

# FWD.us Methodology for Estimating the Immigration Status of the 2023 U.S. Immigrant Population

## Overview

No large-scale survey provides the immigration status of the U.S. immigrant population. Also, a current and detailed estimate of the total immigrant population is elusive, especially given the high usage of parole and number of those entering via the U.S. southern border in recent years. This methodology seeks to explain how both data-related challenges are addressed by assigning immigration status in the 2022 American Community Survey and projecting the immigrant population forward to 2023.<sup>1</sup>

Fortunately, likely immigration status in the 2022 ACS can be assigned using demographic, social, and economic characteristics of respondents.<sup>2</sup> As immigrants can be undercounted in surveys, particularly those with undocumented status, the 2022 ACS data are first reweighted based on [known 2020 Census undercounting](#) of certain groups, including ethnicity and race, age, sex, and housing status.<sup>3</sup> Also, an analysis of the 2022 ACS shows that the overwhelming majority of those who entered the U.S. through parole or lawfully through ports of entry and border patrol encounters at the U.S. southern land border in 2021 and 2022 do not appear in the 2022 data.<sup>4</sup> These new arrivals are highly transient and largely out of reach for surveys like the ACS. These groups are added to the 2022 data to provide a more realistic picture of the population as of 2022 (see undocumented immigrant section).

In projecting the immigrant population forward to 2023, previous immigration trends and conventional demographic techniques are used. In adding immigrants that have entered the U.S. since 2022, researchers rely on administrative data from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and other administrative data to obtain immigrant population flow estimates through to September 30, 2023.<sup>5</sup> *These added immigration flows in projecting forward to 2023 are itemized in italics.* In determining the characteristics of these

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1 Immigrants are defined as individuals who were not born in the U.S. or its territories. Individuals born to U.S. citizens living abroad are not considered immigrants.

2 The 2022 ACS data are drawn from [IPUMS](#). Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Matthew Sobek, Daniel Backman, Annie Chen, Grace Cooper, Stephanie Richards, Renae Rogers, and Megan Schouweiler. IPUMS USA: Version 14.0 [2022 ACS]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V14.0>.

3 Adding this adjustment to current ACS weights enlarges the total immigrant population slightly, to 47.1 million from 46.1 million in 2022, and reflects the likely undercounting of immigrant groups within the U.S. in that year. This reweighting approach at the beginning of the immigrant assignment process was selected instead of the undercounting adjustment typically made for undocumented immigrants (and conversely the overcounting adjustment among immigrants with lawful permanent residency) that other researchers perform. The undercounting of undocumented immigrants in surveys has been established by a number of studies, including [Van Hook et al., 2014](#); [Bean et al., 1998](#); [Capps et al., 2002](#); and [Marcelli and Ong, 2002](#), and must be taken into account. However, these undercounting adjustments are based on studies from several years ago. We would expect that a number of factors (political, security, technology) may affect potential undercounting of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. differently since these studies were conducted. At the same time, we know there is a strong correlation between the undercounting of certain demographic groups (ethnic and racial minorities, younger age groups, renters) as found in the [2020 Census post-enumeration study](#) and the expected demographic characteristics of undocumented immigrants. Consequently, this immigrant assignment project uses the most recent data available to correct for possible undercounting of certain immigrant groups, of which undocumented immigrants are one of the largest.

4 This was determined by analyzing the migration variables in the ACS and comparing the figures with data from DHS and CBP.

5 To obtain final immigrant population estimates, emigration rates are also applied with a 0.5% emigration rate for those who entered the U.S. prior to 2018 (five years before) and 1% for those entering the U.S. 2018 or later, reflecting a [difference of emigration](#) rates between earlier and later arrived immigrants used by other researchers. Similarly, [survivability rates](#), again using population reweighting, are applied by age and sex. These demographic adjustments were made prior to the insertion of new inflows of immigrants during 2021-23. Only the foreign-born population is projected to 2023.

added immigrant flows, the population weights in the 2022 ACS were reweighted by nationality, and sometimes age (adult vs. minor), to reflect the same characteristics of most recent arrivals entering the U.S. When complete, the resulting dataset offers population estimates and characteristics for the 2023 immigrant population. The resulting size of the immigrant population is slightly more than 49 million, consistent with estimates in the latter months of 2023 in the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey.

