



**Give Me Your Poor,
Your Tired, Your
Homeless
(Some Restrictions
May Apply):
Immigration to the United
States in the 21st Century**

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Prof of Econ, Emeritus

National Economic Education
Delegation

Johns Hopkins OLLI
Washington, DC
March 18, 2026

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Course Schedule

Contemporary Economic Policy Issues

- Week 1 (2/25): Economic Update & Tariffs Geoffrey Woglom, Amherst College
- Week 2 (3/04): An Introduction to Cryptocurrencies, Geoffrey Woglom
- Week 3 (3/11): Saving Social Security, Geoffrey Woglom
- **Week 4 (3/18) Economics of Immigration, Robert Gitter, Ohio Wesleyan University**
- Week 5 (3/25): Climate Change Economics, Sarah Jacobson, Williams College
- Week 6 (2/27): Health Care Economics, Robert Rebelein, Vassar College

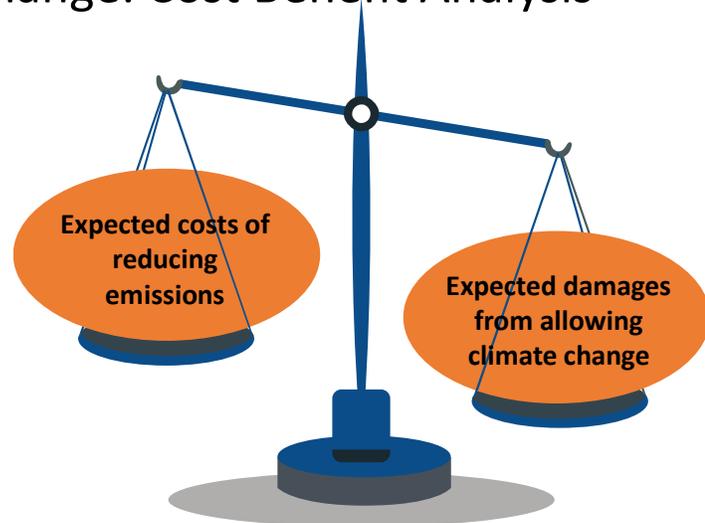
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Next week: How Economists Decide How Much to Fight Climate Change: Cost Benefit Analysis

Abating greenhouse gas emissions is costly...

... but without action, climate change damages are even more costly.

Goal is not zero emissions, but efficient level that achieves a balance.



Submitting Questions

There will be time for a Q&A after the presentation

Slides will be available from the NEED website tonight or tomorrow

https://needecon.org/delivered_presentations.php.

