

# Myths and Facts of Immigration

By

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# Immigration Myths

1. It's easy to immigrate to the U.S.
2. Undocumented immigrants are criminals
3. Immigrants are a drain on our social/medical services
4. Undocumented immigrants don't pay taxes
5. Refugees are dangerous

# A Brief History of U.S. Immigration Laws

- **1790 - Naturalization Act of 1790** provided the first rules to be followed by the United States in the granting of national citizenship other than by birth. The law limited naturalization to aliens who were “free white citizens”: leaving out large groups like slaves and Asian immigrants.
- **1798 - Alien and Sedition Acts** : Authorized the President to deport aliens considered a threat to the peace & safety of the US and aliens whose home country was at war with US. Expired in 1801.
- 1848- GOLD RUSH! RAILROADS! Over 20,000 Chinese immigrants arrive in US – Burlingame Treaty
- 1875- US passes first law restricting immigration- barred admission of prostitutes and convicts
- 1885- Chinese Exclusion Act- First major law to restrict immigration. Passed out of fear that the .002% of Chinese immigrants in total US population were depressing wages on the West Coast and address concerns about “racial purity”.
- 1917 Immigration Act- imposed literacy test on immigrants and barred all Asian laborers.

# Brief History Continued

- 1919- Immigration declines rapidly, increased deportations of suspected alien enemies, anarchists, Communists and other Radicals
- 1921- Emergency Quota Act: to preserve Northern European immigrants as majority limited immigration based on 1910 census.
- 1924- National Origins Act- designed to limit immigration from Eastern and Southern Europe using 1890 census; Border Patrol
- Great Depression- restricted immigration drastically- 236,000 in 1929 to 23,000 in 1933
- 1943- Treaty with Mexico- Bracero Program; Chinese Exclusion Act repealed.
- 1952- Immigration and Nationality Act: Cold War fears, affirmed National Origins quotas, limited immigration from Eastern hemisphere (but not Western), preferences for skilled workers and relatives of US citizens, heightened security and screening procedures
- 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965: eliminated quotas but set 300,000 maximum on annual visas, set per country limit in Eastern Hemisphere to 20,000, no limit for Western. Bracero Program ends.

# No really, this is BRIEF

- 1976-1978: Amendments to the INA to restrict immigration from Mexico- limits to 20,000 per year. Mexico was only country to exceed 20,000 prior to 1976. Sets single world quota to 290,000 visas annually. Only US citizen children age 21 may petition for parents
- 1980 Refugee Act: established modern asylum system
- 1986 Immigration Reform Control Act: It (1) legalized aliens who had resided in the United States in an unlawful status since January 1, 1982, (2) established sanctions prohibiting employers from hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee aliens known to be unauthorized to work in the United States, (3) created a new classification of temporary agricultural worker and provided for the legalization of certain such workers; and (4) established a visa waiver pilot program allowing the admission of certain non-immigrants without visas.
- 1990 Immigration Act of 1990: raised quota to 700,000, created diversity lottery, retained family based immigration and doubled employment based immigration
- 1996 Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) and Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA): immigration detention, limited federal court review of immigration decisions, limited relief from deportation, expanded grounds of deportation and exclusion, created obstacles to legalization, harsh, harsh, harsh, harsh law.

# U.S. Immigrant Demographics

- ▣ Immigrants make up 12% of US population- was 15% a century ago (3.5% of total US population are undocumented) and account for 14.5% of workforce
- ▣ Estimated 31 million foreign-born residents in the U.S. 63% documented/37% undocumented (estimated 11 million).
- ▣ 1995-2005 more than half of Silicon Valley start-ups had founder who was foreign born
- ▣ Immigrants make up 50% of all engineers & scientists with Ph.Ds in US
- ▣ Immigrants are 30% more likely to start small businesses/16.7% of all business owners are immigrants (contribute \$67 billion of \$577 billion in US business income)

# Immigrant Demographics - IL

- Foreign born are 14% of IL population and make up 17.6% of IL workforce. This population grew from 8.3% in 1990 to 12.3% in 2000.
- Latino population grew from 7.9% in 1990 to 12.3% in 2000 to 16.4% (2,118,514) in 2013.
- 47.2% of immigrants in IL are naturalized citizens (12.2% of all registered voters in IL).
- 89.8% of children with immigrant parents are US citizens; 92.8% of children in Latino families and 89.2% of children in Asian families.
- Estimated 3.7% of IL population is undocumented (500,000) and make up 5.2% of the workforce (350,000 workers) in 2012.
- Latinos paid \$5.1 billion in federal taxes and \$3.2 billion in Illinois taxes in 2013- including \$3.9 billion to social security and \$907 million to Medicare.

