



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press



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AMERICA'S IMMIGRATION QUANDARY

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About the Surveys

- One national survey and 5 surveys in major metro areas
- Conducted February 8 to March 7, 2006
- Interviews conducted in English and Spanish



Surveys Conducted In:

	<u>Sample Size</u>
□ National	2,000
□ Chicago Metro Area	801
□ Las Vegas Metro Area	801
□ Phoenix Metro Area	800
□ Raleigh-Durham Metro Area	801
□ Washington, DC Metro Area	800

Increasing Immigration Worries

	Sept <u>2000</u>	Dec <u>2005</u>	Mar <u>2006</u>
<i>Immigrants today...</i>	%	%	%
□ Are a burden because they take jobs, housing	38	44	52
□ Strengthen the US with their hard work & talents	50	45	41
□ Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100
		Dec	Mar
<i>Growing number of newcomers from other countries...</i>		<u>2004</u>	<u>2006</u>
□ Threaten traditional American customs and values		40	48
□ Strengthens American society		50	45
□ Don't know		<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>
		100	100



But Only Pockets of Deep Concern

Immigration a 'Very Big' Community Problem

	%
<input type="checkbox"/> National Survey	21
Metropolitan Surveys	
<input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix	55
<input type="checkbox"/> Las Vegas	36
<input type="checkbox"/> Raleigh-Durham	26
<input type="checkbox"/> Washington DC	21
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicago	19



Latinos Viewed More Positively

	April	March
<i>Immigrants from</i>	<u>1997</u>	<u>2006</u>
<i>Latin America...</i>	%	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Work very hard	63	80
<input type="checkbox"/> Have strong family values	75	80
<input type="checkbox"/> Often go on welfare	55	37
<input type="checkbox"/> Significantly increase crime	43	33

More Familiar, Less Troubling

<i>Immigrants today...</i>	<i>Concentration of foreign born in area*</i>		
	<u>High</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Low</u>
	%	%	%
□ Are a burden because they take jobs, housing	47	55	65
□ Strengthen the US with their hard work & talents	47	39	27
□ Mixed/Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100

* Percent foreign born in respondent's zip code, based on national survey only. Analysis limited to those whose parents were US born.

Immigration: Where You Live And How You Feel

	<i>Concentration of foreign born in area*</i>				<i>Concentration of foreign born in area*</i>		
	<u>High</u>	<u>Med</u>	<u>Low</u>		<u>High</u>	<u>Med</u>	<u>Low</u>
	%	%	%		%	%	%
<i>The growing number of newcomers to the US...</i>							
<input type="checkbox"/> Threaten traditional Amer. customs and values	47	46	60	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal immigration should be decreased	37	39	52
<input type="checkbox"/> Strengthen Amer. society	48	48	33				
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<i>Immigration problem in your community</i>			
	100	100	100	<input type="checkbox"/> Very big	33	19	10
<i>Immigrants from Latin America...</i>				<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately big	21	21	18
<input type="checkbox"/> Have strong family values	87	80	76	<input type="checkbox"/> Small/None	44	57	68
<input type="checkbox"/> Often go on welfare	29	34	43	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase crime	30	26	40		100	100	100

What's the Bigger Problem – Legal or Illegal Immigration?

	<u>Legal</u>	<u>Illegal</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
□ National total	4	60	22	11	3=100
<i>Metropolitan surveys</i>					
□ Phoenix	3	63	21	11	2=100
□ Las Vegas	3	60	23	12	2=100
□ Chicago	3	55	24	15	3=100
□ Raleigh-Durham	3	64	20	11	2=100
□ Washington DC	3	59	21	14	3=100

Legal Immigration Threatens Jobs, Illegal Immigration Hurts Security

<i>Biggest concern about immigration</i>	<u>Legal</u> ¹ %	<u>Illegal</u> ² %
<input type="checkbox"/> Hurts American jobs	41	31
<input type="checkbox"/> Increases terrorism danger	17	27
<input type="checkbox"/> Hurts American way of life	17	11
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributes to crime	7	16
<input type="checkbox"/> Other/DK	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100

¹Asked of those who said *legal* immigration, or both equally, were bigger problems for the U.S.

²Asked of those who said *illegal* immigration, or both equally, were bigger problems for the U.S.

