

# The effect of the point of origin on the restraining factors of immigrant education

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## Abstract

There are a variety of reasons that affect the education level of immigrants in the United States. We investigated what factors affect the education level of immigrants to the United States and ways that we can improve the number of educational opportunities. The research shows many ways that immigrants affect a community but not the factors that affect the education level of immigrants. We wanted to investigate ways that we can improve the restraining factors, factors that stopped someone from reaching a higher level of education, to Immigrant Education in the United States. A Microsoft survey was created and sent out to Immigrants that live in our area, they were collected, the data was compiled, and a claim was made based on that data. This experiment showed us what the most prominent restraining factors are among immigrants in the United States and helped us find solutions to improve upon those restraining factors.

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# Question and Variables

## Research Question

How does different points of origin affect the restraining factor that stopped an immigrant from getting a higher level of education?

## Independent

The point of Origin of the Immigrants

## Dependent

The Restraining factors in the education level of immigrants

## Background Research

The education level of immigrants can tell us where we need to further develop our education system in the US. We can see where there is a lower level of education. This information allows us to build schools and improve the education system in those areas. The education level of immigrants can also help to identify whether there are chances for people to come to the US for education.

The education level of Immigrants in the US is important because they make up a large part of the work force in the US. Knowing the education level can allow us to improve educational opportunities. Improving educational opportunities can allow immigrants to learn new skills and knowledge. This can allow us to build a more skillful and knowledgeable workforce (Batalova 1). This can improve infrastructure and offer new ideas on how to improve our societies.

Research has shown that immigration education levels have increased over time. According to an article by Pew Research, in 1980 only 7% of the immigrant population had a bachelor's degree. Compared to that, in 2016 17.2% of immigrants had a bachelor's degree (1). This means that there was a 10.2% increase in the level of immigrants with a bachelor's degree. This shows that there has been an increase in the level of immigrant education over time.

The fact that education levels have increased over time is also supported by the Census Bureau. The percent of immigrants with a college degree across multiple races has increased by an average of 7.1% (Census 3). This is shown in an article written by the census bureau. It is also stated by the article that many immigrants over 25 that have moved to the US already have a higher education.

According to an article by Evin Millet, a large portion of the labor force consists of immigrants (1). Immigrants in the workforce can help improve conditions, spur economic growth, and boost productivity. There are an estimated 1,714,700 highly educated immigrants over the age of 18(Milet 1). Another article by Jeanne Batalova states that 45% of software engineers, 29% of physicians and 42% of physical scientists are immigrants (4). They have a higher education with a bachelor's degree or higher.

## Materials List

1. Computer (research, compile data, create survey)
2. Internet access (Necessary for computer to work and research)
3. Previous research project (research, Previous data)
4. Human Participants (To fill out the survey)

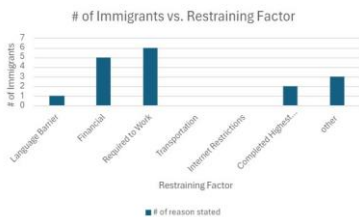
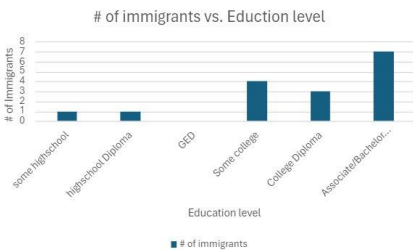
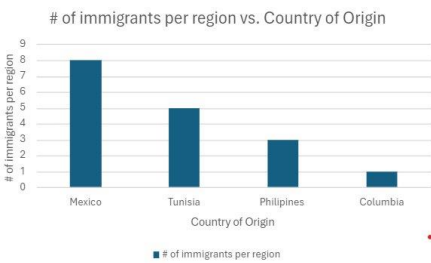
## Experimental Procedure and Methods

1. Education level and percentages of immigrants with higher education was collected from publicly available sources (census, research papers, articles)
  - a. <https://www.mdpi.com/2297-8747/27/1/11>
  - b. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/college-educated-immigrants-united-states>
  - c. <https://cmsny.org/educated-immigrants-millet-080122/>
  - d. <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2023/educational-attainment-data.html>
2. Information on age, race, education level, and point of origin was collected from previous research papers.
3. Survey was created to collect data on age, race, education level, and point of origin
  - a. <https://forms.office.com/r/pPMmYm5Zbs>
4. Human participants signed human informed consent forms
5. Survey was passed out to US immigrant students (both Immigrant and Natural born)
6. Survey was collected online
7. Different types of data were compiled from collected surveys. (percents, Number of people, place of origin, education level)
8. New research on the restraining factor was compared against the previous research (the education level, age, race, point of Origin, what held them back)

# Data Analysis and Discussion

1. Participants signed the human informed consent form
2. Survey was passed out to participants through text, emails, and distributing links
3. Survey was collected
4. Data on race, age, education, point of Origin, and restraining factor was compiled

The Data compiled allowed us to gain an insight into the most common restraining factors across the different point of origin, different races, and different ages. This helped us to draw conclusions on how restraining factors varied according to different factors.