## U.S. Naturalized Citizens

The identification of naturalized U.S. citizens is primarily based on the self-identification of U.S. citizenship among immigrant respondents in the ACS. However, the anticipated size of this population, as based on DHS [reporting](#), is larger in the ACS data than would be expected. Consequently, some adjustments of respondents indicating naturalization are made.<sup>6</sup>

In ACS data, any married respondents entering the U.S. within the past three years are not considered U.S. citizens; similarly, unmarried respondents entering the U.S. within the past five years are also not considered U.S. citizens. These immigrants are mostly ineligible to apply for and receive U.S. citizenship given the short time they have lived in the U.S.<sup>7</sup> Similarly, individuals indicating a naturalization year in the ACS data that is earlier than their entry date into the U.S., or who have lived in the U.S. less than two years before being naturalized, are not considered U.S. citizens.

Annual naturalization levels in [DHS data](#) among Mexican immigrants in particular are lower than seen in ACS data. To correct for this issue, immigrants born in Mexico who came before the start of the Great Recession of 2008 (when the bulk of currently undocumented immigrants from Mexico entered the U.S.) and stated that they had recently acquired U.S. citizenship are considered to have not naturalized.

*In projecting estimates forward to 2023, the number of U.S. naturalized citizens is adjusted upward through population reweighting. The reweighting is based on a proportional increase in the number of naturalized individuals, based on [DHS data](#), who were naturalized in 2022.*

## Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR)

Some immigrant groups, based on entry date into the U.S., social relationships, place of birth, employment in certain occupations, and use of public benefits, are likely to have lawful permanent residency. For example, all immigrants in ACS data who arrived before 1982 and who are not U.S. citizens are assumed to have LPR status. It is assumed that these immigrants living in the U.S. for more than 40 years have found a pathway for lawful permanent residency, especially given the [1986 IRCA provisions](#) offering lawful permanent residency to undocumented immigrants entering the U.S. before 1982.

Immigrant spouses married to U.S. citizens (born in the U.S. or naturalized) for seven years or longer are assigned LPR status, as most spouses of U.S. citizens would have had an accessible pathway to LPR status during this period.

Cubans entering the U.S. in 2017 or earlier are considered to have LPR status. According to the [Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966](#), immigrant Cubans had access to LPR until 2017, when President Obama [changed the conditions](#) for LPR adjustment.

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6 Reasons for incorrectly indicating U.S. citizenship are many, including confusion surrounding the question and fear of apprehension when self-identifying immigration status.

7 Lawful permanent residents are eligible to apply three years after receiving legal permanent residency with a spouse as immediate relative, and five years without a spouse as immediate relative.

Immigrants resettled as refugees from [top countries of birth](#)—Bhutan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar), Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, and Eritrea—who entered the U.S. since 2013 are assumed to have LPR status. A random selection of immigrants with populations in the ACS data greater than the number of resettled refugees from Iran, Syria, Ukraine, and Sudan entering the U.S. since 2013 was also assigned LPR status. LPR status is assigned to all members of the family from the same nationality in the home who are randomly selected.

Non-U.S. citizens working in occupations that require lawful status due to official licensure, such as certain medical professionals, transportation workers (for example, railway engineers and pilots), and government workers, are considered to have lawful permanent residency. Non-U.S. citizen veterans and those using government health insurance and/or social welfare programs (for example, Medicaid and Medicare, Social Security, TANF, Supplemental Security Income, food stamps) are also assumed to be lawful permanent residents.

Finally, spouses and children of adult family members with LPR who all entered the U.S. the same year are assumed to all have lawful permanent residency. The total number of respondents in the ACS with assigned LPR status is similar to other estimates from the [Pew Research Center](#) and [DHS](#), as well as actual active LPR status from [USCIS](#).

*For additional lawful permanent residents via refugee resettlement entering the U.S. in fiscal 2023, data from the [State Department](#) are used and added to this population. These additional individuals are added using a population reweighting of LPR-assigned immigrants with refugee resettlement by nationality entering the previous five years. This reweighting occurred after the immigrant status assignment for all immigrant groups in the 2022 ACS was complete.<sup>8</sup>*

*For additional lawful permanent residents besides refugee resettlement who entered the U.S. in fiscal 2023, individuals granted LPR through nonadjustment during fiscal 2022 are added to this population as indicative of likely immigration of this group in fiscal 2023. These additional individuals are added using a population reweighting of LPR-assigned immigrants by nationality (nonrefugees) entering in 2021 or 2022. This reweighting occurred after the immigrant status assignment for all immigrant groups in the 2022 ACS was complete.*

## **Nonimmigrants (temporary immigrants)**

**Diplomats.** Immigrant respondents in the ACS older than 21, holding a high school diploma or higher education, and working in international government service industries are considered diplomatic nonimmigrants. Diplomatic visa population estimates are similar to recent figures in [DHS estimates](#) and [Department of State](#) visa approvals for nonimmigrants with A, G, and N visas.

