

PAA 2004 Abstract Submission: Extended Abstract (2-4 pages)

A Profile of International Migrants in the United States: Census 2000
Demographic Profiles

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Census 2000 data provide the baseline for international migration research at the beginning of the 21st century. From the first release of 2000 sample data we learned that the U.S. foreign-born population grew 57 percent from 19.8 million in 1990 to 31.1 million in 2000, compared with an increase of 7.8 percent for the native population and 13 percent for the total U.S. population. These findings all but required migration analysts within the federal government to more closely examine the foreign-born population and to strongly recommend the release of more detailed census data on the foreign born and international migration.

In 2003, the U.S. Census Bureau continues to publish data from the latest decennial census. As part of this Census 2000 data release, the Bureau has provided Demographic Profiles (DPs) of the total U.S. population that feature not only demographic, but also social, economic, and housing characteristics of the U.S. resident population at detailed U.S. geographies. These Demographic Profiles are based on internal sample data from Census 2000.

Also scheduled for release by mid-2004 are “Foreign-Born” Demographic Profiles that will be similar in format to the current DPs for the total population. These foreign-born DPs will be produced for a number of groups that include: native and foreign-born populations; naturalized U.S. citizen and non-U.S. citizen foreign born; countries of birth of the foreign born; and recent (1990-2000 entrants) and earlier (pre-1990 entrants) migrant arrivals. Growing interest in these particular groups – and in the way that their data were collected – was the basis for their selection for inclusion within the foreign-born DPs.

This poster presentation will focus on these findings, comparing the groups listed above and highlighting select characteristics from each of the foreign-born DPs. These items of interest cover the four DP topics – demographic, social, economic, and housing data.

Contained within the demographic DP are such items as sex, age, and race and ethnicity, whereas the social DP covers such topics as education, language, and previous residence. The economic DP is focused on employment status, occupation and industry, income, and poverty status, whereas the housing DP includes items related to rent and mortgage, year moved, and vehicles owned.