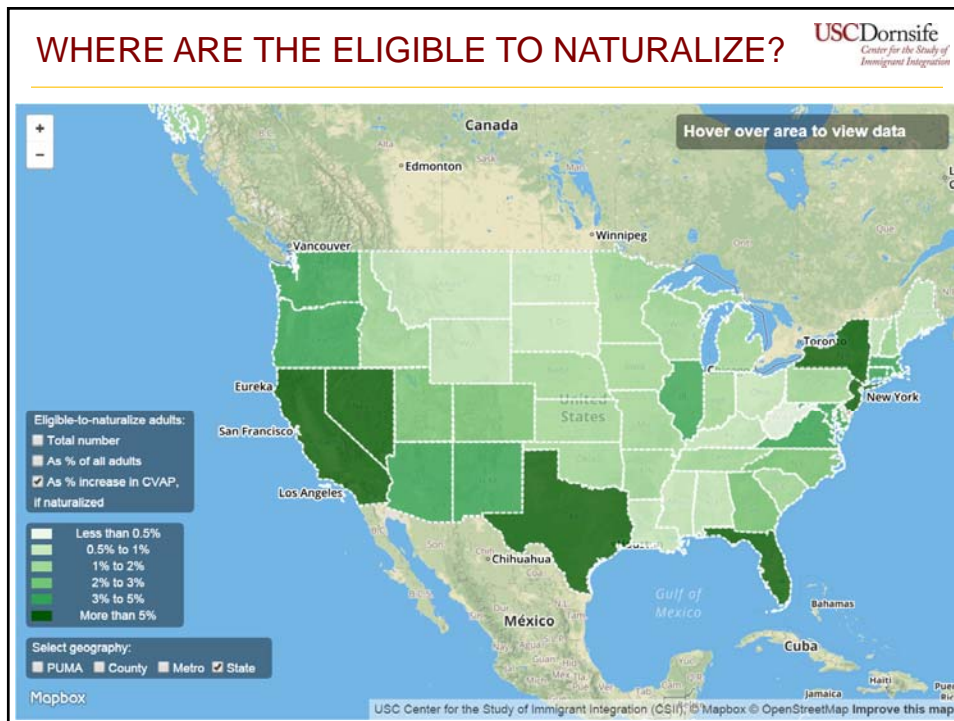
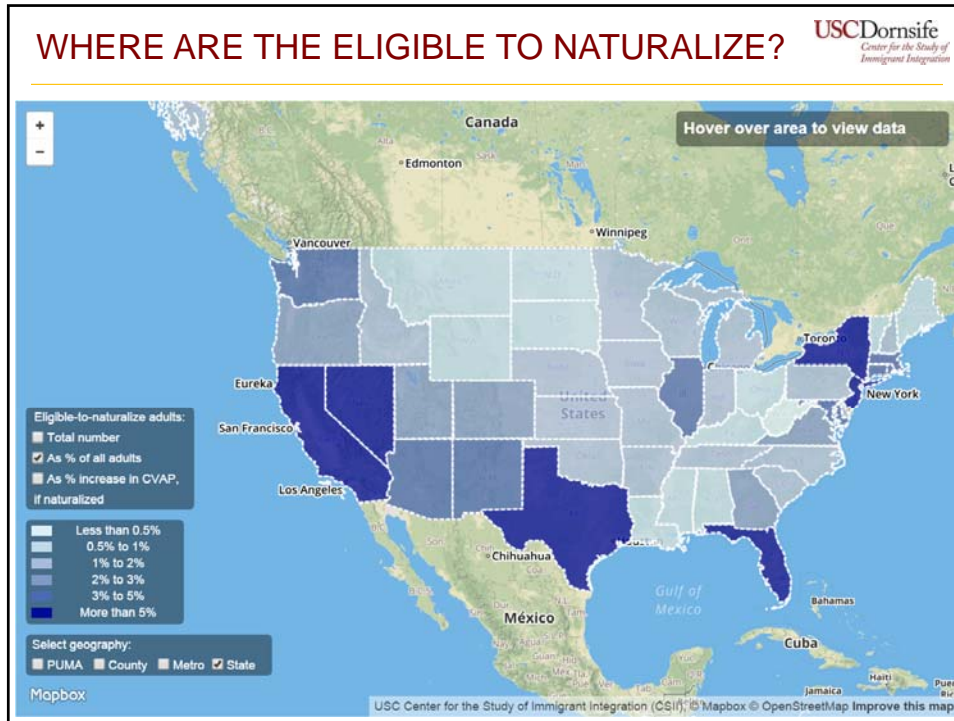
WHERE ARE THE ELIGIBLE TO NATURALIZE?

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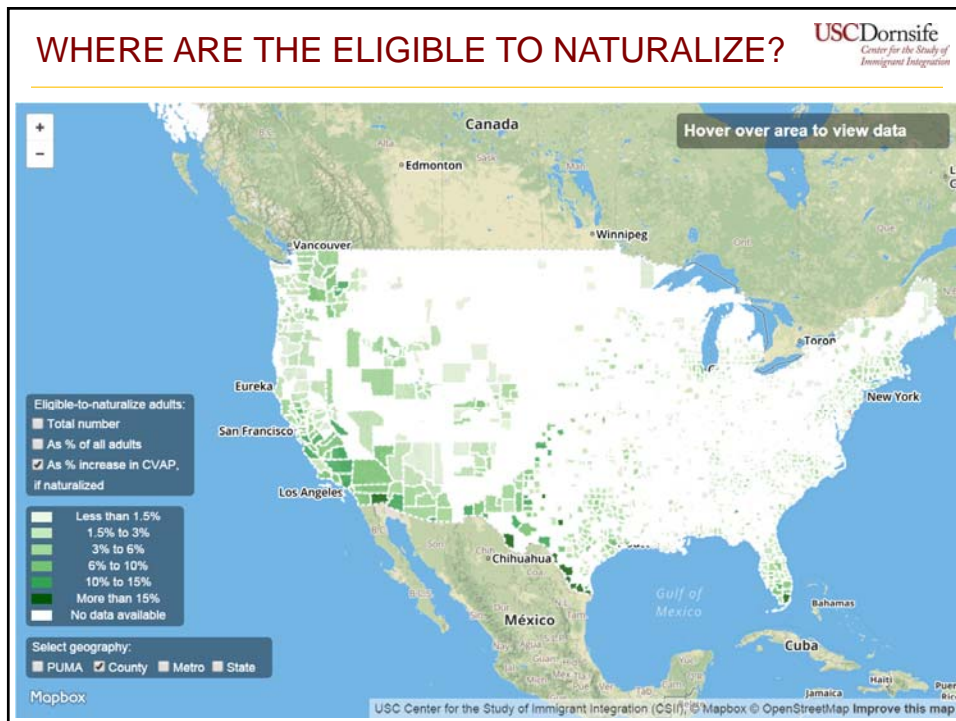
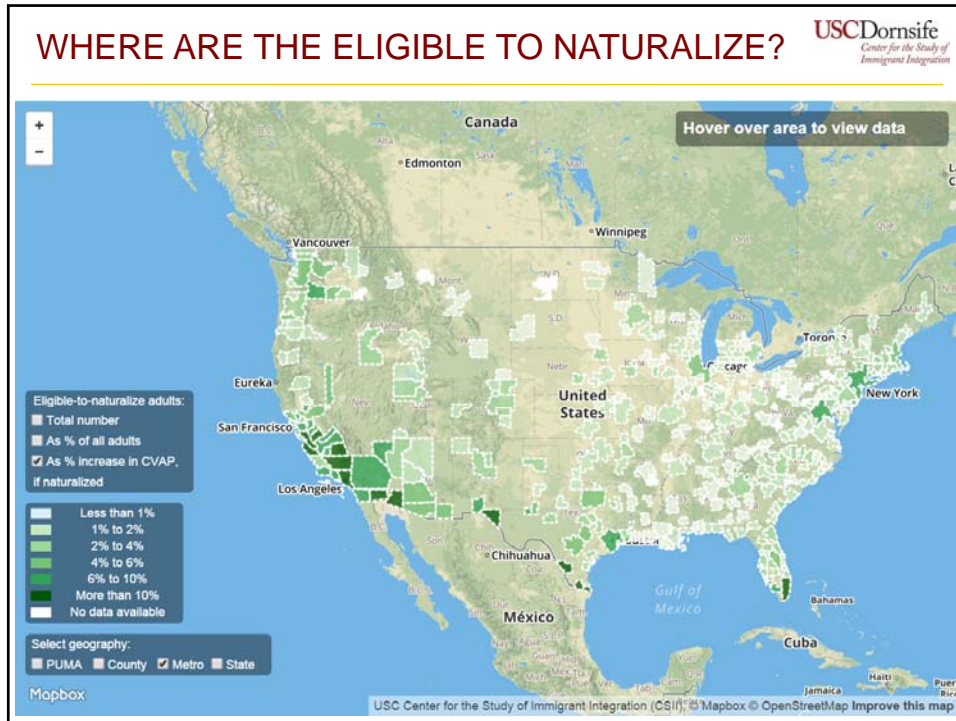
Access the  
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at  
<http://bit.ly/ETNmap>



