

Treatments Towards Immigrants Based on Immigration Status

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The purpose of this research is to see how immigrants in the United States were treated and what obstacles the immigrant groups had faced depending on their immigration statuses in the United States. This study will find an answer to the research question: How does unequal treatment impact and affect immigrants based on immigration status? The goal of this study will help determine the impact these treatments have towards immigrant groups and what obstacles have affected the immigrant groups from being treated equally.

For years, many ethnicities other than whites have experienced exclusion from their society such as discrimination. Discrimination was one of the biggest mistreatment of these immigrants that migrated from their country to the United States hoping for the “American Dream.” The constant changes in the United States’ policies and laws affected how immigrants were treated by different ethnic groups, and completely changed the atmosphere of a society in general.

There were many court cases regarding exclusion; one of them being the Korematsu v. The United States case decided in 1944. The previous histories of the United States showed how immigrants were being treated due to their differences in experiences, culture, appearance, and many more. The differences between having a citizenship, permanent citizen (green-card), visa, and undocumented citizens had completely different rights in the United States. Although the rights given were different, immigrant citizens shared the same experiences with someone with a different type of immigration status.

Domination of the majority had always been a problem in society because the minority did not get a lot of representation by the government so it was harder for minorities to have a voice. The voices of many citizens in the United States have been disregarded, and the only thing that these citizens were able to do was to be affected by every decision made by the government and the majority group. Some of the instances that the undocumented citizens faced was when “unauthorized” immigrants had gotten deported, and became separated from their families. Additionally, the spec-

trum of job listings were very limited for the minority groups because they did not have any government paperwork to help complete an application form. These were some of the instances that the undocumented immigrants in the United States faced frequently. These mistreatments towards immigrant groups need to be studied through the comparison of the different types of immigration statuses’ rights and how these immigrants had been affected by mistreatment.

This study includes a detailed version of why immigrants migrated to the United States, the difference in the rights given by the immigration statuses, and comparing how immigrants with certain immigration status are treated in society, and the effects of these mistreatment led to. Also, the research includes the population information from the U.S. Census of all the population in the United States to examine how many immigrants there are compared to citizens. Las-

tly, the research examines how the immigrants were impacted with certain treatments, benefits, and/or obstacles.

Review of Literature Immigration Laws of the United States

Before 1965, there was an era of immigration in the United States. As the demand for labor increased in the United States, they had to bring in more immigrants to come into the country to work. Later the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 had been created. Marinari (2014) agreed with the movement towards the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, and how it was passed as a policy

later. The policy ultimately removed quotas of immigrants. As a result, they were able to come to the United States and work for them. Finally, there was an idea of family reunification which meant that the families cannot be separated.

Furthermore, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 had another section: nationality. Nationality allowed children born in the United States to become naturalized into a citizen, therefore the children being born in the United States, received all the United States' citizenship rights. Same-sex birth refers to children of the same-sex couples. However, these children were not protected under the equal protection laws because same-sex birth was not clarified in the policies and laws. Craythorne (2019) argues that same-sex equality should be protected and how Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 violated the U.S. Constitution's equal protection, due process, and the right to privacy protections. Times were changing back then, and there needs to be a clarification on same-sex birth, because people could mistake it to "only children born in the United States could get a citizenship meanwhile same-sex birth cannot."

After World War II, the demand for labor was renewed and Roosevelt signed the Bracero Program which was the guest worker program. This program allowed Mexicans to come to the United States to work for a fixed amount of time. Basurto (2001), DeLorme (2001) and Kamerschen (2001) agreed that the Bracero Program was the biggest and best program for Mexican workers to come work in the labor force in the United States. The study sought the House and Senate's final decisions on the Bracero Program in 1963. Overall, this law showed that immigrants were only forced to work for the United States, but never allowed them to stay. This exemplifies the usage of non-American citizens to do the labor work to keep the economy steadily increasing. The treatment of the Mexican immigrants was shown through the Bracero Program because the Americans had kicked out the Mexican community but once hardships had hit the economy of the United States, they called them back into the labor force.

As of today, Immigration and Nationality Act were argued for it to be vetoed which meant that there would be regulations towards immigration and there would not be nationalizations of immigrants of the United States. Truman (2017) had argued to veto this bill because there should be a limit to immigration for the freed states of Asia, and wanted to remove nationalization of immigrants. This meant that there would be less immigrants migrating to United States. Furthermore, it showed how legal permanent residents were not able to become "naturalized" citizens meaning that only the people that were born in the United States became the citizens of the country.

Immigration Statuses and Rights

There are four types of immigration statuses which include citizens, permanent residents, non-immigrants, and the undocumented immigrants. The first immigration status is citizens who are born in the United States, or "naturalized"

after years of being a permanent resident. Second, permanent residents have an authorization to permanently work and live in the United States. Third, the non-immigrants, known as visa, are immigrants who temporarily reside in the United States. Lastly, the undocumented immigrants are immigrants who entered United States territory without authorization.

The citizens have all the rights under the Constitution. Permanent residents have the right to stay and work in the United States as if they were a citizen of the United States. However, they do not have all the rights that U.S. citizens have because most of the time they would have dual citizenship. The non-immigrants are immigrants just for a temporary visit. Visa is very tedious to obtain and once the individual's visa has expired, they must return to their country or else they would be considered as an undocumented immigrant. Undocumented immigrants have no rights in the United States because they have illegally come into the United States' territory. When they are found undocumented, the government can deport the individual and his/her family back to the family's motherland.

