

# A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE OF IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION: EVIDENCE FROM UTAH

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**Abstract:** *Immigration and the role of immigrants in U.S. society continue to be contested, though the effects of the 2012 Presidential election may lessen the national polarization. The experience of Utah both illustrates the tension in immigrant integration and offers insights into a successful attempt to address the issues. The Utah stance toward migrants has been and continues to be “blurred.” Several policies are quite welcoming, and the principles in the Utah Compact have provided a basis for measured discussion and have stopped new anti-immigrant legislation from being passed. The end result has been a relatively successful integration process that has melded the native attitudes toward immigrants, with the immigrants’ capabilities and efforts to integrate. So in contrast with other states, such as Arizona or Alabama, the mutual benefits that immigration offers have been largely realized.*

*Most importantly, the immigrants, both documented and undocumented, have actively pursued integration with Utah society on a whole series of dimensions, from obtaining driver privilege cards to participating in political activity. They may be transnational actors, but they clearly exhibit a commitment to their new physical location. As such they have been quite active participants in brokering the boundaries between them and the wider Utah society. This, along with the evolution of policy and attitudes in the state, has led to very positive results in terms of their social mobility and health outcomes, exactly as we would expect from the history of a nation of immigrants.*

**Key-words:** *immigration, integration, undocumented, brokered boundaries, demography*

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## 1. Introduction

President Kennedy's book, *A Nation of Immigrants* (1964) will soon be 50 years old, and its title is more true today than at that time. The immigrant flow into the US in the 1950s when Kennedy actually wrote the book was 1.7 percent of the existing population. In the 2000's it had risen to 5.7 percent.

The 2011 Utah Legislature passed an enforcement only immigration law already challenged in court. It also passed a proposed guest worker program to be run by the state, and which the Federal government is likely to challenge. These seemingly contradictory steps evidence not only the difficulty in formulating coherent state policy in this arena but also the continued evolution of Utah's stance toward the challenge of integrating. Utah has been much more successful in integrating immigrants than most of the states that had rapid increases in immigrants. The complex dimensions of that success are the subject of this paper.

Utah is a "new immigrant destination" being ranked sixth among states in the percent increase of foreign born during the 1990s, 174 percent (Stewart and Jameson, 2010, 2). The rate of increase slowed after 2000 but was double the national rate, resulting in 8.3 percent of the state's population being foreign born. Over half of them were from Latin America, predominantly Mexico, and an estimated 101,000 of the 226,000 foreign born are undocumented (Warren, 2011).

Utah policy at the end of the 1990's was quite accommodating, even to the undocumented. In 1999 they were allowed to obtain driver licenses using a tax number rather than a social security number. Since 2002 undocumented high school graduates have been allowed to pay in-state tuition at state institutions of higher education, consistent with the aspirations of the national DREAM Act. Over the decade, however, policy has hardened, e.g. in 2005 the driver license became a "driving privilege card" (DPC) that could not be used for other identification purposes. And every year sees legislative proposals to repeal both programs.

Nonetheless, the policy debate on immigration took a very interesting turn in Utah in 2011 when a new narrative on immigration and immigrants became a central factor in the debate. This was the "Utah Compact," brought forward by a coalition of religious groups, business people, and respected politicians. It suggested five principles to guide the debate: immigration policy is a federal responsibility; law enforcement should concentrate on criminal activity, not civil violations of federal code; policies that unnecessarily separate families should be opposed; Utah's immigration policies should reflect its welcoming and business friendly atmosphere; and immigrants are integrated into Utah communities and should be treated humanely. The Compact has been taken up by at least 12 other states and it succeeded in blunting the most extreme anti-immigrant tendencies of the Utah legislature and solidifying the success in integrating immigrants into Utah society.

The current US population is slightly over 300 million persons. Passel and Cohn's (2010) snapshot of foreign born immigrants highlights their significance. There were 39.4 million foreign born in the U.S. in 2009, including 14.6 million naturalized citizens, 12.4 million legal permanent resident aliens, 11.1 million undocumented aliens, and 1.4 million legal temporary migrants. Nonetheless, immigration policy and integration of immigrants is among the most divisive issues in the country today. In June, 2011, the Supreme Court struck down most sections of Arizona's highly punitive immigration law by holding that Federal policy pre-empts most state laws. Arizona had become a model for the anti-immigrant efforts of many state legislatures, and similar laws in Alabama and other states were effectively reversed by this decision. In addition, the Obama administration, after undertaking record-setting numbers of deportations, changed its enforcement policy first to concentrate on felons and then to exempt those under thirty who had been brought to the US illegally as children. In addition to being politically popular, this new policy resonates with the many pro-immigration positions of groups such as the Chamber of Commerce (2012, 10), which wrote "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."

