

IMMIGRATION: FICTION, FACTS & FAITH

Purpose:

- Introduction to our Lady of Guadalupe, the patron saint the Americas
- The Church's position on immigration
- Dispel immigration myths and share facts about immigrants
- Review acts of hate against immigrants and those perceived to be immigrants
- The need for all believers to live their faith

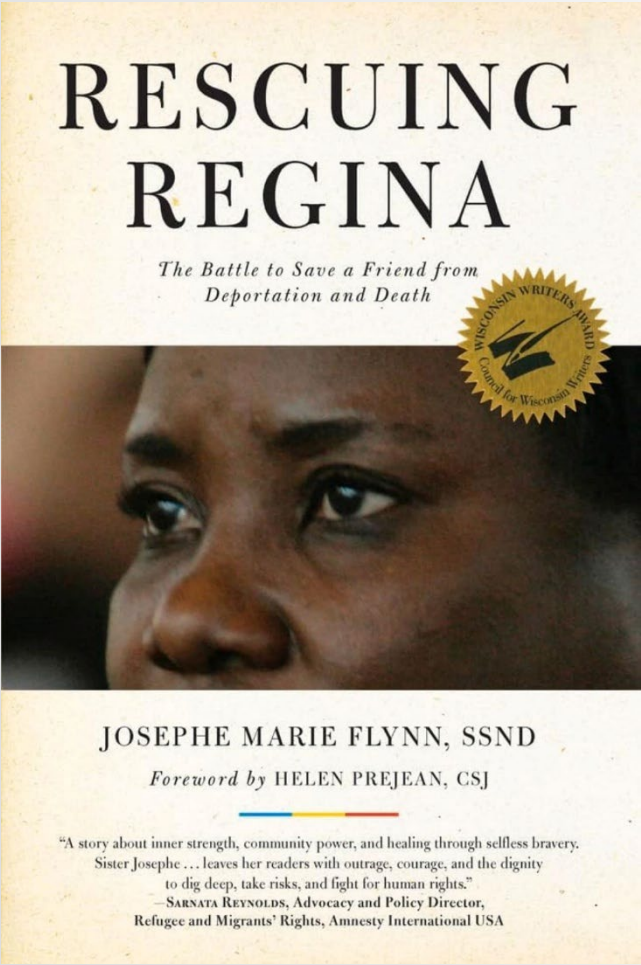


LIVING OUR FAITH SERIES

IMMIGRATION: FACTS, FICTION & FAITH



AN UNEXPECTED TURN





“When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.”

Matthew 2:13

REMARKS FROM THE HOLY FATHER TO 184 AMBASSADORS TO THE HOLY SEE.

MAY 6, 2025



“No one is exempted from striving to ensure respect for the dignity of every person, especially the most frail and vulnerable, from the unborn to the elderly, from the sick to the unemployed, citizens and immigrants alike.”

Pope Leo recalled that he too is “a citizen, the descendant of immigrants, who in turn chose to emigrate” and said: “All of us, in the course of our lives, can find ourselves healthy or sick, employed or unemployed, living in our native land or in a foreign country, yet our dignity always remains unchanged: it is the dignity of a creature willed and loved by God.”

