

# **Myths and Facts: Crime Statistics and Immigration**

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Mexican U.S. Border

# The Mexican/U.S. Border-3rd Space

[Migration Policy Institute](#)

- Population: 11.8 million (Greece, Portugal, Serbia)
- The border area in the United States consists of 48 counties in four states.
  - 2 of the 10 fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the United States, Laredo and McAllen, are located on the Texas-Mexico border
- Mexicans constitute 29.5 % of all foreign born in the United States, by far the largest group.
  - Philippines and India (4% each)
- U.S. issued 906,622 nonimmigrant visas for Mexicans in fiscal year 2005
  - 732,566 laser visas for those who live on the Mexican side of the border but work in the United States
- Poverty:
  - 25% of the population in U.S. counties bordering Mexico live at or below the poverty line.
    - Double the U.S. national average (12%)
  - Mexican border states have an average poverty rate of 28%
    - Mexican national average of 37%

# Immigration Clichés

- Illegal is Illegal
  - Assumes that immigration is a logical process
  - Assumes that there is a **Line** that a prospective immigrant can find and stand in while they wait their turn
- Immigrants take jobs Americans don't want
  - Assumes Americans are too lazy to work
  - But many Americans cannot afford to work or have the means to work

# Federal Government not doing enough

- Secure Communities Agreements Terminated
  - Launched October 2008
- All gun shops in four Southwest border states required to alert the federal government to frequent buyers of high-powered rifles (8-14).
  - Report purchases of two or more of some types of rifles by the same person in a five-day span. The requirement applies to purchases of semi-automatic rifles that have detachable magazines and a caliber of greater than .22.
- Fast & Furious

# Current Border Security Policies

- [Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act \(1996\)](#)
  - [287 \(g\) and more severe deportation policies.](#)
- [Operation Streamline \(2005\)](#)
  - Orders federal criminal charges for every person who crosses the border illegally.
- [SBI net \(2005\)](#)
  - In January 2010, GAO reported that the number of new system defects identified over an 17 month period while testing was underway was generally increasing faster than the number of defects being fixed, not indicative of a maturing system.

# What is a secure border?

- Securing the nation's borders from illegal entry of aliens and contraband, including terrorists and weapons of mass destruction, continues to be a major challenge.
- In November 2005, the DHS announced the launch of the **Secure Border Initiative (SBI)**—a multiyear, multibillion dollar program aimed at securing U.S. borders and reducing illegal immigration.
  - GAO found that DHS has faced Challenges Deploying Technology and Fencing Along the Southwest Border
- **Merida Initiative**: Congress has dedicated the vast majority of the funds—roughly \$1.5 billion—to support programs in Mexico, with an emphasis on training and equipping Mexican military and police forces engaged in counterdrug efforts.

BP's national objective: to establish and maintain operational control over the Nation's borders.

1. Establish substantial probability of apprehending terrorists and their weapons as they attempt to illegally enter the United States between the ports of entry
2. Deter illegal entries through improved enforcement
3. Apprehend and deter smugglers of humans, drugs, and other contraband
4. Leverage “Smart Border” technology to multiply the effect of enforcement personnel
5. Reduce crime in border communities and consequently improve the quality of life and economic vitality of regions

# The Immigration & Nationality Act

## Four Primary Objectives

- To facilitate the reunification of families by admitting people who already have a family member living in the United States,
- To attract workers to fill positions in certain occupations for which there are shortages,
- To increase diversity by admitting people from countries with historically low rates of immigration to the United States, and
- To provide a refuge for people who face the risk of racial, religious, or political persecution in their home country.

# Immigration and Nationality Act (Legal Code)

- Sec. 101. [8 U.S.C. 1101] (a)
- What is an ~~illegal~~ alien?
- The term "alien" means any person not a citizen or national of the United States.