Throughout my research I have found statistical evidence on the immigrant population, reasons why immigrants want to become a United States citizen, and where immigrants come from. Radford's article explains how 77% of immigrants are legally living in the States while around 23% of immigrants are unauthorized citizens. Over the years, the percentage of immigrants that are being naturalized has been increasing at a rapid pace. Although the immigrants want to receive citizenship, there are certain barriers to becoming a naturalized citizen and these reasons include language and personal barriers, lack of barriers and financial barriers that prevent these people from obtaining citizenship. With citizenship, they have the same rights as any other citizens in the United States, but the ethnicity that is taking a hit from becoming naturalized citizens are Mexicans. Everyone deserves to have equal chances, but if people are not being able to get their citizenship due to their background, then there would be no point in the naturalization process. This shows the corruption in the system due to the biases, and prejudices people had on other minority groups. They are becoming underrepresented in society and will continue to diminish. Furthermore, due to underrepresentation, there were protests for their rights. This article showcases why immigration statuses had a greater impact in modern day society because of the difference between the rights of citizens, non-citizens and unauthorized citizens.

Reasons for Immigration

The United States is known to have the largest immigration rates in the entire world. Immigration statuses vary depending on certain ethnicity, or gender. The document written by Woodrow-Lafield, Xu, Karsen, and Poch explained the naturalization outcomes in ten different countries such as Philippines, Vietnam, China, India, Korea, Cuba, Colombia, Jamaica, Dominican Repub

lic, and Mexico. The researchers' main purpose of the study was to find the reasons why immigrants wanted to become naturalized quicker than others. Furthermore, throughout this research, the researchers figured out the reasonings behind whether or not gender played any role in becoming a naturalized citizen of the United States. Additionally, this document uses prior research such as the Immigration-to-Naturalization Project, and conducts hypotheses to prove the immigrants' immigration statuses through origin, visa, or mode of entry. This document would show reasons why immigrants would want to become a citizen which would be the background research of this thesis paper.

There is a consistent increase in the immigration rates. The question arising from the increase of immigration rates is what were the reasons behind immigration? According to Park (2019) and Kim's (2019) article, they stated that reasons behind immigration are related to health and mental health. Additionally, the article stated that there can be multiple reasons such as single or multiple combination motivation to migrate. The multiple combinations were claimed to be "several different motivations encompassing economic, environmental, social, or political conditions" (Park & Kim 2019). This meant that immigrants migrated to different countries either voluntarily or involuntarily. If they voluntarily decided to migrate, there were many reasons such as looking for more opportunities, or a better life. If they chose to migrate involuntarily, it meant that they left their country for one's family's sake in need of safety. These involuntary motivations include political instability, government corruption, and/or economic instability. Overall, the reasons behind immigration were for the sake of one's future.

Increase in Immigration

There are millions of immigrants wanting to migrate to the United States every year. Not everyone could be admitted immigrating into the United States because there are certain criteria or requirements that immigrants must fulfill to cross into the United States' territory. However, there had been an increase in immigration in the United States. Hayes (2018) has agreed that because of "naturalization", every year about six million foreign immigrant applicants apply to become Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) in the United States. Her statistics in 2016 showed that exactly 752,800 immigrants have become naturalized in the United States as a Lawful Permanent Resident.

There had been a growth of undocumented immigrants and legal immigrants over the past couple of years. The reasons for the dramatic increase in immigration has not yet been found, but the numbers from Homeland Security (2016), and Passel (2019) and Cohn (2019) showed statistics from 2016 legal immigrants to 2007 to 2018 undocumented immigrants in the United States. According to Homeland Security, the government had claimed that the United States

accepted 1.18 million legal immigrants in 2016. Passel's and Cohn's statistics showed that 11.1 million illegal immigrants were settling in the United States in the year of 2014. Through these differences, we can see how great the gap is between the illegal immigrant population and legal immigrant population differ greatly.

Furthermore, the increase in immigration had been proven to be helpful for our nation because without the great immigration rates towards the United States, then the United States would have suffered greatly due to no population growth. Gillette (1926) claimed that immigration at the time had decreased instead of increasing. His argument was that without immigrants migrating to the United States, there would have been no national population because there would be no one living in the States.

Effects of Immigration

Due to immigration, there had been victims that were deported back to their motherland because of overpopulation in the United States. Nowadays our president, Donald Trump has created a wall over the border of Mexico and the United States blocking off any illegal immigrants from flooding into America. As a result, there was no such thing as family reunification because they are being separated from their families and would not know the next time when they could see their families again.

There are benefits of immigration for the United States. Although it looks bad to be overpopulated with undocumented immigrants and naturalized immigrants, the population basically raises economic growth because without people living in the country, they would not be able to prosper as a country. Amadeo agreed that immigrants had increased at least two thirds of the U.S. economic growth since 2011, and without the immigrants populating the United States, there would not be any progress or growth within our economy.

The increase in immigration had positive insight of the growth of the economy. On the other hand, the increase in immigration had its own negative complications. These negative effects about the immigrants coming into the United States was that they would bring down competitiveness in the markets, industries, and other sources of accumulating wealth. Amadeo claimed that since these immigrants do not know how to speak English well, Americans avoid competing against "foreigners." Therefore, this mentality drives the sense of competitiveness low. Additionally, she talked about how hard it is for an individual to get a job without a college degree because of how competitive the money-making jobs were getting. Most of the agricultural workers were documented citizens meanwhile all the immigrants took their jobs in the market due to better skills, and knowledge. Amadeo's article depicts the problem of how immigrants were treated in society which affects the

economy.

