

Immigrant Rights in the California-Mexico Border

Challenges & Opportunities

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Immigrants in California

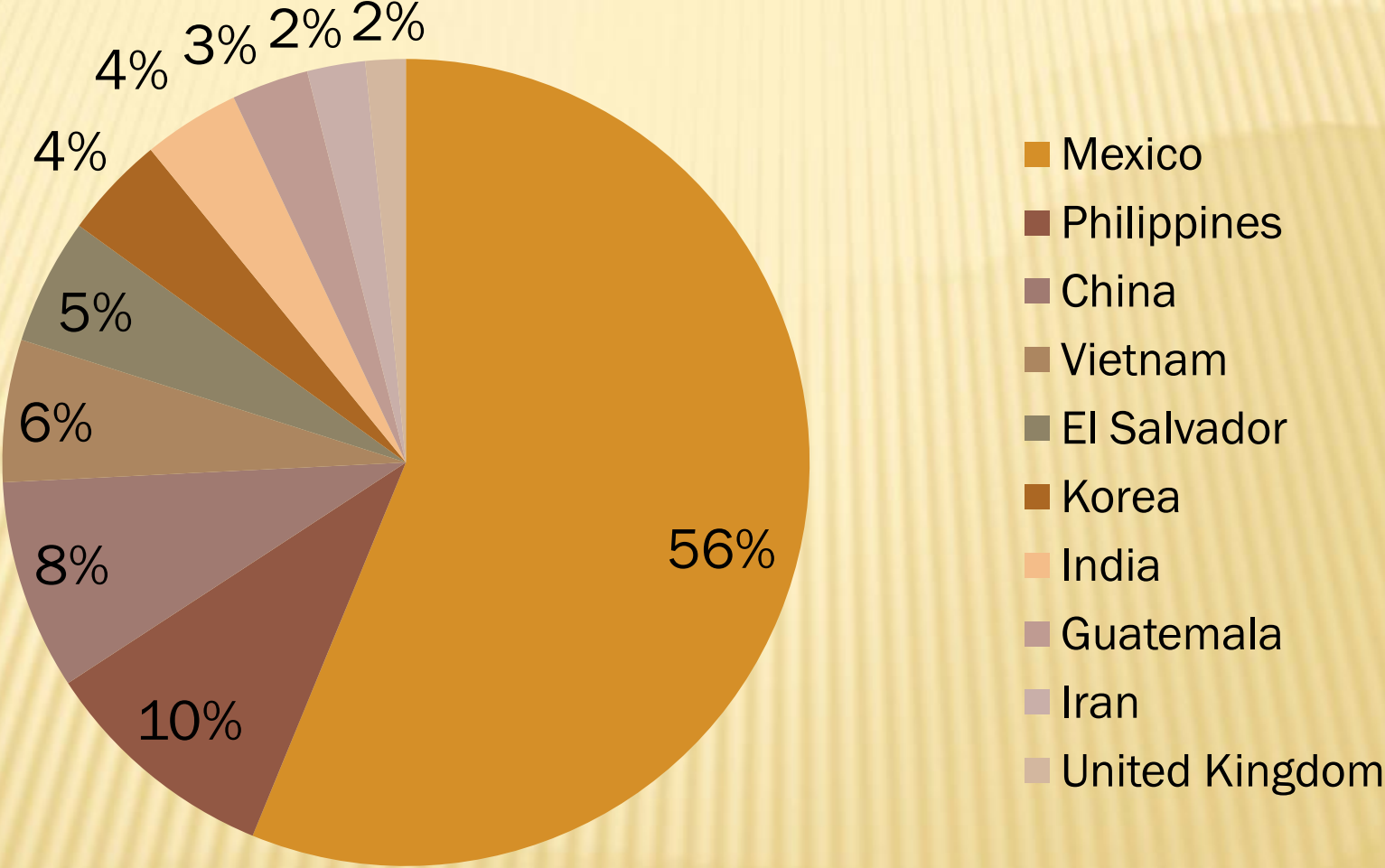
- ❖ There are an estimated 9.9 million immigrants in California
- ❖ One in four Californians (25%) is an immigrant
- ❖ Nearly half of all California children have an immigrant parent (48%)



Immigrant Contributions

- ❖ Immigrants comprise more than one-third of the CA labor force (34%)
- ❖ Immigrant households make up 27% of total household income in CA, a substantial share of spending power
- ❖ CA immigrants have a combined federal tax contribution of more than \$30 billion annually
- ❖ In CA, the average immigrant-headed household contributes \$500 more annually to Social Security than the average U.S.-born-headed household

Leading Countries of Origin in California



Immigration Status

- ❖ Roughly 2/3 immigrants are naturalized citizens or permanent residents and 1/3 have no legal status.