Based on national survey.



Immigrants' Impact on Jobs

	<u>National</u>
<i>Immigrants take jobs...</i>	%
<input type="checkbox"/> That Americans don't want	65
<input type="checkbox"/> Away from American citizens	24
<input type="checkbox"/> Both/Don't know	<u>11</u>
	100
 <i>Self or family member lost job to immigrant worker?</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	16
<input type="checkbox"/> No	81
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<u>3</u>
	100

Comparing Metropolitan Areas

	<u>National</u>	Phoe- <u>nix</u>	Las <u>Vegas</u>	Chi- <u>cago</u>	Raleigh- <u>Durham</u>	Wash <u>DC</u>
<i>Job opportunities in your community</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Plenty of jobs available	37	59	73	30	51	60
<input type="checkbox"/> Jobs are difficult to find	56	32	21	59	43	32
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
<input type="checkbox"/> Sample size	2000	800	801	801	801	800



Divided Over What to Do

	<u>National</u>
<i>Illegal immigrants should be...</i>	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Required to go home	53
<input type="checkbox"/> No temp worker option	27
<input type="checkbox"/> Allow temp worker program	25
<input type="checkbox"/> Allowed to stay	40
<input type="checkbox"/> Under temp worker program	7
<input type="checkbox"/> Possible to stay permanently	32
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<u>7</u>
	100

Best Way to Reduce Illegal Immigration from Mexico

	<u>National</u>	Phoe- <u>nix</u>	Las <u>Vegas</u>	Chi- <u>cago</u>	Raleigh <u>Durham</u>	Wash <u>DC</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
□ Penalize employers	49	45	46	43	52	50
□ Increase border patrol	33	32	31	36	31	30
□ Build more fences	9	10	10	9	7	7
□ Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Opinions about Policy

<i>Legal immigration levels should be...</i>	<u>National</u>	<i>Illegal immigrants already here should be...</i>	<u>National</u>
	%		%
<input type="checkbox"/> Decreased	40	<input type="checkbox"/> Allowed to stay permanently	32
<input type="checkbox"/> Kept the same	37	<input type="checkbox"/> Granted temp worker status	32
<input type="checkbox"/> Increased	17	<input type="checkbox"/> Required to return home	27
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<u>6</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<u>9</u>
	100		100

Opinions about Policy

<i>Best way to reduce illegal immigration from Mexico</i>	<u>National</u>	Phoe- <u>nix</u>	Las <u>Vegas</u>	Chi- <u>cago</u>	Raleigh- <u>Durham</u>	Wash <u>DC</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Penalize employers	49	45	46	43	52	50
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase border patrol	33	32	31	36	31	30
<input type="checkbox"/> Build more fences	9	10	10	9	7	7
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100



Opinions about Policy

<i>Gov't issued ID proving eligibility for employment</i>	<u>National</u> %	<i>Create database of every eligible worker</i>	<u>National</u> %
<input type="checkbox"/> Favor	76	<input type="checkbox"/> Favor	66
<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose	21	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose	29
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<u>3</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<u>5</u>
	100		100

Who Can Best Handle Immigration Issues

<i>Confidence in...</i>	A lot/ <u>Some</u>	Not much/ <u>None</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Local government	56	40	4=100
<input type="checkbox"/> Your state's governor	54	40	6=100
<input type="checkbox"/> The Democratic Party	53	40	7=100
<input type="checkbox"/> The Republican Party	45	50	5=100
<input type="checkbox"/> President Bush	42	56	2=100

Republicans More Supportive Of Temporary Worker Option

<i>Illegal immigrants already here should be...</i>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%
□ Allowed to stay permanently	22	37	31
□ Granted temp worker status	42	27	31
□ Required to return home	29	25	30
□ Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100

Small Gaps Between Parties, Big Divides Within

	Immigrants are a burden <u>on country</u>	Immigrants threaten <u>traditional values</u>	Legal immigration should be <u>decreased</u>
	%	%	%
□ Republicans	56	53	43
■ Conservative	58	59	43
■ Moderate/Liberal	52	43	42
■ Financially secure	48	49	36
■ Financially struggling	68	59	54
■ College graduate	43	42	34
■ Not college grad	62	58	47

