Immigration Glossary

➢ **Green card** - lawful permanent resident of the US. One step down from citizenship.
➢ **Temporary Protected Status -** shelters undocumented immigrants from deportation
  ○ DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals): for people brought to the United States illegally by their parents when they were under 18. 790,000 recipients.
  ○ Applies to some people fleeing from specific countries or natural disasters. The biggest beneficiaries are El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti.
➢ **Chain migration** - when one family member becomes a citizen and sponsors other family members to immigrate to the US.
➢ **H1B Visa -** allows American firms to hire foreign workers for specialized jobs. H1B visa holders may obtain visas for their spouses and children.

Use the right terminology

Undocumented immigrants, not illegal immigrants

Current Ways to Immigrate

❖ **Green Card Lottery** (Diversity visa lottery): Available to people with 2 years work experience in a job requiring 2 years training, who live in countries underrepresented in the US. 55,000 awarded annually.Trump wants to end this system in exchange for protecting DACA recipients.

❖ **H1B & H4 Visa**: Specialty workers and spouses. Limited to 65,000 workers. Trump wants to end H4 visas, which the tech sector opposes.

❖ **Family Migration**: Limited to 1 million total per year for the country. No country may receive more than 7% of all visas. Many people wait for years.

❖ **Asylum:** Anyone fearing persecution for their home country may ask for asylum in US. Less than 100K admitted as refugees in 2016, only around 50,000 in 2017.

Merit Based Immigration

Applicants earn points based on income, age, job offers, and other skills. Applicants with the highest total are placed at the front of the line.

The RAISE bill, championed by Donald Trump and two Republican Senators, did not gain much traction in Congress in 2017. However, Trump still routinely refers to merit based immigration systems at public events.

Do you qualify to immigrate? Take this handy quiz and find out!

What is it like to get legal residency in the US?
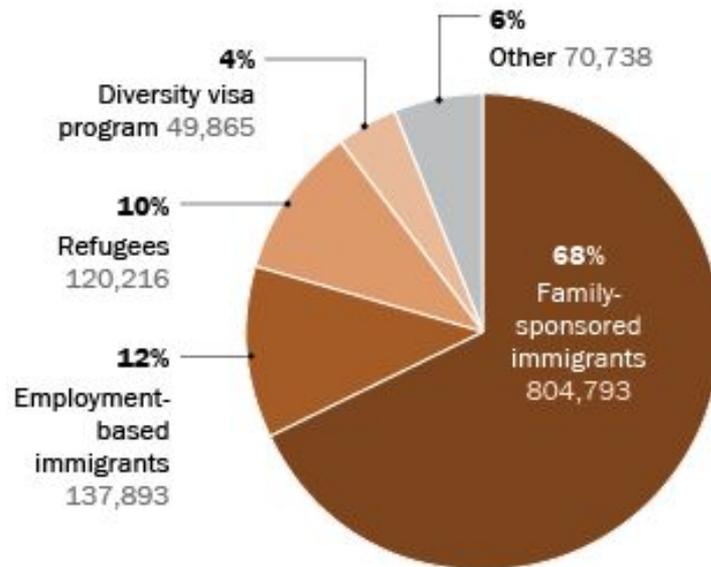
[Link](#) (click on form I-485)

Immigration Statistics

Statistics for 2017

[Key Facts about Immigration - Pew Research Center](#)

Green card categories that have faced or may face reductions

Admission categories for fiscal 2016 lawful permanent residents

- **6%** Other 70,738
- **4%** Diversity visa program 49,865
- **10%** Refugees 120,216
- **12%** Employment-based immigrants 137,893
- **68%** Family-sponsored immigrants 804,793

Note: "Other" includes parolees and asylees.
Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Temporary Protected Status

There was a big court case on this topic earlier this year wherein many TPS recipients almost lost their protected status.

