PRESENTATION TO THE IMMIGRATION COMMISSION

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RESULTS OF RESEARCH PROJECT:INTEGRATION OF THE UNDOCUMENTED AND DOCUMENTED IN A NEW DESTINATION: UTAH

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Utah an Enterprising State according to U.S. Chamber

- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's "Enterprising States: Policies That Produce" report issued last week cites Utah as one of the fastest growing states in overall job and high-tech job growth. Utah's performance in exports was also highlighted. In the report, Utah earned the most top 10 rankings and tied with Texas for the most top 25 rankings in various categories.

QUOTES FROM U.S. CHAMBER: IMMIGRATION IS ONE FACTOR

- Even though immigration has slowed in recent years, it remains a major source of new workers and innovation. The United States' record of healthy and sustained immigration marks a major strategic competitive advantage.
- This will be particularly critical in terms of the innovation economy. "Youth," two researchers recently observed, brings more than a base of workers or taxpayers; it brings the ineluctable energy that propels everything."
- Much of this useful energy will come from abroad.

TWO SIDES TO IMMIGRATION

- RESOURCE AS NOTED BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- BUT ALSO PUTS DEMANDS ON THE SOCIETY
- SO ITS POSITIVE EFFECTS WILL BE FELT ONLY IF THE IMMIGRANTS ARE "INTEGRATED" INTO THE WIDER SOCIETY, IN THIS CASE THE STATE OF UTAH
- OUR RESEARCH PROJECT LOOKED AT SIX OF THE MANY DIMENSIONS OF IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION, THOSE ALLOWED BY OUR DATABASE

ELEMENTS OF INTEGRATION WE EXAMINED

1. Legal and political environment faced by immigrants
2. Active steps by migrants to integrate, e.g. Driver Licenses and licenses or Driver Privilege Cards for Undocumented Immigrants
3. Socio-economic and geographic mobility over time
4. Access to services, especially health, e.g. pre-natal care
5. Health outcomes such as obesity and low birth weight babies
6. Political involvement, informal or through electoral politics

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE DATA

Total records: 2.9 million, in 2009, our last download

Total valid driver license holders: 1,775,713

- Percent male: 50.5%
- Median Age: 40.0 years
- Share foreign born: 8.4%

- Total foreign born: 192,736
  - Percent male: 58.8%
  - Median age: 38.5 years
  - Mexican percent of foreign born: 41.2%

A FEW MAJOR CONCLUSIONS: SOCIO-ECONOMIC MOBILITY

- Immigrants integrated over time, e.g. the median income of neighborhoods where documented migrants lived were 87% of the income of native born in 2007.
- Undocumented immigrants "integrated" over time, as measured by higher income neighborhoods of residence.
- This might be partially the result of the newer immigrants first coming into an improved neighborhood of settlement.
- At the same time substantial segregation into lower SES neighborhoods persists.
- So the signs of integration are positive but certainly not complete.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

- IMMIGRANTS HAVE INTEGRATED INTO UTAH SOCIETY WITH A GREAT DEAL OF SUCCESS
- UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS ARE FOR THE MOST PART COMPARABLE TO DOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS ON MANY OF THE MEASURES. THEIR ACCESS TO AND USE OF THE DPC IS A LIKELY REASON
- THE YOUTH OF THE IMMIGRANTS, PARTICULARLY THE UNDOCUMENTED, SUGGEST THAT THEY BRING THE ENERGY HIGHLIGHTED BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- THE YOUTH AND RECENTNESS OF IMMIGRATION BY UNDOCUMENTED RESULTS IN THEIR HEALTH OUTCOMES BEING BETTER THAN NATIVE LATINOS AND IN MANY CASES THAN NATIVE WHITES
- FORMAL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IS LESS BUT INCREASES OVER TIME AND IS AFFECTED POSITIVELY AND STRONGLY BY LOCAL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

WHAT VALUE INTEGRATION?

- It is a perfect example of the “miracle of the market,” the resistance of market relations to efforts to regulate them.
- Much of the world’s dynamism has been from freeing international markets for goods, services, and finance, and allowing them to move where most efficient.
- Labor movements have been an exception, and immigration policy is the main barrier. We now have complaints from our high-tech companies about the scarcity of H1 Visas for highly qualified individuals.
- Undocumented immigration is a similar response to the scarcity of H2 or other work visas for persons who want to work and would like to return to their home country. The irony is that better enforcement has cut off return migration.

COST OF "DIS"INTEGRATION

- United Way study "The Case for Caution" documented the effect of anti-immigrant steps on local communities.
- An estimate of the cost of the Alabama Law was that the state's GDP was lowered between 1.3 and 6.2% in the year after it was passed.
- The estimate of the tourism loss to Arizona was $490 million in the first year and $752 million over several years.