Given the importance of immigration and the wildly divergent perspectives on the role of immigrants, the article will document Utah's success in integrating immigrants, using data from a unique database for the state of Utah to allow a deeper understanding of a number of the dimensions of immigrant integration. It combines these data with the analytical framework proposed by Massey and Sánchez (2010) to understand the factors that affect the actual integration of immigrants in Utah. The data allow us to separate undocumented immigrants from those who are in the state legally, and to compare both groups to those born in the US. After a survey of the literature on international migration, the next section lays out the Massey/ Sánchez framework of "brokered boundaries." The following section describes the context that Utah's policies provide for the interaction of immigrants and natives, the "framing and boundary work done by natives." (14) The next section specifies what documented immigrants bring to the interaction and that is followed by the same treatment of the undocumented. The final section provides detail on the successful integration of the immigrants into Utah, allowing a much broader perspective on the challenge of immigration and the fluctuating boundaries that determine its effects on the wider society.

## **2. Literature review**

The Utah experience can only be understood within the context of the post-industrial migration experience that began in the 1960s (Massey, et al., 1998). Several of its

characteristics account for the integration challenge that Utah faces. Among these are that the immigrants come from labor surplus countries whose wealth and income are vastly lower than the receiving country. In addition, immigrants are often not perceived as wanted or needed, despite the demand for their services (Massey et al., 1998, 6-7). So conflicts over integration of immigrants appear inevitable. The complexity of the process has made theorizing about its determinants very unsatisfactory. For example, Jennissen (2007) is forced to find causality in four factors, economic, political, social, and an amorphous "linkage." Such a broad array of factors does little to focus understanding. Approaches that see migration through the lens of globalisation and that can examine the gender, race and class dimensions to the migration process (Munck, 2008) are more fruitful and suggest important dimensions to understanding the challenge of integration of immigrants in receiving sites.

Another complicating factor in contemporary migration patterns is its transnationality (Faist, 2010; Levitt and Jaworsky, 2007). Because of the changed nature of migration and as a result of increased facilities for communication and transportation, immigrants often operate both in their new homes as well as in their sending countries and communities. They are part of the diaspora and so their sense of belonging is quite complex (Frykman, 2001). Thus their imperative to integrate is less and allows them to use their capacities to influence the degree of integration and to negotiate many of its dimensions. While this places the focus on the local/state level, Sassen (2004) has shown that transnationality has at the same time reduced the autonomy of the state in making immigration policy while multiplying the sectors in the state that are concerned with immigration.

The final point to emphasize, as we examine a successful experience of immigrant integration, is that the institutional structure is central to the process, a lesson that can be learned from all migration experiences, be they contemporary or those of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Bertocchi and Strozzi, 2008). Thus the focus of the paper is exactly where we can draw the strongest lessons on successful integration of immigrants.

### **3. Brokered boundaries**

Even a casual knowledge of the history of US immigration and the integration of large numbers of immigrants would cause one to expect that the large inflows of recent decades would occasion controversy and both pro- and anti-reactions. That is certainly the case. For example, between 2005 and 2008, the number of immigration bills in state legislatures rose from 300 to 1305 annually; most had an anti-immigrant tone and were a reaction to the increase in immigrants (Stewart and Jameson, 2012, 2). In Utah, there was one immigration bill in 1999, allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain a driver license under most circumstances. By 2008, there were thirty bills discussed, all aimed at creating barriers for immigrants.

Massey and Sánchez (2010, 16-17) establish a framework for understanding the dynamics of the overall integration process, suggesting that it is indeterminate, though three components will determine its outcome.

