



THE FULL PICTURE

Integration goes beyond learning a language or finding a job. That's why the survey measures integration along six dimensions:

- **Linguistic:** ability to read and speak the host country's (or host region's) dominant language
- **Navigational:** ability to manage basic needs, such as seeing a doctor, banking, and searching for a job
- **Economic:** income level and current work status
- **Psychological:** feeling of belonging and connection to the host country
- **Political:** understanding of the host country's political issues, frequency of discussion about those issues
- **Social:** social ties and interactions with citizens of the host country

About IPL

IPL is a global hub for research and innovation in immigration policy. Using advanced methods of data analysis and research design, we measure the impact of immigration policies on a wide range of social, political, and economic outcomes. We partner with government agencies and service providers to translate new evidence into creative solutions, working to improve lives and strengthen host communities.

Measuring Integration

Imagine that doctors around the world were developing new treatments for a common medical problem—but they all defined the condition differently and used conflicting methods to diagnose it. That's something like the handicap facing the many researchers, service providers, and public officials worldwide who are tackling the issue of immigrant integration. It's a difficult concept to measure, and there's no widely shared approach.

Now, a new IPL tool allows them to coordinate their efforts, build knowledge, and, ultimately, innovate. Our integration index, known as the IPL-12, is a short, survey-based measure that makes it possible to compare integration across time, locations, and contexts.

While developing the tool, we tested more than 200 survey questions through almost 4,000 interviews, including pilot projects in ESL classes in New York and California. We used a systematic approach to evaluate how well each question captured information and variation, and we eventually narrowed them down to 12 questions measuring six dimensions of integration.

The survey and related resources can be found at www.integrationindex.org. Practitioners and researchers can download various formats and languages that can be adapted to their specific context and find information about how to score and interpret the measure. We believe that the tool can help policymakers and service providers learn about their integration efforts to the advantage both of immigrants and the communities in which they settle.



PARTNERS

- Alliance for Language Learners' Integration, Education and Success (ALLIES)
- Campbell Adult and Community Education
- South Bay Consortium for Adult Education
- New York Office for New Americans
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service



www.immigrationlab.org

A Case Study in California

In fall 2018, IPL partnered with ALLIES, Campbell Adult and Community Education, and the South Bay Consortium for Adult Education to measure the integration of adult students near San Jose using the IPL-12.

Together, we developed additional, more specific elements of integration, such as access to health care and parental school engagement. We also translated the survey into seven languages so that more students could take it in their native language. Students took the survey through an online portal with a unique link for each class. Overall, 449 students in 21 classes participated.

We found considerable variation among students depending on their country of origin. Of importance for curriculum development, students scored highest on psychological integration and lowest on social integration, suggesting that they feel well connected to the country but mostly interact with other immigrants.

These initial results set a benchmark, allowing the program to track students' integration over time or compare their scores to those of other communities. They also suggest that a program to encourage social contact with Americans could help improve their integration.

Our Team

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