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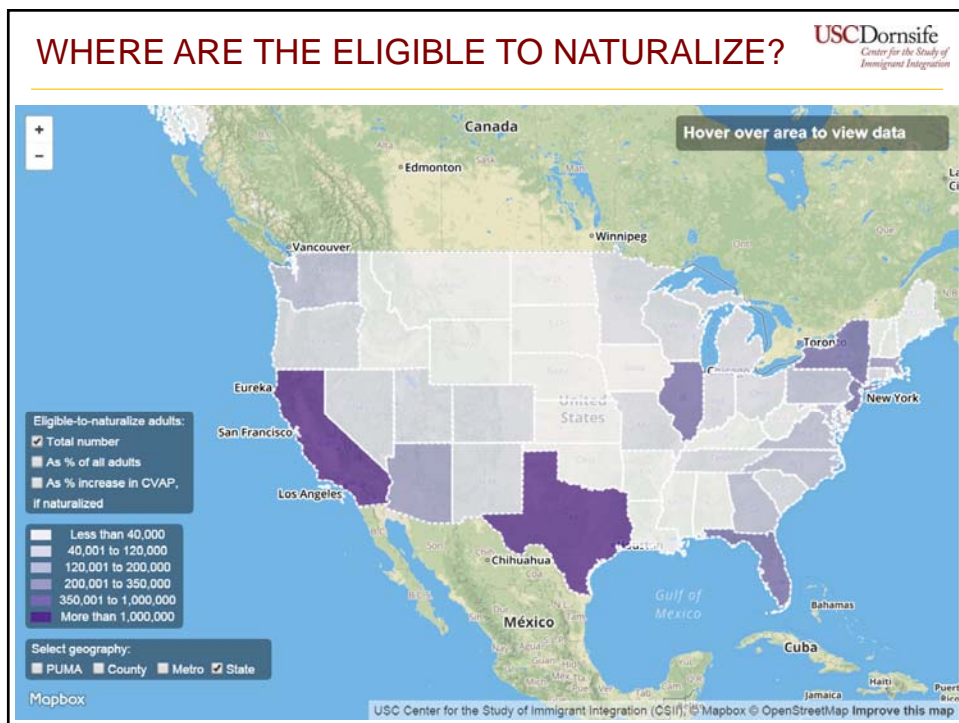
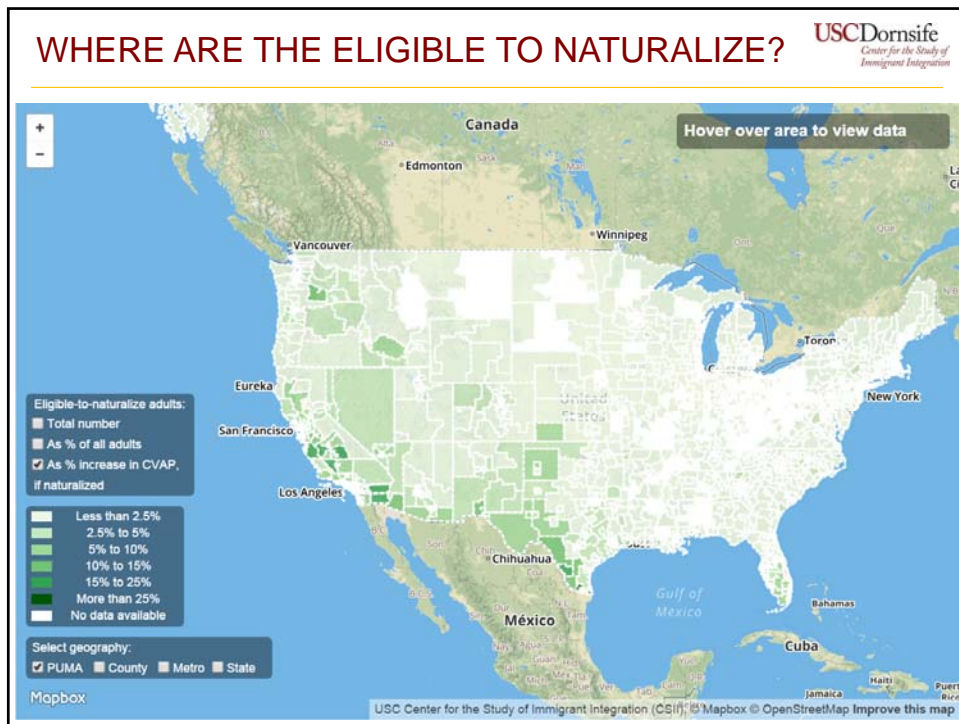