WE ARE ALL BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST

THE FIRST MARIAN APPARITION IN THE AMERICAS



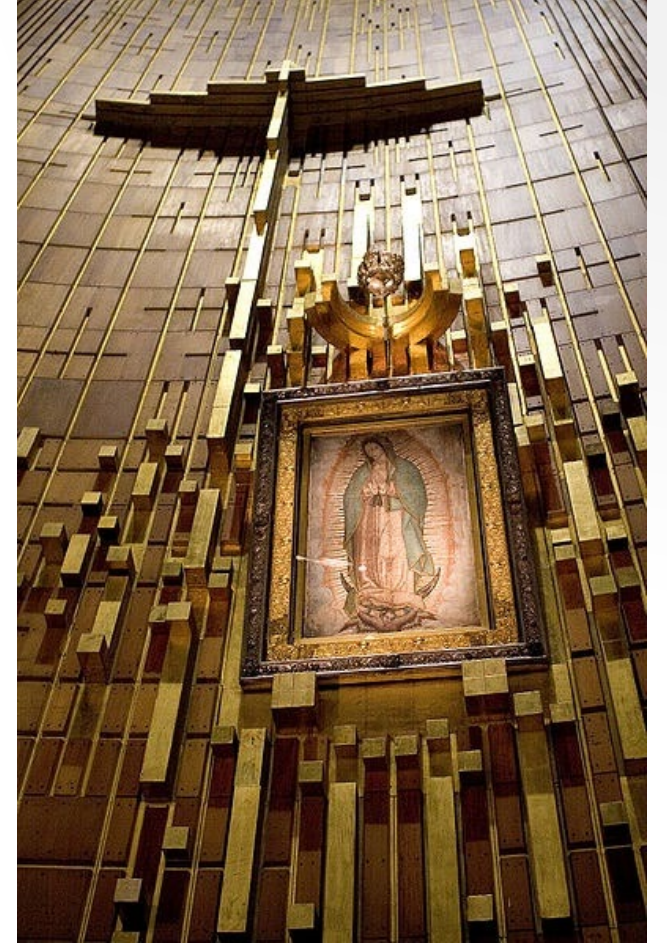
The Tilma: The image has remained intact with all its original vibrancy for 475 years. The natural life span of a cloak made with fiber from the agave or maguey plant is only about 30 years. It remains on display today.

The miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe involves the Virgin Mary's miraculous appearances to Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill in 1531, where she instructed him to build a shrine. Sharing the message with Bishop Juan de Zumárraga who requested proof of the apparition, Juan Diego returned to the site.

Upon his return to the hill, he encountered our Blessed Mother once again. The Virgin told him to climb to the top of the hill and pick some flowers to present to the Bishop. Although it was winter and nothing should have been in bloom, Juan Diego climbed the hill where the Virgin bundled the flowers and placed them into Juan Diego's tilma (cloak). When Juan Diego presented the tilma of exotic flowers to Bishop Zumárraga, the flowers fell out and he recognized them as Castilian roses, which are not found in Mexico. Even more miraculous, the tilma had been imprinted with a colorful image of the Virgin herself.

WE ARE ALL BROTHERS & SISTER IN CHRIST

THE MOST VISITED PILGRIMAGE SITE IN THE WORLD



Over 20,000,000 pilgrims from throughout the Americas visit the The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City annually.
Wisconsin Connection: The Shrine to our Lady of Guadalupe, La Crosse, WI.

WE ARE ALL BROTHERS & SISTER IN CHRIST

THE INHERENT DIGNITY OF ALL KNOWS NO BORDERS OR BOUNDRIES

“Likewise, Jesus Christ, loving everyone with a universal love, educates us in the permanent recognition of the dignity of every human being, without exception.”
- Pope Francis



WE ARE ALL BROTHERS & SISTER IN CHRIST

CATHOLIC ELEMENTS OF IMMIGRATION REFORM



“What is clearly true, and what the Church and many others have called for, is the urgent need for a comprehensive reform of our country’s immigration system. The U.S. immigration system is overly complex and unjust, often keeping family members apart; it must be fixed.”

WE ARE ALL BROTHERS & SISTER IN CHRIST

CATHOLIC ELEMENTS OF IMMIGRATION REFORM



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Department of
Migration and
Refugee Services