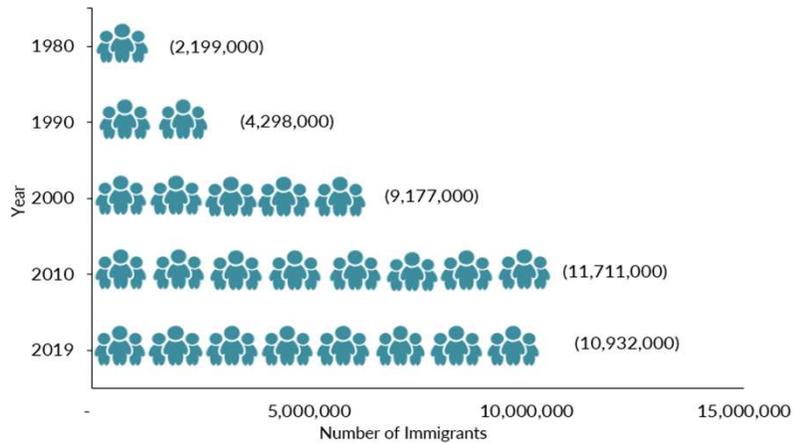
Migration to the US

Difficult to Measure How Many

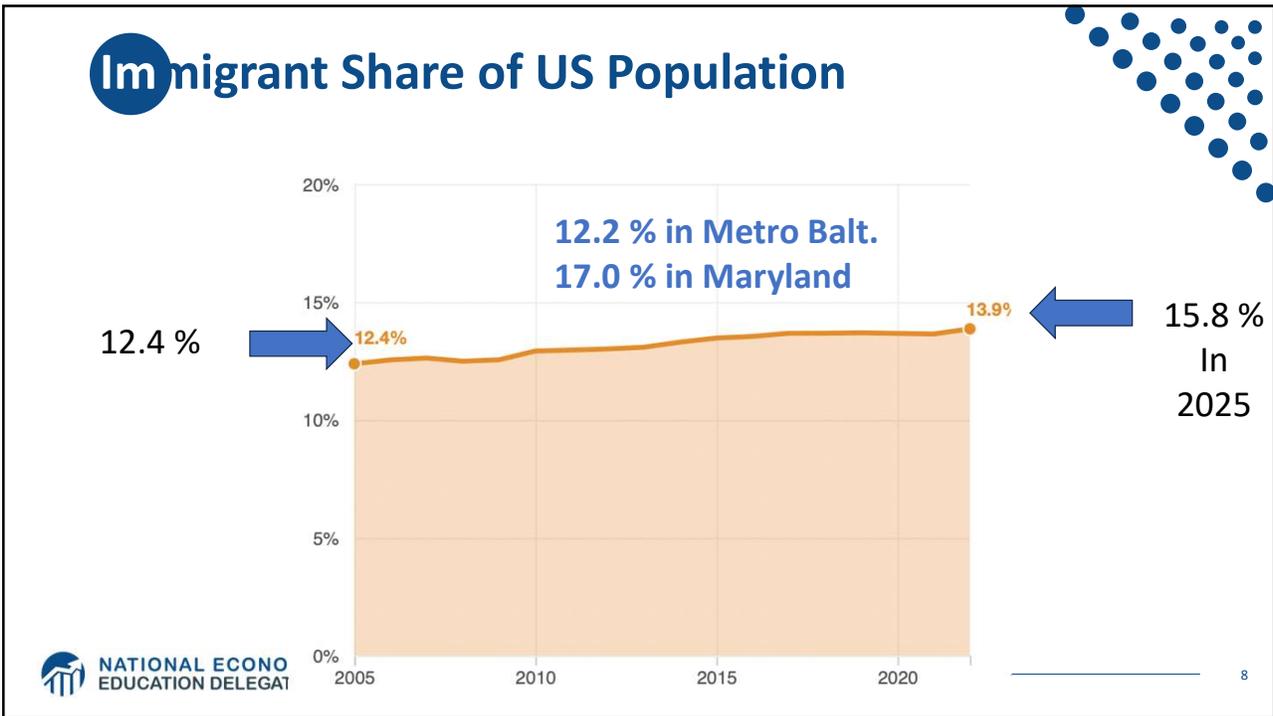
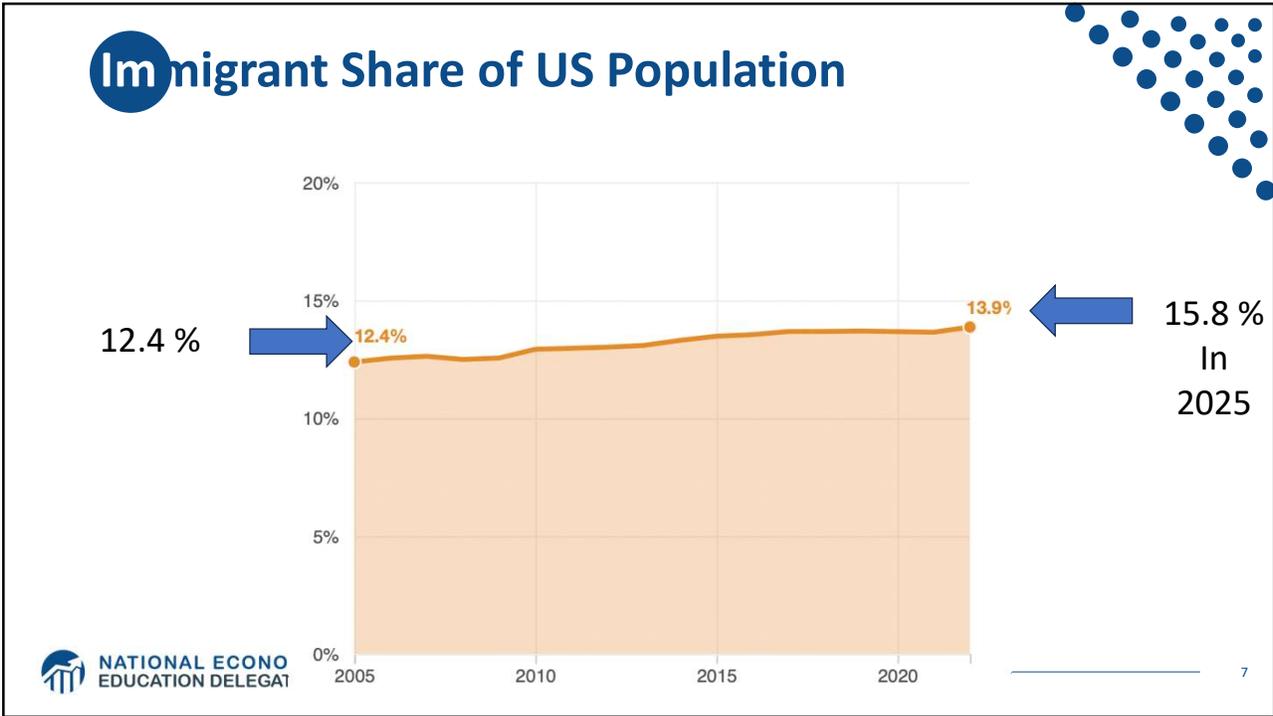
- Legal Immigrants - easy
- Undocumented Immigrants
- Return Immigrants – no record if return