An international migration is when the immigrants leave their host country to get an opportunity for economic success in the migrated country. There were long term effects on international migration. Gibson (2015), McKenzie (2015), and Stillman (2015) had conducted a study on the long-term impacts of international migration. While they were conducting their studies, they realized that the people who have migrated ended up more successful while the extended family had no impact in the international migration. The authors had been studying from conducting a “long-term follow-up surveys of Tongans applying to the migration lottery conducted under New Zealand’s pacific Access Category” (Gibson et al. 2015) to figure out the long-term effects of migration. As a result of these long-term follow-up surveys, the researchers have found that migration was caused because of the individuals’ selves, or due to family accompaniment throughout the migration process. Additionally, the results showcased “monetary gains to the immigrants similar to the first year effects found by McKenzie and a little less than the impacts after four years reported by Stillman” (Gibson et al., 2015). Throughout this study, these three researchers exemplified the benefits for immigrants to migrate. The evidence for these benefits include having a better mental state, becoming wealthier, owning more vehicles, and more.

An effect due to immigration was the increase in the citizenship application rates. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) receives tens of thousands of applications per year. Therefore, the duration of the waitlist has increased. On February 15, 2008, an article published by Muzaffar Chishti, and Claire Bergeron explained that the naturalization applications would approximately take three years to clear. From the previous year, the application rate had increased from 207,536 applications to 737,223 applications. Due to the drastic increase in the naturalization application rate, the “proceeding time has more than doubled, standing at 16 to 18 months for applications filed during the summer of 2007” (Chishti & Bergeron 2008). Not only does immigration affect society but can affect the government proceeding system. The statistics showed how many people were applying so the USCIS had proposed several laws to limit the application surges by putting obstacles to prevent more applications from piling up.

Reasons for Naturalization

Many immigrants want to become naturalized citizens because of personal reasons. Naturalization meant a lot for immigrants and was a big stepping stone on becoming a part of the country. In a research study conducted by Shun-Jen Hsiao, it examines older Chinese immigrants applying for the naturalization test and the reasons why they wanted to become naturalized citizens. In this study, Hsiao had asked the students for the reasons why they wanted to become naturalized. Their responses consisted of family reunification, assimilation, and eligibility for government benefits.

Through examining her research, there were different varieties of motivations on why immigrants would want to become naturalized. These results signify the feelings of safety and comfort due to the lawful protection that naturalization provides.

Naturalization Rates

Naturalization rates for immigrants have been inconsistent but claims to be consistent. According to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services they have claimed “since 2009, USCIS welcomed approximately 620,000 to 780,000 citizens each year during naturalization ceremonies across the United States and around the world.” In the last decade, the USCIS had claimed they had accepted “more than 7.2 million naturalized citizens.” In the year of 2016, statistics showed that they only accepted 1.8 million. The following year, they had naturalized only 707,265 immigrants. The fluctuation of the number of immigrants granted naturalization was inconsistent because from 2016 and 2017, there is a difference of 1.1 million immigrants.

Immigrant’s Struggle for Naturalization

In the perspectives in the field of law, there are many reasons why immigrants can be denied citizenship. Facts written in the U.S. Immigration website, the 10 most common reasons why citizenship application can be denied were stated, “not registering for selective service, having a fraudulent green card, having a criminal record, lying on the citizenship application, failure to pay taxes, failure to pay child support, proficiency in English, doing poorly on US Citizenship Interview, Green Card renewal failure, and failing civic test.” These were the basic mistakes that can deny one’s citizenship application. However, these are not the only struggles immigrants face when attempting for naturalization.

The struggle immigrants encounter is finance. In 2007, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) proposed to increase the cost of the immigration fees. This proposal was bound to spike up the costs for naturalization for immigrants. During this time, this proposal estimated in an increase where the calculations explain “an 80 percent increase in naturalization application fees from \$330 to \$595 for adult applicants and from \$255 to \$460 for children, a 178 percent increase in lawful permanent residence application fees from \$325 to \$905 and a 14 percent increase in fingerprinting service fees from \$70 to \$80” (Gelatt & McHugh, 2007). Although this proposal was to limit the amount of applications surging in, this proposal provided restrictions or limitations on who can be naturalized and who cannot: the rich versus the poor. The backlash of this proposal affected the immigrants who were eligible to apply for citizenship. Therefore, since the fees had gone up, it made it difficult for the eligible immigrants to apply.

Immigrant Representation

Throughout the years, there has been unequal

representation when it comes to minority groups, and especially immigrants who have migrated. An article published by Sofya Aptekar is the study of citizenship status and patterns of inequality by comparing Canada and the United States culture. Aptekar (2014) claims, "Low citizenship uptake in the United States, on the other hand, raises questions about hurdles in the naturalization process and boundaries erected around national membership" (p. 343). Once an individual becomes a citizen of the United States they gain many benefits and rights that permanent residents, visa, or any other immigration statuses do not have. The barriers of naturalization were getting harder so therefore making it difficult for immigrants to become naturalized. If these immigrants cannot get a citizenship, ultimately there could be physical and psychological consequences of these immigrants further down the road. The uneven distribution of rights could cause social inequality and limits representation in social and political aspects (Aptekar, 2014). The fact that only citizens get representation and political rights were unfair because many immigrants need their voices to be heard because they are being affected by the changes being made in the political spectrum. Therefore, this literature depicts the inequality of minority groups based on their immigration statuses and how there is a lack of representation due to being an immigrant.