Office of
Policy and Advocacy

usccb.org/migrationpolicy

January 2025

Element 1: Enforcement efforts should be targeted, proportional, and humane

Element 2: Humanitarian protections and due process should be ensured

Element 3: Long-time residents should have an earned pathway to citizenship

Element 4: Family unity should remain a cornerstone of the U.S. system

Element 5: Legal pathways should be expanded, reliable, and efficient

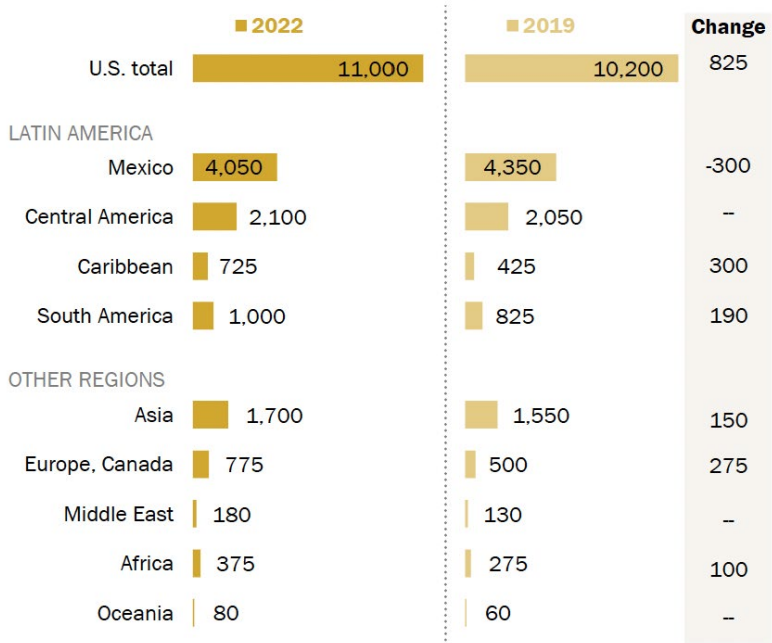
Element 6: The root causes of forced migration should be addressed

WE ARE ALL BROTHERS & SISTER IN CHRIST

WHERE ARE IMMIGRANTS COMING FROM

The U.S. unauthorized immigrant populations from most world regions grew from 2019 to 2022

U.S. unauthorized immigrant population by region of birth, in thousands



Note: All numbers are rounded. The change column is calculated from unrounded totals. Only statistically significant changes based on 90% confidence intervals are shown; other measured changes are not statistically different from zero. Asia consists of South and East Asia. All Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union are included in Europe. The Middle East consists of Southwest Asia and North Africa; Africa refers to sub-Saharan Africa. The U.S. total includes a residual (not shown) from other nations. Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented U.S. Census Bureau data.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/07/22/what-we-know-about-unauthorized-immigrants-living-in-the-us/>



WISCONSIN IMMIGRANTS

WHERE ARE IMMIGRANTS COMING FROM

Since 2021, Hispanics have been the largest minority group in the state of Wisconsin. 447,290 per 2020 U.S. Census

<https://data.census.gov/profile/Wisconsin?g=040XX00US55>

It is estimated 73,900 are undocumented
55,957 U.S. citizens live with at least one undocumented family member

https://cmsny.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Hispanic_undocumented.pdf

5,440 are active DACA recipients

<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/immigrants-in-wisconsin/#:~:text=Nearly%2056%2C000%20U.S.%20citizens%20in,eligible%20as%20they%20grew%20older.>

THE DIFFICULT SEARCH FOR TRUTH

FACT VS. FICTION

“They are criminals, prisoners and lunatics!”

“Illegals are bringing Fentanyl to the U.S.!”

“They don’t pay taxes & take our benefits!”

“They are taking American jobs!”

“They should get in line and come here
legally!”

THE FACTS... CRIME & IMMIGRANTS

Is it a crime to be undocumented in the United States?

NO!

U.S. Department of Justice:

"an alien apprehended while entering or attempting to enter the United States at a time or place other than as designated by immigration officers shall be subject to a civil penalty."

(The Illegal Immigration Reform & Immigrant Responsibility Act 8 U.S.C. § 1325)

<https://www.justice.gov/archives/jm/criminal-resource-manual-1911-8-usc-1325-unlawful-entry-failure-depart-fleeing-immigration>

THE FACTS... CRIME & IMMIGRANTS

U.S. Dept. of Justice: Non-U.S. Citizens in the Federal Criminal Justice System, 1998–2018

“U.S.-born citizens were ten times more likely than immigrants to be incarcerated for committing weapons-related offenses, five times more likely for violent offenses, more than twice as likely for property crimes, and nearly twice as likely for drug offenses.”

<https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ncfcjs9818.pdf>

Stanford Institute for Economic Research: Mythical tie between immigration & Crime

ISSUE DATE July 21, 2023

“Opponents of immigration often argue that immigrants drive up crime rates. But newly released research from Stanford economist Ran Abramitzky and his co-authors finds that hasn’t been the case in America for the last 140 years.”