Mexican-Born People in the US



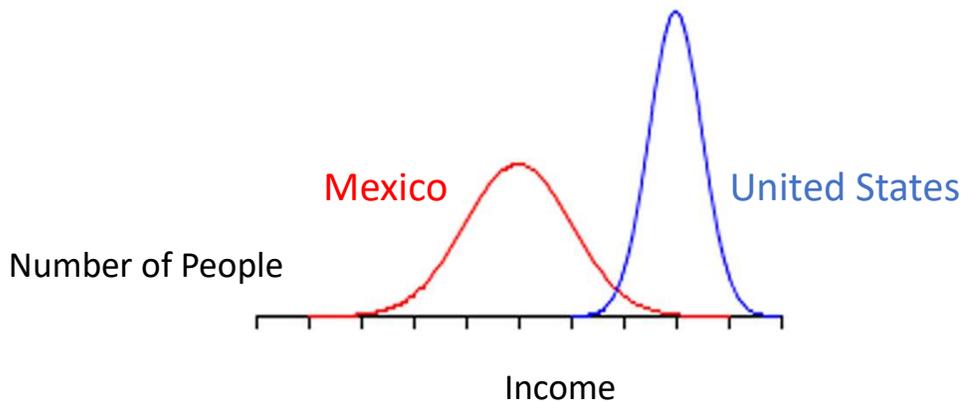
About 10.9 million in 2023 (Latest data)
1 in 14 people born in Mexico currently lives in the US