Treatment Towards Immigrants

Treatment towards immigrants have been greatly affected by everyone whether the individual was a legal immigrant or undocumented immigrant. One of the court cases regarding the exclusion issue in society was in the United States Courts case *Korematsu v. United States* (1942). This case showcased how Korematsu felt exiled in society even though he was a citizen of the United States. Due to the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japan, all Japanese immigrants in the United States became enemies and were put into concentration camps, and even torture. Korematsu had to change his appearance to hide from society's eyes. He felt wronged and sued the country because he felt like his rights were being taken away although he is a rightful citizen of the United States under the Constitution.

There was a misconception between the English native speakers and the bilingual speakers in the United States. Many people consider bilingual education unfair that was why they created a mandate called No Child Left Behind. Salinas (2006) argues both sides of the argument of the background of bilingual education and how English only movement impacts education. Bilingual education was not harmful because the bilingual student must learn their second language through their dominant language or else they would not be able to learn anything in school. This misconception of only English movement is unfair because how would the immigrants learn anything when they cannot speak or understand English.

Furthermore, elaborating on the misconception our leaders are causing people to believe or feel a certain way

towards immigrants. President Donald Trump's administration towards their stance on immigration has caused his supporters to treat or believe that immigrants are criminals. Pérez (2019) agreed that because of Trump's threat towards immigrants, the U.S. policy towards immigrants has been criminalized. This meant that immigration would not be accepted especially at the border of Mexico and the United States, but people are also forgetting that immigration was the one thing that helped the United States prosper through labor work during economic hardships, and national population growth which increased the economy.

The immigrants are perceived as criminals, which was pure prejudices from Americans. Ethnicities such as Hispanics, Arabs, and Muslims are more susceptible to experience forms of racism or discrimination in the legal and social aspects in life. Americans have stated that "more immigrants cause higher crime rates." This showcased how the Americans thought about immigrants in the United States. An article written by Minero and Espinoza in 2016 explained a study they did about the "prejudicial attitudes towards immigrant defendants who vary on legal status, country of origin, and ethnicity." One thing that caught my interest was how the article counter argued most prejudices that immigrants experienced from others which was the reason how immigrants were depicted as criminals. From the article, Minero (2016) and Espinoza (2016) quoted the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the decrease in the crime rates from "violent crime rates by 45% and crime rates falling 42%" while the immigration rates increase. Therefore, there was no correlation between the crime rates to the increase in immigration rates because statistics have shown that while immigration rates were increasing, the crime rates were decreasing. The discrimination and prejudices that immigrants experience is still prominent in modern day society.

Effects From The Treatment Towards Immigrants

There are consequences for everything in life. Some ethnicities, for example Latinos, and Asian-Americans, are crucially impacted by how they are treated in society. Immigrants migrate to find better lives away from their motherland. While attempting to acculturate into a new society, new setting, the immigrants experience negative treatment towards them due to their ethnicity, and their immigration status. In the past and today, Americans dislike immigrants which creates a barrier due to prejudices, discrimination, criticisms, and more. According to DeVylder, Oh, Yang, Cabassa, Chen and Lukens' article, these researchers claimed that stress caused by acculturation could cause psychosis among the immigrants. The language barrier, social adversity, perceived discrimination, and ethnic density are the biggest factor in triggering psychosis among the immigrants. As the article states, "... younger age at immigration should be associated with greater duration of exposure and, consequently, increased risk for psychosis" (DeVylder et al., 2016). Therefore, the younger generation has an increased chance to experience

or be triggered to psychosis because they have an early and long exposure to the host culture which makes it harder to be assimilated in society because it becomes a sensitive topic. The article claimed, "Immigration has been associated with increased risk for psychotic-like experiences, specifically hallucinations and delusions" (DeVylder et al., 2016). These symptoms are the signs towards triggering psychosis because it is hard for immigrants to assimilate into the new host culture. As a result, the impacts of the treatment towards immigrants could cause psychosis and acculturative stress.

Attitudes Towards Immigrants In Other Countries

The mistreatments of immigrants does not only stay present in the United States, but also countries all around the world. Specifically, in Germany, the young generation and the older generation have different attitudes towards immigrants migrating to Germany. A study conducted by Constant, Kahanec, and Zimmermann gathered opinions and attitudes towards immigrants and minorities and how certain factors affected these attitudes and opinions. The study describes how the young generation is open-minded towards ethnic minorities and supportive of immigrants. Meanwhile, the older generation tend to be more hostile due to the fear of losing jobs. The Natives showcased negative attitudes towards immigrants by saying "immigrants worsen the country's standard of living, exacerbate crime, take jobs away" (Constant et al., 2009, p. 7). Constant (2009), Kahanec (2009), and Zimmerman (2009) believe there are multiple reasonings behind the Natives' attitudes which might have come from "dire economic hardship, economy's inability to accommodate the influx of legal and illegal immigrants, or due to selection issues as these countries might attract adversely selected immigrants" (p. 7). This study demonstrated similarities between citizens' attitudes towards immigrants. Furthermore, it explained that the United States is not the only country where negative attitudes towards immigrants exist.