<https://siepr.stanford.edu/news/mythical-tie-between-immigration-and-crime>

National Bureau of Economic Research: Law-Abiding Immigrants: The Incarceration Gap Between Immigrants and the US-born, 1870–2020

ISSUE DATE July 2023

REVISION DATE March 2024

“the likelihood of an immigrant being incarcerated is 60 percent lower than of people born in the United States.” <https://www.nber.org/papers/w31440>

THE FACTS... FENTANYL & IMMIGRANTS

Fact Sheet: DHS is on the Front Lines Combating Illicit Opioids, Including Fentanyl

Release Date: December 22, 2023

“More than 90% of fentanyl interdicted is stopped at Ports of Entry (POEs) where cartels attempted to smuggle it through, primarily in vehicles driven by U.S. citizens.”

<https://www.dhs.gov/archive/news/2023/12/22/fact-sheet-dhs-front-lines-combating-illicit-opioids-including-fentanyl#:~:text=The%20DHS%20strategy%20has%20evolved,used%20in%20the%20manufacturing%20process.>

Cato Institute: U.S. Citizens Were 89% of Convicted Fentanyl Traffickers in 2022

RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 23, 2023

“At most, just 0.009 percent of the people arrested by Border Patrol for crossing illegally possessed any fentanyl whatsoever.”

<https://www.cato.org/blog/us-citizens-were-89-convicted-fentanyl-traffickers-2022>

THE FACTS... IMMIGRANTS & TAXES

Institute of Taxation & Economic Policy (ITEP): Tax Payments by Undocumented Immigrants

RELEASED: July 30, 2024

- Undocumented immigrants paid \$96.7 billion in federal, state, and local taxes in 2022. Most of that amount, \$59.4 billion, was paid to the federal government while the remaining \$37.3 billion was paid to state and local governments.
- More than a third of the tax dollars paid by undocumented immigrants go toward payroll taxes dedicated to funding programs that these workers are barred from accessing.
- Undocumented immigrants paid \$25.7 billion in Social Security taxes, \$6.4 billion in Medicare taxes, and \$1.8 billion in unemployment insurance taxes in 2022.
- Income tax payments by undocumented immigrants are affected by laws that require them to pay more than otherwise similarly situated U.S. citizens.

THE FACTS... IMMIGRANTS & TAXES

ITEP: (Continued)

- Up to 75% of undocumented immigrants pay federal, state, and local taxes.

<https://sfo2.digitaloceanspaces.com/itep/ITEP-Tax-Payments-by-Undocumented-Immigrants-2024.pdf>

Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget:

Undocumented immigrants contribute over \$15 billion per year into SSA, without intention of collecting benefits (Stephen Goss, Chief Actuary, SSA)

<https://www.crfb.org/blogs/budgetary-look-immigration-reform>

THE FACTS... IMMIGRANTS & TAXES

HOW UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS PAY TAXES?

Call the IRS and they will help you.
1-800-829-1040



Compliance Requirements for Undocumented Workers

- In 1996, the IRS created the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)
- ITINs are a tax processing number issued by the IRS for taxpayers who are not eligible to obtain SSNs
- Individuals eligible for an ITIN include:
 - Unauthorized immigrants,
 - Lawfully present individuals, and
 - U.S. resident aliens/nonresident aliens



Social Security Numbers vs. ITINs

What is an ITIN?

