

Immigration in America

Methodology

The NPR/Kaiser/Kennedy School Immigration Survey was conducted by telephone May 27 – Aug. 2, 2004, among a nationally representative sample of 1,888 adults 18 years and older, including an oversample of 680 adults identified as immigrants (a total of 784 immigrants were interviewed). Enough responses were obtained from immigrants from each of the following regions to allow some comparisons of one immigrant group to another (for a list of countries, click on each group):

- Middle East and North Africa (except Israel)
- Russia and Eastern Europe
- East Asia
- Central and South America
- Mexico

Immigrants from other regions were counted as part of the general immigrant population. The margin of sampling error for this study is +/-3.01 at the 95 percent confidence level. Margins of sampling error are higher for subgroups due to survey design and the number of respondents in each group (see below). Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

Eligible Respondents

Respondents were eligible for this study if they were an adult age 18 years or older currently living in the household. For the oversample, ICR screened for respondents who said they were born in another country.

Fieldwork

ICR/International Communications Research in Media, Pa., conducted the interviews. In addition to English, interviews were conducted in Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Arabic and Russian.

Detailed Methodology

For the main study, a random-digit dial (RDD) sample was used to achieve a national cross-section of respondents. For the oversample, the study used a disproportionate stratified sampling design. The specific stratification scheme for this study was based on telephone exchanges known to have a high ethnic incidence for each oversampled group, with the following results:

	Middle Easterners/ North Africans	Russians/ Eastern Europeans	East Asians	Central/ South Americans	Mexicans	Other
Middle East Stratum	79	47	30	60	28	57
Russian Stratum	1	59	6	8	9	10
East Asian Stratum	2	3	65	8	7	15
Central/South	1	2	1	62	19	25

American Stratum						
Mexican Stratum	0	0	1	4	51	2
Other Area Strata	0	0	1	2	1	16
Sub-Total	83	111	104	144	115	125
Main Study	2	1	3	11	37	48
Grand Total	85	112	107	155	152	173

Design effects and margin of sampling error vary by the oversampled groups, based on the number of interviews completed and the disproportionality of the strata from which the groups were obtained. Design effect and margin of sampling error for each group are shown in the table below.

	Unweighted n	Design Effect	Margin of Sampling Error
Total Respondents	1888	1.78	3.0
Native Born	1104	1.23	3.3
Non-Native Born	784	4.81	7.7
Middle Easterners/North Africans	85	3.33	19.4
Russians/Eastern Europeans	112	3.34	16.9
East Asians	107	2.08	13.7
Central/South Americans	155	3.15	14.0
Mexicans	152	1.80	10.7
Others	173	3.71	14.4

Weighting and Estimation

Weighting and estimation were performed independently within the six oversample strata and the main study. The first phase involved weighting by stratum to balance the number of interviews by stratum to national population estimates from U.S. Census data. Once this sample disproportionality of strata was corrected, the file was divided into the respective country-of-origin groups. Then, each country-of-origin group was weighted by 2004 Claritas data for age within sex, education, region, and race/ethnicity.

Response Rate

The overall response rate for this study (AAPOR standard definition RR3) was calculated to be 55.2 percent.