*Diplomatic visas are not added for 2023 projections, as it is assumed that the size of this population largely stays the same year to year.*

**F-1 and M-1 international students.** Immigrants in the ACS arriving in the U.S. up to 10 years earlier and attending school in a higher education institution are considered international students. The resulting population estimate for international students is similar to the number of international students recorded by [Open Doors](#).

*F-1 and M-1 international students for 2023 projections are a reweighted population representing the numeric increase from the 2021-2022 to the 2022-2023 academic years (based on Open Doors trends) and proportionally applied to international students assigned in the ACS who entered in 2022.*

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<sup>8</sup> Newly arrived refugees resettled in the U.S. do not receive permanent residency; instead, they can apply for it after one year of living in the U.S. Nonetheless, the recently arrived refugee populations are considered permanent residents, as most adjust their status a year later.

**Optional Practical Training (OPT) participants.** [OPT](#) is a professional training opportunity for international students in the U.S. It offers those with F-1 student nonimmigrant status a job experience for up to three years. Immigrants in the ACS ages 22 to 30, who arrived since 2016, who are employed and hold a bachelor's degree or higher, are considered OPT holders. To differentiate this group from newly arrived immigrants starting their careers under a different visa, those assigned OPT status in the ACS are further defined as not owning a home. The resulting OPT population estimate is similar to those published in Open Doors.

*The OPT population for 2023 projections is a reweighted population representing the proportional increase in OPT participants from the 2021-2022 to the 2022-2023 academic years (based on Open Doors trends).*

**H-1B specialty occupation visa holders.** Professional, skilled workers with [H-1B](#) status can generally live and work in the U.S. for up to six consecutive years. Immigrants in the ACS 22 years and older who hold a bachelor's degree or higher education, entering the U.S. in 2012 or later, and are working in a top occupation of H-1B visa holders according to [Department of Labor](#) data, are considered H-1B visa holders. H-1B population estimates are similar to [estimates](#) published by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

*The H-1B population for 2023 projections is a reweighted population according to the number of H-1B individuals assigned in the ACS who entered in 2022.*

**H-2A agricultural workers.** Immigrants in the ACS who were born in H-2A eligible countries, are ages 18 through 64, who entered the U.S. in 2017 or later, and who are working in agricultural occupations according to [Department of Labor](#) data, are considered H-2A agricultural workers. Resulting population estimates are similar to the annual number of H-2A workers certified to work in the U.S., with downward adjustments, as all workers do not remain in the U.S. for the entire year.

*The H-2A population for 2023 projections is a reweighted population according to the number of H-2A individuals assigned in the ACS who entered in 2022.*

**H-2B non-agricultural workers.** Immigrants in the ACS from H-2B eligible countries who are ages 18 through 64, entered the U.S. 2017 or later, and are working in top, selected H-2B occupations, according to [Department of Labor](#) data, are considered non-agricultural workers. Resulting population estimates are similar to the annual number of H-2B workers certified to work in the U.S., with downward adjustments, as all workers do not remain in the U.S. for the entire year.

*The H-2B population for 2023 projections is a reweighted population according to the number of H-2B individuals assigned in the ACS who entered in 2022.*

**J cultural exchange visitors.** The following groups are considered J visa holders: (1) immigrants in the ACS living in the U.S. as au pairs ages 19 to 25 who arrived within the previous three years; (2) secondary school students ages 16 to 18 who arrived within the previous two years; and (3) physicians, professors, and other academics who arrived within the previous three years. The resulting population estimate is considerably smaller than [DHS estimates](#); it is assumed that the majority of J visa recipients are not captured in the ACS since they remain in the U.S. for a year or less.

*Since the J visa is temporary and holders are meant to return to their country of origin after a certain number of years, no adjustments were made in projecting the population to 2023.*

**L intracompany transferees.** Immigrants in the ACS older than 21 who entered the U.S. in 2016 or later, who have a high school diploma or higher education, and work in managerial/chief executive occupations according to [Department of Labor](#) data, are considered L visa holders. Resulting [L visa](#) population estimates are in line with [Department of State](#) visa approvals for nonimmigrant L visas.