Small Gaps Between Parties, Big Divides Within

	Immigrants are a burden <u>on country</u>	Immigrants threaten <u>traditional values</u>	Legal immigration should be <u>decreased</u>
	%	%	%
□ Democrats	51	47	38
■ White	53	47	41
■ Black	56	51	37
■ Hispanic	36	38	27
■ Conservative/Moderate	57	53	43
■ Liberal	36	29	26
■ Financially secure	41	36	32
■ Financially struggling	58	55	43
■ College graduate	32	31	21
■ Not college grad	59	53	46

No to Social Services for Illegals, Yes to Educating Their Children

	<u>National</u>
<i>Illegal immigrants eligible for social services?</i>	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, should be eligible	29
<input type="checkbox"/> No, should not be eligible	67
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<u>4</u>
	100
<i>Should children of illegal immigrants be permitted to attend public schools...</i>	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, permitted to attend school	71
<input type="checkbox"/> No, don't think so	26
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<u>3</u>
	100

Amend Constitution to Bar Citizenship to Children of Illegal Immigrants?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%		%	%	%
<input type="checkbox"/> National total	42	54	4=100	<input type="checkbox"/> National total	42	54	4=100
<input type="checkbox"/> White	47	50	3=100	<i>Family background</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Black	36	60	4=100	<input type="checkbox"/> Recent immigrants*	29	66	5=100
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic	23	74	3=100	<input type="checkbox"/> Not recent	45	52	3=100
<input type="checkbox"/> Republicans	51	46	3=100	<input type="checkbox"/> College graduate	35	62	3=100
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservative	52	44	4=100	<input type="checkbox"/> Some college	46	51	3=100
<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate/Liberal	47	51	2=100	<input type="checkbox"/> H.S. or less	44	52	4=100
<input type="checkbox"/> Democrats	36	60	4=100	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-29	33	66	1=100
<input type="checkbox"/> Cons./Moderate	41	56	3=100	<input type="checkbox"/> 30-49	46	52	2=100
<input type="checkbox"/> Liberal	27	68	5=100	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-64	47	50	3=100
<input type="checkbox"/> Independents	43	55	2=100	<input type="checkbox"/> 65+	36	55	9=100

* Self or parent immigrated.

Comparing Metropolitan Areas

	<u>National</u>	Phoe- <u>nix</u>	Las <u>Vegas</u>	Chi- <u>cago</u>	Raleigh- <u>Durham</u>	Wash <u>DC</u>
<i>Immigration in your local community</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Very big problem	21	55	36	19	26	21
<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately big problem	20	23	28	16	30	23
<input type="checkbox"/> Small problem	22	8	15	19	21	20
<input type="checkbox"/> Not a problem at all	33	12	17	42	20	32
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
 <i>% volunteering immigration as <u>most</u> important local problem</i>						
	3	18	6	2	2	2

Comparing Metropolitan Areas

	<u>National</u>	Phoe- <u>nix</u>	Las <u>Vegas</u>	Chi- <u>cago</u>	Raleigh- <u>Durham</u>	Wash <u>DC</u>
<i>Growing immigration...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
❑ Threatens traditional American customs and values	48	38	45	46	45	37
❑ Strengthens American society	45	53	48	47	48	54
❑ Mixed/Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Immigrants today...</i>						
❑ Strengthen our country due to their hard work & talents	41	45	47	46	47	56
❑ Burden on our country by taking jobs, housing and health care	52	46	43	44	44	32
❑ Mixed/Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Comparing Metropolitan Areas

	<u>National</u>	<u>Phoe-</u> <u>nix</u>	<u>Las</u> <u>Vegas</u>	<u>Chi-</u> <u>cago</u>	<u>Raleigh-</u> <u>Durham</u>	<u>Wash</u> <u>DC</u>
<i>Latin American immigrants...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Work very hard	80	82	82	85	87	85
<input type="checkbox"/> Often end up on welfare	37	42	41	32	34	28
<input type="checkbox"/> Significantly increase crime	33	46	45	30	37	31
<i>Immigrants effect on quality of local government services...</i>						
<input type="checkbox"/> Making things worse	26	41	34	22	36	25
<input type="checkbox"/> Making things better	7	10	8	7	7	11
<input type="checkbox"/> Not much difference	60	43	52	64	52	55
<input type="checkbox"/> No immigrants/Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100