The Migration Decision

- **Benefit of Migrating**
- **Benefit of Staying**
- **Cost of Migrating**

Distribution of Income



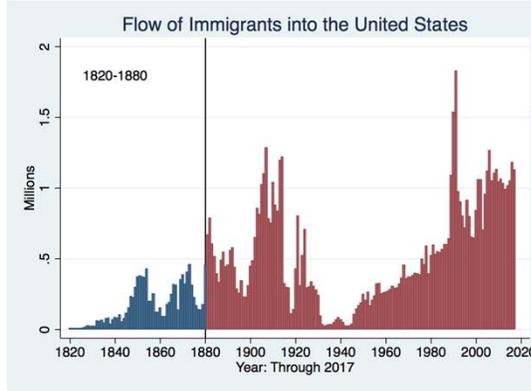
The Dangers of Border Crossing



Key Laws

- **Quota and Immigrations Acts (1921 and 1924)**
- **Bracero Program(1942-1964)**
- **Immigration and Nationality Act (1965)**
- **Immigration and Control Act (1986)**

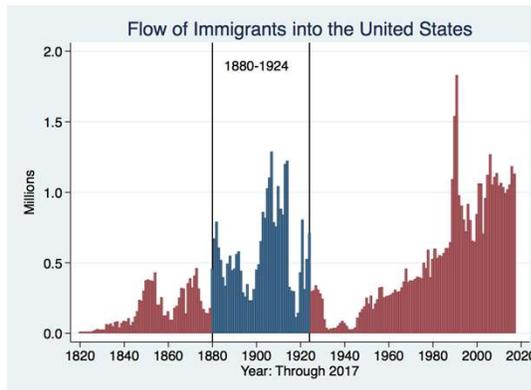
U.S. Immigration 1820-1880



Source Country	1820-1880
Germany	3,000,000
Ireland	2,800,000
Britain	2,000,000
Austro-Hungarian Empire	1,000,000
Canada	750,000
China	230,000
Africa	50,000

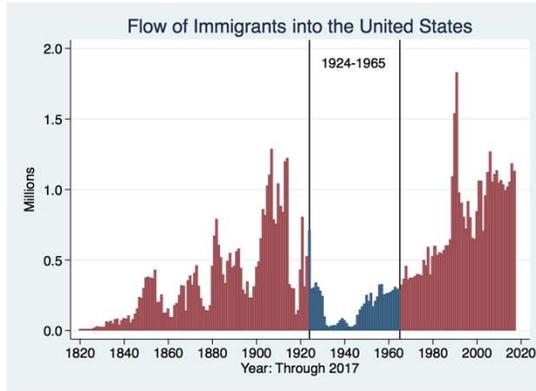
<https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/immigration-timeline>

U.S. Immigration 1880-1924



Source Country	1880-1930
Italy	4,600,000
Austro-Hungarian Empire	4,000,000
Russian Empire	3,300,000
German Empire	2,800,000
Britain	2,300,000
Canada	2,300,000
Ireland	1,700,000