Immigrants in San Diego

- ❖ Nearly one in four San Diegans (23%) is an immigrant.
- ❖ These immigrants come from all over the world, mostly from Latin America and Asia.
- ❖ An increasing number come from the Middle East and East Africa.



Refugees in San Diego

- ❖ San Diego is a refugee resettlement county and home to a significant population of refugees from all over the world.
- ❖ There are an estimated 20,000 Somali refugees, 30,000 Iraqi refugees currently in San Diego.
- ❖ An estimated 11,000 refugees in San Diego are torture survivors and many more are victims of persecution.



Border Crossings in San Diego

- ❖ San Diego is home to the world's busiest land border crossing (San Ysidro Port).
- ❖ More than **17 million vehicles** and **50 million people** cross through the San Ysidro Port of Entry every year.



Challenges

- ❖ Congressional stripping of rights near border
- ❖ Human and civil rights abuses in the apprehension and detention of immigrants
- ❖ Lack of accountability and oversight of DHS, Border Patrol, ICE, police, and private detention centers
- ❖ Limited local capacity to address challenges

Rights stripped in the border region

❖ Fourth Amendment-Free Zone

- Congress has given DHS the power to set up checkpoints and stop anyone anywhere within 100 miles of the border without establishing reasonable suspicion.

❖ Limited Due Process

- Congress has given DHS the power to deport immigrants at/near border without due process (day in court).

❖ Border Wall Exempt from Laws

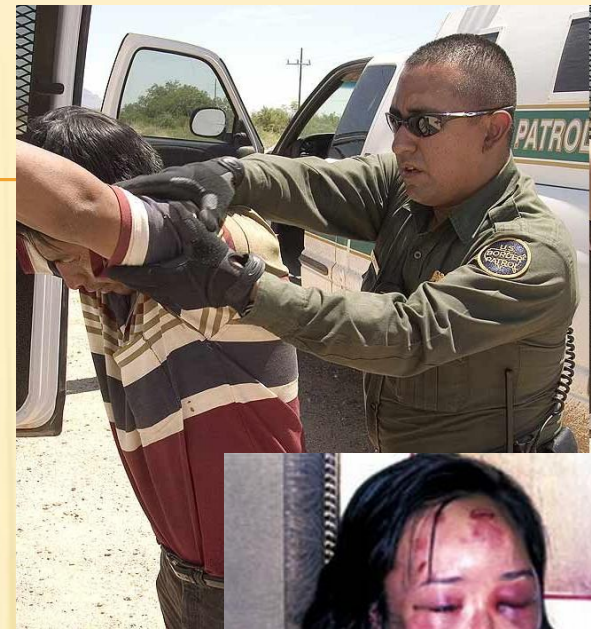
- Congress has given DHS the power to waive all federal, state, and local environmental and other laws to “secure” the border.



Abuse of Immigrants

❖ ICE/Border Patrol abuse increasing

- Physical and verbal abuse
- Sexual assault and rape
- Denial of food, water, basic necessities
- Denial of access to medical care
- Separation of babies and children from parents
- Warrantless searches
- Denial of consular access
- Denial of phone access



❖ Private Detention Center abuse ongoing

- CCA, the largest private owner of detention facilities in the country, is contracted to house detainees in San Diego
- Long record of inhumane treatment of detainees: ACLU recently sued for overcrowding and denial of access to medical care
- In a 2006 report, the Office of Inspector General issued a report of abuses at detention facilities and 3 of the top 4 most egregious abuses occurred at CCA San Diego

Lack of Accountability & Oversight

- ❖ DHS has unprecedented authority and acts with no meaningful internal or external oversight. Allegations of abuse go unanswered and there is little recourse.
- ❖ Police working formally and informally with DHS are not sufficiently trained to protect the rights of immigrants and there is limited accountability for errant immigration enforcement practices.
- ❖ Private detention centers are an arms length from the law and not subject to the same standards of detention as government operated facilities.



Opportunities

- ❖ Local collaboration
- ❖ Cross-border collaboration
- ❖ Border-wide collaboration



San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium

- ❖ More than 30 organizations collaborating to educate immigrants about their rights, educate the public about immigrants, counter anti-immigrant activity, and support comprehensive immigration reform.
- ❖ Countywide Hotline in English, Spanish and Arabic
1-800-495-7811

CONOCE TUS DERECHOS

SI ERES INTERROGADO POR LA POLICIA, FBI U OFICIALES DE INMIGRACION

A TODA HORA tienes el derecho de permanecer callado. Para ejercer tu derecho no contestes ninguna pregunta, ni siquiera cuál es tu nombre o nacionalidad. Pide hablar con tu abogado o con tu consulado.