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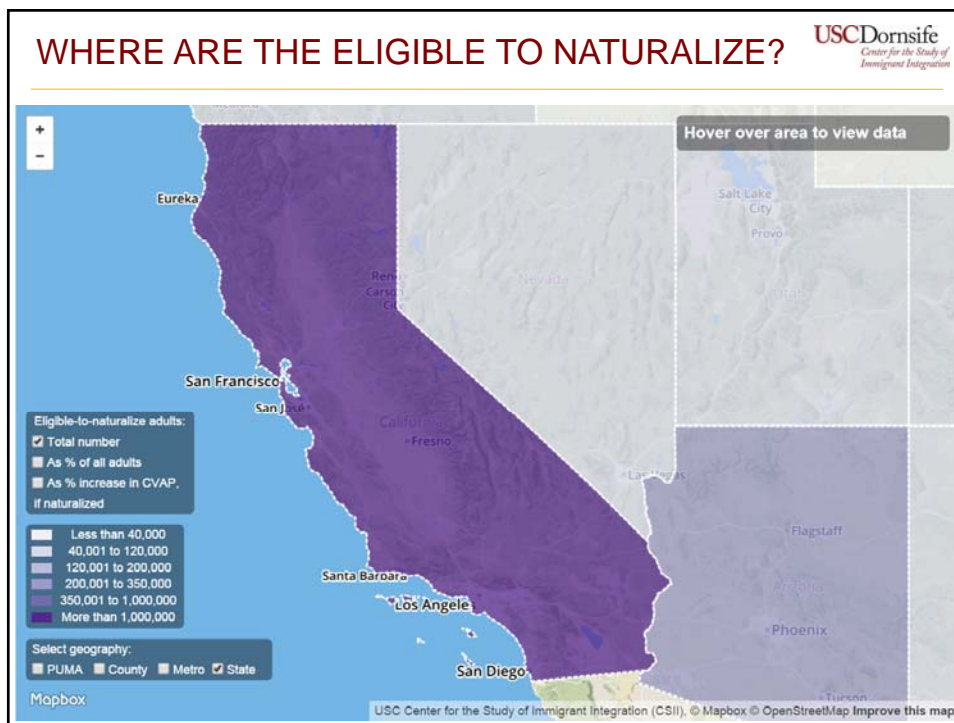
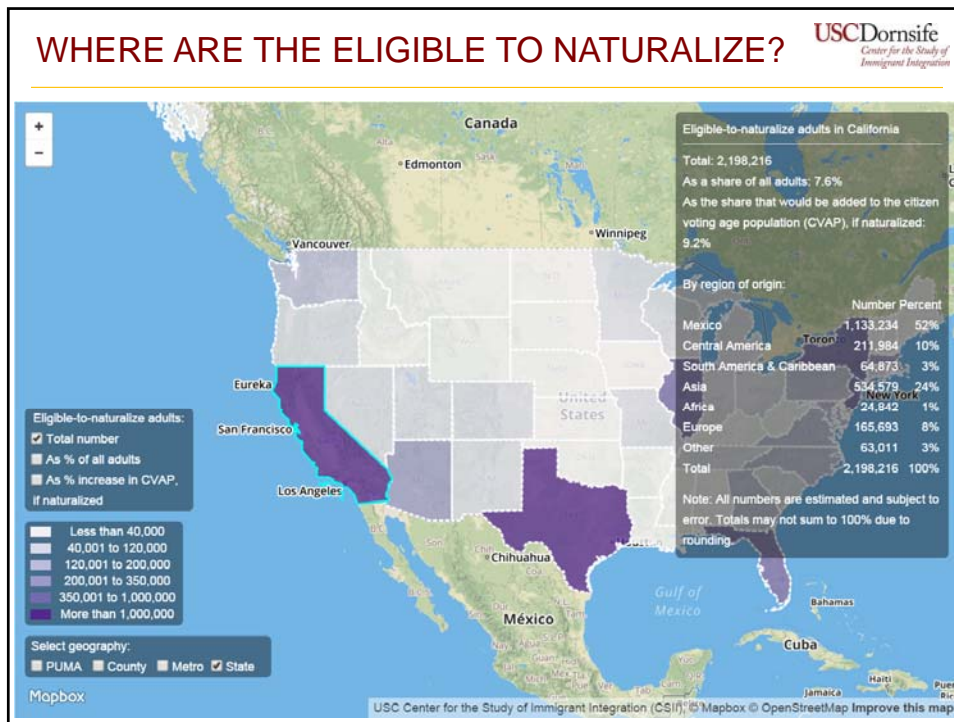


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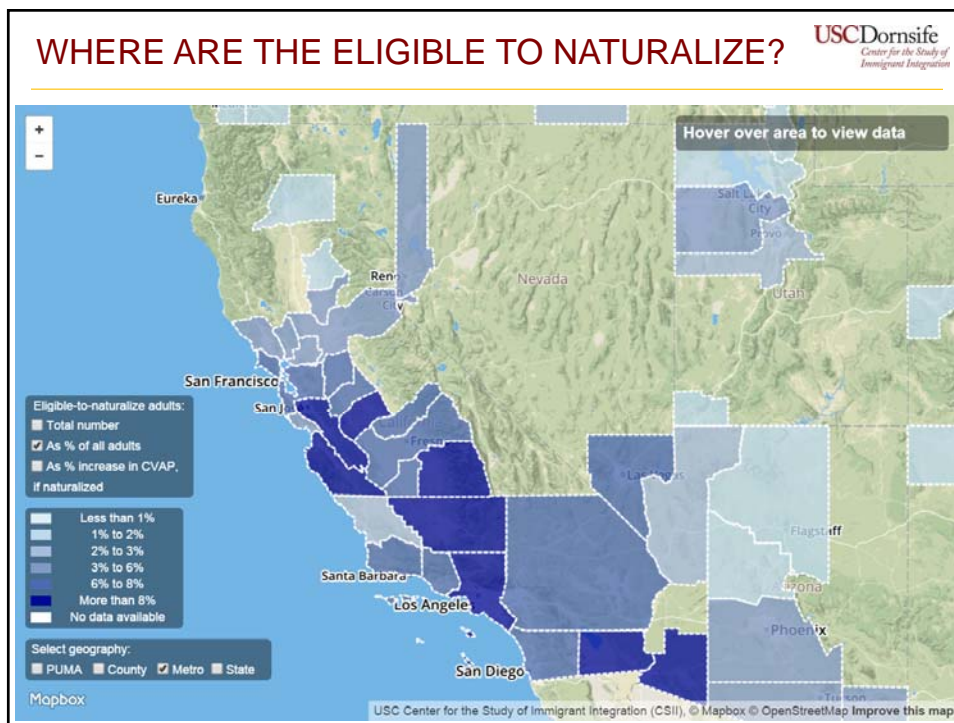
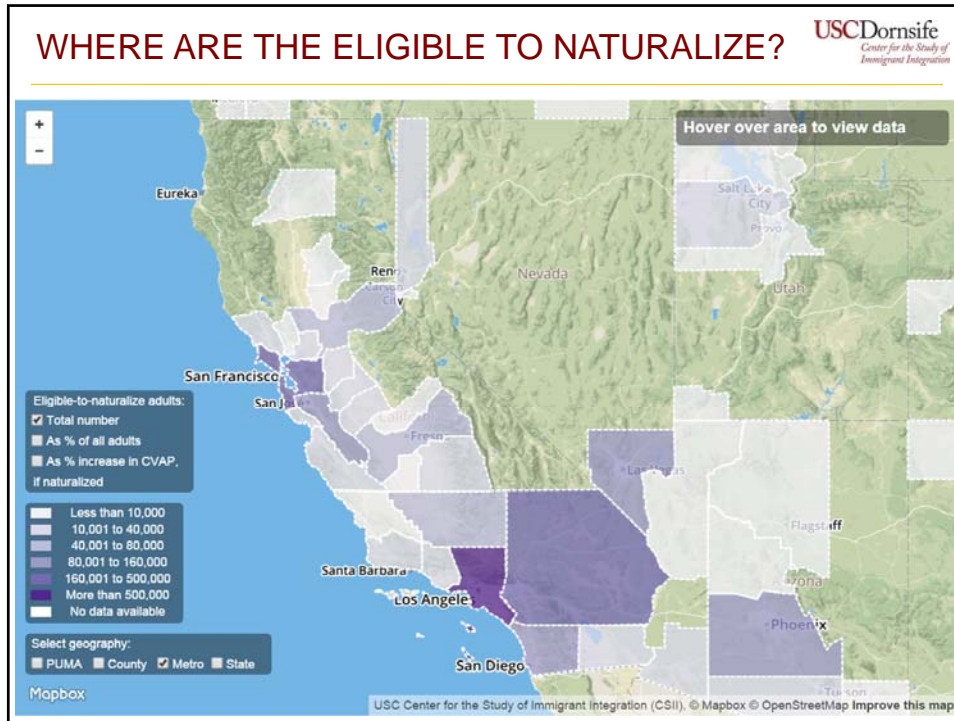