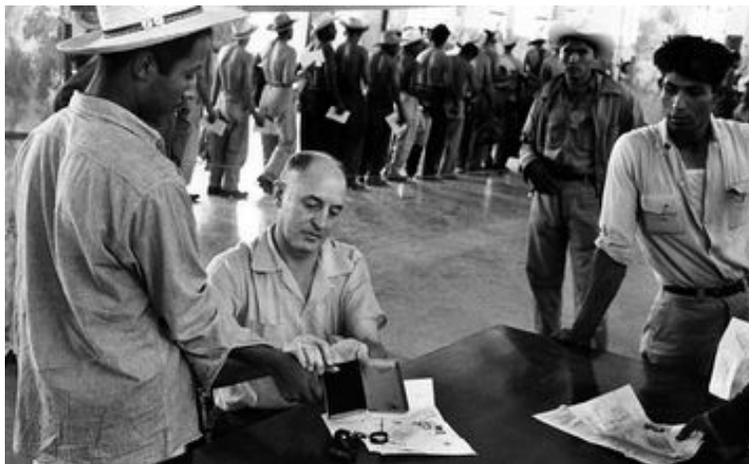
U.S. Immigration 1924-1965



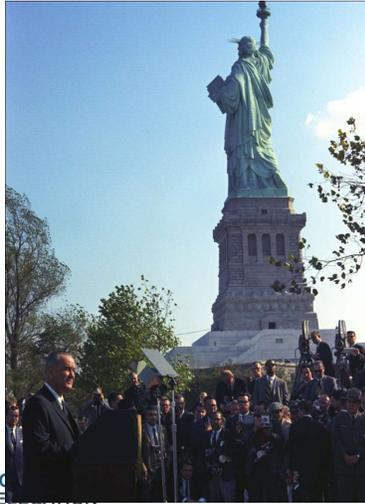
Source Country	1930-1965
Germany	940,000
Canada	900,000
Mexico	610,000
Britain	480,000
Italy	390,000
Caribbean/ West Indies	310,000

<https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/immigration-timeline>

Signing up for Bracero Program

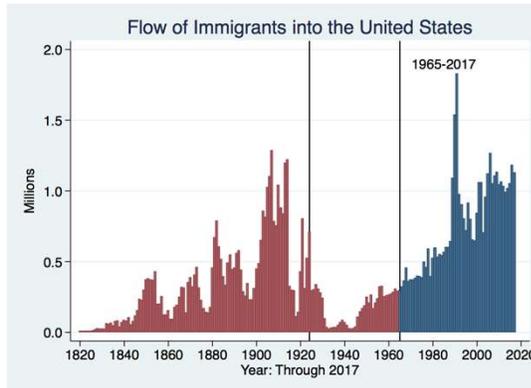


LBJ Signs Immigration and Nationality Act (1965)



- Abolished Quotas
- Limits immigration to about 1 million/year
- Family reunification most important consideration

History of U.S. Immigration: 1965-Today



Source Country	1965-2017
Mexico	4,300,000
Philippines	1,400,000
Korea	760,000
Dominican Republic	750,000
India	740,000
Cuba	700,000
Vietnam	700,000
Canada	650,000

<https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/immigration-timeline>

NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS BY TYPE OF ADMISSION: FISCAL YEAR 2023

Family-sponsored preferences	755,830	204,240
Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens		551,590
Employment-based preferences ³		196,760
Diversity		67,350
Refugees		59,030
Asylees		40,330
<u>Other</u>		<u>53,610</u>
TOTAL		1,172,910

H1B Four Times as Many H1B Applications as Visas Awarded



H2A Program

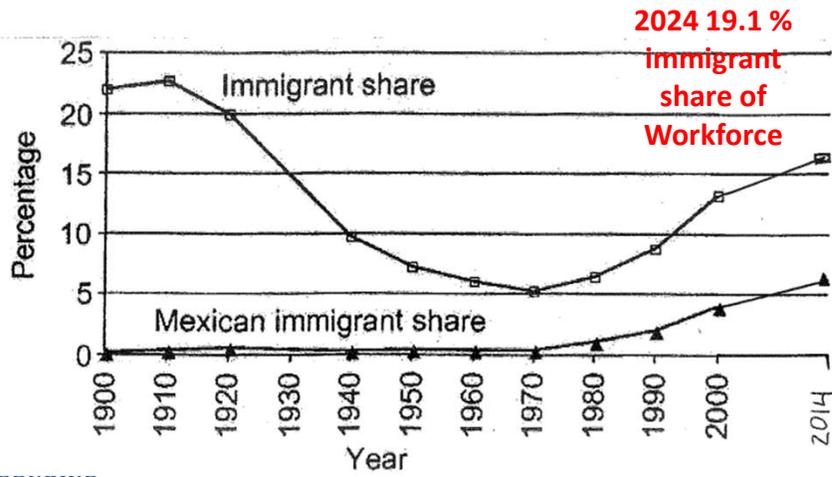


Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986



- Grants amnesty to undocumented individuals in US since 1982
- Must pay penalty and back taxes
- Amnesty granted for being undocumented
- Path to citizenship
- Two million people took advantage, mostly Mexican
- Illegal to knowingly hire undocumented workers

Immigrant Share of US Workforce



Immigration to Maryland

Immigrants tend to be of working age. More so than the U.S. Born

Age	Foreign Born	United States Born
0-15	6.0%	22.2%
16-64	78.0%	60.3%
65+	16.1%	17.5%

