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Path to Citizenship: The Financial Dilemma of the Modern Day Immigrant

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Path To Documentation:
The Financial Dilemma of the Modern Day Immigrant

PRESENTER:

Rebecca Bergmanis

BACKGROUND:

There are roughly 10.5 million undocumented immigrants in the United States, living under the radar with the fear of deportation. Many of them are unable to secure documentation due to increasingly restrictive requirements, meaning that those who come to the United States for a better life simply cannot obtain their goals.

METHODS

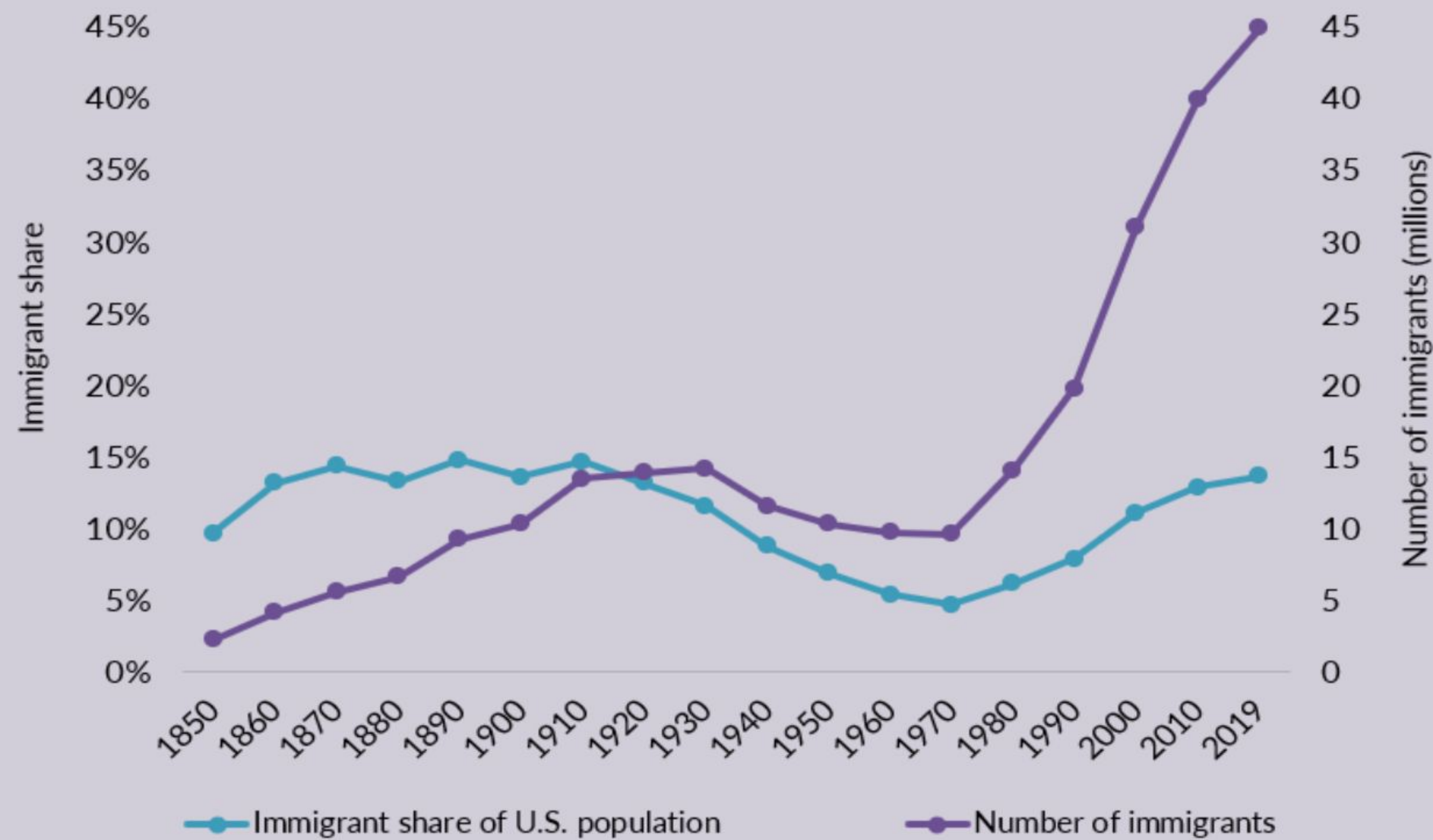
1. Conducted interviews with undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States,
2. Collected statistics and policies from government archives, as well as requirements from DoD publications.
3. Compared policies from current and former administrations.

RESULTS

\$725 to apply for naturalization, \$1170 to apply for certification of citizenship. Replacement documents for \$555.

The current cost of applying for citizenship increased from \$640 to \$1170 in 2020, making it harder than ever for undocumented immigrants to obtain documentation.

Figure 1. Size and Share of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States, 1850-2019



Source: Migration Policy Institute (MPI) tabulation of data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-19 American Community Surveys (ACS), and 1970, 1990, and 2000 decennial census. All other data are from Campbell J. Gibson and Emily Lennon, "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850 to 1990" (Working Paper no. 29, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1999).

FEE INCREASES 2020

Adjustment of status fee increase: \$1125 - \$2270

Work Authorization: \$410 - \$550

Naturalization: \$640 - \$1170

Affirmative Asylum: \$0 - \$50



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REFERENCES

PEW Research, USCIS, DHS, migration policy.org