- First are the characteristics and motivations of the natives, with respect to both themselves and the newcomers. Of greatest importance in this case are the frames and boundaries natives deploy to define and characterize immigrants as an “outgroup.” The boundaries can be “bright” and rigid or “blurred” and fluid. As we will see in the next section, Utah’s boundaries have tended toward the blurred side, though they became brighter over time until the Utah Compact changed the nature of the discourse.
- Second are the characteristics and motivations of the immigrants themselves. They note a number of relevant elements: what they look like, the language they speak, their cultural beliefs, and what they are trying to achieve by migrating. When we examine the characteristics of immigrants included in our database, we will find that they have some characteristics that can aid their integration, while others complicate that process.
- Finally, daily encounters and interactions confront the competing frames, motivations and boundaries, and they broker the identity formation and integration of the migrants. These interactions are myriad and diverse, and our data allow us to view an important slice of them and to assess in some degree the differential experience of the documented and the undocumented immigrants.

This framework, combined with the data we use, provides a rich overview of the integration of the new immigrants in Utah. Past waves of migration to the US from the 1880s to 1930s were assimilated through the two-way negotiation process (Massey and Sánchez, 2010, 12-13). The same is not necessarily the case with these new migrants, particularly in a situation like Utah’s that had not seen large foreign immigration after its initial white settlement in the 1850s. However, the above three elements have intertwined in Utah’s successful process. To them we now turn.

#### ***4. Utah’s blurred boundaries to new immigrants***

Utah’s foreign-born population was only 3.4 percent in 1990, but had risen to 8.3 percent by 2008 (MPI, 2012). So immigration policy became a major concern. The seemingly contradictory steps noted above suggest that Utah’s “natives” frame their relation to the immigrants ambiguously, perpetuating blurred boundaries. The steps also capture the continued evolution of Utah’s stance toward integrating immigrants into a New Destination.

In 2008, Utah passed SB81 whose main purpose was to involve local law enforcement in immigration enforcement. It required immigration checks of those

charged with felonies or DUI's, encouraged Memoranda of Understanding between local law enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security to enforce immigration law, required documentation to access public services (as already required by the Federal government), required use of e-verify for public employers, and made transporting or harboring illegal aliens a misdemeanor. This was a comprehensive effort to create a bright boundary between natives and undocumented immigrants, and certainly led to a chill in relations with all immigrants. However, the boundaries remained blurred. For example, public or charitable aid and non-paid religious service providers were exempt from the harboring law. In addition, only three police agencies agreed to enforce immigration laws, one of which was later removed from the program by the Federal government. Many police departments, most notably in the capital, Salt Lake City, actively and aggressively objected to the program and publicized their rejection, in an effort to reassure immigrants and to insure their willingness to cooperate with law enforcement (Burbank, Goff, and Keesee, 2010).

The end result of over a decade of legislation carried out for its citizens by the Utah legislature is a set of boundaries toward immigrants that have hardened but remain quite blurred, particularly for the undocumented. In addition, the policy debate on immigration changed dramatically in Utah in 2011 with the Utah Compact. This assessment is further reinforced by the actions of the "Immigration Commission" established to "develop a comprehensive plan to address immigration, use of migrant workers, and integration of immigrants in Utah." They suggested that the 2012 legislature not pass any new immigration laws, and for the most part there was no additional activity.

Let us turn now to examine the information we have on what immigrants, documented and undocumented, bring to the negotiating table.

Any attempt to describe the characteristics of the immigrants, documented and undocumented, must be multi-dimensional. Massey and Sánchez (2010, 17) gained their information by in-depth interviews with 159 immigrants in three eastern urban areas. They describe "their social, economic, and physical characteristics, their motives for migrating to the United States, and their long-term intentions with respect to settlement versus return." Our approach is of necessity different, with advantages and disadvantages. We have the advantage of much more complete and representative coverage of immigrants, documented and undocumented, and a more complete description of their social, economic, and physical characteristics. On the other hand, any motivations or plans for permanency can only be inferred from the data, rather than directly represented. In any case, we find that the immigrants have many of the characteristics that support the claim that they are an important new resource for the country and for Utah. Let us turn now to examine their characteristics as captured in Table 1.