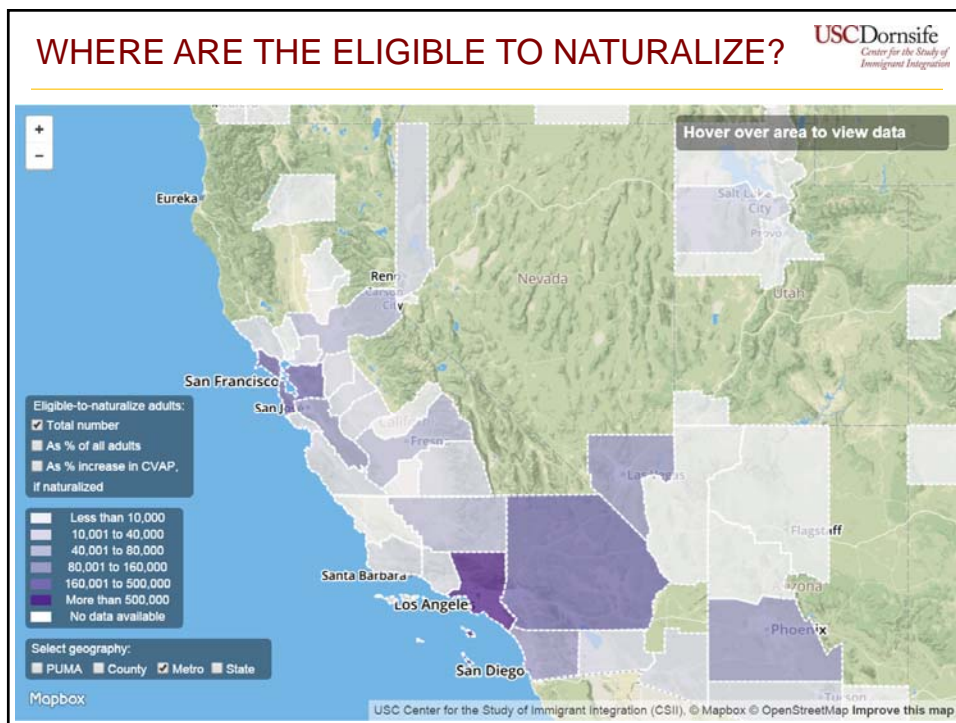
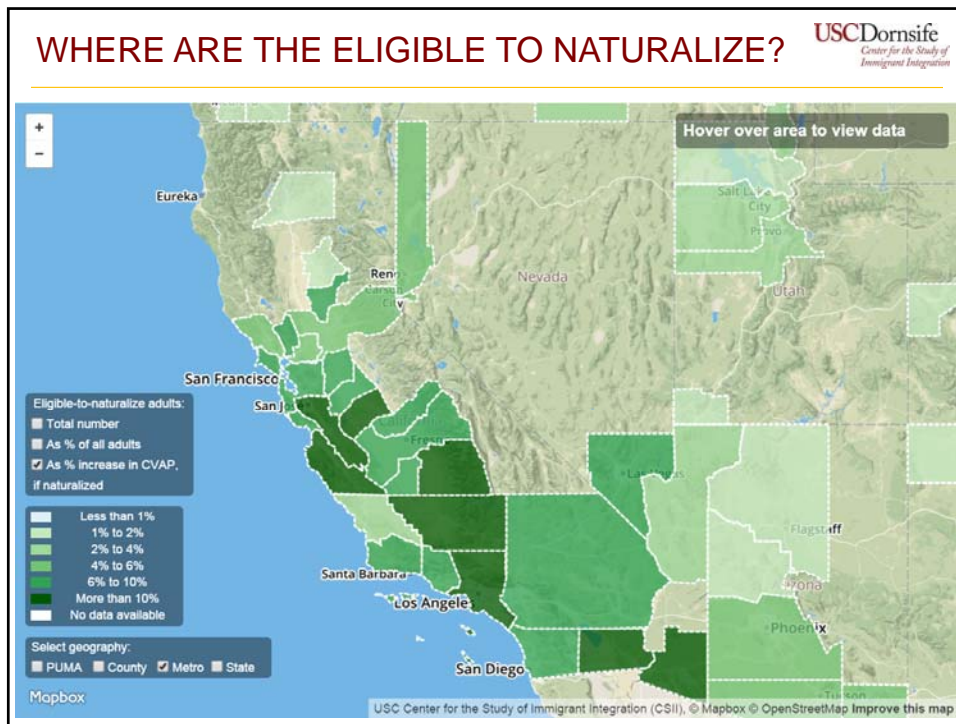
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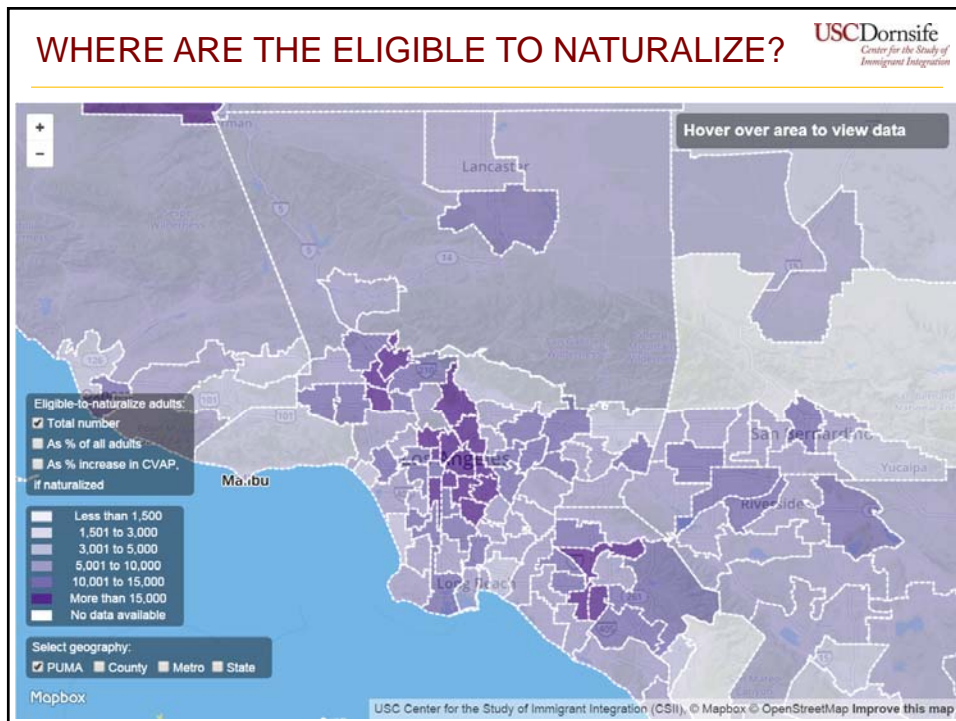
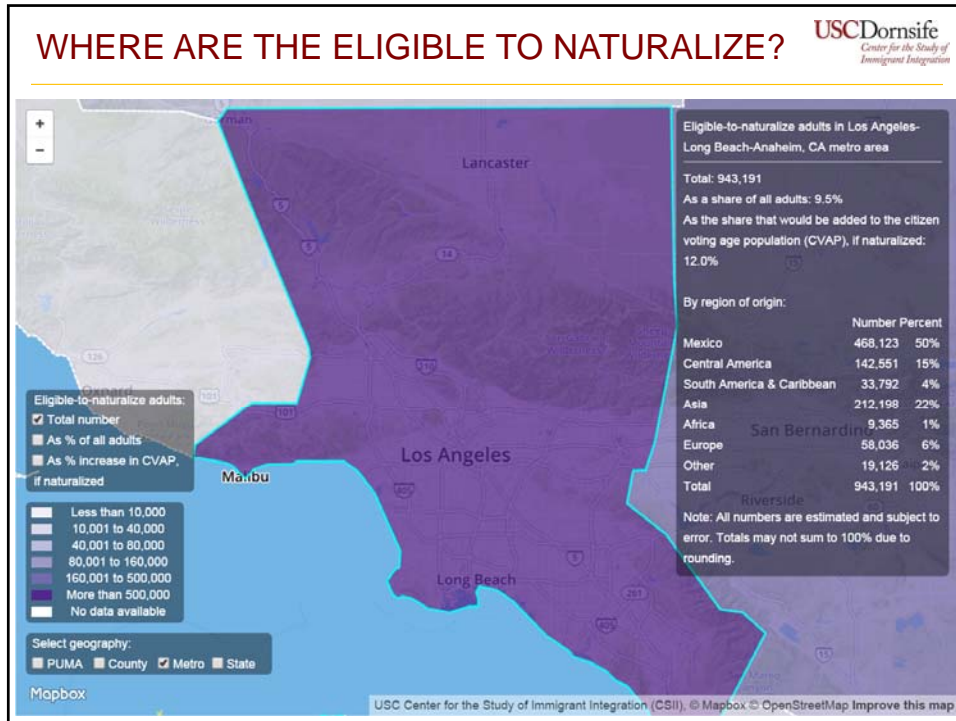
