

Maria Castro '23

Winter 2022

The research I took on in the winter seeks to explore the ways in which the 1965 Immigration Act changed the scope of legal immigration into the US. We compared countries who were impacted far more by the Act to countries who were largely unaffected by the new legislation. Using Stata, we tried to approximate the share of unauthorized immigration by using the Census data. We found that after the Act, the share of unauthorized immigration grew in countries whose restrictions had expanded. We ran a difference in difference to figure out if the countries affected by the Hart-Cellar Act had a larger proportion of unauthorized immigration compared to countries not as affected. We tried to control for factors like civil wars, natural disasters, and economic disparities as we ran regressions to explore the relationship between unauthorized immigration and countries most affected by the Hart-Cellar Act. My research with Professor Cascio sought to contribute to economic immigration research, which remains largely unexplored. Without Byrne funding, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to take part in this research that merges statistics work with social science analysis to contribute knowledge for future immigration policy developments.