NATION	ESTIMATE	EXPIRES
Nepal	8,950	June 24, 2018
Honduras	57,000	July 5, 2018
Yemen	1,000	Sept. 3, 2018
Somalia	250	Sept. 17, 2018
Sudan	**1,040**	**Nov. 2, 2018**
Nicaragua	**2,550**	**Jan. 5, 2019**
South Sudan	70	May 2, 2019
Haiti	**46,000**	**July 22, 2019**
El Salvador	**195,000**	**Sept. 9, 2019**
Syria	7,000	Sept. 30, 2019

*Administration positions as of Feb. 22, 2018.
Note: For Syrians, TPS only available for those who have been in the U.S. since Aug. 1, 2016.

Immigrants as a Percent of the Population

Year	Size of Immigrant Population (Millions)	Immigrant Share of Total U.S. Population
1970	9.6	4.7%
1980	14.1	6.2%
1990	19.8	7.9%
2000	31.1	11.1%
2010	40.0	12.9%
2016	43.7	13.5%

Frequently Requested Statistics about Immigration
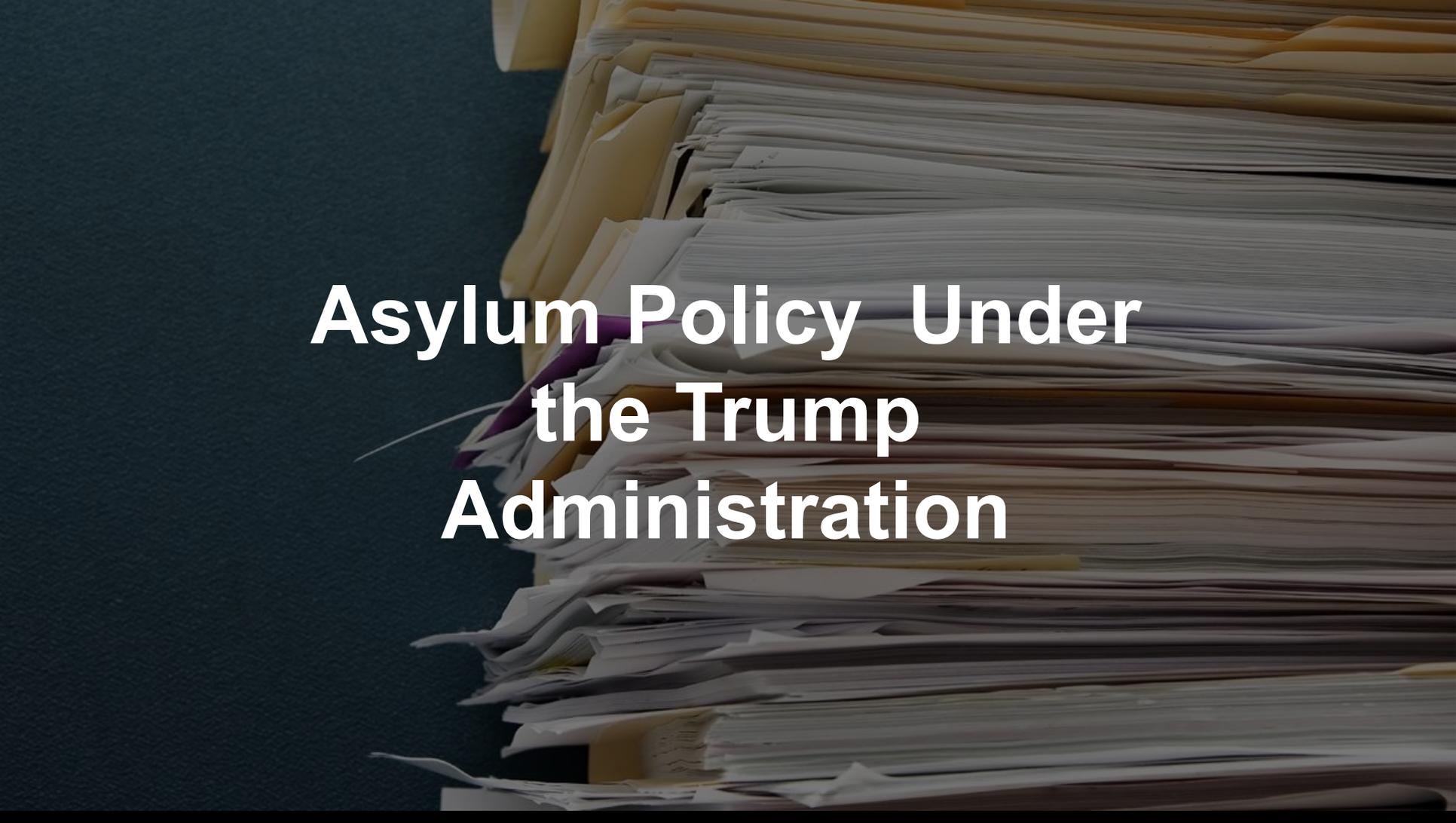
Undocumented Immigrants