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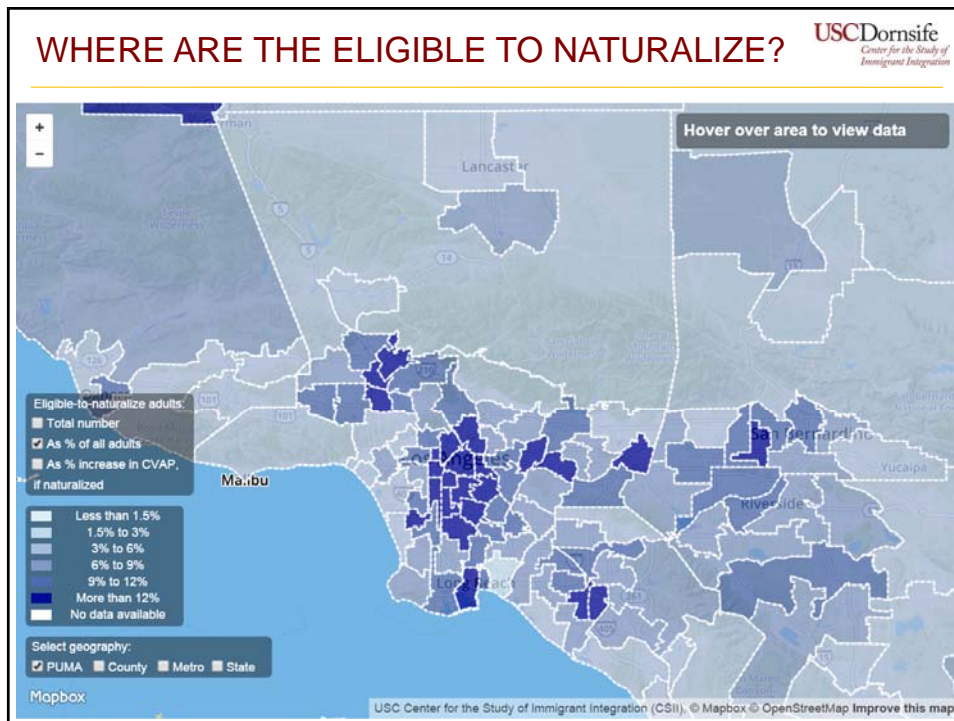
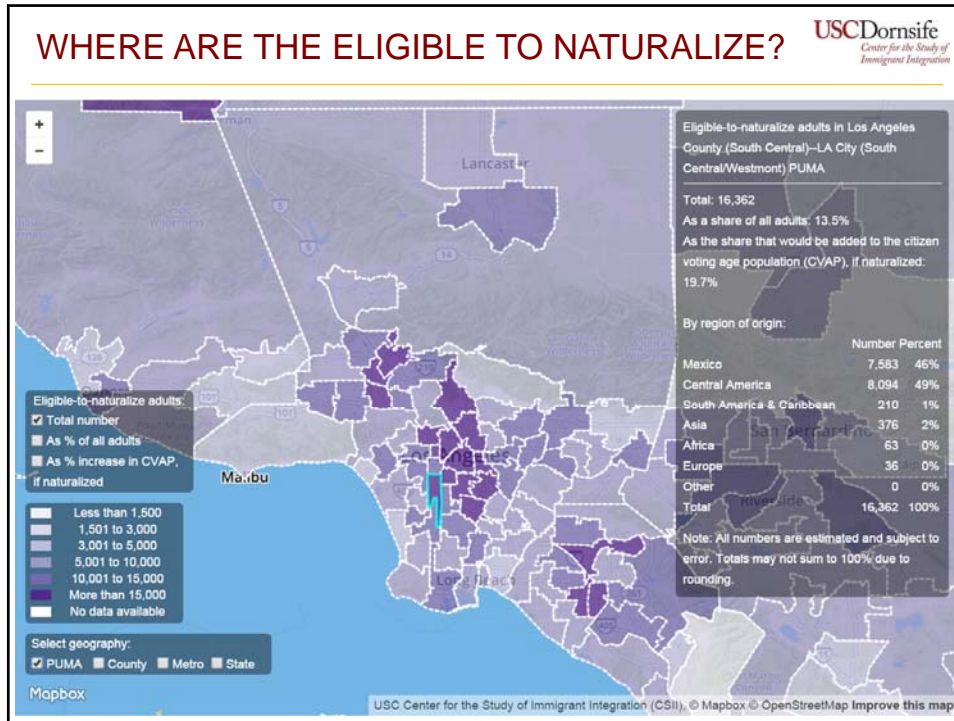
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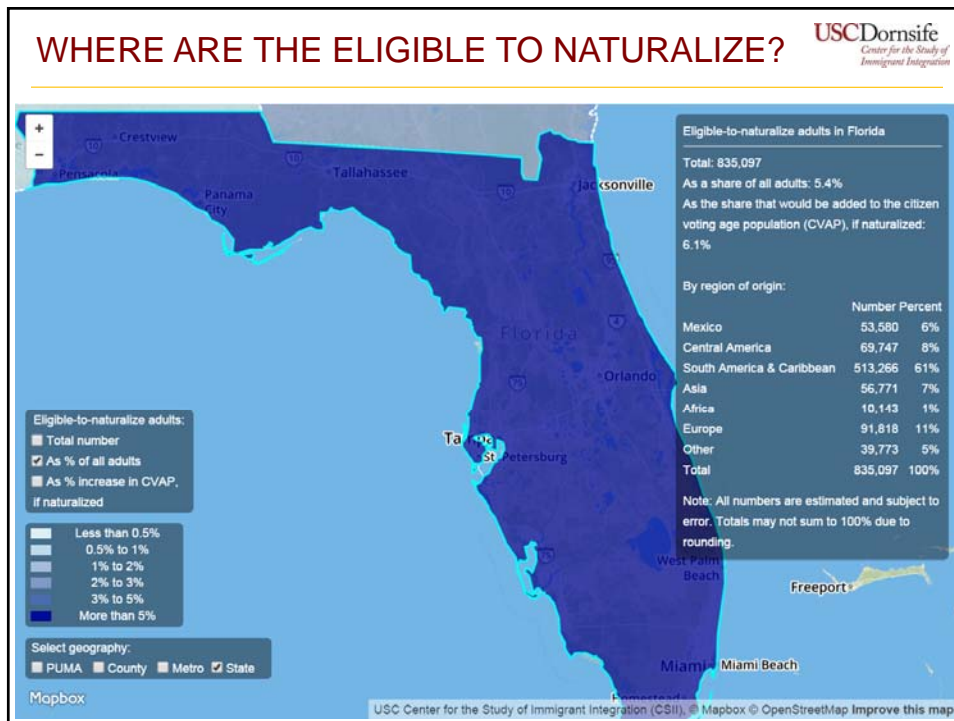
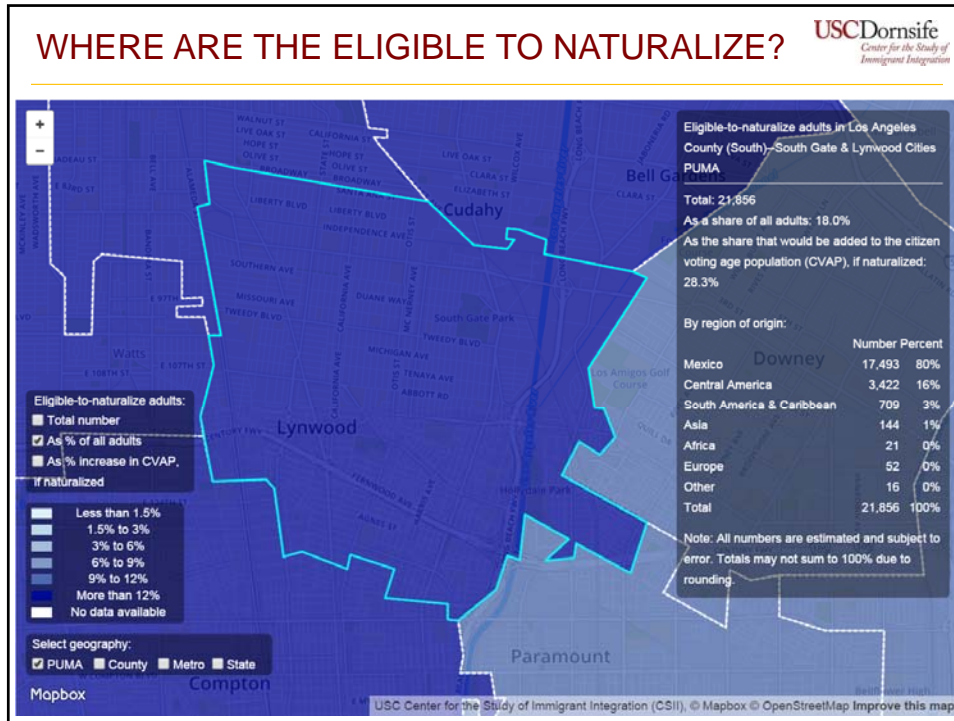