# Lawful Permanent Resident Flow: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014

Category of admission	2014		2013		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total . . . . .	1,016,518	100.0	990,553	100.0	1,031,631	100.0
New arrivals . . . . .	481,392	47.4	459,751	46.4	484,072	46.9
Adjustments of status . .	535,126	52.6	530,802	53.6	547,559	53.1

- ▣ Includes 140,000 employment immigrant visas and 226,000 family immigrant visas and 50,000 Diversity visas. Source Annual Flow Report April 2016: [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)



# Visa Availability

Family Sponsored	World	China	India	Mexico	Philippines
F1 Unmarried sons/daughters of USCs	01JUN10	01JUN10	01JUN10	15MAY95	15DEC05
F2 Spouses and minor children of LPRs	08MAY15	08MAY15	08MAY15	22APR15	08MAY15
F2B Unmarried sons/daughters of LPRs	15AUG10	15AUG10	15AUG10	22NOV95	01MAY06
F3 Married sons/daughters of USCs	22APR05	22APR05	22APR05	22DEC94	08SEP94
F4 Siblings of USCs	22FEB04	22FEB04	22JUL03	01JUN97	01AUG93

# Obstacles to Lawful Immigration

- Limited Visas – long waits
- No Visas
- IIRIRA Expanded Grounds of Inadmissibility/Deportation
  - Criminal Records
  - Unlawful Presence
  - False Claims to Citizenship/Voting

# Immigration Violations are Civil Violations

- ▣ Mandatory Detention for Aliens convicted of aggravated felonies and crimes involving moral turpitude
- ▣ Bond (\$1,500-\$25,000)
- ▣ Immigration Judges hear over 1,000 cases per year/proceedings can take years
- ▣ Limited Due Process Rights
- ▣ No right to a free attorney
- ▣ Relief from Removal

# Deportation/Removal Proceedings

- Approximately 456,000 Removal Cases Pending
- Over 19,000 cases pending in Chicago court which has 6 judges (over 3,000 cases each)
- 57 Immigration Courts in US/US Territories
- 243 Immigration Judges
- Average of 439 days wait to first hearing
- Majority of Aliens are unrepresented by counsel
- Law mandates 34,000 detention beds filled each night

# Cost of Mass Deportation

- ▣ U.S. spends \$18 billion on immigration enforcement now
- ▣ Estimated Detention & Removal of 11 million undocumented over 20 year period \$400 - \$600 billion
- ▣ DHS total budget for FY 2014 \$60 billion
- ▣ Substantial increase in taxes and loss of tax revenues paid by undocumented immigrants

# Mass Deportations

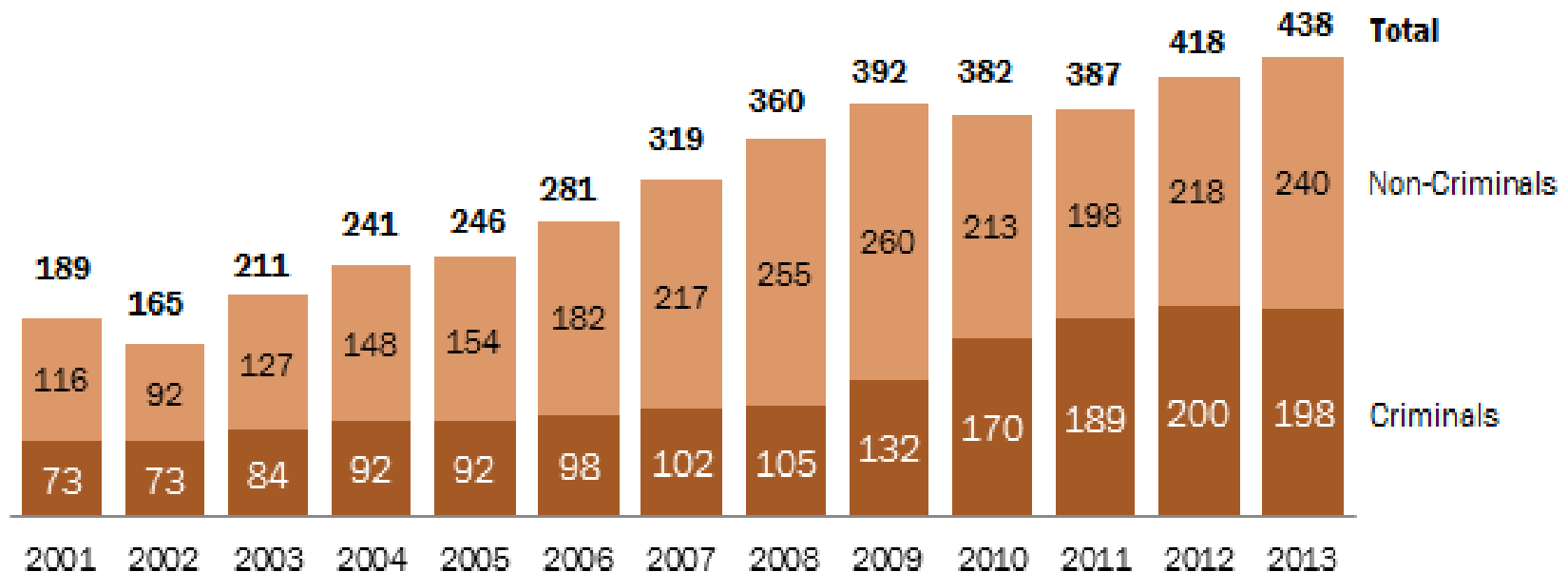
“The impact on the economy would be even larger, according to the study: Real GDP would drop by nearly \$1.6 trillion and the policy would shave 5.7 percent off economic growth. Researchers Laura Collins and Ben Gitis also write that their estimates are conservative, since they do not include, for example, the cost of constructing new courts, prisons, and other buildings that might be needed to process and detain millions of immigrants.”