*Since the L visa is temporary and holders are meant to return to their country of origin after a certain number of years, no adjustments were made in projecting the population to 2023.*

**O extraordinary ability workers and P athletes.** Immigrants in the ACS who work in entertainment or professional sports industries who entered the U.S. in 2016 or later are considered O or P visa holders.

*Since the O and P visas are temporary and holders are meant to return to their country of origin after a certain number of years, no adjustments were made in projecting the population to 2023.*

**R religious workers.** Immigrants in the ACS working in religious professions with some college or higher education who entered the U.S. in 2016 or later are considered R visa holders.

*Since the R visa is temporary and holders are meant to return to their country of origin after a certain number of years, no adjustments were made in projecting the population to 2023.*

**TN professionals.** Immigrants in the ACS working in professional occupations, holding a bachelor's degree or higher, who were born in Canada or Mexico, and entered the U.S. in 2016 or later, are considered TN visa holders.

*Since the TN visa is temporary and holders are meant to return to their country of origin after a certain number of years, no adjustments were made in projecting the population to 2023.*

**Nonimmigrant dependents.** Spouses and dependent children (less than 21 years old) of nonimmigrant visa holders identified in the preceding list, according to similar conditions (for example, places of birth, year of entry), are considered nonimmigrant dependents, with the exception of H-2A and H-2B visa holders, who are not permitted to have dependents accompany them.

*Population projection weights projecting the population to 2023 were included only for dependents of international students, OPT participants, and H-1B visa holders, reweighting the population to represent a doubling of the number entering the U.S. in 2022.*

The resulting total nonimmigrant population estimate in the ACS, according to broad categories, is similar to that provided by [DHS](#).

## Undocumented Immigrants

The number of undocumented immigrants is the residual of *lawful* immigrants—U.S. citizens, LPRs, and nonimmigrants assigned above—from the *total* number of immigrants living in the U.S., per the 2022 ACS, after initial population reweighting for undercounting.

The residual method of estimating the number of undocumented immigrants is similar to other research and policy organizations, including [Pew Research Center](#), [Migration Policy Institute](#), and [Center for Migration Studies](#).

Conventionally, immigrant respondents not assigned a lawful immigration status are considered undocumented individuals.<sup>9</sup>

According to our methods, the total number of undocumented immigrants estimated to live in the United States in 2022 that do not take into account most recent arrivals since 2021 is comparable to the 10 million to 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. estimated by other research organizations.<sup>10</sup> Consistent with [reporting](#) by these organizations, the total number of undocumented immigrants had largely stabilized during the past decade, prior to irregular migration seen in most recent years.

But with the relatively high level of recent migration into the U.S. outside of the permanent residency or nonimmigrant categories, more than year-old estimates of the undocumented population are not useful for real-time policymaking. To this end, FWD.us' derived estimates for the residual immigrant population, often referred to more generally as the undocumented population, need adjustments for recent migration. FWD.us researchers consulted DHS and CBP data to obtain the most current statistics of those who have entered the U.S. since the beginning of 2021 outside of permanent residency or nonimmigrant categories. Testing by FWD.us researchers demonstrates that the overwhelming majority of these more recent arrivals, largely by less traditional immigrant status pathways, were not captured in the 2022 ACS.<sup>11</sup>

Not every immigrant encounter recorded by CBP results in the individual remaining in the U.S. Accordingly, estimates of new arrivals are adjusted by the rates of parole, releases, or Notices to Appear (NTAs) by nationality and demographic group per Syracuse University's [Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse](#) (TRAC) data. These figures showing recent ["inadmissibles" at ports of entry](#) and [encounters by border patrol](#) allow researchers to have a reliable estimate of the number of people entering through these pathways and are likely living in the United States. Additionally, [media](#) and [DHS reports](#) on the size and demographic composition of those paroled into the U.S. are also used, including those from [Afghanistan](#) and [Ukraine](#), as well as individuals paroled into the U.S. using the [CBP One App](#) and the [Cuba-Haiti-Nicaragua-Venezuela](#) (CHNV) parole policy.<sup>12</sup>

*This combined population of new arrivals through these immigration pathways since 2021 was added to the 2022 ACS data as upward population weighting adjustments to those who entered the U.S. in 2021 or later according to nationality and age (adult vs. minor child) among those classified as undocumented in the 2022 assignment phase. Doing so grows the total immigrant population, and more specifically undocumented individuals, to be more representative of the actual 2023 population.*

Several groups within the traditionally understood undocumented population are actually protected from deportation. These groups are listed in the next section. The remaining individuals are considered undocumented immigrants without protections, or the "unprotected" population.