Table 1  
*Characteristics of documented and undocumented immigrants*

	<b>1: Total DPC holders</b>	<b>2: Foreign born: total</b>	<b>3: DLD: total-valid</b>	<b>4: Census/MPI data-Utah</b>
Total	55,603	192,736	1,775,713	2,000,455 <sup>1</sup>
Percent male	65.9 percent	58.8 percent	50.5 percent	49.9 percent <sup>1</sup>
Median age	31.5 years	38.5 years	40.0 years	39.5 years <sup>1</sup>
Age at 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	44 years	60 years	71 years	67 years
Share of foreign born			8.4 percent <sup>2</sup>	8.3 percent (226,440) <sup>4</sup>
Birth Country Mexico	87.0 percent <sup>2</sup>	42.3 percent <sup>2</sup>	41.2 percent <sup>3</sup>	44.2 percent <sup>4</sup>
First known pre-2000	592= 1.4 percent	99,527=51.6 percent	1,024,732=59.9 percent	

Source:

1. US Bureau of Census. Annual Population Estimates, Table 2, 2008 (Total population 16 years and older). The MPI (2012) estimates of foreign born and Mexican origin are based on the Census and are for the total population.
2. The numbers and percentages are of those with birth country listed. In the full sample, 19 percent have no birth country; in the DPC group, 31 percent have no birth country.
3. There are 330,861 valid license holders who have no birth country listed in the DLD file.
4. As percent of foreign born (MPI, 2012), estimated to be 226,440.

First, comparing the Census calculations for Utah's population (Column 4) with the Driver License Database, on which our empirical results are based (Column 3), shows that the DLD is representative of the state's adult population. That 1.77 million persons have driver licenses indicates that 88.7 percent of the population over 16 years of age (2,000,455) have valid driving documents, including the DPC.<sup>1</sup> More importantly, the demographic characteristics of the driver license holders are similar to those of the adult population, and the differences result from known patterns of driver license accession. There are slightly more males than females who have driver documents, 50.5 percent. Males are only 49.9 percent of the population over 16, but studies have shown that they are slightly more likely to drive than females. The median age is 39.5 years in the Census data and 40.0 years in the DLD, which reflects the observation that the likelihood of obtaining a driver document increases with age (Sivak and Schoettle, 2011). The large difference in the age at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, 67 years in the Census data and 71 in the DLD data reinforces this

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<sup>1</sup> The 2009 Federal Highway Administration estimate is that 86% of eligible persons have licenses in Utah. The difference is that their data exclude the holders of driving privilege cards. When they are removed from our total, the percent with driver licenses is 85.9 percent, almost exactly the FHA share.

pattern. In addition, the total share of the foreign born in the two data sets is quite close, 8.3 percent in the MPI (2012) estimate (based on the Census) and 8.4 percent in the DLD data. The MPI count of foreign born is 226,440 in total. The 192,736 foreign born in the DLD data are only those over 16. The other 33,704 persons are mainly foreign born children. The only important difference is the share born in Mexico, where the MPI estimate is 44.2 percent and the DLD data is 41.2 percent. The explanation is that the immigrants, especially the undocumented who are heavily from Mexico, are younger and largely in the child bearing ages. So they are more likely to have children born in Mexico who are too young to obtain driver documents.

The contrast in the characteristics of the immigrants and the full population of Utah is quite strong, highlighting the characteristics that the immigrants have contributed to the state. The foreign born tend to be much more heavily male, 58.8 percent in contrast to 49.9 percent for the state as a whole. They also tend to be younger, with a median age of 38.5 years and an even larger difference when the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is compared, 60 years compared with 71 years in the full DLD. In addition, the share with Mexican origin is slightly larger than in the total database, 42.3 percent as opposed to 41.6 percent. Finally, about half of the immigrants entered the database, generally by obtaining a driver license, prior to 2000, while 60 percent of those in the full database were already licensed by 2000. This reflects the upsurge in immigration during the 1990s (Passel and Suro, 2005). These characteristics reflect the general pattern of immigration: the migrants come to Utah to work, they tend to be males both because of their family relations and their greater labor force participation rates, and the migration inflows have increased in recent years.