“The Conservative Case Against Enforcing Immigration Law”, The Atlantic Monthly, 03/06/2015 citing American Action Forum Report March 2015

# Increased Removals

## Number of Deportations by U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FY2001-FY2013

*In thousands*



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2013* <http://www.dhs.gov/yearbook-immigration-statistics-2013-enforcement-actions>

# Immigrants & Crime

- **FACT: Immigrants are five times LESS likely than the native-born to be in prison.**

In a 2007 study, University of California, Irvine, sociologist Rubén G. Rumbaut found that, in 2000, the 3.5 percent incarceration rate for native-born men age 18-39 was five times higher than the rate for immigrant men (0.7 percent).

Moreover, among native-born male high-school dropouts, 9.8 percent were behind bars, compared to only 1.3 percent of immigrant dropouts.

- **FACT: Undocumented immigration is NOT associated with higher crime rates.**

Although the undocumented immigrant population doubled from 1994 to 2005, the violent crime rate in the United States declined by 34.2 percent and the property crime rate fell by 26.4

- **FACT: Violent Crime has Dropped in Arizona by 20% even as the Undocumented Population Has Grown**

According to a 2008 report from the conservative Americas Majority Foundation, crime rates are lowest in states with the highest immigration growth rates, such as Arizona. From 1999 to 2006, the total crime rate declined 13.6 percent in the 19 highest-immigration states (including Arizona), compared to a 7.1 percent decline in the other 32 states.



# Immigrants & Social Security

- FACT: Undocumented workers are not (and have never been) eligible to claim social security benefits. Moreover, most undocumented workers will use a false social security number to prove work authorization, therefore paying money into a benefit system that they will never be eligible to use.
- FACT: Undocumented workers contribute about \$13 billion per year to the Social Security Trust Fund.
- “You could say legitimately that had we not received the contributions that we have had in the past from undocumented immigrants . . . that would of course diminish our ability to be paying benefits for as long as we now can,” [the chief actuary told MSNBC](#). He said undocumented immigrants have contributed \$100 billion into Social Security over the last decade. Boston Globe 09/20/2014

# Immigrants & Medical Services

## Kaiser Family Foundation Report 03/2008

- Non-citizens are much more likely to be uninsured than citizens, but they are not the primary factor driving the nation's uninsured problem
- Federal law generally bars undocumented immigrants and recent legal immigrants from receiving Medicaid and SCHIP coverage.
- Non-citizens receive significantly less health care than citizens. In 2005, average annual per capita health care expenditures for non-citizens were \$1,797 versus \$3,702 for citizens.
- Non-citizens are significantly less likely to use the emergency room than citizens.

# Immigrants & Taxes

- Unauthorized immigrants in Illinois paid **\$793.7 million** in state and local taxes in [2012](#), including \$367.1 million in sales taxes, \$99.9 million in personal income taxes, and \$326.8 million in property taxes, according to data from the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy.
- If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Illinois, **the state would lose \$25.6 billion in economic activity, \$11.4 billion in gross state product, and approximately 119,214 jobs**, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time, according to a report by the [Perryman Group](#).

# A Broken System

"I know it's crooked, but it's the only game in town."

– Canada Bill Jones (1840-1880) an infamous card sharp replied when asked why he was playing in rigged game in Cairo, Illinois

# Humanitarian Options

- U Visas: victims of certain crimes who cooperate with law enforcement
- T Visas: victims of human trafficking
- Humanitarian Parole

# Public Charge

- Aliens who receive a means tested benefit are disqualified from family or employment based visas.
- Aliens who receive humanitarian visas are not disqualified on public charge grounds
- Aliens with no legal status are not eligible for public benefits.

# Refugees Worldwide

The total at the end of 2015 reached **65.3 million** -- or one out of every 113 people on Earth, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The number represents a 5.8 million increase on the year before. Jun 20, 2016 [cnn.com](http://cnn.com)

# REFUGEES

- UNHR reports over 4 million displaced Syrians outside of Syria
- 7.6 Syrians are displaced inside Syria
- Single greatest refugee crises from a single conflict in history



# Refugees

The US is authorized to accept 70,000 refugees worldwide.

FY2015 DOS Refugee Admissions Report:

- US accepted worldwide total of 69,933
- US accepted 1,682 Syrian refugees
- US accepted 12,676 Iraqi refugees

# Refugee Vetting Process

## UNHR

- Average time in a refugee camp is 17 years
- Extension application process
- Multiple interviews
- Background check
- Travel Documents for resettlement

Thank you  
Mil Gracias  
감사합니다  
Salamat  
धन्यवाद  
Merci  
شكرا