As mentioned above, the Natives' hostile attitudes has been a big factor in the European countries. The feeling of uneasiness, fear and vulnerability for the Natives creates competition for themselves. An article written by Sergi Pardos-Prado (2011) conducted a study where "low socio-economic and educational status must necessarily activate the attention, the concern and the exposition to flows of information regarding immigration issue" (p. 1000). For the citizens in the high socio-economic and educational status, Pardos-Prado anticipates that they do not have any concerns regarding immigration due to stability and security. As mentioned previously, the citizens in European countries believe that immigrants ruin or shake their standard of living. As a result, due to the hostile attitude, the Pardos-Prado's prediction of this research was that the low socio-economic citizens will have different types of attention and concern when it comes to immigrants. Through this article, we have another example of the attitudes towards immigrants from the Eu-

ropean Social Survey used by Pardos-Prado. There is a correlation between the United States and Europe. The citizens, both American and European, have similar hostile mentality whether the reasons are losing their jobs, increasing crime rates, and so forth.

Hypotheses

Throughout the literature review, immigrants had gone through many hardships. Immigrant statuses could not be easily obtained due to the individuals' ethnic background, finance, country of origin and more. Thus, the consequences or treatments for the individuals who were not a naturalized citizen differed. These differences cause a discrepancy between the powers being unequal. Therefore, my hypotheses were created by referencing certain literature reviews as a base for where my hypotheses led.

H1: The mistreatment towards the immigrant population affects naturalization rates.

H0: The mistreatment towards the immigrant population does not significantly affect the results of naturalization rates.

Minero's and Espinoza's article conducted a study to explain the prejudicial attitudes towards immigrants varying on legal status, country of origin, and ethnicity. This article involved counter arguments towards the prejudices which was one of the factors for immigrants to be criminalized. Through this article, this concept of criminalizing proved to be a mistreatment towards immigrant groups such as Hispanics, Arabs, and Muslims. Therefore, this topic sparked an interest on whether these treatments towards immigrant groups affect naturalization rates.

H2: The difference in the benefits that individuals gain based on immigration statuses showed unequal treatments towards the immigration population.

H0: The difference in the benefits that individuals gain based on immigration statuses does not show unequal treatments towards the immigration population.

The article that motivated this hypothesis was by Minero and Espinoza's study that considered the legal status, country of origin, and ethnicity to counter the mistreatment that non-citizens experience. Also, this article showcased how treatments differed depending on whether the individual was a naturalized citizen or an undocumented immigrant. Therefore, this topic sparks concepts of how the unequal treatments impact towards immigrants in society.

Data/Methods

The research used qualitative methods and quantitative methods to test the hypotheses. This research consisted of datasets on naturalization rates, legal permanent residence rate, impacts and hardships based on immigration statuses. These datasets were collected from reliable public sources such as the United States Census Bureau and Migration Policy Institute, and Pew Research Center. Through the analysis of the information collected, the evidences explain how individuals' mistreatment differed based on their immigration statuses and what hardships affected naturalization rates. Therefore, the datasets showed how immigrants

were affected in certain situations, such as naturalization.

The quantitative research included datasets on the population based on citizenship statuses and naturalization rates. To clarify the categories of datasets, it includes the entire citizenship status population, increase or decrease on naturalization rates and increase in naturalization application fee, immigrant groups who were affected by the changes. The independent variables used for the quantitative research were ethnic groups and citizenship statuses, years, and barriers. The dependent variables used were number or percentage of the ethnic group individuals, and currency. Furthermore, the dataset provided information on which immigrant groups had and had not benefited from naturalization nor obtaining legal permanent residence. Therefore, the quantitative dataset collected expanded my analysis on reasons for what affected the immigrants on the naturalization process and how other immigrant groups benefited by being granted naturalization or legal permanent residence.

The next research method used for the hypotheses was the qualitative research approach. In the qualitative research, I used case studies that relate or show reasons why immigrants decided to apply to become naturalized citizens or permanent residents and what factors have triggered the immigrants in wanting to be naturalized once they fulfilled their eligibility requirements. Furthermore, these case studies drew out information to explain how the immigrants were treated and how the treatments impacted immigrants wanting to be naturalized. This research method supported for reasons why immigrants decided to become naturalized, while obstacles and treatments made it difficult for them to become naturalized. These predicted reasons include what types of mistreatments such as discrimination and/or prejudices affected their naturalization application, and if these judgements are still present in society.

Analysis

The analysis section presents both quantitative and qualitative research methods to prove that both of the hypotheses are true. The first hypothesis hypothesized the mistreatments towards immigrant population affects naturalization rates. The second hypothesis hypothesized the difference in the benefits that individuals gain based on immigration statuses showed unequal treatments towards the immigration population. To test these hypotheses, I used the quantitative datasets to depict the independent variables which were ethnic groups and citizenship statuses, years, and barriers, and the dependent variables, number or percentage of the ethnic group individuals, and currency, to prove the hypothesis true. Additionally, I used case studies which incorporated federal laws regarding government benefits. These federal laws included in the case studies are the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA), and Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA).