## Sec. 275. [8 U.S.C. 1325]

- (a) Any alien who
  - (1) enters or attempts to enter the United States at any time or place other than as designated by immigration officers, or
  - (2) eludes examination or inspection by immigration officers, or
  - (3) attempts to enter or obtains entry to the United States by a willfully false or misleading representation or the willful concealment of a material fact, shall, for the first commission of any such offense, be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both, and, for a subsequent commission of any such offense, be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both.
- (b) 1/ Any alien who is 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 of-**
  - (1) **at least \$50 and not more than \$250 for each such entry (or attempted entry); or**
  - (2) twice the amount specified in paragraph (1) in the case of an alien who has been previously subject to a civil penalty under this subsection.
- Civil penalties under this subsection are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any criminal or other civil penalties that may be imposed.

# Secure Communities

- Routine fingerprints of crime suspects by local law enforcement are automatically screened by federal immigration authorities.
- More than 15,000 immigrants from Arizona deported
- More than 101,000 immigrants nationwide deported
- Through April 30, more than 77,000 immigrants convicted of crimes were identified and deported
  - More than 28,000 convicted of aggravated felonies such as murder, rape and the sexual abuse of children deported
- **60% of the illegal immigrants deported nationwide during the first 2½ years of the program had either no criminal record or had been convicted of low-level offenses.**
- **66% in Arizona had no criminal record or were low-level offenders**

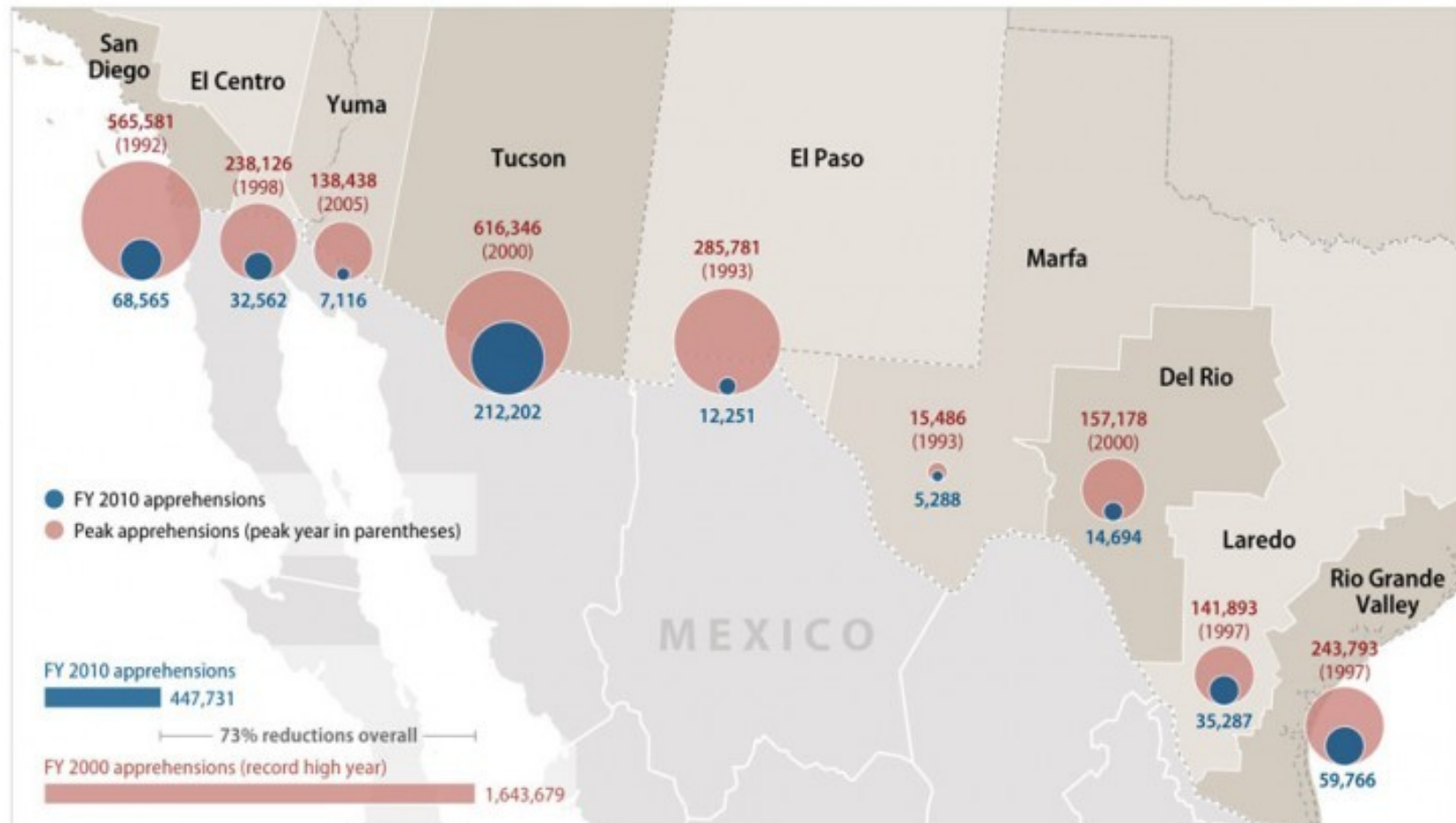
# Deportations-Tucson Sector: Covers the majority of the Arizona/Mexico border (2011)

