

The State of U.S. Immigration

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Overview

US Immigration – Pathways to Citizenship

Recent Immigration Changes

Why Do I Care about Immigration?

American Attitudes about Immigration

What can you do?

Pathways to U.S. Citizenship

A Typical Year = 1 million

1. Family-Based (750,000)

- Immediate Relatives and Family Sponsored Preferences

2. Employment-Based (140,000)

- NOTE: H1B (temporary, skilled, 583,000) feeds into EB 2 & 3

3. Humanitarian (130,000)

- Refugees and Asylum

Recent Immigration Changes

1. **Executive Orders** – Refugee Caps, Travel Ban, DACA, 48 covid-related
2. **Federal Register Rules** – Public Charge, Mammoth Asylum
3. **Attorney General Decisions** – Zero Tolerance, BIA re-trial
4. **Policy Memos/Internal Guidance** – (DHS) Metering, MPP
5. **Discretionary Authority** – (ICE) Alternatives to Detention
6. **Personnel Decisions** – CPB Credible Fear, Int'l USCIS offices closed
7. **Budgetary** – Defense Budget \$ for Border Wall
8. **Int'l Agreements** – Safe Third Country (Guat, Hond, El Salvador)

Covid-related Immigration Changes

Family – spouse/children applications of LPRs suspended

Employment - some reductions to temporary work visas (H1B, H2B)

Humanitarian – refugee entry suspended, rapid expulsion at border

- MPP hearings postponed

Immigration Courts closed

USCIS Offices closed – Temp. workers, DACA, TPS, Student Visas

Restricting non-essential travel at US borders with Mexico and Canada

Biden's Day 1 Immigration Changes

US CITIZENSHIP ACT 2021 = proposal to be intro. in House and Senate

Pathway to citizenship for 11 million unauthorized

Family-based backlogs reduced (temp visas for in-country living)

Increased Enforcement at Ports of Entry

6 PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Reverse Travel Bans

Halt Border Wall Construction

DACA – preserve/fortify

Repeal ICE Enforcement that targeted all unauthorized

Extend Deterred Enforced Departure (DED) for Liberians

US Census will include all residents

2 Announcements from Homeland Security

Pause Immigration (1) Enforcement and (2) Deportations 100 days

(judge blocks Deportations)

More Changes Introduced

Biden Executive Orders (February 2)

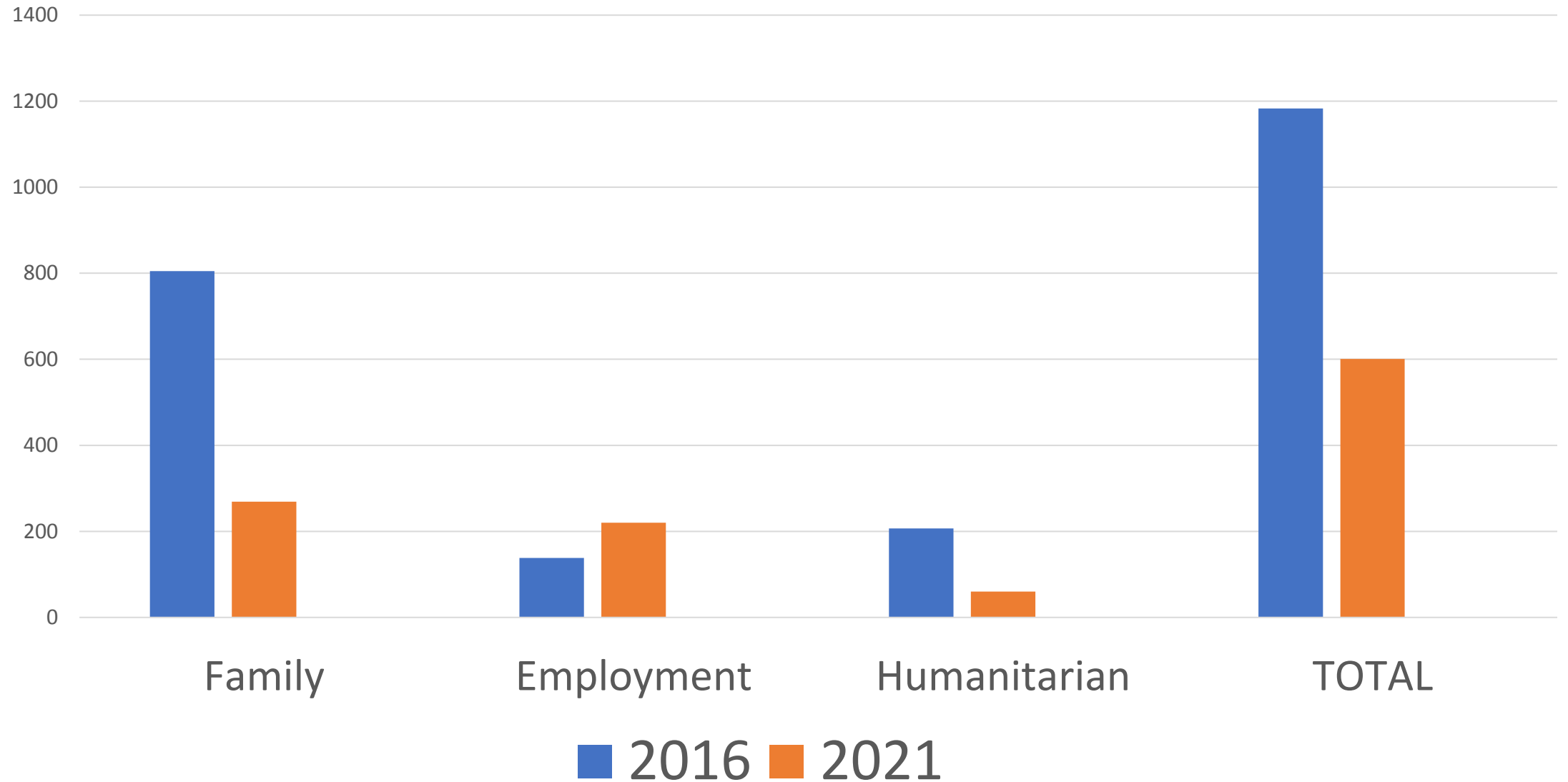
- Reunify Families Task Force
- Plan for Migration
 - Root causes, collaborate govts/NGOs, restore asylum system
- Task Force for New Americans
 - Integration and inclusion
 - Review public charge
 - Streamline Naturalization process
- Feb 4th – Executive Order – Refugee cap = 125K / year