- ❖ Finding reliable statistics is challenging because -- not surprisingly -- undocumented immigrants don't advertise their presence to government officials
- ❖ [According to the Department of Homeland Security](), there are 12.1 million undocumented immigrants in the US, but they're estimating based on 2014 data
- ❖ If accurate, their data suggests that the population of undocumented immigrants has increased by about 500,000 since 2010.
- ❖ That makes undocumented immigrants .036% of the population.

Trump vs Obama on Deportation

- ❖ Obama deported more people in 2016 than Trump did in 2017. However, this simple comparison obscures key policy differences.
- ❖ Obama primarily deported people caught just after crossing the border, while Trump deported many more people from the interior of the US - people who had already been living here for a long time.
- ❖ Obama focused on deporting undocumented immigrants with a violent criminal history, while Trump deported people for non-violent crimes and civil law violations.

Politifact Deportation Report

Asylum Policy Under the Trump Administration

Asylum Requests

- ❖ Asylum requests are not illegal immigration. While most immigrants require prior authorization to come to the US, asylum seekers are allowed to present their case at the border or within a year of arrival.
- ❖ This policy was recommended by the UN in 1948 and formally signed into law when the US signed the UN's Refugee Convention of 1951.
- ❖ Asylum policy is a direct result of the Holocaust, when the United States and many other countries turned away Jewish refugees who were later murdered in concentration camps.
- ❖ [Possible AGD: The Voyage of the St. Louis](#)

Policy changes

❖ Waiting time increased from 60 days to up to 5 years. This is partly because turmoil in the Middle East increased significantly in the past 2 years.

❖ Recent applications will now be processed before applications that have been pending for years. This is a new Trump change known as "last in, first out."

❖ That means asylum seekers -- many of whom are traumatized and do not speak English -- need to rapidly assemble complex applications that require extensive supporting documents.

❖ PBS: Seeking Asylum in the United States

What's up with family separations?

Zero Tolerance Policy

➢ On May 5, 2018 the Department of Justice instituted a Zero Tolerance Policy for anyone caught crossing the Southern border illegally. Rather than being deported, undocumented immigrants would be held for criminal prosecution.

➢ This included asylum seekers, whom Jeff Sessions said should "present themselves at any legal port of entry" instead of crossing illegally from Mexico. Achieving that is very difficult for asylum seekers because they cannot afford plane tickets, and most international transit requires that you show a visa in advance.

Zero Tolerance caused family separations

Because unauthorized immigrants are being prosecuted in federal court, they are being held in immigration detention centers - basically, jails specifically for people caught crossing the border illegally.

Because keeping children in a prison for adults is definitely very illegal, the Trump Administration claimed it had to separate children and parents, and this was required by a law made my Democrats.

Trump was blaming the 1997 Flores Settlement, which required the US government to release any children in immigration detention after 20 days. The Bush and Obama Administrations typically released families together, with a notice to appear in immigration court in the future. ([Source](#))([Source](#))