

Studies Show that Undocumented Immigrants Contribute to the National and Local Economy – They are Far From a Drain on Public Resources

Undocumented immigrants provide significant and vital labor

- Undocumented immigrants provide sorely needed labor to U.S. industries that lack sufficient workers. They work in some of the lowest-paying and toughest jobs in the nation.
- A 2001 UCLA study found that the undocumented Mexican population alone, if excluded from the country, would result in a dramatic \$220 billion drop in U.S. economic output.

Undocumented immigrants spend the money they earn, spurring the local economy and creating jobs

- Undocumented immigrants shop for clothes at local stores and malls, open bank accounts, buy food at grocery stores, go to restaurants. Their purchases increase the demand for goods and services, which in turn creates more jobs.
- A 2000 study of the economic impact of undocumented workers in Minnesota concluded that for each undocumented worker at least one more job for a citizen of Minnesota was created. This same result has been documented in other locales.

Undocumented pay more in taxes than they use in government benefits

- Undocumented immigrants pay billions of dollars a year in income, sales, and property taxes (which even if they rent are often factored into rent payments).
- The Social Security Administration has estimated that 75% of undocumented immigrants pay payroll taxes.
- Federal and state taxes paid by undocumented workers through payroll deductions help fund Social Security, Medicare, and unemployment insurance (benefits they are unable to claim).
- Although their taxes help to fund government benefits, undocumented immigrants are ineligible for many of these programs and tend to underutilize the few programs for which they might qualify.

Undocumented Immigrants Use Very Few Government Benefit Programs

Undocumented immigrants are eligible for very few of the government benefit programs available to U.S. citizens:

| <u>Program</u> | <u>Eligible?</u> | |
|---|---|--|
| Welfare (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Welfare (General Assistance) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Food Stamps | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Medicaid * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (but only emergency medical services) | |
| Social Security | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Supplemental Security Income (SSI) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Medicare | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Unemployment Compensation | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Public school education ☉ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

* 6 out of 37,574 claims submitted for Medicaid eligible residents of Hazleton between January 1 and May 31 of this year were for services provided to undocumented immigrants through the emergency medical assistance program.

☉ The United States Supreme Court held in 1982 that undocumented immigrant children have the right to a public education. Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)