







MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT IMMIGRATION

<p>Fact 1: Immigration causes the economy to grow.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22.5 million immigrants work in the U.S. • More immigrants are of working age than the native-born population • Immigrants keep the U.S. competitive in the global market
<p>Fact 2: All immigrants must pay property, sales, and income taxes, but undocumented immigrants cannot receive public assistance.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigrants cannot qualify for any federal or state benefits except for emergency services and some community-sponsored benefits • Many immigrants are afraid of seeking assistance out of fear of deportation • Undocumented persons pay billions in taxes to the federal government, especially in Social Security, that they do not receive
<p>Fact 3: Immigrants strengthen and transform communities.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New immigrants help develop struggling communities • Immigrant entrepreneurs start businesses that meet previously unmet needs • There is a positive connection between the number of immigrants in a neighborhood and increasing property value
<p>Fact 4: The percent of immigrants in the U.S. is not at an all time high</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of immigrants in the U.S. currently is not as high as in the past • Currently, the foreign born population is 12.6%, but between 1860-1920 the foreign-born population was between 13% and 15% • About 47.5% of all immigrants identify as being of Hispanic or Latino descent
<p>Fact 5: According to the Department of Homeland Security, unauthorized immigrants are only 4% of the population.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are approximately 11.8 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S.—about 4% of the population • 25-40% of all undocumented workers come legally to the U.S. and become illegal by overstaying their visas
<p>Fact 6: Most immigrants are legally admitted to the U.S., and come to reunite with family members.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,052,415 immigrants obtained legal permanent residency compared with 500,000 who entered the U.S. without documents or overstayed visas • Immigrants come for 1) family, 2) work, and 3) freedom • Undocumented people come to the U.S. because of push and pull factors. Push factors encourage them to leave home countries, like poverty or persecution. Pull factors attract them to a receiving country, like job opportunities and freedom

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