



The Department of Communication and the Civil Discourse Lab
present the first annual interactive dialogue

STORIES AND VOICES

Engaging Immigration

Agenda

Welcome & Introductions

Purpose & Guidelines

What are your stories about immigration?

Language Matters

Equity and Equality

Transforming Dialogue

Escape past or future persecution based on race, religion, and/or nationality

Escape conflict or violence

Seek advanced healthcare

Family reunification

Economic security

Educational purposes

Escape poverty

Pursuit of freedom

Greater opportunities

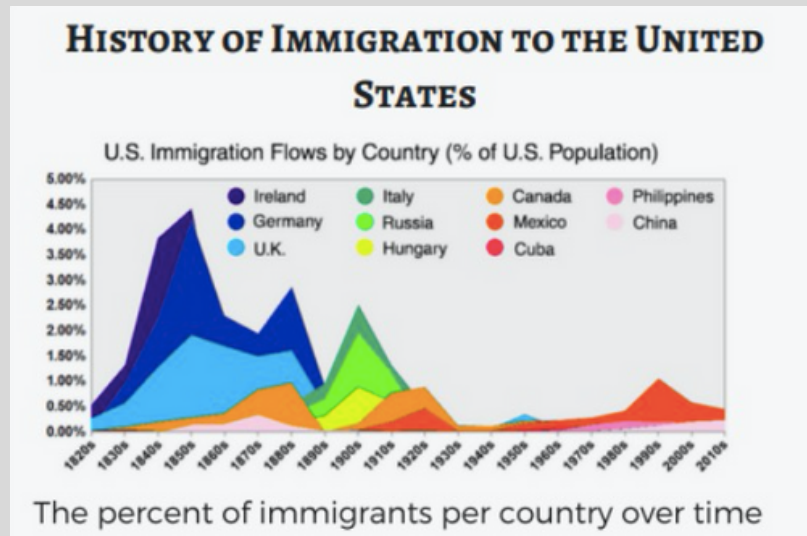
<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/why-people-migrate-11-surprising-reasons/>

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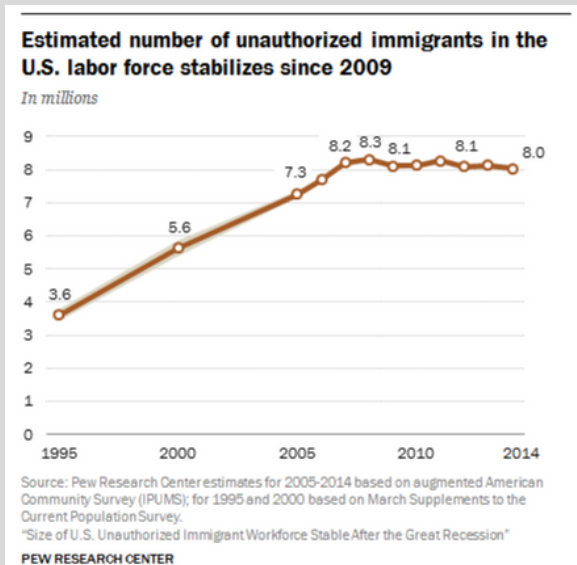


WHAT ARE YOUR OWN STORIES AND IDEAS ABOUT WHY PEOPLE IMMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES?

OBSERVE THE CHART
TO THE RIGHT, DO YOU
SEE YOUR STORY
AS A PART OF HISTORY?



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IS YOUR STORY ABOUT WORK,
EDUCATION, BOTH?

The US Department of Labor reports that in 2016, 27 million foreign-born persons were in the labor force, making up 16.9% of total labor force. This includes refugees, legal and unauthorized immigrants.

People who immigrate are twice as likely to start their own businesses. It has been reported that 40% of Fortune 500 companies have been founded by immigrants or their children. States with larger numbers of immigrants report lower unemployment rates for everyone. This occurs because immigrants often fill labor-intensive jobs that US citizens do not.