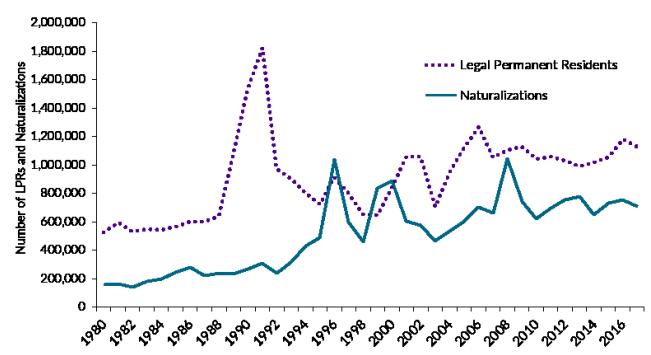
Table 1: Nativity and Citizenship Status in the United States, 2017 (United States Census Bureau)

	United States	Alabama	Alaska	Arizona	Arkansas	California	Colorado	Connecticut	District
	Margin of Error Estimate								
Total	321,719,176	—	4,074,147	—	709,709	—	7,016,376	—	3,004,276
U.S. citizen, born in the United States	270,024,000	—	4,060,030	±1.7,847	692,079	±4,837	5,980,152	—	2,958,962
U.S. citizen, born in Puerto Rico or U.S. Minor Areas	3,367,891	±10,630	8,836	±2,378	8,962	±2,062	16,973	±2,707	3,986
U.S. citizen, born abroad of American parents	3,158,862	±9,200	36,621	±3,712	12,637	±2,201	88,205	±4,036	21,053
U.S. citizen by naturalization	21,049,732	±7,947	67,257	±4,399	21,704	±2,089	407,046	—	11,985
Net U.S. citizen	33,071,120	—	102,020	±4,266	27,527	±3,689	523,052	16,096	43,039
	(1%)	(1%)	(1%)	(1%)	(1%)	(1%)	(1%)	(1%)	(1%)

Table 1. The table separates the population into certain citizenship status groups such as U.S. citizens, permanent residents, studying abroad VISA, naturalized citizens, and non-U.S. citizens.

Table 1 collected information on the population of each state and categorized the population into different citizenship statuses in 2017. The independent variable was the citizenship status, while the dependent variable was the population. The table indicated the types of citizenship statuses: citizens, permanent residents, naturalized citizens, and non-U.S. citizens. Additionally, this table showed the majority of the population in the United States are citizens. Furthermore, the illustration of Table 1 calculated that there is more non-U.S. citizen population than naturalized U.S. citizens. Although U.S. citizens had the highest number of individuals, the non-U.S. citizens had around 1 million more than naturalized citizens. The importance of the population is to compare the amount of naturalized citizens to U.S. born citizens and to see the population separated into citizenship status categories throughout the states in the United States. This table dataset was the beginning of the quantitative analysis to see how many individuals there were for each immigration statuses. This related to both my hypotheses to set the basic population categorized by the citizenship statuses.

Figure 1: New U.S. Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents, 1980 – 2017(Blizzard & Batalova, Naturalization Trends in the United States 2019)



Treatment Towards Immigrants

Figure 1. The double line graph compares between legal permanent residents to naturalizations.

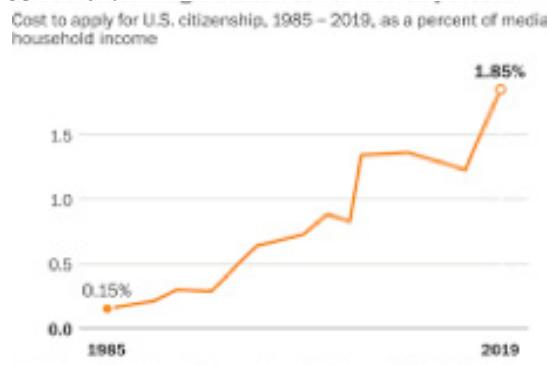
As we have seen on Figure 1, around 1986 to 1987 there was a sign of increase in the legal permanent residents while naturalizations had remained in the bottom side of the graph. The independent variable here shown was years and dependent variable was the population. Around the end of 1990, the legal permanent resident population had peaked to almost 1.9 million legal permanent residents. Overall, naturalizations had remained pretty consistent in the lower tier of the graph while legal permanent residents had stayed in the upper tier of the graph. My implications toward this graph was that as years passed, the naturalization status was harder to get. This graph was the beginning of the citizenship application surge. The surge began due to the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) which was when “2.7 million unauthorized immigrants received legal permanent resident status” (Blizard & Batalova, 2019). Because of the peak, the USCIS came up with a proposal to increase the naturalization application fee. This graph was when some immigrant groups began struggling to become naturalized. Which explained the causes behind the naturalization rates for the first hypothesis and a prediction of what limitations would be set up for unequal treatment for the second hypothesis.

Figure 2: Naturalization Fee Changes, 1985 -- 2015



Figure 2. Line graph illustrates the increase in the costs of the naturalization application fee.

Figure 3: Increase in the Cost of Becoming a Citizen, 1985 -- 2019



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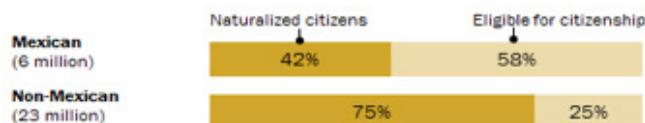
Figure 3. Line graph illustrates the percentage increase in the cost of the naturalization application fee.

After the increase in the cost of the naturalization application, Figures 2 and 3 showed similar trends in the increase even though Figure 3 recorded the constant increase until 2019. Both figures’ independent variable was years and Figure 2’s dependent variable was currency while Figure 3’s dependent variable was percentage. In Figure 2, there was a spike in 2005 from 2015 of almost \$300 meanwhile Figure 3 illustrated that as time went on, in 2019 the prices had increased a tremendous amount. Due to the extreme increase in the prices of citizenship applications, a question linked with these graphs was how the increase on the fees would affect the immigrant groups, especially the individuals that are eligible to apply. The increase in the application cost predicted that hardship was going to affect the naturalization group, and showed how unfair the increase of the application costs were especially for the people who were eligible to apply for citizenship.