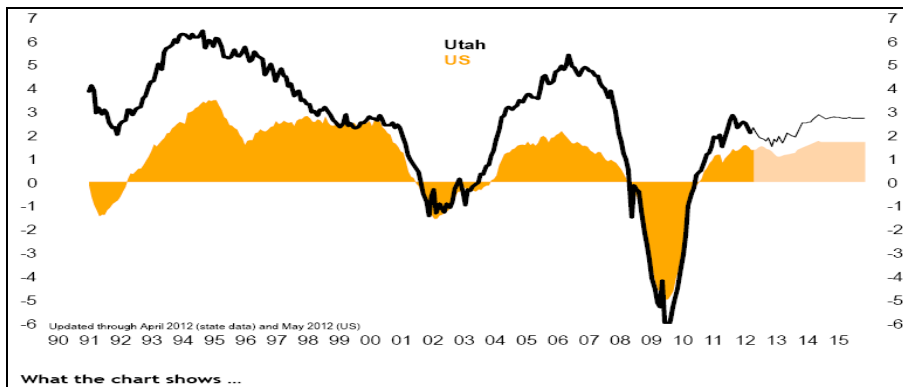
When we turn to the undocumented, these patterns are even more pronounced. The holders of DPC's are 65.9 percent male; they are on average eight years younger than the overall population and seven years younger than the average migrant. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile age is even more notably younger, 44 years compared with 60 years for all immigrants. They are very heavily of Mexican origin, 87 percent.

These characteristics make it clear that they have contributed to the process of "industrial restructuring" described in Massey (2008). These predominantly young males came to states with more rapid job growth and into industries that required a different set of skills, generally lower skills. One factor was that employment growth in Utah since 1990 was quite robust.



Figure 1

Employment (percent change from 12 months earlier)



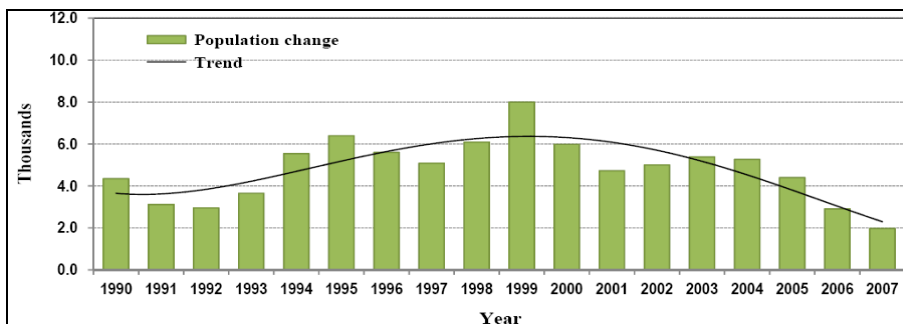
Source: J.P. Morgan, 2012.

We can see that almost uniformly the rate of employment growth in Utah was higher than the national rate, indicating the attraction to immigrants, including the undocumented. Another indicator of their link to the state's economy is captured quite well in a list of the ten top occupations of Utah's foreign born population (Perlich, 2008, 14). For example, the top five occupations were assemblers and fabricators, laborers/material movers, cooks, retail salespersons, maids/housekeeping.

Further indications can be seen in Figure 2, which shows the increase in the undocumented immigrants into the state.

Figure 2

Annual Change in the Unauthorized Immigrant Population in Utah: 1990 to 2007



Source: Warren, 2011.

The pattern is very similar to the employment growth pattern (Warren, 2011). Note especially the slowing of undocumented immigration during the 2001-2002 recession period, when employment actually declined in the state. This indicates once again that the undocumented immigrants brought a set of characteristics that fit the needs of the Utah economy quite well from the 1990s on. The decline from the peak influx of 8000 in 1999 to around 2000 in 2007 shows once again the link between the characteristics of the undocumented and needs of the Utah economy. That only 1.4 percent of the undocumented entered the database prior to 2000 reflects their peripheral links to the society prior to the law that allowed access to driver licenses in 1999. There was also a shift toward a higher percentage of undocumented Mexican immigrants at the same time (Passel and Suro, 2005), a pattern captured quite well in the DLD data.

In summary, the immigrants to Utah, including the undocumented, had characteristics that were valuable to the state. Their youth and male predominance clearly responded to a labor market that was restructuring during the period of highest immigration. Recent estimates suggest that there is currently almost no immigration to the state and perhaps an outflow of foreign born workers. Again, this would reflect the downturn occasioned by the 2007-2008 recession and the non-recovery since that period. In any case, the characteristics of the immigrants were quite positive in the context of the needs of the economy of the state.

