Naturalization fosters the long-term social and political integration of immigrants

**THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF NATURALIZATION ON SOCIAL INTEGRATION**

- **31% increase in social integration**
- Did not receive citizenship through referendum
- Received citizenship through referendum

**POLITICAL INTEGRATION SCALE**
- Turnout
- Political knowledge
- Political efficacy
- Read Swiss newspaper
- Plans to stay in CH
- Discrimination

**EFFECT OF NATURALIZATION**

- Percentage 'yes' votes in naturalization referendum:
  - 50%
  - 45%
  - 40%
  - 55%
  - 60%

**NATURALIZATION AND INTEGRATION**

In Switzerland, between 1970 and 2003, some local councils used a unique process to decide on naturalization applications in which voters were sent information on each applicant through leaflets. Voters then cast secret ballots in referendums deciding on each immigrant’s application. The researchers leveraged these closely decided referendums, where Swiss citizenship was as good as randomly awarded, to evaluate the impact of naturalization on integration 10 to 20 years later.

**PUBLICATIONS**

These estimates are from two studies conducted by researchers at the Immigration Policy Lab. The studies are published in the American Political Science Review (APSR) and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

Read the studies for details:
- **APSR**: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055416000745
- **PNAS**: https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1418794112