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Oral Presentation 1.1

WILL NEW IMMIGRANTS SURVIVE? NOW YOU KNOW THE REST...

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Currently, the United States is experiencing an unprecedented wave of immigration. Undoubtedly, this presents questions of how immigrants fare after their arrival in the United States. Historically, immigrants to the United States started out initially with lower wages but with time they were able to catch up to natives and eventually overtake them. However, some observers think that things may be changing for the worse for new immigrants. George Borjas, for example, argues that recent decreases in demand for less skilled workers has put many immigrants at a disadvantage. He predicts that the wages of less skilled immigrant will no longer converge quickly to the levels of native workers and may even remain below native wages through out the life of the immigrant. The purpose of this paper is to use the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY) to follow the earnings history of a unique sample of young natives and immigrants from 1986 to 1998. This paper will test the hypothesis by Borjas that the wages of less educated, recent immigrants do not converge to the wage level of natives. In addition, it uses multiple regression analysis to determine if factors like education and language do affect immigrant wages.