Immigration to Maryland

Country of Origin	Percent of Immigrants
El Salvador	13.4 %
India	5.7 %
Nigeria	5.1 %
Guatemala	4.5 %
China	4.1 %

Immigration to Maryland

There is a higher share of immigrants without a high school diploma

Education Level	Foreign Born Population	U.S. Born Population
Less than High School	19.8 %	5.9 %
High School & Some College	36.3%	50.3 %
Bachelor's Degree	20.2 %	23.0 %
Graduate Degree	23.7 %	20.8 %

Immigration to Maryland

Top with Highest Share of Immigrant Workers

Occupation	Share of Workers Immigrants
Construction	62.4 %
Maid & Housekeeper Cleaner	60.8 %
Other Life Scientists	58.9 %
Taxi Drivers	57.4 %
Carpenters	54.4 %

Characteristics of Native and Latin Amer. Born Population (Age 16 & up - U S)

	<u>Native Born</u>	<u>Foreign Born</u>	<u>Lat. Amer. Born</u>
Labor Force	136 Mil.	32.3 Mil	15.7 Mil
< H.S. Educ	5.3 %	21.2 %	32.9 %
Poor English	2%	21 %	33 %
Employed	59.3 %	63.7 %	65.4 %
Unem. Rate	4.0%	4.2 %	4.7%
Med. Wk. Earn	\$1,190	\$1001	\$997
 Poverty Rate	12 %	14 %	17%

Impact of Latin American Immigration

- More likely to be in low-skill, low-wage jobs.
- Competition for less skilled native-born
- More GDP & lower prices
- Helps upper income native-born, hurts lower
- Little impact on federal budget but raises costs for state and local (schooling)

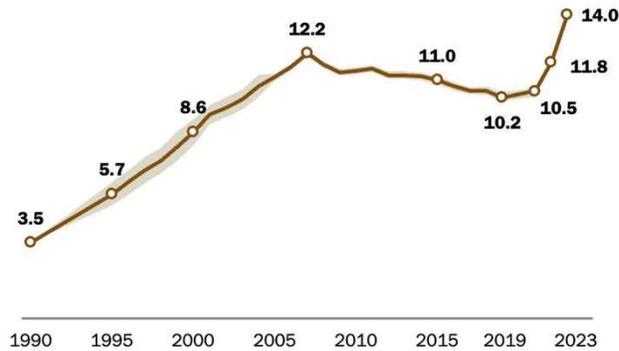
Undocumented Immigrants in the U S

The number of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. grew sharply from 2021 to 2023 ...

U.S. immigrant population without full legal status, in millions

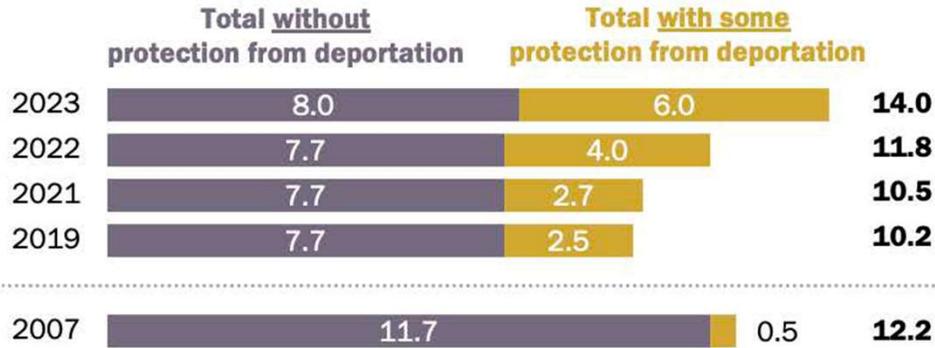
The Pew Foundation estimates undocumented immigrants dropped in 2024 and 2025

Source: PEW Foundation.



