



IMMIGRATION: Fiction vs. Facts v1.0

Fiction: It is a crime to be undocumented in the U.S!

Fact: By itself, being undocumented in the U.S. is a civil violation similar to a parking ticket. (Source: USCIS)

Fiction: There is a legal way to come to the U.S. and they should wait their turn!

Fact: No "line" is available for the vast majority of undocumented immigrants. (Source: American Immigration Council)

Fiction: All immigrants commit crime!

Fact: U.S. born citizens are

- 10x more likely to be incarcerated for weapons-related offenses,
- 5x more likely for violent offenses,
- 2x more likely for property and drug related offenses,

than undocumented immigrants. (Source: U.S. Department of Justice)

Fiction: All Immigrants bring fentanyl into our country!

Fact: 90% of fentanyl is driven in the U.S. by U.S. Citizens through ports of entry. (Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security)

Fiction: Immigrants do not pay taxes!

Facts: Up to 75% of undocumented immigrants paid full taxes

Undocumented immigrants paid the following taxes in 2022:

- Federal Taxes: \$59.4 billion
- State & Local Taxes: \$37.3 billion
- Social Security: \$25.7 billion

(Source: Institute of Taxation & Economic Policy)

The Internal Revenue Service created the Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers system so undocumented immigrants could and do pay taxes. (Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service)

Fiction: Immigrants are not working or contributing to our economy!

Fact: Immigrants fill the following percentages of jobs in the U.S.:

- 25+% of all agricultural workers
- 25% of all construction workers
- 23.1% of all STEM workers
- 15.6% of all nurses
- 27.7% of all health aides

(Source: American Business Immigration Coalition)

- More than of all labor in dairies are undocumented immigrants

(Source: Dairy Herd Management Report, Published Jan 27, 2025)

Fiction: Immigrants are not willing to sacrifice to be here!

Fact: Undocumented immigrants who are male and between the ages of 18-25 must register with the U.S. Selective Service and swear to defend the United States if called upon.

(Source: U.S. Selective Service)



National Contributions:

\$96.7 billion

paid in federal, state and local taxes in 2022 by undocumented immigrants.

(Source: Institute of Taxation & Economic Policy)

\$25.7 billion

paid in to Social Security in 2022 by undocumented immigrants

(Source: Institute of Taxation & Economic Policy)

Up to 75%

of undocumented immigrants pay full taxes.

(Source: Institute of Taxation & Economic Policy)

90%

of fentanyl brought into the U.S. is driven in through a port of entry by a U.S. Citizen

(Source: Department of Homeland Security)

40%

labor shortage in Wisconsin as there is only .6 unemployed individuals for every 1 job opening in the state of Wisconsin.

(Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)



**Living our faith is a
call to action!**



Impactful advocacy!

- Join and/or support Forward Latino (www.forwardlatino.org) or another advocacy organization
- Share your policy position with your local, county, state and federal representatives.
 - Email
 - Call
 - Mail letter
 - Visit state office
 - Visit Washington, DC Office
- Host or organize an information session in your community
- Participate in special events such as advocacy days, webinars, and peaceful public gatherings.
- When you hear misstatements, take the time to educate individuals on the issue. Do not search for the “gotcha” moment as the goal is to persuade not defeat or humiliate others.
- Share your family’s immigration story with others.
- Direct families at risk of separation to Forward Latino or other organizations with appropriate resources

Wisconsin State Capitol Legislator phone number:
(800)362-9472

U.S. Capitol Legislator phone number:
(202)224-3132



Available Resources:

Toolkits for families at risk of Separation (English & Spanish)

Includes:

- **Todo List**
- **Know your rights cards**
- **Power of Attorney for property & finance**
- **Power of Attorney for delegation of parental power**

Presentations & Workshops:

- **Immigrant Rights Presentation**
- **Toolkit Review & Completion workshop**
- **Fiction, Facts & Faith presentation**

Immigration Attorney Referral Service

Emergency Hate Crime Victim Assistance & Response