- 44 percent drop in illegal-immigrant apprehensions
  - The sector had 108,900 apprehensions through July 31,
  - Compared with 194,065 during the same period last year.
- Tucson Sector also launched a new program that prosecutes nearly all migrants for entering illegally.
  - As a result of the prosecutions, migrants are formally ordered deported by immigration judges instead of simply allowing them to voluntarily return to their country.
  - Migrants who have been formally deported face criminal charges if caught re-entering the country illegally.
- The Yuma Sector includes the western edge of Arizona's border with Mexico
  - Apprehensions in the sector are down 23 percent so far this year

# 2009

- About 580,000 people arrested-or-detained returned voluntarily under the supervision of a DHS official to their home country or to another country
  - Figure well below the number in recent years.
- About 393,000 people were ordered removed, which is 63 percent more than were ordered removed in 2004.
  - 107,000 carried out using an expedited process designed to speed up the removal process
- About two-thirds of total removals were for noncriminal violations, such as a lack of proper documentation
  - The other one-third were for criminal violations of U.S. laws.

# Peak and FY2010 border apprehensions, by border sector



# How Many?

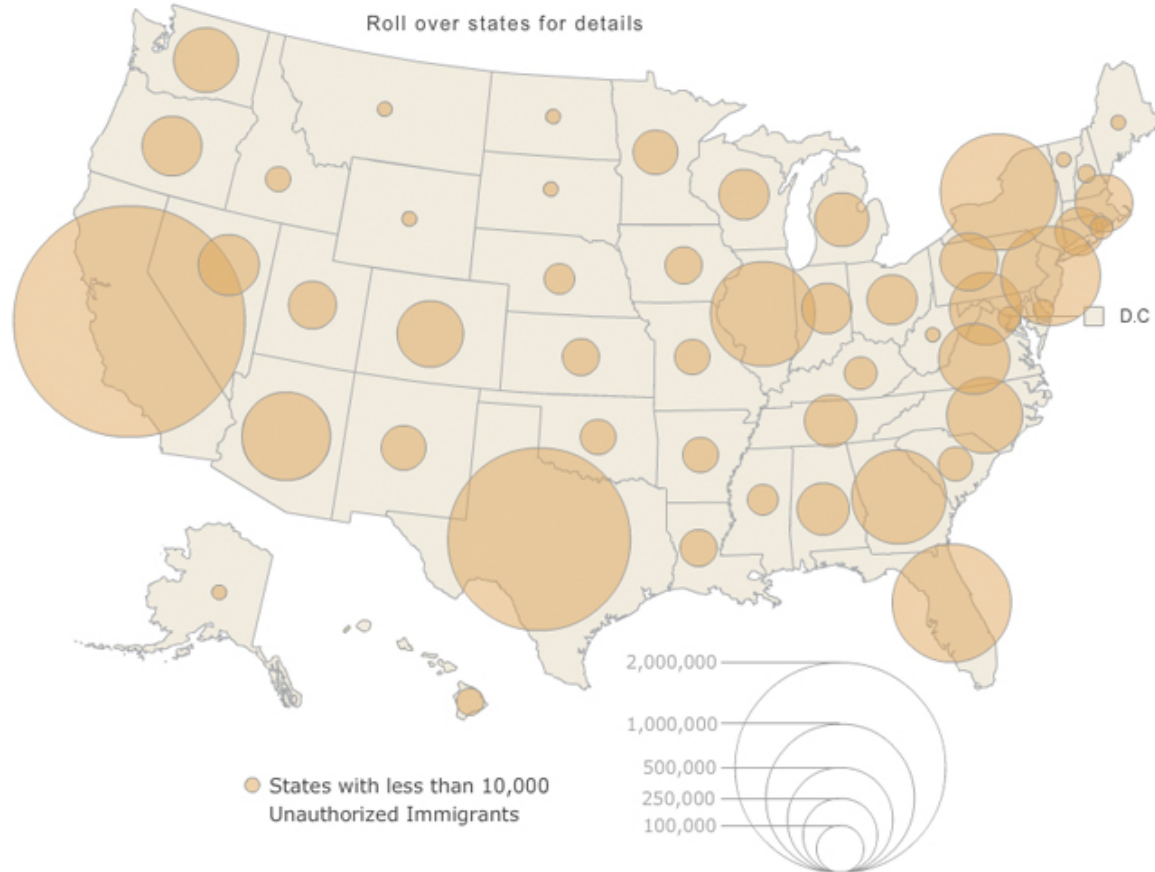
## Estimates of the U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Population, 2000-2010

(in millions)



# State by State Comparison

UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS: [State-by-State](#) | [How Many?](#) | [Where Are They From?](#) | [Gender & Age](#)



PEW HISPANIC CENTER

**Report:** U.S. Unauthorized Immigration Flows Are Down Sharply Since Mid-Decade.

# Boomerang Operations

- The Obama administration has expanded its role in Mexico's fight against organized crime by allowing the Mexican police to stage cross-border drug raids from inside the United States, according to senior administration and military officials.