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Table 3. Employed Workers in the Civilian Labor Force (ages 16 and older) by Nativity and Occupation, 2016

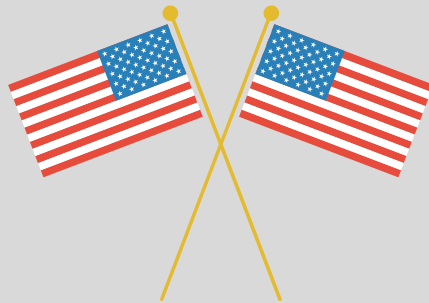
Occupation	Foreign-Born Workers	Native-Born Workers
Civilian Employed Adults	26,191,800	126,379,200
By Occupational Group		
Management, Business, Science, and Arts	31.6%	38.8%
Service	24.1%	16.8%
Sales and Office	16.6%	24.7%
Natural Resources, Construction, and Maintenance	12.9%	8.0%
Production, Transportation, and Material Moving	14.9%	11.6%

Note: Numbers may not add up to 100 as they are rounded to the nearest whole number.
Source: MPI tabulation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2016 ACS.

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services changed their mission statement this year, which resulted in the removal of the section that refers to the United States as a nation of immigrants.

Previous Mission:

"USCIS secures America's promise as a nation of immigrants by providing accurate and useful information to our customers, granting immigration and citizenship benefits, promoting an awareness and understanding of citizenship, and ensuring the integrity of our immigration system."



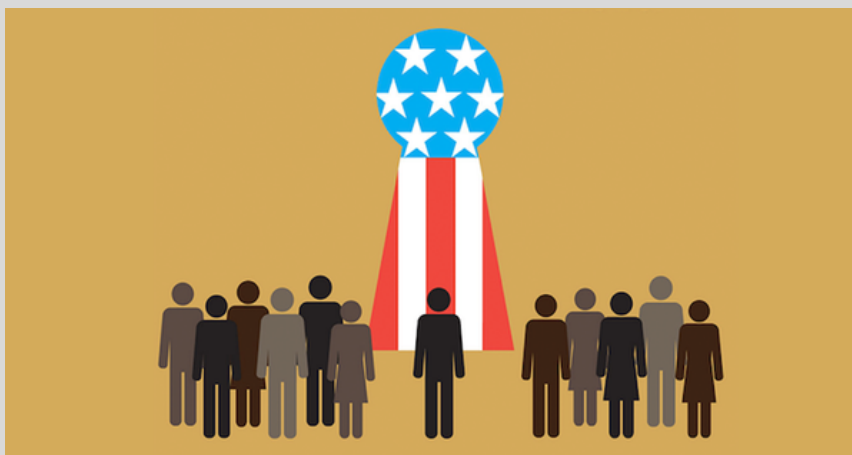
New Mission:

"U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services administers the nation's lawful immigration system, safeguarding its integrity and promise by efficiently and fairly adjudicating requests for immigration benefits while protecting Americans, securing the homeland, and honoring our values."

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CONSIDER THE MEANING OF THE WORDS AND PHRASES ON THIS PAGE AND THE NEXT. WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS AND THOUGHTS ABOUT THESE WORDS? HOW HAVE THEY SHAPED YOUR THINKING ABOUT IMMIGRATION?



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LANGUAGE MATTERS

Alien

A foreign born individual.^{12 13}

"The American Dream"

"A dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position."¹⁴

Anchor Baby

Refers to any American child of an unauthorized immigrant.¹⁵

Assimilation

A process by which foreign born people absorb the norms, traditions, and culture of the dominate culture.

Asylum

"Asylum is an immigration benefit that allows certain foreign nationals who fear persecution to remain lawfully in the US. People who are granted asylum may apply for lawful permanent residence (a green card) one year after being granted asylum."¹⁷

"Build that Wall"

A current administrative goal of erecting a wall between the United States and Mexico to limit unauthorized immigration to the US.¹⁸

Chain Migration

"The iconography of American immigration – the way in which it is depicted in visual images – stresses women and children and family groups even though they were a minority – in some periods a very small minority – of all immigrants. Even today, when our immigration laws favor family reunification, families most often arrive serially. This is now usually called chain migration, as migrants, whether members of a nuclear or extended family, follow one another as links in a chain."¹⁹

DACA

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, a federal program that protects undocumented people who were brought to the United States as children.²⁰

Dreamers

Undocumented immigrants who seek permanent legal residence under the Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.²¹