DREAM ACT – Sen. Durbin (D-III) and Graham (R-SC)

- DACA Pathway to citizenship

Legal Immigration – 2016/2021 Projected

Source: Forbes, Dec 2020



Why is Immigration Important to us?

1. **U.S. Economy** depends on immigrants
 - Covid has uncovered the value of immigrants and unauthorized
2. **U.S. World Leadership** relies on successful diversity

US Economy Depends on Immigrants

(Who's going to pay our Social Security?)

Growth – Immigrants main drivers of US workforce

- US economy - 2% growth/year assumes 1 million new immigrants/year

Creativity – New companies provide employment for native-born

- 44% of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children

International Students - “feed” the US Economy

- New student visa applications down 43% in fall 2020
- Enrollment of international students is down 16%

Covid Highlights the Value of Immigrants

Immigrants work in Service Industries - “Job-enabling” jobs

- Domestic Workers – nannies, home health care, cleaning
- Service Employees – nursing home nurses, janitors, clerks

263,000 Immigrants have medical training and language, but no US licenses

- Doctors, Nurses, Therapists

5 million* covid front-line workers are unauthorized immigrants

- Deemed “essential” by DHS report
- Farmworkers, Food Processors, Food Services
- Home, Child, and Parental Care Workers

300,000 DACA recipients are front-line health care workers

* 7 million unauthorized immigrants work

U.S. World Leadership and National Security Rely on U.S. Successful Diversity

Humanitarian Aid improves national security

- Solutions for forcibly-displaced persons critical
- Locally-lead programs are more successful

Diplomacy requires understanding cultural differences

Military strategy is to cultivate diverse teams

- “Full Integration” is essential to Military Readiness

Business and Government rely on a diverse workforces

- Diverse Teams find Better Solutions, Maintain global competitiveness

Why Immigration is Important to Me

My personal experiences with immigrants

Common Humanity

RESOURCES: Motus Theater, Colorado

Am. Imm. Council – Center for Inclusion and Belonging

American Attitudes about Immigrants

Pew Research Center, 2019

62% agree that people from all over the world is essential to who we are as a nation. (37% Republicans, 86% Democrats)

33% think if America is too open to people from all over the world, we risk losing our identity as a nation. (57% Republicans, 11% Democrats)

73% say that admitting **refugees** escaping war and violence is a very or somewhat important goal.

77% understand that **undocumented immigrants** mostly fill jobs that US citizens do not want.

