

Be a Myth-buster

Myth #1: Undocumented immigrants don't pay taxes

FACT: Undocumented immigrants do pay taxes. In fact, they paid \$10.6 billion in taxes in 2010 alone. This includes federal, state and local taxes. And they pay into Medicare and Social Security, even though they can't receive these benefits.

Myth #2: Americans don't want Immigration Reform

FACT: A majority of Americans support immigration reform with a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. Overall, 63% of Americans support a pathway to citizenship, and 88% support creating a pathway for DREAMers. Polling shows support for a path to citizenship is strongest when undocumented immigrants have to pay a fine and go to the end of the line.

Myth #3: Immigrants hurt America's economy

FACT: Immigration reform will create 3 million jobs and help America's economy grow, according to the Congressional Budget Office. As entrepreneurs, workers and consumers, undocumented immigrants already contribute \$36 billion to the economy per year. Studies show that if they could become citizens, they would contribute \$1 trillion to the GDP in ten years.

Myth #4: It's easy for immigrants to gain legal status in U.S.

FACT: The process to gain legal status can take up to two decades. In fact, many citizens' ancestors who arrived between 1790 and 1924 wouldn't be allowed to come to the U.S. today. Those who do gain permission to live and work in the U.S. are one of the following: highly trained in a skill that is in short supply here, escaping political persecution, or joining close family already here.

Myth #5: Most immigrants are undocumented

FACT: There are twice as many immigrants with legal status as there are undocumented. Of the 11 million undocumented immigrants, most have lived in the U.S. for more than ten years. 45% entered legally but overstayed their visa.

Myth #6: Most new immigrants come from Latin America

FACT: More new immigrants come from Asia. Since 2010, 44% of immigrants have come from Asia – particularly China and India. Only 34% have come from Latin America.

Myth #7: Deportations don't affect many people

FACT: Over 1,100 people are deported everyday, often separating parents from their children and loved ones. Tragically, over 5,500 people have died trying to cross the border since 1998. In 2013, over 100 people died in the desert while trying to find a better life and help support their loved ones.