SI ERES DETENIDO MIENTRAS VAS CAMINANDO pídele a los oficiales el saber si eres libre de irte. Si te dicen que sí, tienes el derecho de seguir caminando e irte. Si te dicen que no, tienes el derecho de permanecer callado.

SI ERES DETENIDO MIENTRAS MANEJAS tienes el derecho de preguntar el por qué has sido detenido. Si te lo piden, debes de enseñarles tu licencia de manejar y tu registro de automóvil, pero también tienes el derecho de permanecer callado. Si el oficial te pide permiso de conducir una búsqueda dentro de tu carro, tienes el derecho a negarle. Los pasajeros no tienen que proporcionar sus licencias. Todos tienen el derecho a permanecer callados.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

IF IMMIGRATION, POLICE, OR FBI OFFICERS TRY TO ENTER YOUR HOME

DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR

Ask the officers to identify themselves and show a "warrant" under the door that authorizes them to enter your specific home.

OFFICERS MUST HAVE A WARRANT TO ENTER

The warrant should include the word "WARRANT" and your address. If it does not, the officers are not authorized to enter and you should not let them in.

IF OFFICERS ENTER ANYWAY

Do not try to stop them. Tell them they do not have your permission to enter. Try to get their names or badge numbers to file a complaint later.

IF OFFICERS HAVE A WARRANT

They may enter your home but can ONLY search for people or items listed on the warrant.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT

You do not have to speak to an officer. You can remain silent or tell the officer you want to speak to an attorney or your consulate first. Do not answer questions about your name, age, immigration status, or any other questions. Do not present any identity documents and do not sign anything.

DO NOT LIE TO OFFICERS

Do not present false documents or lie. This will only make the situation worse.

Learn more about your rights. Report an abuse.
Call the San Diego Immigrant Rights Hotline.
1-800-495-7811

San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium
www.immigrantsandiego.org

San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium

- ❖ Informational [website](#) in English and Spanish.
- ❖ Commissioned a poll of county voters to get baseline perceptions of immigrants and immigration reform.
- ❖ Currently conducting focus groups to identify message to elicit sympathy and support for immigrants in the county.

WELCOME BIENVENIDOS

San Diego Immigrants and New Americans

A Project of the San Diego County Immigrant Rights Consortium

HOME
ABOUT US
FACTS ABOUT IMMIGRANTS
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM
STOP THE HATE
CCA DETENTION CENTER
LOCAL HELP & RESOURCES
NEWS
CONTACT

WELCOME

California is home to the largest immigrant population in the country. More than one in four Californians were born abroad. While California is home to newcomers from all over the world, the leading countries of origin are Mexico, the Philippines, Vietnam, and El Salvador. California also attracts people from such places as Taiwan, Iran, Italy, Russia, and Somalia.

More than one in five people in San Diego County were born abroad. They come to join their families, meet their employment needs, or flee persecution in their home countries. Their hard work ethic and family values stimulate our economy and make our communities stronger.

The more invested our newcomers are in San Diego, the more they contribute to our economy, our safety, and our well-being. In turn, the more we support immigrant families and integrate immigrants into our communities, schools, and businesses, the more able we are to improve the quality of life for everyone in the county.

Through this website, the Immigrant Rights Consortium—made up faith, labor, legal and community organizations—seeks to educate the public about immigrants and to support immigrants in San Diego County in their path to become new Americans.

As we have for more than 200 years, this nation draws its strength from the continuous contributions of new Americans. In a time of rising hatred towards immigrants and heated debate over immigration reform, the Immigrant Rights Consortium is a chorus of voices encouraging everyone in San Diego County to stand up for the very immigrants who make us stronger.

Sign a petition in support of comprehensive immigration reform!

Register to Vote!

FIRES 2007

FIRESTORM:
Treatment of Homeless Populations During the San Diego Fires

Click here for report and other information concerning the fires.

What do San Diego County voters think about undocumented immigrants and immigration reform?

In June 2007, a well-respected research firm surveyed a cross-section of county voters. Despite being uncertain about how undocumented immigrants impact their lives, a majority of voters believe that undocumented immigrants have strong family values, are people of faith, and have a strong work ethic.

An overwhelming majority of voters agreed that undocumented immigrants are mostly trying to make a better life for themselves and their families. Two-thirds of voters agreed that it's impractical to talk about sending back the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants.

When asked about specific immigration reform proposals, a majority of voters expressed support for creating a path to earned legalization for the undocumented, for increasing the number of family visas, and for providing visas to immigrant workers with full labor protections.

Voters also expressed support for reasonable border enforcement, but they opposed the building of a wall the entire length of the border.

View the poll results by congressional district and political affiliation

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For More Information Visit...

www.immigrantsandiego.org