American Attitudes about Immigrants

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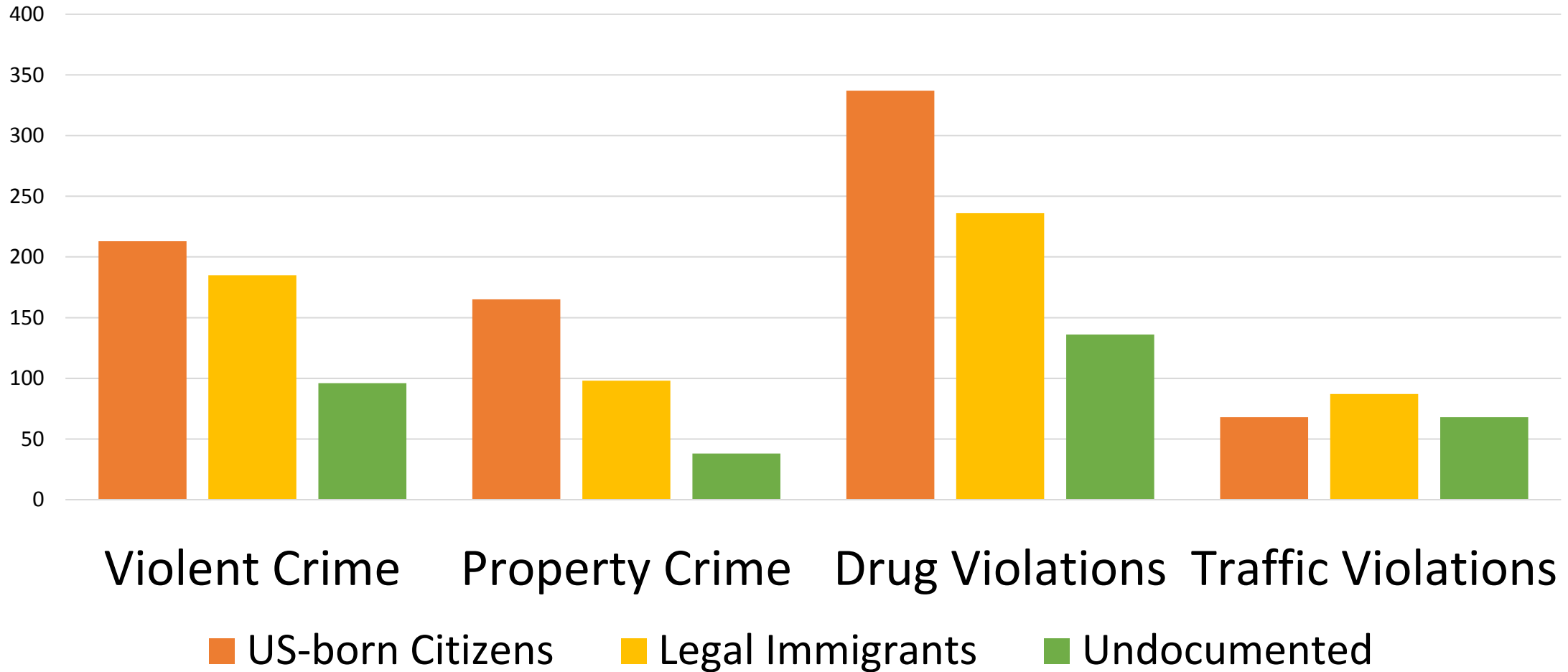
67% agree that it is very or somewhat important to establish a way for most **immigrants in the country illegally** to remain here legally.

(PRRI, 2020) – **33%** say immigration is a critical issue (down from 49%)

(Gallup, 2019) – **42%** say immigrants have higher crime rates than Americans

Immigrant Crime Rates are below Americans

Source: Texas (2012-2018), Rates per 100,000



What Can you Do?

- **Educate** – Stay current, share, and encourage others to get involved
 - Newsletters: National Immigration Forum, American Immigration Council
- **Donate** – Money or In-Kind
 - Local and National Organizations
- **Activate** – Influence Government, Focus Attention (democracy.io)
 - County, State, and Federal officials need to hear from you
 - Letters to the Editor, Postcard Campaigns
 - Stand on the corner – to draw attention to what matters most
- **Participate** – Volunteer
 - Refugee Resettlement, Citizenship Test Tutoring, Pro Bono Legal Support,
 - Teach English as a Second Language, Work in Shelters, Welcome Organizations

Last Comments, Then Q & A

Immigration Policy Activism – sign up today

2 Calls to Action/month – contact govt, talk with friends

Alliance4Action Immigration Action Team

<https://alliance4action.org/action-groups/immigration/>

Contact: Gailbarbara@mac.com (to join and receive Calls to Action)

Financial Donations

Green Valley – Sahuarita Samaritans (Arizona)

<https://www.gvs-samaritans.org/>

Special Designated : Migrant Aid or Shelters

Roadmap to Freedom – Progressive Democrat's immigration reform