Illegal Immigrant

All foreign-born non-citizens who are not legal residents.²²

Immigrant

People who are granted permission to work and live in the United States without any limitations. Immigrants are eligible for a green card, which authorizes their status as a permanent resident.²³

Invasion

A term used to characterize illegal immigration.^{16, 24}

Melting Pot

A metaphor for the effect of people from various backgrounds forming one unique society with a variety of shared traditions, values, and culture created by the diverse groups of people who reside there.²⁵

Merit-Based Migration

This language emphasizes education, job training, and the ability to speak and write in English.²⁶

Nation of Immigrants

Title of a book written by President John F. Kennedy on immigration reform. Kennedy firmly believed that America should remain "the land of opportunity" and that all people have the right to shape their own destinies regardless of place of birth.²⁷

Refugees

People who are forced to leave their home country due to oppression, war, natural or man-made disasters.²⁸

Sanctuary City

Jurisdiction that may have state laws, local ordinances, or departmental policies protecting undocumented immigrants and limiting the coordination with local law enforcement agencies and officers.²⁹

Undocumented Immigrant

People who either came into the United States without authorization or were granted temporary residence and stayed past the date their residence expired.³⁰

Equality and Equity:

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How do we reach fairness?

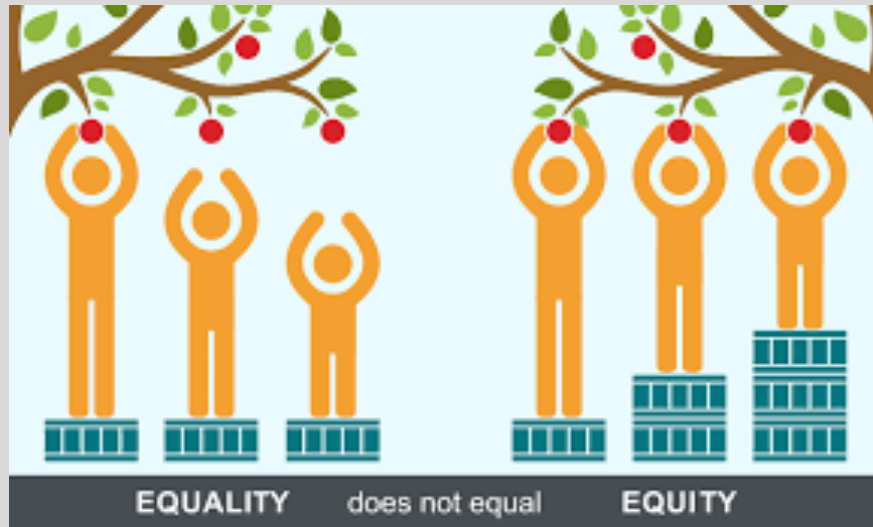
EQUALITY

Equality could be interpreted as everyone should be treated equally, regardless of education, race, gender or other characteristics.

EQUITY

Equity based decision making adjusts policies with respect to a person's historical advantages, disadvantages and life experiences to achieve fairness.

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Q

SHOULD THE IMMIGRATION PROCESS TREAT ALL APPLICANTS THE SAME WAY OR NOT? HOW SHOULD OUR SYSTEM ACCOUNT FOR EQUITY AND EQUALITY, FOR US CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS AND PEOPLE SEEKING TO LIVE IN THE US?

EXAMINE THE IMMIGRATION PATHWAYS FOR GAINING CITIZENSHIP AND LEGAL ENTRY, WHERE DO YOU SEE EQUITY AND EQUALITY?



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Examine the U.S. Immigration Process and Pathways

1. Family Based Immigration

Prospective immigrants under the immediate relatives category must meet standard eligibility criteria, and petitioners must meet certain age and financial requirements. Immediate relatives are:

- spouses of US citizens;
- unmarried minor children of U.S. citizens (under 21 years old); and
- parents of US citizens (petitioner must be at least 21 years old to petition for a parent).

2. Employment-Based Immigration

Temporary employment-based visa classifications permit employers to hire and petition for foreign nationals for specific jobs for limited periods. The overall limit for permanent employment-based immigrants is 140,000 per year. This number includes the immigrants plus their eligible spouses and minor unmarried children, meaning the actual number of employment-based immigrants is less than 140,000 each year.