Let us turn now to the interactions of migrants and the native society, the third and key factor in the integration of immigrants and in their identity formation.

The Driver License Database is one component of the Utah Population Database, which has allowed investigation of a broad set of integration indicators that capture the outlines of the brokered boundaries between natives and immigrants. The ability to isolate the undocumented has made it a unique resource, for the DPC allowed specific consideration of the degree of integration of the 55,603 undocumented who held a DPC in 2009. There are no other studies that have been able to directly research such a significant share of a state's undocumented population.

The general conclusion is that both documented and undocumented actively pursue the avenues of integration afforded them. For example, we estimate that 71 percent of undocumented adults have obtained DPC's, even though that specifically identifies their migration status.<sup>1</sup> And state audits indicated that 76 percent of DPC holders have auto insurance, compared with 81 percent of all drivers (Stewart and Jameson, 2010). Similarly, the rate at which all immigrants obtain driver documents is approximately the same as the rate for natives, or perhaps even slightly higher. The

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<sup>1</sup> The 55,603 are 71 percent of the estimated 78,314 adult undocumented persons in the state.

share of foreign born in the total population is 8.3 percent and their share of driver licenses is 8.4 percent. As noted above, this is one area where the boundary in Utah has remained blurred, and the immigrants have clearly taken the initiative to cross this boundary.

Another example is the willingness of undocumented students to take advantage of the in-state tuition program, HB-144. The numbers increased from 87 in the first year to 182 two years later. (Robinson, 2007) The number attending the University of Utah increased from 14 in 2003 to 134 in 2010.

Immigrant integration is ultimately a political process, and since 1999 immigrants have used political actions to foster integration, to broker the boundary with the wider society. This was despite the increasingly hostile legislative atmosphere. As noted, there was only one immigration bill passed by the legislature in 1999, but by 2008 there were 30 such bills considered, and the general tone of virtually all the bills was antagonistic to undocumented immigrants.

A positive counter to this hostility, which reflects immigrants' active participation in brokering boundaries, has been the political activity on the part of legal and undocumented immigrants, which appears to have increased in tandem with anti-immigrant legislation. Between 1999 and 2008 there were 32 protests with an estimated 74,500 people participating, peaking in 2006 when more than 30,000 pro-immigrant supporters – including thousands of undocumented immigrants -- turned out for the state's largest-ever protest march (Stewart and Jameson, 2012).

The final determination of policy toward immigrants will be through the ballot box, and turnout among foreign born Latinos has increased over the last decade, even though overall turnout rates in the state have declined. In examining this process more closely, the likelihood a naturalized immigrant from Mexico voted in the 2008 presidential election more than doubled if they also voted in the previous *local election* (Holzner and Goldsmith, 2012). Thus, to the extent that Utah's bi-polar immigration policy draws immigrants into local politics, it will create a new voting bloc that will make its voice heard in 2012 and beyond.

We have noted the exceptional efforts of immigrants to integrate with the wider Utah society and the generally positive contributions of documented and undocumented immigrants to the state. This immigrant behavior and political involvement, along with the power of the narrative in the Utah Compact, have successfully offset the political capital to be gained through an anti-immigrant stance. In this, Utah seems to be showing the wider United States a viable direction. For the results of the recent Presidential election have exposed the exhaustion of the anti-immigrant rhetoric as a political tool. There appears to be the best possibility in years for a national immigration reform, and that is likely to be quite consistent with the Utah Compact.

## ***5. Other evidence of positive success in immigrant integration***

To provide final indications of Utah's successful integration of immigrants, we turn to a number of studies using the UPDB that have carefully examined other elements of the integration process. There is strong evidence of upward socio-economic mobility of immigrants, both the undocumented and documented (Maloney and Kontuly, 2010). Immigrants were able to move into better neighborhoods over time (as measured by median income, poverty, unemployment, and education at the block group level). In Salt Lake County, the median household income of undocumented migrants' locations was sixty-eight percent of natives in 1999, but had increased to seventy-four percent in 2007. This increase was more rapid than that of legal immigrants. The undocumented lived in areas whose income was seventy-seven percent of legal immigrants' in 1999, but this had increased to eighty-five percent in 2007.