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9 Other research organizations estimate the size of the undocumented immigrant population by first calculating the total LPR and nonimmigrant populations. These estimates for the lawful immigrant population are computed using DHS data and employing demographic projection models, including varying emigration rates. A [recent study](#) indicates that the resulting size of the undocumented immigrant population can vary considerably based on different emigration rate assumptions for the lawful immigrant population. Consequently, an assignment strategy, as opposed to an LPR population target, can be just as reliable. Nonetheless, the resulting LPR population using an assignment strategy is within the bounds of previous research group estimates for the current LPR population living in the U.S., including those estimated by other research groups.

10 In addition to the overall adjustment for undercounted immigrants in the ACS mentioned earlier, undocumented immigrants within the farm workforce are also upwardly adjusted because these workers are largely out of reach of surveys like the ACS. This adjustment is based on [U.S. Department of Labor studies](#) showing that up to half of farmworkers are undocumented immigrants.

11 For some national groups, there was an increase from 2021 to 2022 that could be reflective of a portion of immigrants entering the U.S. via these pathways. To obtain more precise estimates, this increase between 2021 and 2022 is removed from the recent arrival data from DHS and CBP.

12 The estimates of undocumented immigrants are considered conservative, as they do not include those who overstayed visas in 2023 or those who entered without an encounter with border authorities.

# Protected Statuses

Several conventionally understood undocumented groups whose long-term status is precarious have lawful protections, such as Temporary Protection Status ([TPS](#)) holders, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ([DACA](#)) recipients, those in the process of adjusting to LPR status, and people seeking asylum. Other quasi-protected groups include those with parole, or those in the process of adjusting to a nonimmigrant status (for example, U or T visas) or an adjustment to permanent residency based on strict criteria in their undocumented status (for example, Special Immigrant Juveniles - SIJ).

Protected statuses are assigned exclusively to each respondent in the 2022 ACS, even though they may qualify for multiple, protected statuses. A hierarchy of protected statuses based on their certainty in immigration law and current court challenges is used, starting with TPS, DACA, and adjustment to permanent status. *These three groups were assigned prior to population projection reweighting for 2023.* The remaining protected groups assigned include other adjustees (SIJ, U and T visas), asylum seekers awaiting a decision on their case, and finally paroled individuals.

**TPS.** Respondents likely with TPS status include several hundred thousand immigrants from certain countries, including longer-term TPS designations such as El Salvador and Honduras, as well as those with more recent TPS designations such as Cameroon and Ethiopia, all based on population figures from [Congressional Research Service](#) as of September 30, 2023. Undocumented immigrants eligible for this protected status by their country of birth and their entry date into the U.S. are assigned TPS status. Sometimes a larger number of immigrants in the ACS data meets this group criteria than is indicated by administrative figures. In these cases, immigrant respondents meeting TPS criteria are randomly assigned. Spouses and children of adult TPS holders without status who also qualify for TPS are assumed to also have TPS.<sup>13</sup>

**DACA.** Based on an executive order published by President Obama in 2012 and a Final Rule submitted by the Biden administration in 2022, DACA allows those with certain criteria who entered the U.S. as children, but have no current, lawful status, to apply for protection from deportation. The DACA population estimate is based on the annual number of valid DACA recipients reported by [USCIS](#) as of 2023. Undocumented immigrants in the ACS eligible for DACA status by their entry date (before 2008), age (41 years old or younger as of 2022), education level (high school diploma or equivalent), or who are studying full time are assigned this status in the ACS data. Since a larger number of immigrants in the ACS data meet this group criteria than is indicated by the population target, immigrants are randomly assigned, with sex-specific population group targets for Mexican and non-Mexican DACA recipients in top recipient states of California, Texas, and another state combined group. DACA spouses eligible for DACA and married to a DACA recipient are also assigned this status.<sup>14</sup>

**Adjustment to permanent status.** The residual method conventionally used to identify undocumented immigrants also includes immigrants living in the U.S. but waiting for an adjustment of status to LPR, either through a family member or an employer-based visa. For those adjusting via family relations, this group of “undocumented” immigrants is based on those who arrived in the U.S. in 2022 or later and are a family member of a U.S. citizen. A further group representing those adjusting to permanent status via employment consists of a random sample of those with at least an undergraduate degree, are in the labor force, speak English, own a home, and entered the U.S. in 2013 or later. The resulting population is similar to the number of those adjusting to permanent residency status in 2022, according to [DHS statistics](#).