3. Refugees and Asylees

Refugees are admitted to the United States based upon an inability to return to their home countries because of a “well-founded fear of persecution” due to their race, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, religion, or national origin. Refugees apply for admission from outside of the United States, generally from a “transition country” that is outside their home country. Each year the President, in consultation with Congress, determines the numerical ceiling for refugee admissions.

Asylees do not have to have legal immigration status to apply for protection. Much like refugees, asylees cannot live in their native country for reasonable fear or proof that they will be persecuted on the basis of religion, nationality, membership in a social group or political opinion. There are two ways to apply for asylum in the US: 1) affirmatively: people who request asylum by choice; 2) defensively: people who request asylum after being detained by immigration services.

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4. Diversity Visa Program

The Diversity Visa lottery was created by the Immigration Act of 1990 as a dedicated channel for immigrants from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. Each year 55,000 visas are allocated randomly to nationals from countries that have sent less than 50,000 immigrants to the United States in the previous 5 years.

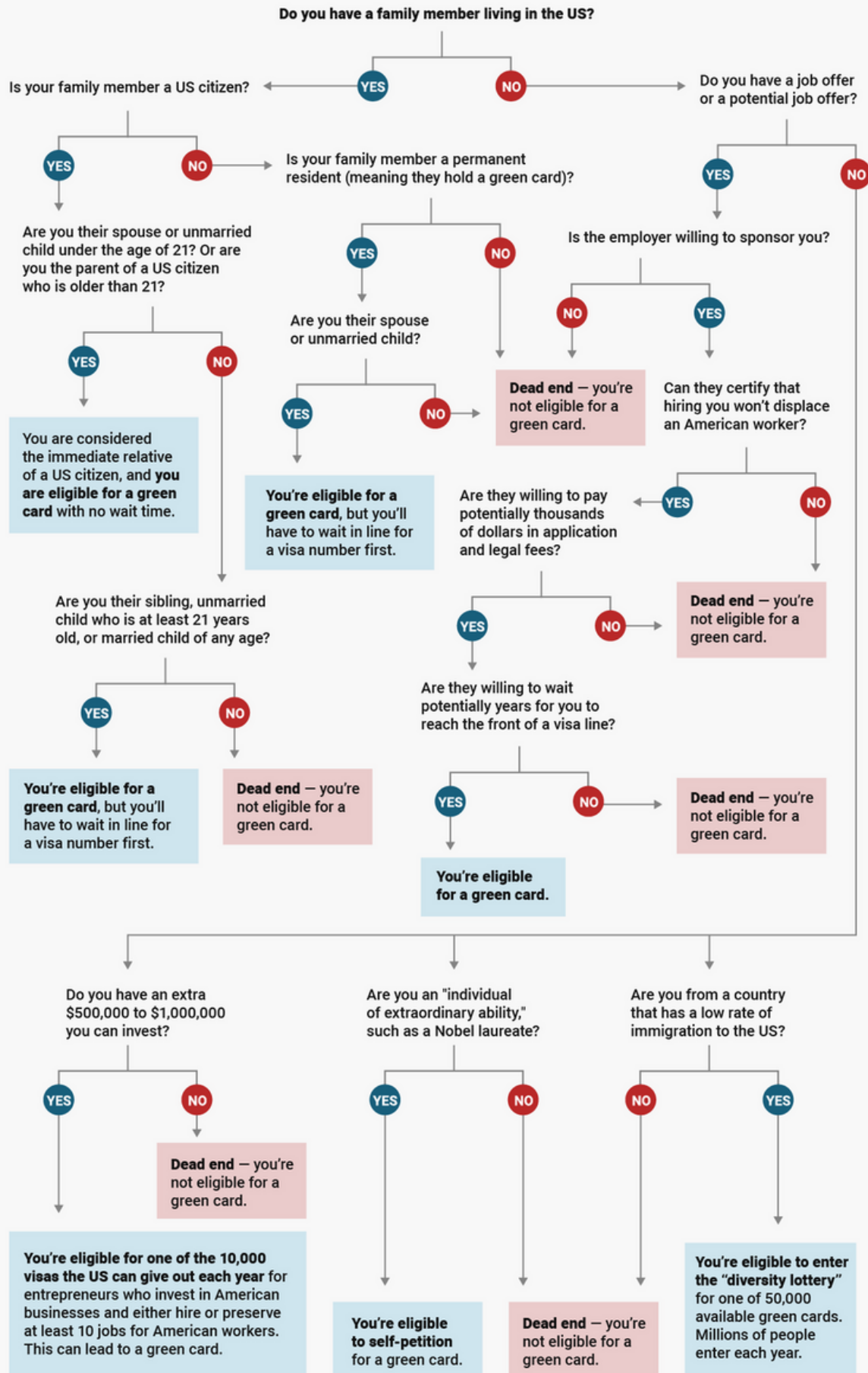
5. Humanitarian Relief

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is granted to people who are in the United States but cannot return to their home country because of “natural disaster,” “extraordinary temporary conditions,” or “ongoing armed conflict.” TPS is granted to a country for six, 12, or 18 months. Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) provides protection from deportation for individuals whose home countries are unstable, therefore making return dangerous.

6. US Citizenship

Under the 14th amendment to the US Constitution, any person born in the United States is a citizen of the United States and of the state or territory in which they were born. In order to qualify for US citizenship through naturalization, an individual must have had LPR status (a green card) for at least five years. Applicants for US citizenship must be at least 18 years old, demonstrate continuous residency, demonstrate “good moral character,” pass English and US history and civics exams (with certain exceptions), and pay an application fee, in addition other requirements.

IMMIGRATION PATHWAYS



Not all people who immigrate who have served in the US military have the opportunity to become citizens due to the fact that the process of naturalization is no longer included during basic training. As a result, immigrant veterans of the US military have the possibility of being deported.

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Statistically, the Obama Administration deported more immigrants in comparison to other administrations. This is in part due to the definition of the word “deportation” within other administrations. For example, during the Bush Administration, deportations were categorized as “voluntary removal.”³⁷