## Conclusions

Overall, there was no large correlation between the restraining factor, point of origin, and age of the immigrants. However, the most common restraining factors were related to financial problems.

## Ideas for Future Research

One Way to further this project is to include new restraining factors and send it out to a wider variety of immigrant. It could also be compared to non-immigrants to see if there is a correlation.

Another possible progression is to find a solution to the financial situations that are holding people back. This could help immigrants reach a higher level of education.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Brenda Wells and Bel Hassen Haouala for helping us to spread the survey we used to collect our data.

## Bibliography

Krogstad, Jens Manuel, and Jynnah Radford. "Education Levels of U.S. Immigrants Are on the Rise." *Pew Research Center*, <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2018/09/14/education-levels-of-u-s-immigrants-are-on-the-rise/>. Accessed 15 Sept. 2023.

The Percentage of immigrants over the age of 25 with a bachelor's or post-graduate degree has been increasing over time. In 2016 17.2% of immigrants had obtained a bachelor's degree. Compared to 1980 when only 7% had one this is a major increase. In 1980 8.7% of immigrants held a post graduate degree. In 2016 this Number had increased to 12.8%. This means that in 2016 at least 30% of immigrants had a bachelor's or post-graduate degree. In 1980 only 15.7% held one. This means that there was a 14.3% increase between 1980 and 2016.

Tchoumi, Stéphane Yanick, et al. "Impact of Infective Immigrants on COVID-19 Dynamics." *Mathematical and Computational Applications*, vol. 27, no. 11, Jan. 2022, p. 11. *doaj.org*, <https://doi.org/10.3390/mca27010011>.

Immigrants can have a major impact on a community in a variety of ways. During Covid this was immigrants Infected with the Corona Virus moving to the US and spreading the Disease around to more people. It is estimated that 86% of Covid-19 cases were undiagnosed cases that were brought over before travel restrictions could be put in place. This led to Covid being around longer than it could have been and causing the quarantine to be extended for a longer period. The large inflow of Infected immigrants had a major impact on the communities that they went to.

Batalova, Jeanne Batalova Kira Olsen-Medina and Jeanne. "College-Educated Immigrants in the United States." *Migrationpolicy.Org*, 15 Sept. 2020, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/college-educated-immigrants-united-states>.

The number of college-educated immigrants in the US keeps increasing. In 2018, 17 percent of college-educated immigrants ages 25 and older were born abroad. 32 percent of immigrant adults have a bachelor's degree or higher. This is around 12.6 million immigrants. This is like the 33 percent of US-born adults that are college educated. The share of university-educated immigrants is rising in recent years. 47 percent of immigrants that have arrived in the past 5 years have a college degree. Immigrants account for 17

percent of civilian employed workers, 45 percent of software developers, 42 percent of physical scientists, and 29 percent of Physicians.

Studies, Center for Migration. "Highly-Educated Undocumented Immigrants in the United States." *The Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS)*, 2 Aug. 2022, <https://cmsny.org/educated-immigrants-millet-080122/>.

Highly educated immigrants play an important role in the labor force in the United States. They innovate, boost productivity, and spur economic growth. There is an estimated 1,714,700 highly educated immigrants that are over 18 and hold a bachelor's degree or higher. Around 72 percent of highly educated undocumented immigrant come from only ten countries. These are India, Mexico, China, Venezuela, Korea, Philippines, Brazil, Columbia, Nigeria, and El Salvador. The Highly educated undocumented population is mostly concentrated in California, Texas, Florida, and New York. 48 percent of the population are female. 50 percent of the population are Asian, 29 percent are Hispanic, and 12 percent are white.

Bureau, US Census. "Census Bureau Releases New Educational Attainment Data." *Census.Gov*, <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2023/educational-attainment-data.html>. Accessed 15 Sept. 2023.

In 2022 the census showed that 47 percent of immigrants over the age of 25 had at least completed an associate degree or higher. The percentage with a bachelor's degree has only risen 0.2 percent since 2020. In 2022 39 percent of women and 36.2 percent of men had completed their bachelor's degree or higher. Migrants in recent years are more likely to receive a higher level of education compared to those before them. 41.6 percent of naturalized immigrants have a bachelor's degree. 43.4 percent of immigrant children have a bachelor's degree. A greater percentage of immigrants also held advanced degrees compared to US natives.