

FACT SHEET

Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program FY 2015 Fact Sheet



U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services

Office of Policy and
Strategy



FY2015 Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program Fact Sheet

From fiscal years (FY) 2009 through 2015, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Office of Citizenship awarded 262 competitive grants totaling \$53 million to immigrant-serving organizations through the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program (CAGP).¹ These CAGP grant recipients from FY2009 through FY2015 have provided citizenship preparation services to over 156,000 lawful permanent residents (LPRs) in the District of Columbia and 35 states across the United States during this time. Specifically, CAGP grant recipients offer services to help applicants prepare for the English and civics portions of the naturalization test and submit the Application for Naturalization ([Form N-400](#)).

There were 80 CAGP grant recipients providing citizenship preparation services in FY 2015. CAGP grants are for a two-year period. Of the 80 2015 CAGP recipients, 40 provided their first year of services in FY 2014 and their second year of services in FY 2015. The other 40 2015 CAGP recipients provided their first year of services in FY 2015 and their second year of services in FY 2016. On average, each CAGP recipient received approximately \$250,000 in funding for their two-year grant.

This fact sheet provides an overview of the characteristics of and outcomes for those who received citizenship preparation services from organizations awarded CAGP funds in FY 2015. The characteristics highlighted include age, gender, marital status, occupation, country of birth, LPR class of admission, and length of time in LPR status. Outcomes examined include the kind of service provided to CAGP participants, naturalization application submission rates, English and civics test results, test exemptions, fee waivers, and naturalization rates.

Data Source:

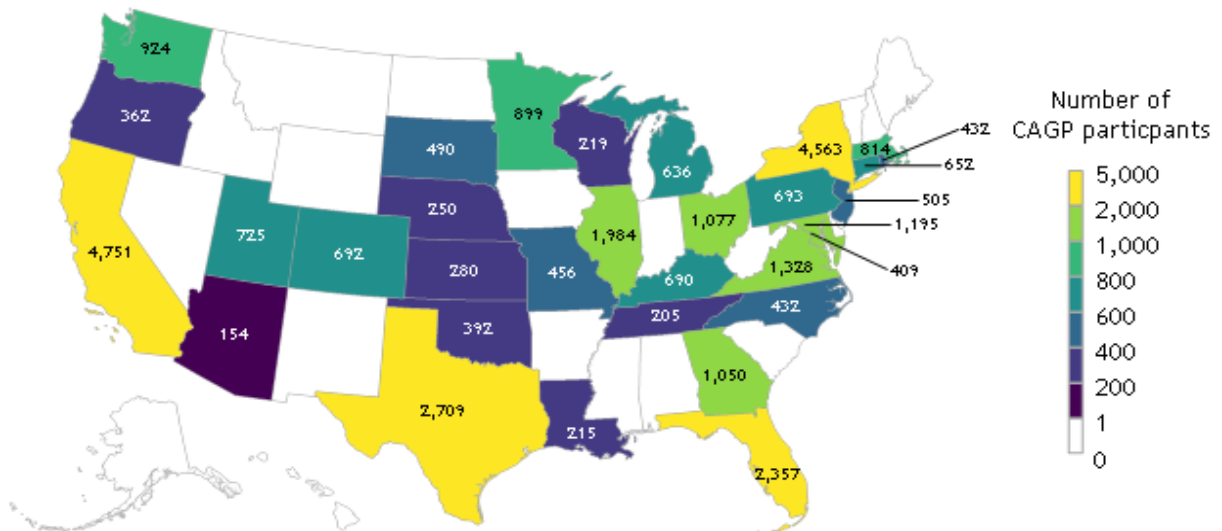
USCIS collected the underlying data from CAGP grant recipients (“CAGP data”) and USCIS data systems. In addition, corresponding Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) data was provided by USCIS Office of Information Technology (OIT). The USCIS Office of Policy and Strategy, Policy Research Division (PRD), Immigration Data Analysis Branch analyzed the data.

¹ The program was formerly known as the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program (CIGP). For details see [Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program web page](#). See [FY15 Grant Fact Sheet](#) and [FY16 Grant Fact Sheet](#).