People who immigrate must live in the US for 5 years, or go through the naturalization process to be eligible for the majority of federal benefits, such as food stamps, Medicare, and Medicaid. ³⁸

In the US, being an undocumented immigrant is a violation, not a crime. Sanctuary cities provide a place for undocumented immigrants to take refuge. Sanctuary cities have 15% less crime in comparison to non-sanctuary cities. The state of Massachusetts has seven sanctuary cities. The state of New Hampshire has none.³⁹

DACA workers yield a fiscal impact of \$60 billion—making their impact on the US economy positive. However, because DACA workers are undocumented, they are at risk for deportation. The deportation process costs the US Government approximately \$10,000 per removal.

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In regards to the US, approximately 65,000 undocumented immigrants graduate from high schools each year. Once a qualifying student graduates, he or she can apply for conditional status that would allow them to legally reside in the US under the conditions that they graduate from a two-year college degree, complete two years of college at a four-year university or serve in the military for two years.

In New Hampshire specifically, 44% of immigrants have received a college education.⁴²

Cities with higher rates of immigration have been associated with lower rates of violence and popular crime. Studies show that immigrants are less likely to commit serious crimes in comparison with US native born citizens. A possible reason that incarceration rates of immigrants are high is attributable to immigration laws that imprison undocumented immigrants before officially being deported. ⁴³

The United States/Mexico border is 1,954 miles. The Government Accountability Office estimated that a wall would cost approximately \$6.8 million per mile. From this estimate, a border wall across 1,954 miles would cost over 13 billion dollars. Currently there are already 650 miles of fencing across the border.

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DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, was established on June 15, 2012. This program gives temporary lawful status with work authorization to immigrants who were brought into the United States illegally as children. Roughly 800,000 young unauthorized immigrants have received work permits and protection from deportation through DACA, since 2012.

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Sanctuary Status

Should our towns and institutions offer sanctuary status in New Hampshire?

The Border Wall

Should the United States construct and pay for a wall between the US and Mexico over a terrain that spans 1,900 miles?

Family Reunification Migration

Should the US uphold migration policies that allow immigrants to bring their family here?

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

DACA recipients live in a constant ambiguity and fear that they may be deported to a country they have never known, what should we do?

The United States 2020 Census

Should the 2020 US census include the question "Is this person a citizen?"

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