- Generally for federal tax filing purposes only
- 9-digit numbers and begin with "9"
- Does not confer immigration status or work authorization
- Cannot be used after obtaining SSN
- Some other limited uses

Prevent c
informat

- IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number System
- Bought, borrowed, stolen or fake social security number

THE FACTS... IMMIGRANTS & JOBS

Even with immigrant labor, U.S. has labor shortage

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Released March 18, 2025

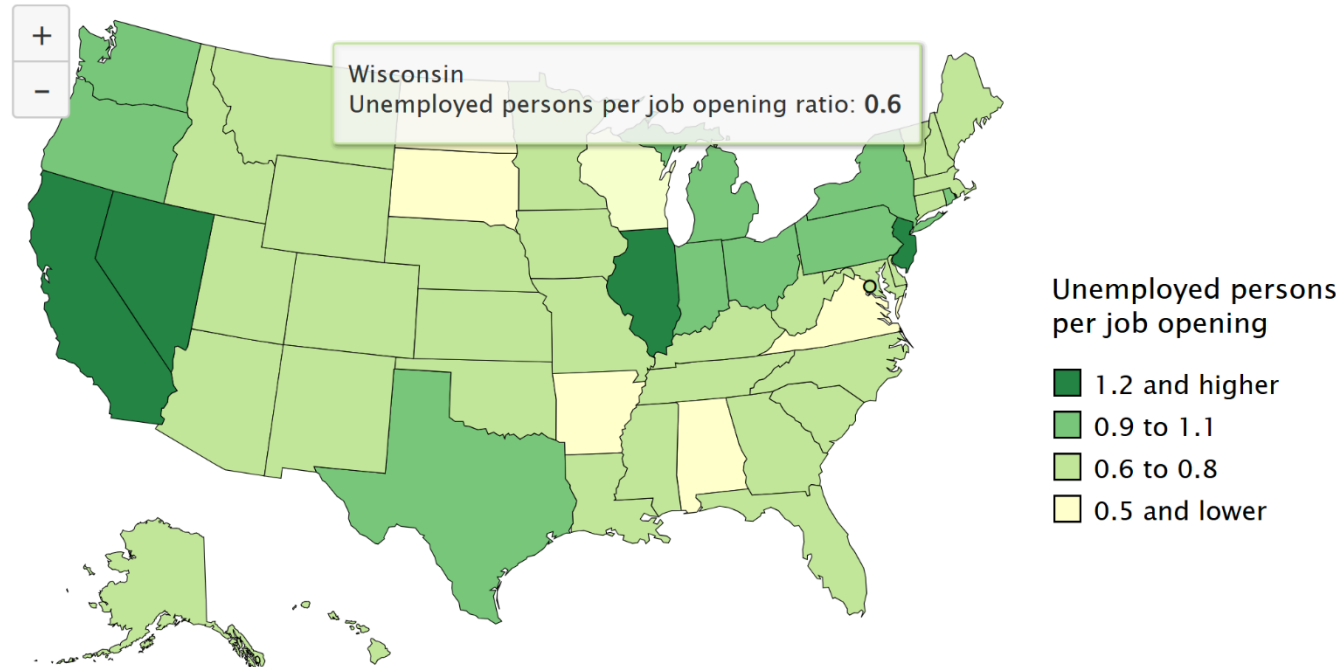
“0.9 unemployed people per job openings for fourth consecutive month”

<https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2025/0-9-unemployed-people-per-job-openings-for-fourth-consecutive-month.htm#:~:text=On%20the%20last%20business%20day,figure%20unchanged%20since%20October%202024.>

THE FACTS... IMMIGRANTS & JOBS

Even with immigrant labor, U.S. has labor shortage

Map 1. Number of unemployed persons per job opening by state, November 2024, seasonally adjusted
(U.S. ratio = 0.9)



U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Released November 2024 https://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/news-release/jobopeningslaborturnover_wisconsin.htm

THE FACTS... IMMIGRANTS & JOBS

Even with immigrant labor, U.S. has labor shortage

American Immigration Council

**New Data Analysis: Immigrants Driving Opportunity, Prosperity in the U.S.,
Including in Swing States**

Release June 5, 2024

- Over 25% of workers in U.S agriculture are immigrants
- 25% of U.S. construction workers are immigrants
- 23.1% of all STEM workers in U.S. are immigrants
- 15.6% of U.S. nurses are immigrants
- 27.7% of U.S. health aides are immigrants

THE FACTS... IMMIGRANTS & JOBS

Even with immigrant labor, U.S. has labor shortage

Dairy Herd Management

The Impact of Immigration Reform on U.S. Dairy Farms

Release January 27, 2025

“Recent reports highlight this dependency, showing that over half of all dairy labor is performed by immigrant workers. In fact, dairies employing immigrant laborers contribute to 79% of the U.S. milk supply.”