CAGP Geographic Coverage

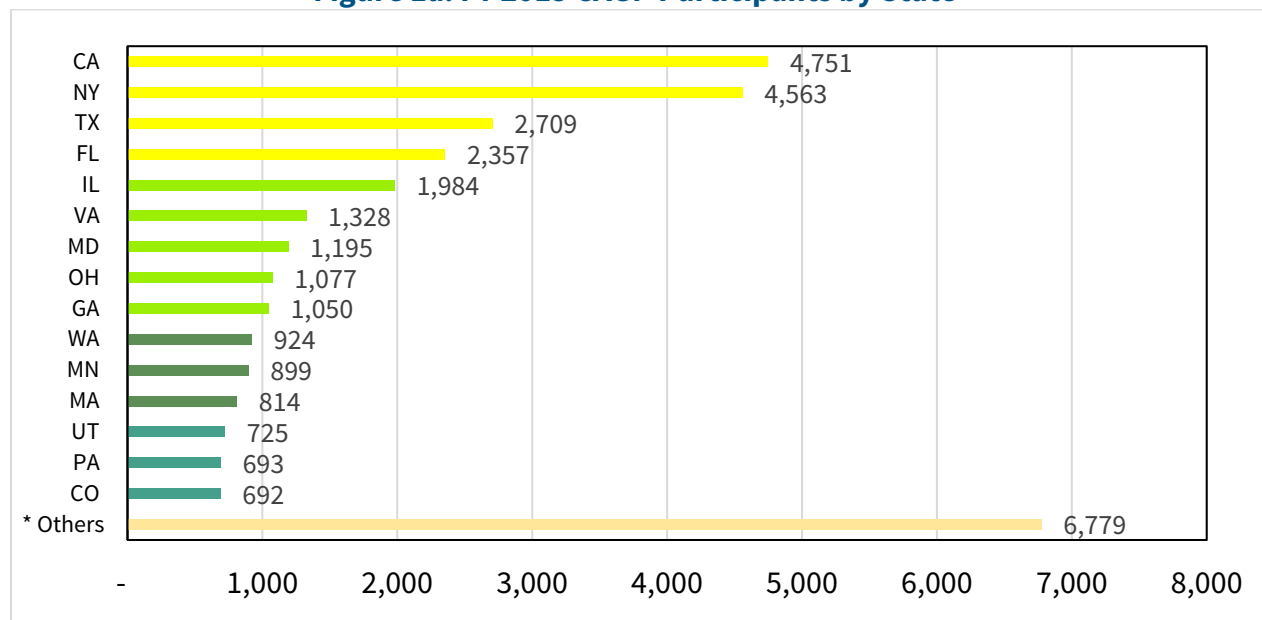
During FY 2015, 80 CAGP grant recipients provided citizenship preparation services to 32,540 LPRs in the District of Columbia and 31 states across the United States. (See Figure 1 and Figure 1a). Approximately half of all LPRs receiving services were located in six states: California (14.6%), New York (14%), Texas (8.3%), Florida (7.2%), Illinois (6.1%), and Virginia (4.1%).

Figure 1: FY 2015 CAGP Participants by State



Source: USCIS Lawful Permanent Resident and Naturalization Data; CAGP data.

Figure 1a: FY 2015 CAGP Participants by State



Source: USCIS Lawful Permanent Resident and Naturalization Data; CAGP data.