- Mexican commandos have discreetly traveled to the United States, assembled at designated areas and dispatched helicopter missions back across the border aimed at suspected drug traffickers.
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# Columbus, NM: March 10, 2011

- JOINT OPERATION: The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Drug Enforcement Administration.
- Arrested Columbus's mayor, police chief, village trustee and numerous others accused of smuggling guns, ammunition and body armor across the border to Mexican outlaws.
- The smuggling ring
  - bought about 200 automatic weapons from a gun store in New Mexico
  - transported them across the border to Mexico
  - Bullets and body armor were also purchased in New Mexico for use by drug traffickers in Mexico
  - Columbus police vehicle transported weapons.

# Immigration Policy Institute

- Crime rates have been falling in Arizona for years despite the presence of unauthorized immigrants, and most research demonstrates that immigrants are less likely to commit crimes or be behind bars than the native-born."
- Murders and kidnapping claims problematic and difficult to substantiate due to recent questions about recordkeeping in Maricopa county

# Crime

## June 2010-Cato Institute

- The violent crime rate in Arizona in 2008 was the lowest it has been since 1971
- In 2008 the violent crime rate fell more than 20%, a steeper drop than overall U.S. crime rate
- The property crime rate fell to its lowest point since 1966
- U.S.-born men have an institutionalization rate 10 times higher than foreign-born men (4.2 percent vs. 0.42 percent)
- Between 1990-2000 cities (50,000 or more) with the largest increases in immigration experienced the largest decreases in homicide and robbery during the same period.