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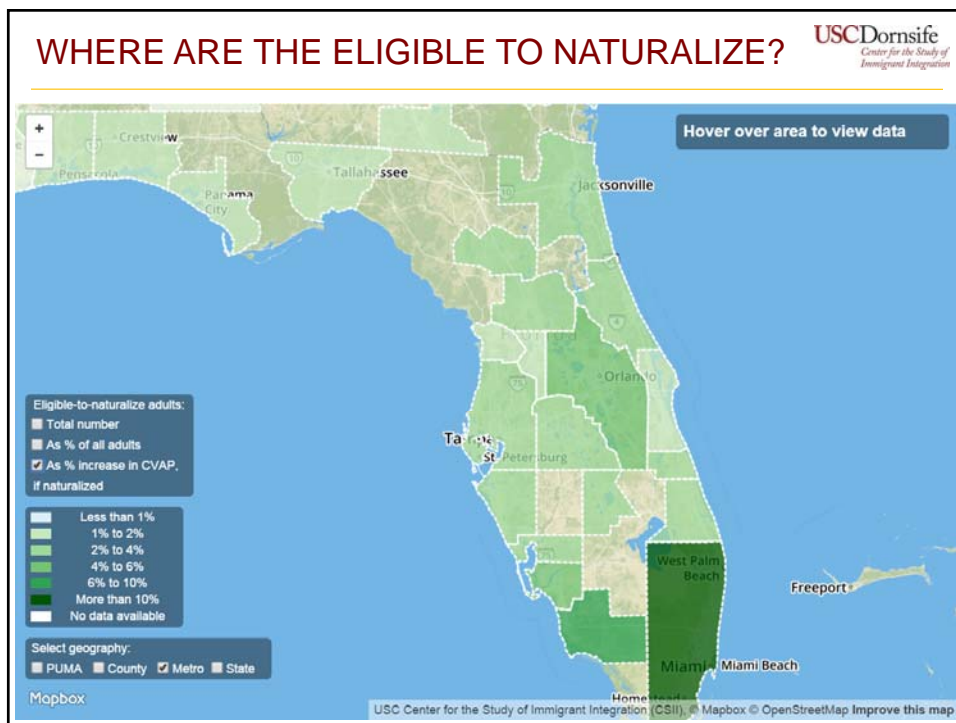
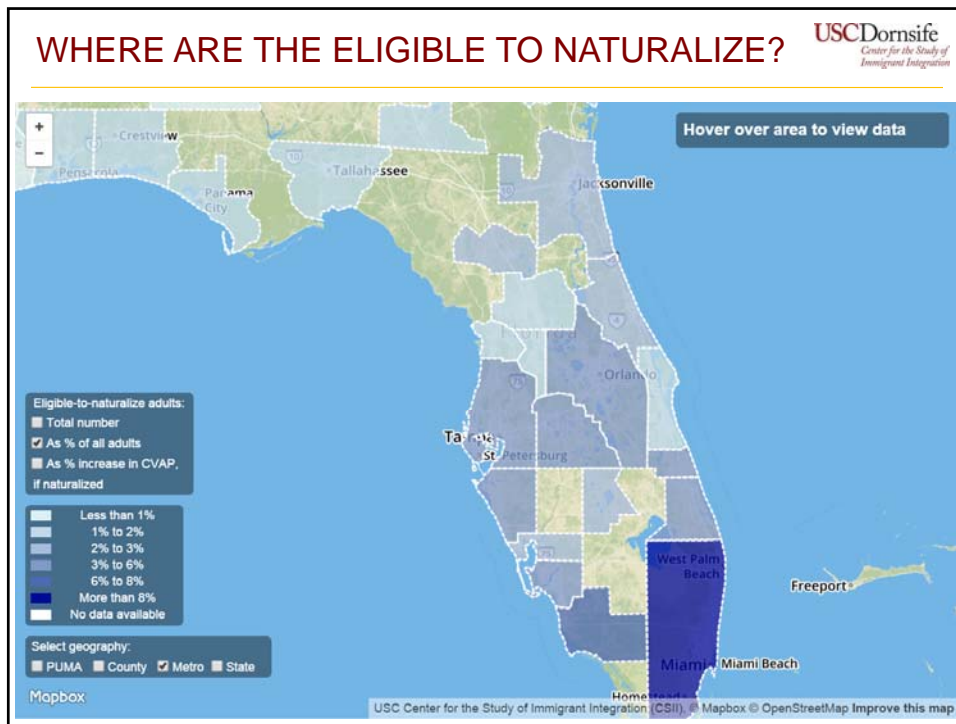
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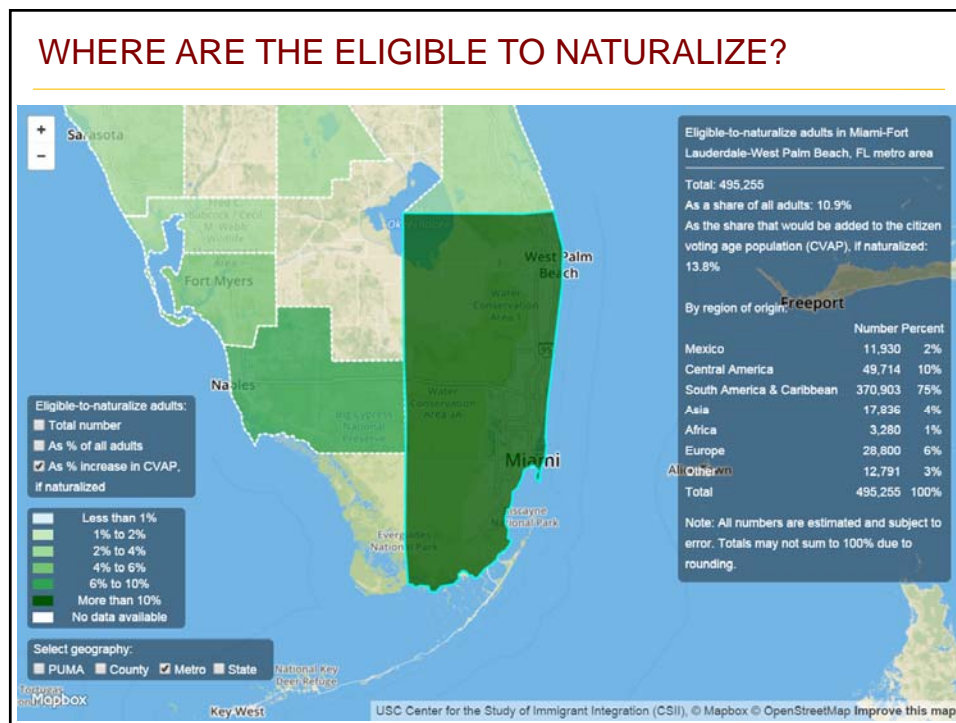
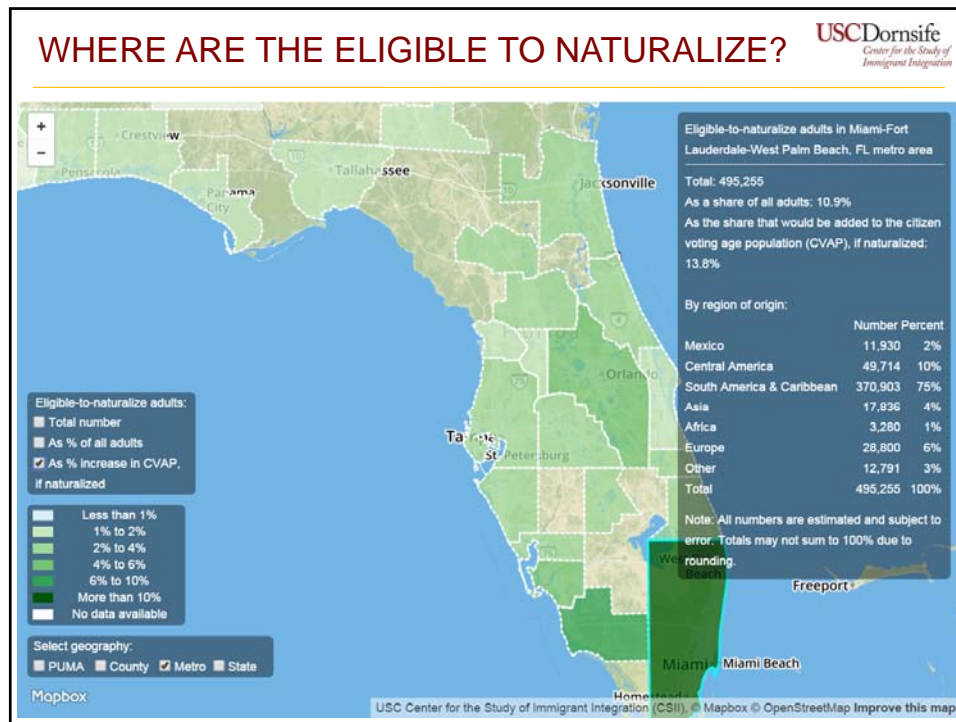