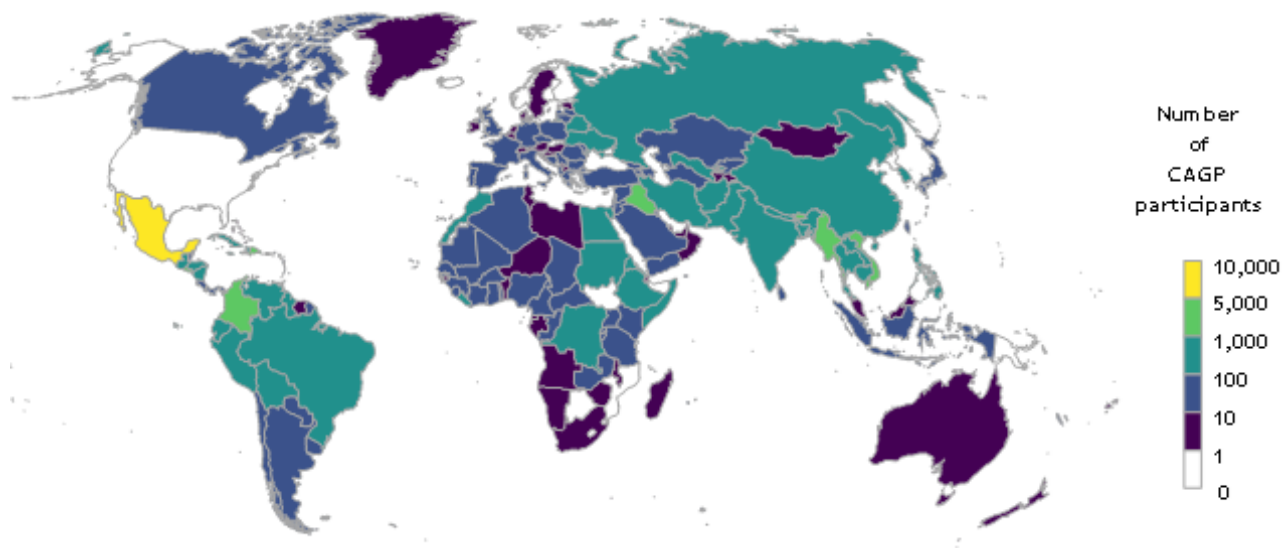
CAGP Participant Characteristics

The median age of LPRs who received services from CAGP recipients was 44. Females accounted for 60.3% of all CAGP participants. The majority of CAGP participants were married (62.3%), while 23.7% were single, and 9.4% divorced. Nearly one-third of CAGP participants reported that they had no occupation or were not working outside the home at the time they applied for naturalization (14.6% unemployed, 9.4% homemakers, 5% students, and 3.1% retirees); an additional 23.7% were in service occupations.

Approximately one-third of CAGP participants gained LPR status as immediate relatives of U.S. citizens (31.4%), while 30.3% were admitted as refugees and asylees, and another 19.5% were admitted under family-sponsored preferences categories. CAGP participants had spent a median duration of six years in LPR status at the time they enrolled in CAGP.

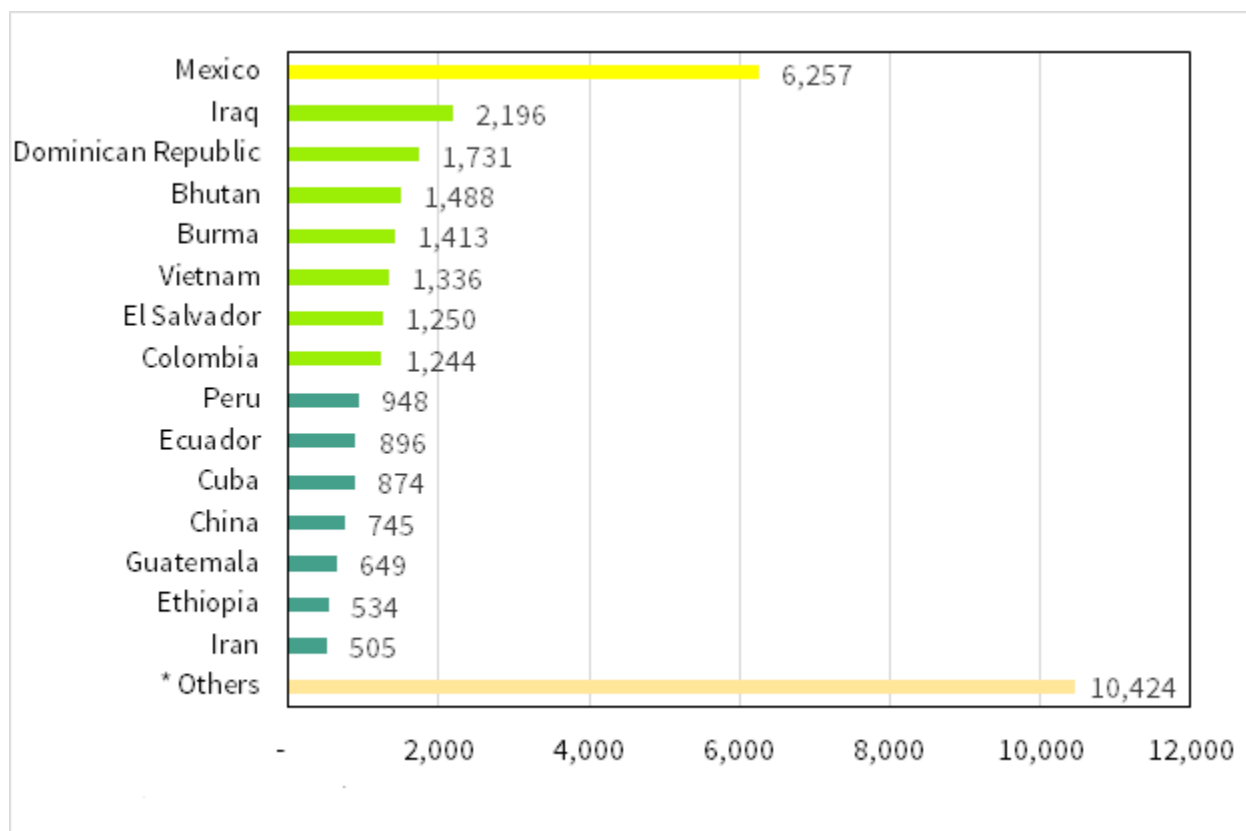
In total, CAGP participants were born in 160 different countries, with slightly more than half born in eight countries: Mexico (19.2%), Iraq (6.7%), Dominican Republic (5.3%), Bhutan (4.6%), Burma (4.3%), Vietnam (4.1%), El Salvador (3.8%), and Colombia (3.8%) (See Figure 2 and Figure 2a).