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<sup>13</sup> Eligibility is not considered TPS status. This estimation exercise examines the current status of the undocumented population, not their eligibility for protected status. Consequently, the recent designation of TPS for Venezuelans effective October 2023 is not included in these estimates.

<sup>14</sup> A greater number of individuals would be eligible for DACA if the processing of new applications were permitted by the courts; however, like TPS, this potential eligibility is not included in the estimates.

**Special immigrant juvenile status (SIJ).** [Undocumented juveniles](#) who are subject to juvenile court proceedings for parental abuse, neglect, or abandonment can apply for permanent residency. This process can take many years for final approval and eventual granting of a green card; however, applicants [are protected](#) while waiting for application processing. Relying on data from [USCIS](#) for the number of recent approvals and pending applications for SIJ, as well as the number of approved applicants who have received an LPR visa in recent years, the current number of pending applications at USCIS and those in the LPR backlog is estimated, dating back to 2010. The resulting population target for those with an SIJ is randomly drawn from the undocumented population with no other protections among those who are 25 years old or younger, not living with their parents, entered the U.S. in 2016 or later, and entered the U.S. before they turned 21 years old.<sup>15</sup> Total estimate for the number of SIJs is similar to this [SIJ backlog report](#).

**Adjustment to nonimmigrant status.** Several undocumented immigrants who are witnesses to or victims of criminal activity ([U visa](#)) or victims of trafficking ([T visa](#)) and their immediate family members are [protected from deportation and eligible for work authorization](#) after applying for these visas. If approved, these nonimmigrant visa holders can apply for permanent residency after three years of continual residence in the U.S. The total population target for this group is based on the [number](#) of pending principal and derivative applications for these statuses, plus the cumulative approved applications in the past four years (the length of time these visas are granted and can later adjust to LPR under certain conditions).<sup>16</sup> ACS respondents potentially with a nonimmigrant U or T adjustment or pending application were randomly selected from the remaining pool of unprotected, undocumented individuals ages 15 years or older, along with immediate family members.<sup>17</sup>

**Asylum seekers.** Undocumented immigrants in the 2022 ACS with a pending asylum claim were selected from the undocumented population by nationality, based on the nationality breakdown of pending asylum application figures from [TRAC](#) as of fiscal 2022. This nationality breakdown of asylum seekers is upwardly adjusted to the population totals for the combined number of affirmative and defensive asylum seekers with a pending decision.<sup>18</sup> When necessary, a random selection of undocumented immigrants in the 2022 ACS from these countries and entry date into the U.S. were assigned asylum-seeking status and extended to other family members in the household with the same entry year and nationality.

**Parole.** Between 2021 and 2023, hundreds of thousands of individuals were granted parole to enter the U.S. through administrative initiatives, including [Operation Allies](#) (Afghans), [Uniting for Ukraine](#), [Cuba-Haiti-Nicaragua-Venezuela](#) (CHNV) policy, and those passing a credible fear screening as part of the [CBP one app](#) process at the U.S. southern border's ports of entry. Estimates for these newly arrived, protected immigrants living in the U.S. are based on [media](#) and [CBP](#) reports, of which some demographic and nationality breakdowns are available. Short-term parole in recent years has also been granted to individuals encountered at the southwestern border. This parole status includes oversight by the immigration court and also provides opportunities for individuals to change their immigration status, most of whom likely claim asylum.

Population targets for paroled individuals living in the U.S. by nationality and age are based on the cumulative number of paroled individuals since 2021. To avoid the duplication of individuals with parole and other protected statuses, the number of new asylum seekers each year is subtracted from the cumulative number of paroled individuals since 2021.

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15 The state breakdown targets are based on this [2023 SIJ backlog report](#)

16 Pending and approved derivative applications are multiplied by 1.5 to adjust the figures from cases to individuals. The multiplier is based on this [USCIS report](#) of U visa applicants.

17 Nationality and gender population targets for principals were set according to breakdowns of U visas in this [USCIS report](#).

18 As affirmative asylum cases at USCIS are not individuals, a multiplier of 1.34 extra derivative individuals for each principal were added to obtain the overall total of affirmative asylum cases. This multiplier is based on [research](#) from TRAC that estimated the total pending asylum caseload across EOIR and USCIS.