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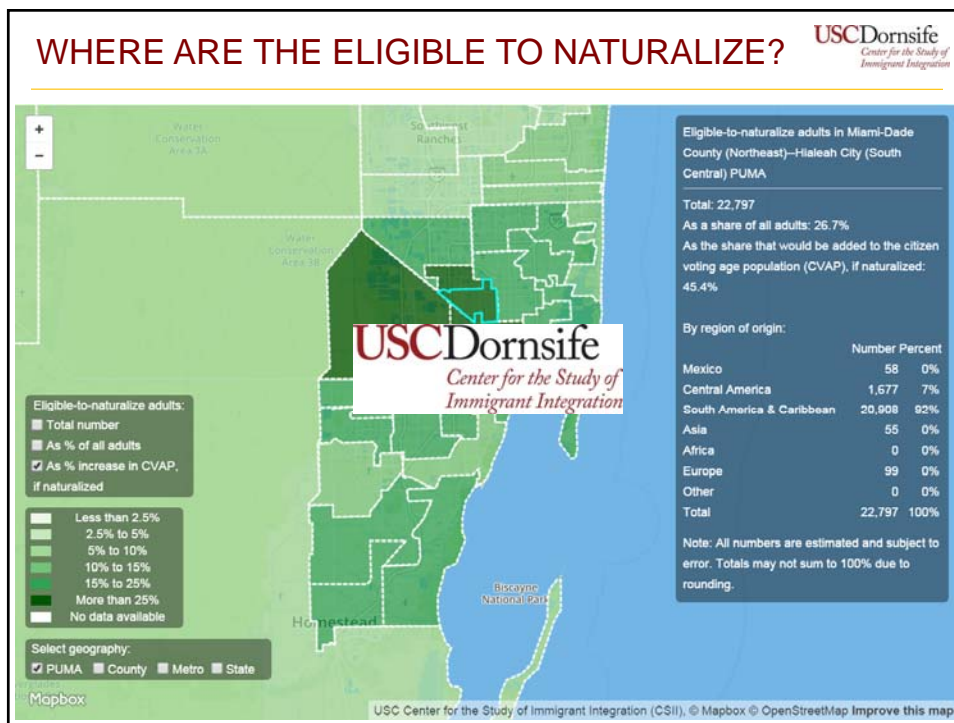
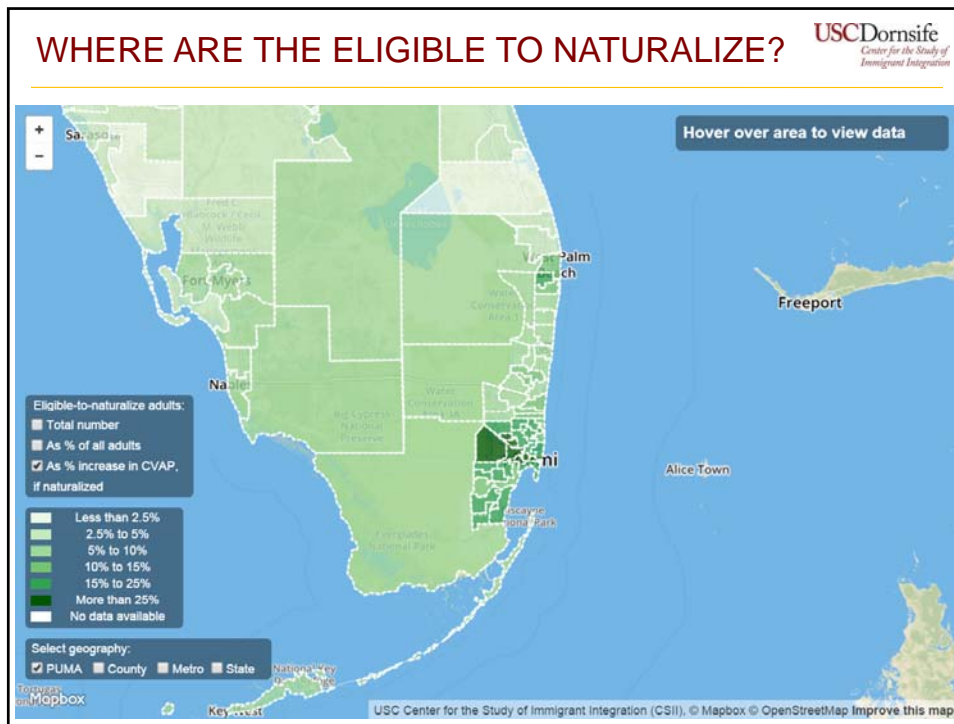