Figure 2: FY 2015 CAGP Participants by Country of Birth



Source: USCIS Lawful Permanent Resident and Naturalization Data; CAGP data.

Figure 2: FY 2015 CAGP Participants by Country of Birth



Source: USCIS Lawful Permanent Resident and naturalization data; CAGP data.

CAGP Services

Depending on need, CAGP recipients offered citizenship instruction services (English proficiency assessments, and English and civics instruction), and naturalization application services (screening to determine naturalization eligibility, assistance with filing Form N-400, and providing case-specific advice). Approximately one-fifth of CAGP participants used both citizenship instruction services and naturalization application services (20.1%), while 27.6% used only citizenship instruction services, and 52.2% used only naturalization application services.

Naturalization applicants may qualify for an exception to the English or civics portions of the naturalization test if they provide evidence that they are unable to comply with the English and civics requirements due to a medically determinable physical or developmental disability or mental impairment. Additionally, an applicant may qualify for an exception to the English portion based on their age and number of years as an LPR.² Among CAGP participants, 7.3%

² See [Exceptions and Accommodations web page](#) for details about naturalization test exceptions

received an exemption from the English portion of the naturalization test, 4.1% received an exemption from the civics portion, and 3.9% received an exemption from both portions.

CAGP Outcomes

During FY 2015, 69.7% (22,680 of 32,540) of CAGP participants submitted Form N-400 applications that were accepted. Of these, 98.7% went on to take the naturalization test for their applications³ (88.9% taking it once; 9.8% taking it twice), with 93.4% passing the naturalization test (87% on their first test; 6.4% on their second test), and 91.9% successfully becoming naturalized citizens. Of the CAGP participants with accepted applications, 52.7% met the financial hardship eligibility criteria and had their fee waiver request approved.⁴ Overall, 64% (20,833 of 32,540) of FY 2015 CAGP participants submitted Form N-400 applications that resulted in their naturalization.

CAGP Participant Characteristics and Outcomes Summary

Fifty percent of FY 2015 CAGP participants lived in five states: California 15%, New York 14%, Texas 8%, Florida 7%, and Illinois 6%.

In total, FY 2015 CAGP participants were born in 160 different countries. The top five countries of birth, comprising 40 % of total CAGP participants were: Mexico 19%, Iraq 7%, Dominican Republic 5%, Bhutan 5% and Burma 4%.

About half of FY 2015 CAGP participants were less than 45 years old. The median age was 44.

Over 75% of CAGP participants were born in the following regions: Asia 33%, North America 19%, South America 12%, and the Caribbean 11%.

Females accounted for 60% of all FY 2015 CAGP participants. The majority of CAGP participants were married 62%, while 24% were single, and 9% were divorced.