<https://www.dairyherd.com/news/business/impact-immigration-reform-u-s-dairy-farms#:~:text=Recent%20reports%20highlight%20this%20dependency,of%20the%20U.S.%20milk%20supply.>

THE FACTS... IMMIGRANT PATHWAYS

Why Don't Unauthorized Migrants Come Here Legally?

- No “line” is available for the vast majority of undocumented immigrants.
- Many undocumented immigrants are barred from obtaining legal status while inside the United States.
- Family-based immigration is limited to certain close family relationships and is numerically restricted
- Employment-based immigration requires a U.S. employer to request specific foreign workers

Source: <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/why-dont-they-just-get-line/>

THE FACTS... IMMIGRANTS & NATIONAL SECURITY

The Selective Service & the defense of our country.

 An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) 



SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM



[Register](#) [Verify Registration](#)

[Registration](#)  [Verify Registration](#)  [Frequently Asked Questions](#) [Public Service](#)  [News & Media](#) [Reports & Publications](#) [About](#) 

Frequently Asked Questions

Are undocumented males required to register?



Yes. All undocumented males 18 through 25 years of age, other than those admitted on non-immigrant visas, must register, whether or not they have a green card.

See also [WHO MUST REGISTER.](#)

THE FACTS... IMMIGRANT PATHWAYS

Are undocumented immigrants people of faith? Yes!

80 percent of all of those at risk of deportation are Christians.

61% percent of those at risk of deportation are
Catholic

13 percent are evangelical

7 percent are adherents to other Christian traditions

One Part of the Body Report by:

Center for the Study of Global Christianity, National Association of Evangelicals,
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops & world relief.

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/one-part-of-the-body.pdf>

THE FACTS... IMMIGRANT PATHWAYS

USCCB: Why Don't Unauthorized Migrants Come Here Legally?

Many of our ancestors didn't actually come here through federal "legal" channels – there weren't restrictive federal immigration laws in place at the time

Today's unauthorized immigrants would prefer to live and work lawfully in the United States if they could.

Under current laws, no "line" for lawful immigration to the United States actually exists for the majority of our immigrants.

<https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/immigration/whydonttheycomeherelegally#:~:text=The%20Catholic%20Church%20believes%20that%20immigrants%20should%20come%20to%20the,our%20country's%20need%20for%20labor.>

IMMIGRATION & HATE:

Election aftershocks felt in Wisconsin schools

Erin Richards and Annysa Johnson, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Published 1:47 p.m. CT Nov. 11, 2016 | Updated 10:45 p.m. CT Nov. 11, 2016



(Photo: Mark Frohna Photography)

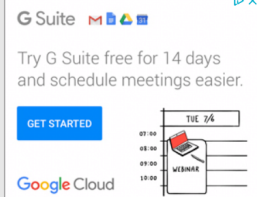
A shouting match between a Donald Trump supporter and girls in favor of abortion rights. Simulations to understand popular vs. electoral votes. Rehearsals for an absurdist play about how people miss the big picture. Private confessions from nonwhite teenagers who feared for their families and futures.

Those were some of the post-election reactions in schools across Wisconsin this week, many of which spilled directly into the laps of educators tasked with keeping decorum and maintaining neutrality after a national campaign marked by anything but propriety.

While American parents parsed their feelings, their children took stock of their own emotions, from celebratory to satisfied, resigned to anguished. Educators capitalized on their interest in a controversial election: What better time to understand the electoral college? But other teachable moments arose over civil discourse, with school leaders seeking to quell inflammatory post-election comments between students.

That happened at the city's best-known Catholic high schools — Divine Savior Holy

CONNECT TWEET LINKEDIN EMAIL MORE



Share your feedback to help improve our site experience!