Immigrant health studies illustrate the relative success of the integration process as well. Undocumented mothers were less likely to receive adequate prenatal care than their documented counterparts and than U.S. born Latinas, particularly if they had not obtained a driving document (Korinek and Smith, 2011). Despite being disadvantaged in this regard, foreign born Hispanic women had a lower incidence of low birthweight babies than all categories of natives, whether they had a driving document or not. This reflects what they bring to their host country, i.e. young and healthy women in child bearing ages.

Examination of the incidence of overweight/obesity again shows a complex pattern. Undocumented Latino males have the lowest incidence, while documented Latino males have a lower incidence than native born Latinos, though higher than US born whites. (Wen and Maloney, 2012). On the other hand, undocumented Latinas (females) have the highest incidence of overweight/obesity, and documented Latinas have a higher incidence than native white women, but slightly lower than native Latinas. The importance of integration was underlined by the finding that the risks of obesity increase with Latino residential isolation.

## ***6. Conclusions***

The post-industrial migration process that began in the 1960s has carried with it a set of unique challenges to the integration of immigrants in their destinations (Massey et al., 1998). Since the immigrants are often perceived as not wanted nor needed, conflicts over their integration are almost inevitable. To understand its many dimensions, the lens of globalization suggests the necessity of an examination of the gender, race and class aspects of the migration (Munck, 2008). Add to this the transnational nature of contemporary migrants, and data on the specific characteristics of immigrants and on their experience at a local level is essential.

The UPDB provided a wealth of information on what the migrants have brought to Utah and allowed differentiation of the undocumented from the documented. It is clear that the characteristics of both groups have fit well with the needs of the state in the recent decades of rapid job creation and growth. And the slowing of immigration in periods of economic stress further illustrates their economic complementarity. The evolution of policy both in the state and nationally should ensure continued success in this regard.

Immigration and the role of immigrants in U.S. society continue to be contested, though the effects of the 2012 Presidential election may lessen the national polarization. The experience of Utah both illustrates the tension in immigrant integration and offers insights into a successful attempt to address the issues. The Utah stance toward migrants has been and continues to be “blurred.” Several policies are quite welcoming, and the principles in the Utah Compact have provided a basis for measured discussion and have stopped new anti-immigrant legislation from being passed. The end result has been a relatively successful integration process that has melded the native attitudes toward immigrants, with the immigrants’ capabilities and efforts to integrate. So in contrast with other states, such as Arizona or Alabama, the mutual benefits that immigration offers have been largely realized.

Finally and most importantly, the immigrants, both documented and undocumented, have actively pursued integration with Utah society on a whole series of dimensions, from obtaining driver privilege cards to participating in political activity. They may be transnational actors, but they clearly exhibit a commitment to their new physical location. As such they have been quite active participants in brokering the boundaries between them and the wider Utah society. This has led to very positive results in terms of their social mobility and health outcomes, exactly as we would expect from the history of a nation of immigrants.

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# IMMIGRANTS COMMUNITIES FROM ITALIAN SOCIETY

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**Abstract:** *International migration is one of the characteristic phenomena of the contemporary world. Several countries in Western Europe, like Germany, France, England, Spain, Italy and others, were experienced in the last two decades, successive waves of immigrants, whom social and cultural integration difficulties raised many communities human adoption. For example, more than 7.5% of Italy's current population (60.6 million people) is represented by foreigners, who are concentrated in metropolitan areas in the North and Center of the country. This study, conducted from a sociological perspective gives us significant information on the characteristics of current Italian society, the distribution by region of the Italian population living in this country, the reasons for the presence of immigrants in Italy, the geographical area and country origin of the foreign citizens, their age group and sex, the dynamics of migration flows, etc. The largest foreign community in Italy is made up of Romanian, Albanian and Moroccan. The main objective pursued in our research was to see a picture of the immigrant population in Italy and to know its structure based on relevant indicators. The underlying assumption, from which we started, is that the process of immigration is, in social terms, one of the most important processes that define the Italian society at present, a society undergoing a difficult period, because of the consequences of financial crisis. Our conclusions are based on quantitative analysis of data collected by statistical method. Other interpretations are based on appeal to the historical method and the comparative method.*

**Key-words:** *Italian society, the structure of immigrants, immigrant population, immigration reasons, migration flows*

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