For more information, refer to **table 1**, **table 2**, and **table 3** below.

³ This includes CAGP participants who took both portions of the naturalization test (English and civics) or received an exemption for one or both portions.

⁴ See [Filing a Fee Waiver](#) web page for details about application fee waivers.

Table 1: FY 2015 CAGP Participant Characteristics

	Number of CAGP participants	% female	Median age	% single	% married	% unemployed	% with/ Form N-400 fee waived	% with/ Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens COA ¹	% with/ Refugees and asylees COA ¹	% with/ Family-sponsored preferences COA ¹	Median years in LPR status
Total	32,540	60.3%	44	23.7%	62.3%	14.6%	36.7%	31.4%	30.3%	19.5%	6
Region of birth											
Asia	10,777	56.9%	42	21.7%	68.6%	19.2%	50.9%	17.6%	59.2%	15.7%	5
North America	6,300	60.7%	45	20.8%	67.6%	9.9%	20.6%	42.4%	0.3%	25.9%	11
South America	4,050	65.3%	50	18.3%	60.4%	10.3%	26.6%	53.0%	7.0%	21.4%	7
Caribbean	3,708	65.1%	46	32.7%	48.2%	15.0%	43.0%	37.5%	20.6%	34.3%	8
Africa	3,362	57.1%	37	32.8%	54.3%	14.8%	47.7%	19.1%	58.3%	3.4%	5
Central America	2,762	62.3%	46	27.6%	58.3%	10.5%	19.4%	31.2%	3.7%	24.4%	10
Europe	1,459	61.4%	52	14.5%	61.8%	18.6%	22.3%	39.9%	23.5%	4.9%	7
Unknown	71	52.1%	44	18.3%	45.1%	7.0%	8.5%	19.7%	8.5%	5.6%	9
Oceania	51	68.6%	55	11.8%	64.7%	11.8%	41.2%	49.0%	3.9%	29.4%	8

Source: USCIS Lawful Permanent Resident and naturalization data; CAGP data.

¹These columns represent CAGP participants' Class of Admission when granted LPR status.

Table 2: FY 2015 CAGP Services and Outcomes by Participant Characteristics

	Number of CAGP participants	% of all CAGP participants	% receiving only citizenship instruction services	% receiving only naturalization application services	% receiving both citizenship instruction and naturalization application services	% with viable applications during FY 2015 CAGP service period	% who naturalized based on viable application
Total	32,540	100.0%	27.6%	52.2%	20.1%	69.7%	64.0%
Region of birth							
Asia	10,777	33.1%	25.4%	53.1%	21.5%	76.9%	70.6%
North America	6,300	19.4%	30.5%	49.3%	20.3%	58.9%	55.4%
South America	4,050	12.4%	35.5%	44.0%	20.6%	68.8%	62.9%
Caribbean	3,708	11.4%	31.0%	55.4%	13.6%	68.7%	61.7%
Africa	3,362	10.3%	18.3%	62.9%	18.8%	75.1%	67.7%
Central America	2,762	8.5%	31.8%	47.2%	21.1%	62.8%	58.3%
Europe	1,459	4.5%	16.2%	58.1%	25.7%	70.3%	65.8%
Unknown	71	0.2%	26.8%	50.7%	22.5%	28.2%	28.2%
Oceania	51	0.2%	7.8%	74.5%	17.6%	80.4%	78.4%
Class of Admission when granted LPR status							
Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens	10,230	31.4%	31.8%	46.3%	21.8%	65.0%	59.3%
Refugees and asylees	9,862	30.3%	24.1%	57.3%	18.6%	76.9%	70.3%
Family-sponsored preferences	6,344	19.5%	28.6%	51.7%	19.7%	67.5%	61.6%
Other (Diversity visa, IRCA, parolees, unknown, etc.)	4,468	13.7%	23.2%	57.3%	19.4%	66.8%	62.6%
Employment-based preferences	1,636	5.0%	30.4%	47.4%	22.2%	72.2%	68.8%
Years in LPR status²							
3 years	2,381	7.5%	30.3%	50.1%	19.6%	71.0%	65.5%
4 years	4,914	15.4%	24.5%	55.0%	20.5%	79.9%	74.8%
5 years	4,707	14.8%	25.9%	50.5%	23.7%	79.2%	74.4%
6 years	3,885	12.2%	31.3%	45.9%	22.7%	74.2%	67.5%
7 years	2,095	6.6%	31.9%	46.8%	21.2%	68.9%	62.3%
8 years	1,557	4.9%	33.9%	43.9%	22.2%	65.0%	59.2%
9 years	1,976	6.2%	30.1%	48.1%	21.9%	68.4%	62.0%
10 to 19 years	6,327	19.8%	26.2%	55.6%	18.3%	63.9%	57.8%
20 years or more	3,936	12.3%	19.9%	65.2%	15.0%	61.3%	56.5%
Unknown	132	0.4%	34.1%	53.8%	12.1%	23.5%	3.0%