Undocumented Immigrants and TPS

Unauthorized immigrant population in the U.S., in millions



Source: Pew Foundation

Asylees and Refugees

- Refugees are usually outside the United States when they are screened for resettlement in US
- Asylum seekers submit their applications while physically present in the United States or at a U.S. port of entry

Reason to grant – (US & UNCOR) unable to return because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on: race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. (Not economic hardship!)

Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

- The Secretary of Homeland Security can grant
- Can be granted to foreign-born persons who can't return to home country safely due to their country unable to handle their return
- Acceptable reasons
 - Conflict
 - Hurricane or earthquake
 - epidemic
 - Other temporary conditions
- Temporary status but can be extended
- Can work and travel within the United States
- May be eligible for welfare such as TANF, SNAP, Medicaid

TPS As of March 31, 2025

Country	Individuals
Venezuela	605,015
Haiti	330,735
El Salvador	170,125
Ukraine	101,150
Honduras	51,225
Other	39,150
Total	1,297,635

TPS As of March 2026

Country	Individuals - 2025 Totals
Venezuela	605,015
Haiti ???	330,735
El Salvador	170,125
Ukraine	101,150
Honduras	51,225
Other	39,150
Total	1,297,635

Current TPS Status

In Effect	Ended but Suspended by Court Order
El Salvador	Burma
Lebanon	Ethiopia
Sudan	Haiti
Ukraine	Somalia
Yemen	South Sudan
	Syria

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)

- Entered U.S. before age 16, now in U.S.
- Entered before June 2007
- Currently in school, high school grad or honorable discharge from military
- No felony conviction or threat to security
- Renewable every 2 years
- Executive Order by Obama, Trump ended, Biden restored, in court now

About 530,000 in US and 14,000 in DMV



President Trump Day 1 Executive Orders

- Massive Expansion of Expedited Removal
- Targeting "Recent" Entrants
- Expansion of 287(g) Agreements
- Targeting "Sanctuary Cities"
- "Catch and Revoke" Program
- Expansion of Detention Infrastructure



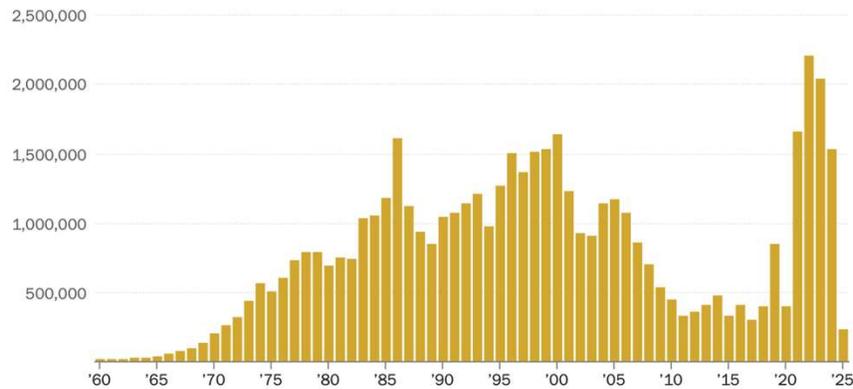
Other Recent Changes

- Proposed Revocation of Birthright Citizenship
- Operation Metro Surge & Other Targeted Cities
- Workplace & Campus Raids
- The One Big Beautiful Bill Act
- Alien Enemies Act of 1798
- Expedited Removal Expansion
- International "Third-Country" Agreements
- Elimination of "Sensitive Zones"
- \$100,000 Fee for H1B Visa

Border Encounters at U.S.-Mexico Border

In 2025, encounters with migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border fell to their lowest level since 1970

Migrant encounters by U.S. Border Patrol at the U.S.-Mexico border, by fiscal year



Final Thoughts



- Building a wall might not be effective
- Going through the desert is dangerous
- Illegal to hire undocumented workers but still done
- Undocumented are not eligible for welfare
- Maybe a points system like Canada

Thank you!



Questions?

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