## 2006 Drug Trafficking

- \$13.8 Billion in illicit drug sales for Mexican traffickers
- \$8.5 billion (61%) tied to Marijuana
- 2005-8.1% of entire U.S. Population 12 and older had used used illicit drugs
- Domestic production of marijuana in California, Kentucky, and Texas accounted for one-half of U.S. consumption

Federal funding for immigration enforcement and securing the border is at an all-time high.

- **Spending:** 2005 - \$8.5 billion and in 2011 over \$16.2 billion.
- **Number of Border Patrol agents:** 2006 12,348 and 2011 more than 21,000.
- **Fines from employer audits for hiring undocumented immigrants:**
  - 2008 - \$675,000 and 2010-\$6.9 million
- **Deportations in 2010:** 400,000 immigrants
- **Border Patrol arrests:** 2004 - 1.13 million and 2010 - 447,700

# Unsecured Border-June 2010

- 22,800 U.S. Border Patrol agents, five times the number in 1993.
- About 17,000 agents along the Southwest corridor-double from seven years ago.
- They are supported by National Guard troops, local police and thousands of port officers using everything from drug-sniffing dogs to gamma-ray machines.
- Arizona, primary smuggling corridor on the U.S.-Mexico border-over 3,600 Border Patrol agents (**10 for every mile of boundary with Mexico**).
- **About \$17 billion**: last fiscal year's budget for Customs and Border Protection, the federal agency charged with guarding U.S. borders.
- Number of Illegal immigrants arrested has dropped by almost two-thirds in just five years (result of economic recession and increased security).

# 2009 Cities of 500,000 or more

## **Lowest Crime Rate**

- 1. Honolulu, HI
- 2. El Paso, TX
- 3. New York, NY
- 4. San Jose, CA
- 5. Austin, TX
- 6. San Diego, CA
- 7. Seattle, WA
- 8. Portland, OR
- 9. Denver, CO
- 10. Los Angeles, CA

## **Highest Crime Rate**

- 1. Detroit, MI
- 2. Memphis, TN
- 3. Baltimore, MD
- 4. Washington, DC
- 5. Atlanta, GA
- 6. Philadelphia, PA
- 7. Indianapolis, IN
- 8. Columbus, OH
- 9. Milwaukee, WI
- 10. Dallas, TX

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- 9. Houston, TX
- 10. Columbus, OH

# 2005-2008 FBI Crime Statistics

- Violent crimes reported in Arizona dropped by nearly 1,500 reported incidents.
- Reported property crimes also fell, from about 287,000 reported incidents to 279,000.
- These decreases are accentuated by the fact that Arizona's population grew by 600,000 between 2005 and 2008.

Sharp growth in illegal immigration and increased enforcement have dramatically altered the ethnic composition of offenders sentenced in federal courts.

- In 2007, Latinos accounted for 40% of all sentenced federal offenders—more than triple their share (13%) of the total U.S. adult population.
- The share of all sentenced offenders who were Latino in 2007 was up from 24% in 1991
- By 2007, immigration offenses represented nearly one-quarter (24%) of all federal convictions, up from just 7% in 1991.
- Among those sentenced for immigration offenses in 2007, 80% were Hispanic.

This heightened focus on immigration enforcement has also changed the citizenship profile of federal offenders.

- In 2007, Latinos without U.S. citizenship represented 29% of all federal offenders.
- Among all Latino offenders, some 72% were not U.S. citizens, up from 61% in 1991.
- By contrast, a much smaller share of white offenders (8%) and black offenders (6%) who were sentenced in federal courts in 2007 were not U.S. citizens

From 1991 to 2007 the total number of offenders sentenced in federal courts more than doubled

- The number of sentenced offenders who were Hispanic nearly quadrupled and accounted for more than half (54%) of the growth in the total number of sentenced offenders.
- One reason all of these figures have risen so sharply is that immigration offenses, unlike most other criminal offenses, are exclusively under the jurisdiction of federal rather than state or local courts.
- In 1991, three times as many Hispanics were sentenced in federal courts for drug crimes (60%) as for immigration crimes (20%).
- By 2007, that pattern had reversed; among Hispanic offenders sentenced in federal courts, 48% were sentenced for an immigration offense and 37% for a drug offense.