Table 2: Naturalization Rates Between Mexican and Non-Mexican Immigrant Groups, 2015

Mexican immigrants have among the lowest naturalization rates of any origin group

% of lawful immigrants who are U.S. citizens or eligible for citizenship in 2015



Note: Naturalization is the process through which U.S. lawful permanent residents who fulfill length of stay and other requirements become U.S. citizens. For the purpose of this analysis, eligibility to apply for citizenship is assigned to all lawful immigrants who are age 18 or older and have been in the U.S. for at least five years (three for those married to a U.S. citizen).

Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented 2015 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

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Table 2. Bar graph shows a comparison between Non-Mexican immigrant groups and Mexican immigrant groups in 2015

Figure 4: Naturalization rate of Mexicans vs. other Immigrant Groups, 1995 -- 2015

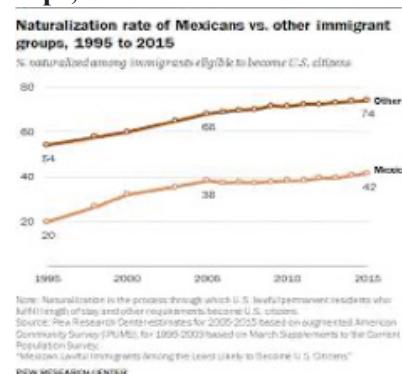


Figure 4. Double line graph compares the naturalization rates between Mexicans to other immigrant groups.

Both datasets presented show the collapse of naturalization rates in the Mexican ethnic group. In Figure 4,

the independent variable was the year, and the dependent variable was the percentage of people naturalized. In Table 2, it provided the information of the Mexican immigrant groups of having a less chance of becoming naturalized although they were eligible for citizenship. Meanwhile, non-Mexican immigrant groups have a higher chance of 33% of becoming naturalized while having 25% of immigrants who are eligible for citizenship. Looking at Figure 4, the statistics conveyed Mexicans in the lower tier of the double linear graph while the other immigrant groups were on the top tier of the graph. The Mexican immigrant groups did not reach above a 50% in the span of 20 years. On the other hand, other immigrant groups had a 20% more increase in their naturalization rate. The connection between these databases is shown to explain the decrease in naturalization rate in immigrant groups. Lastly, Figure 4 and Table 2 provided evidence that the increase in application rates was going to harm the unfortunate immigrant group.

Table 3: Reasons why Mexican green-card holders have not become U.S. citizens, 2015

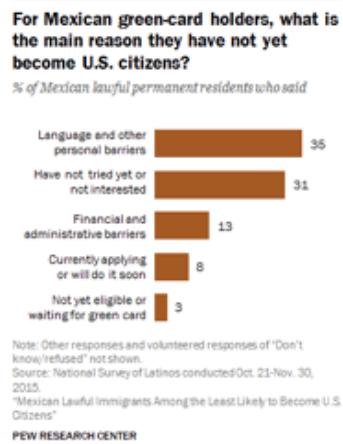


Table 3. The bar graph explains the percentage of Mexican lawful permanent residents having barriers blocking them from becoming U.S. citizens.

From this table, many Mexican green-card holders were insufficient in English. The independent variable was the barriers Mexican green-card holders had, and the dependent variable was the percentage of people who voted. The language barriers that the Mexicans have results in automatic failure during the citizenship test. Additionally, 31% of Mexican green-card holders do not care about being granted citizenship. Gonzalez-Barrera (2018) and Krogstad's (2018) survey was done to collect data from lawful Mexican residents. In the survey, language barrier and limited interest were the reasons why these permanent residents did not want to apply for citizenship. The data that surprised me was financial barriers because of previous datasets on increasing naturalization rates. Another part of the data that surprised me was the language barrier. If an individual had a green-card, I believed that the individual should be able to speak some English. This data was important for my research because I was searching for mistreatment affecting naturalization rates.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) was passed on August 22, 1996 to reform the United States' social care system for the children during the Clinton Administration. Originally, in 1994, this legislation was submitted to Congress by President Clinton known as Work and Responsibility Act (WRA). Through the legislation, a new support system was created which was called, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). This system had four main purposes to start reforming the social care system which involved "providing assistance to needy families, eliminating the dependence of government benefits from parents by providing job, work, marriage preparations, providing an encouragement of two-parent family, and preventing or reducing the percentage of children being born without married parents" (Schaefer, 2017).

Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) was passed on September 30, 1996. This act's purpose was to strengthen United States' immigration laws. This law had created punishments for undocumented immigrants who have committed a felony or a misdemeanor and undocumented citizens that stay in the country for a long period of time undocumented. The punishments for an undocumented immigrant who committed a felony or a misdemeanor are subjected to deportation. This increased the strength of border control by "imposing criminal penalties for racketeering, alien smuggling, and the use or creation of fraudulent immigration-related documents and increasing interior enforcement by agencies charged with monitoring visa applications and visa abusers" (Cornell Law School). In simpler terms, the law influenced the restriction of immigrants in the United States. Furthermore, undocumented immigrants were not allowed to stay in the United States for more than 365 days or they would receive a punishment of entering restriction in the United States for 10 years. If the immigrant had stayed for more than 180 days but less than 1 year, then they were not allowed to come into the United States for 3 years.

Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) was passed and signed by the Congress on April 24, 1996. This law had created changes to the habeas corpus. Meaning that, the changes made to the habeas corpus was to be used during criminal convictions. Additionally, the benefits of this law included in providing justice for victims, preventing terrorism, providing an effective death penalty and for many other purposes (Congress 1996). Furthermore, there was a removal of alien terrorists and a regulation on nuclear, whether it was biological or chemical weapons to provide safety for the public. These regulations were also implemented for countering terrorism by creating a criminal law for people who bring "weapons or explosives onto an aircraft", or usage of "explosives or arson" (Congress 1996).

The reason I chose these three federal laws to prove my hypotheses was because these federal laws did not

protect or gave benefits to the undocumented immigrants. The similar outcome of these laws were how it helped create, strengthen and reform the United States' policies, restrictions, and service systems such as border control, social care system, terrorism regulations and more.

The differences in these cases were how each law differently impacted the undocumented immigrants and benefited the legal citizens. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) provided assistance to all families in need, except for illegal immigrant families, such as promoting jobs and work opportunities, encouraging a two-parent family. Therefore, the PRWORA was focusing more on reforming the social care system for the citizens. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) came up with punishments for illegal immigrants in the United States such as deportation, and ban the immigrant from stepping foot in the United States for 3 or 10 years. This law was to implement harsher regulations towards immigrants and strengthen border control for the United States. The Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDRA) provided with the change of the habeas corpus, justice for the victims, promoting an effective death penalty, regulating terrorism, weapon control and more. AEDRA focused more on legislative issues on public safety for the legally documented individuals. Through all these differences, a mechanism that led towards the similar outcome was how the federal laws did not benefit illegal immigrants but benefitted legal immigrants and citizens.

The benefits that the legal immigrants obtained showed an unequal treatment towards the immigration population. The supporting evidence that proved both hypotheses were true was how legal immigrants received protection under the laws and had access to government benefits. Meanwhile, legal immigrants received nothing but punishments, restrictions, and exclusion from society. With deportation, the immigrants would not be able to use VISA or any services to obtain any statuses which showed an effect on the naturalization rate. Therefore, the case studies proved the both hypotheses true.

Through the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA), immigrants had taken their opportunities to receive the legal permanent resident status. Then, in 1996, the three laws were passed: Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA), and Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDRA). This supported both my hypotheses by the benefits that legal immigrants gained but not illegal immigrants which caused a form of exclusion in society and a fluctuation in naturalization rate because it would eventually shrink the population.

After the three federal laws were passed, the immigrants pushed more towards naturalization because of the government protection and benefits the federal laws provided. As seen in Figure 1, there were a large amount of legal permanent residents. To limit the amount of applications,

the USCIS had created a proposal of the increase for the naturalization application fees. These increases in application fees were noticed as mistreatment towards immigrant groups who are eligible which affected the naturalization rates. Furthermore, from Figure 2 and 3 of the quantitative datasets, the trend of constant increase in price is mistreatment towards immigrant groups especially for immigrants eligible to apply for naturalization. Then Figure 4 and Table 2 provided supporting evidence of Mexican immigrant groups were being affected by the lowest naturalization rates. The increase in the application fee gave more benefits towards citizens which ultimately gave eligible immigrant groups the struggle to afford the cost. From Table 3, the dataset explained what the barriers were for Mexican green-card holders. The reasons such as language barrier, and little to no interest, explained a lot about the low naturalization rates for the Mexican immigrant groups. Table 3 was a surprise in my datasets although the table answered the question on why immigrant groups for example, Mexican immigrant groups, had such low naturalization rates.

Therefore, these datasets and case studies supported and proved both of the hypotheses true and explained how individuals' mistreatment differed based on their immigration statuses and what hardships affected naturalization rates.

Conclusion

Throughout many years, immigrants have faced lots of difficulties whether it is language barriers, or an unfamiliar environment. The attitudes of individuals on immigrants built up my thesis: how is the treatment towards immigrants differ depending on the individuals' immigration status?

The methods of research, quantitative datasets and case studies, guided my research to search and find results to explain my research question. The contributions that were made to explain my literature was how the different types of benefits were given to the individuals based on their immigration statuses which created a sense of exclusion, and inequality between the immigration statuses. Additional contribution that was included in my literature was how naturalization rates were being affected due to the treatments targeted towards immigrants.

The conclusion that moves the literature forward towards creating a sense of awareness in a society where discriminations and prejudices still exist. To support my conclusion, my contributions explain how these immigrants are excluded from society and the differences of separation of powers between immigration statuses. Furthermore, we have to realize some immigrants do not migrate because they want to. Some immigrants have involuntarily left their host country in search for safety for reasons that could involve government corruption, and/or political and economic instability in their host country (Park & Kim, 2019).

There were a lot of shortcomings in my paper. During the research, it was difficult for me to find certain

sources I was looking for because this topic is not that noticed. I had to look in other places on the web to find sources such as getting databases from a government website. Additionally, the majority of the articles that I searched did not focus on the United States but rather different countries which made it hard for me to create subheadings for my literature review. Other than the short amount of available research, this topic was very interesting and challenging to write about.

New avenues for my research, I would re-word my research question for more variety of options. I felt very one-sided towards this topic because it was only required to look at one group and one country. Additionally, I would try to look into both perspectives on reasons why citizens do not like immigrants and vice versa instead of just focusing on immigrants being mistreated. Furthermore, I would have liked to expand more on treatment towards immigrants for other countries as well as to compare how the immigrants' experiences would differ between several countries.

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