



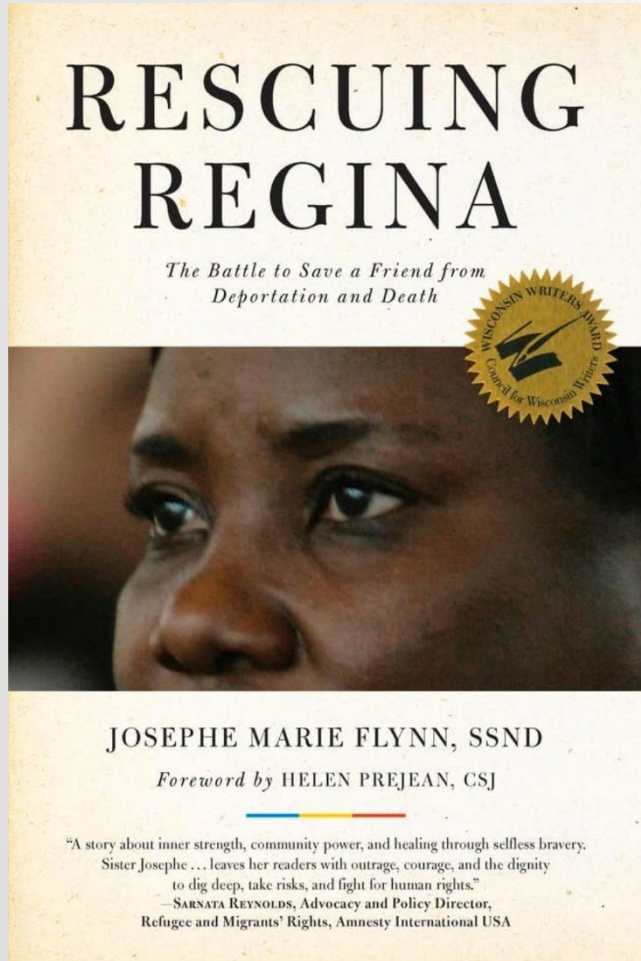
LIVING OUR FAITH SERIES

IMMIGRATION: FACTS VS. FICTION



Forward Latino advocates for community empowerment, democracy, and civil rights while addressing hate crimes, gun violence, and the needs of veterans and working families. We train and support a diverse network of Hispanic leaders to meet the civic, economic, and political challenges of the 21st century.







WE ARE ALL BROTHERS & SISTER

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

	■ 2022	■ 2019	Change
U.S. total	11,000	10,200	825
LATIN AMERICA			
Mexico	4,050	4,350	-300
Central America	2,100	2,050	--
Caribbean	725	425	300
South America	1,000	825	190
OTHER REGIONS			
Asia	1,700	1,550	150
Europe, Canada	775	500	275
Middle East	180	130	--
Africa	375	275	100
Oceania	80	60	--

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”

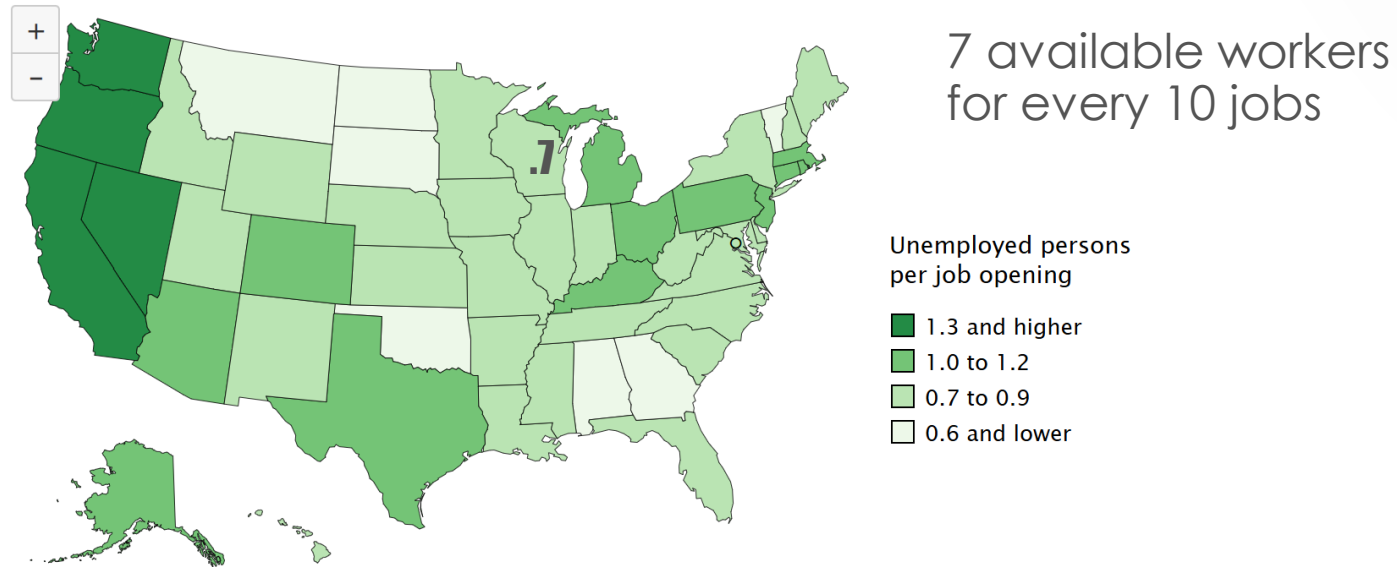
<https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2025/0-9-unemployed-people-per-job-openings-for-fourth-consecutive-month.htm#:~:text=On%20the%20last%20business%20day,figure%20unchanged%20since%20October%202024.>



THE FACTS... IMMIGRANTS & JOBS

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

Map 1. Number of unemployed persons per job opening by state, August 2025, seasonally adjusted
(U.S. ratio = 1.0)



Hover, tap on mobile devices, or use tab and arrow keys to see area data.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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



THE FACTS... IMMIGRANTS & JOBS

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

Percentage of total workforce by industry that are undocumented immigrants:

From the United States Department of Agriculture

- 42% of agriculture workers

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/chart-gallery/chart-detail?chartId=63466#:~:text=In%202020%E2%80%9322%2C%2032%20percent,percent%20held%20no%20work%20authorization.>

From the Center for Immigration Studies

- 20% of construction workers
- 12% of all accommodation & foodservice
- 11% of manufacturing workers
- 10% Administrative, support & waste management workers
- 8% Retail workers

<https://cmsny.org/publications/undocumented-workers-in-high-growth-occupations-and-industries/>



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/>



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.](#)



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

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

26 Shares



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



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



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



QUESTIONS...



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.