Source: USCIS Lawful Permanent Resident and naturalization data; CAGP data.

² The 'Years in LPR status' section of the table excludes 630 CAGP participants with less than 3 years in LPR status as of 2015.

Table 3: FY 2015 CAGP Services and Outcomes by Participant Characteristics

	Number of CAGP participants	% of all CAGP participants	% receiving only citizenship instruction services	% receiving only naturalization application services	% receiving both citizenship and naturalization application services	% with viable applications during FY 2015 CAGP service period	% who naturalized based on viable application
Total	32,540	100.0%	27.6%	52.2%	20.1%	69.7%	64.0%
Gender							
Female	19,618	60.3%	30.2%	48.6%	21.3%	70.1%	64.6%
Male	12,893	39.6%	23.7%	57.8%	18.4%	69.3%	63.3%
Unknown	29	0.1%	27.6%	58.6%	13.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Marital status							
Married	20,287	62.3%	30.7%	47.4%	22.0%	69.6%	63.8%
Single	7,700	23.7%	20.0%	65.2%	14.8%	66.2%	60.3%
Divorced	3,065	9.4%	27.9%	49.7%	22.4%	79.6%	76.4%
Widowed	1,297	4.0%	24.9%	57.1%	18.0%	74.2%	68.3%
Unknown	130	0.4%	26.2%	58.5%	15.4%	22.3%	1.5%
Separated	61	0.2%	24.6%	50.8%	24.6%	36.1%	29.5%
Age³							
18 to 24 years	2,710	8.3%	10.7%	76.6%	12.7%	80.4%	77.2%
25 to 34 years	6,334	19.5%	22.4%	59.5%	18.1%	76.2%	71.5%
35 to 44 years	7,244	22.3%	30.7%	46.6%	22.7%	70.3%	65.0%
45 to 54 years	7,118	21.9%	35.5%	42.0%	22.5%	65.2%	58.9%
55 to 64 years	5,159	15.9%	31.6%	46.8%	21.7%	65.0%	58.2%
65 years and over	3,866	11.9%	22.5%	59.8%	17.7%	66.8%	59.5%
Unknown	38	0.1%	36.8%	47.4%	15.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Occupation							
Unknown	9,497	29.2%	29.9%	50.4%	19.6%	55.8%	50.0%
Service occupations	7,722	23.7%	28.2%	49.9%	21.8%	79.1%	73.5%
Unemployed	4,735	14.6%	24.1%	55.6%	20.3%	81.2%	74.0%
Homemakers	3,057	9.4%	35.7%	44.0%	20.3%	62.6%	56.8%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	1,729	5.3%	25.0%	54.0%	20.9%	79.9%	75.6%
Students	1,617	5.0%	20.0%	65.9%	14.1%	53.9%	50.0%
Sales and office occupations	1,588	4.9%	23.0%	58.5%	18.5%	79.3%	75.3%
Retirees	993	3.1%	19.6%	61.6%	18.7%	85.3%	79.5%
Management, professional, and related occupations	761	2.3%	25.2%	54.5%	20.2%	74.2%	70.7%
Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations	668	2.1%	27.8%	49.9%	22.3%	74.3%	68.7%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	163	0.5%	22.1%	50.9%	27.0%	48.5%	36.8%
Military	10	0.0%	10.0%	50.0%	40.0%	80.0%	80.0%

Source: USCIS Lawful Permanent Resident and naturalization data; CAGP data.

³The 'Age' section of the table excludes 71 CAGP participants who were less than 18 years old as of 2015.