# 2010 States with largest Unauthorized Immigrant Populations

U.S. Total	11,200 (thousands)	10,700-11,700 (thousands)
California	2,550	2,350-2,750
Texas	1,650	1,450-1,850
Florida	825	725-950
New York	625	525-725
New Jersey	550	425-650
Illinois	525	425-625
Georgia	425	300-550
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>275-500</b>
North Carolina	325	240-425
Maryland	275	200-325
Washington	230	140-325
Virginia	210	170-250

# 2010 States with largest share of Unauthorized Immigrants in Population

<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>305,999,000</b>	<b>11,200,000</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
Nevada	2,655,000	190,000	7.2%
California	37,210,000	2,550,000	6.8%
Texas	24,850,000	1,650,000	6.7%
New Jersey	8,743,000	550,000	6.2%
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>6,559,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
Maryland	5,702,000	275,000	4.6%
District of Columbia	600,000	25,000	4.5%
Florida	18,490,000	825,000	4.5%
Georgia	9,722,000	425,000	4.4%
New Mexico	1,997,000	85,000	4.3%
Oregon	3,854,000	160,000	4.3%
Illinois	12,840,000	525,000	4.1%

# Other ways in which an unauthorized population could decline

- An increase in the number of migrants voluntarily leaving the country
  - Although many migrants voluntarily return home each year, there is no evidence that this number has grown in recent years.
- Deportations
  - Removals (deportations) have more than doubled over the past decade, reaching almost 400,000 in fiscal 2009.
  - Mexicans have constituted the majority of deportations for at least the past decade.
  - In 2009, more than 70% of deportees were Mexican (DHS)
- Deaths or conversion to legal status.

# World GDP Ranking

2010 Estimates-CIA World Factbook

World Rank/Country	GDP (PURCHASING POWER PARITY)
2. The United States	\$ 14,720,000,000,000
12. Mexico	\$ 1,560,000,000,000
15. Canada	\$ 1,335,000,000,000

World Rank/Country	GDP - per capita (PPP):
11. The United States	\$ 47,400
23. Canada	\$ 39,600
85. Mexico	\$ 13,800

# North American Border Crossing/Entry Data



## 2009 Border Crossings

- 41,314,685 Pedestrians – 113,191/day
- 4,291,465 Truck Crossings-11757/day
- 238,669 Loaded Rail Containers-654/day
- 70,304,756 Personal Vehicles-192,616/day
- 141,016,993 Personal Vehicle Passengers-386,348/day
- 228,454 Buses-626/day
- 2,429,190 Bus Passengers-6655/day
- 4,187 Train Passengers-11/day

# 2010 Crossings

- 39,914,981 Pedestrians
- 4,742,925 Truck Crossings
- 318,022 Loaded Rail Containers
- 64,044,852 Personal Vehicles
- 125,749,521 Personal Vehicle Passengers
- 218,754 Buses
- 2,679,707 Bus Passengers
- 3,283 Train Passengers

## 2006 Drug Trafficking

### Office of National Drug Control Policy

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- 2005-8.1% of entire U.S. Population 12 and older had used used illicit drugs
- Domestic production of marijuana in California, Kentucky, and Texas accounted for one-half of U.S. consumption
- [U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration](#) (Stats & Facts)

# English Efficiency

[March 2004-Pew Hispanic Center](#)

	1st Generation	2nd Generation	3rd Generation
English Dominant	4%	46%	78%
Bilingual	24%	47%	22%
Spanish Dominant	72%	7%	-

# Problems

- Immigration policymaking is strongly biased in favor of enforcement rather than legalization or visa reform.
- The American political system is strongly biased against comprehensive legislation of any kind.

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