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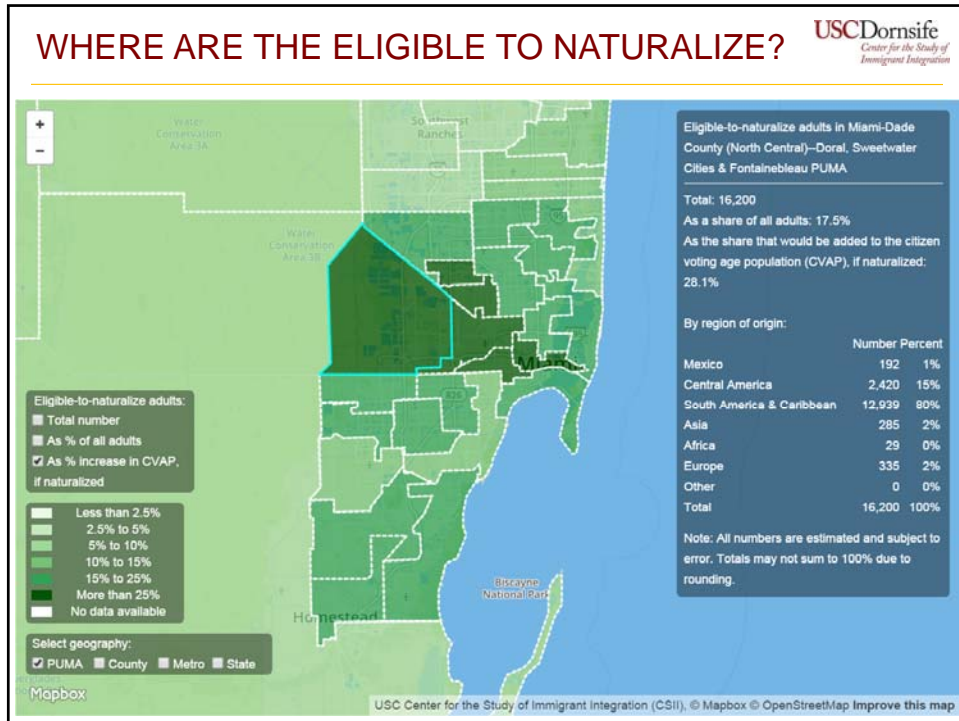




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## WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAYS?

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*Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration*

- Try to catch people **early** (before the 5 year mark)
- **Cost** remains an issue but **English fluency** is important
- **Engage** the entire **family** and community
- Focus **where people are** (use the maps!)
- Target the **Mexican-origin** population

- **Civic engagement** is a big motivator for naturalizing

<http://dornsife.usc.edu/CSII>

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THANKS!



**USCDornsife**  
*Center for the Study of  
Immigrant Integration*

Access the Map:  
<http://bit.ly/ETNmap>

CSII website:  
<http://dornsife.usc.edu/CSII>

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