FROM THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Jesus Manso-Perez, Phia Vue and Mai K. Vue

El Paso Walmart shooting victim dies nearly 9 months after attack, death toll now 23

26 Shares



AP

Updated: 11:20 PM EDT Apr 26, 2020

By Cedar Attanasio



The shooting was the largest terrorist attack targeting Hispanics in modern history, and spread fear throughout the Latino community. SOURCE: John Locher



Mahud Villalaz

Woman Ran Over Girl Because She Was 'a Mexican,' Police Say

The police charged a Des Moines woman with attempted murder after she told investigators she intentionally ran over a 14-year-old girl with her vehicle.



By Johnny Diaz

Dec. 21, 2019



Nicole Marie Poole Franklin was charged with attempted murder after she told the police that she intentionally struck a 14-year-old girl with her car in Clive, Iowa. Polk County Jail, via Associated Press



Natalia Miranda



Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Bishops Issue a “Special Message” on Immigration from Plenary Assembly in Baltimore

The bishops issued a Special Message addressing their concern for the evolving situation impacting immigrants in the United States. It marked the first time in twelve years the USCCB invoked this particularly urgent way of speaking as a body of bishops.

November 12, 2025



USCCB

Special Pastoral
Message on Immigration by
the Bishops of the United States

QUESTIONS...



Learn more at:
www.TheLordKnowsWhenWeLookAway.org

CALL TO ACTION:
LIVE YOUR FAITH



Thank you and God bless.

CHANGES TO CURRENT IMMIGRATION POLICY

Attempts to close U.S. Asylum System at southern border (paused)

<https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.277039/gov.uscourts.dcd.277039.71.0.pdf>

Who was previously eligible?

- Must apply at port of entry or from within the U.S.
- Must be within 1 year of arrival
- Must provide evidence they have suffered persecution in their home country on account of a protected ground in the past, and/or they have a well-founded fear of persecution in the home country.

CHANGES TO CURRENT IMMIGRATION POLICY

U.S. Department of Homeland Security encourages DACA recipients to “self deport.”

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/07/29/dhs-releases-new-nationwide-ads-encourage-self-deportation>

- Will receive \$1,000
- Flight will be paid for
- Those who do not take advantage of the app will be fined thousands of dollars, detained and forcefully removed from the United States.”

In addition to challenging legality of DACA in the courts.

CHANGES TO CURRENT IMMIGRATION POLICY

Increase in budget for border security and immigration enforcement:
Approximately \$170 billion

<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/big-beautiful-bill-immigration-border-security/>

Spending Category	Funding Amount
Construction and maintenance of border wall, CBP checkpoints, and CBP facilities	\$51.6 billion
Border Patrol agents and vehicles, and Federal Law Enforcement Training Center improvements.	\$7.8 billion
Border technology and vetting	\$6.2 billion
Operation Stonegarden (funding to state and local law enforcement agencies to support border enforcement)	\$450 million
Border processing, including for unaccompanied children, Remain in Mexico, and expedited removal	\$2.1 billion
Prosecutions of noncitizens, compensating local governments for incarcerating noncitizens, combatting drug trafficking, immigration judges	\$3.3 billion
Detention capacity expansion	\$45 billion
Enforcement and removal, including hiring ICE agents, transportation costs, and detaining families	\$29.9 billion
State immigration and border enforcement cost-reimbursement funds	\$13.5 billion
DHS cost-reimbursement fund for border enforcement	\$10.0 billion
DOD support for immigration and border enforcement	\$1.0 billion
Total	\$170.7 billion

IMMIGRANT DETENTIONS & DEPORTATIONS

Of the criminal terrorists sent to CECOT prison in El Salvador, as of April 2025, 90% had no criminal record.

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/ip-law/about-90-of-migrants-sent-to-salvador-lacked-us-criminal-record>

70% of those detained or deported have no criminal record

<https://www.newsweek.com/ice-record-detainment-convictions-immigration-trump-admin-2121912>

RECENT U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION

Noem v Vasquez Perdomo

SCOTUS ruled that the practice of randomly stopping and detaining individuals with Hispanic characteristics can resume until the case is fully heard.

- Allows federal agents to continue to racially profile Hispanics, if in addition to being Hispanic, they speak Spanish, live in Hispanic neighborhoods, and/or work in low wage jobs.
- Questioning and detaining individuals is a minor inconvenience when compared to the interest of the government.