



How to Talk About: **IMMIGRATION**

Table of Contents

3 What You Need to Know in 60 Seconds

4 Misperceptions v. Facts

9 Infographics

Appendix: Immigration Quizzes

What You Need to Know in 60 Seconds

WHAT'S AT STAKE:

Immigrants bring important skills, labor and contributions to our economy and culture. But our current immigration system is broken.

Bad Solution: Inaction

The Southern Border is a humanitarian crisis:

- Over **76,000** unauthorized migrants crossed in February 2019, an 11-year high.
- More migrants traveled with families during the last six months, over **36,000** in February alone, making family units now the majority of illegal entrants.
- Nearly **one in three women** reported being sexually assaulted during the journey through Central America and Mexico.
- More than **50,000** adults are now in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody, the highest number ever.
- About 2,200 newcomers arrive each day, requiring processing, shelter and medical care.
- A shortage of immigration staff has created a backlog of **1 million** pending cases.

Illegal immigration has consequences:

- **Public Safety:** Over the last two years, **266,000** criminal aliens have been arrested on charges that include nearly 100,000 assaults, 30,000 sex crimes, and 4,000 killings.

- **Drug Trafficking:** Drug smugglers flood our border with dangerous substances; **90 percent** of all fentanyl and heroin is trafficked through the Southern border.
- **Human Trafficking:** Thousands of children are brought illegally to our borders, many by human traffickers and smugglers who wish to exploit them.
- **Economy:** Illegal immigration reduces the wages of low-skilled U.S. workers by **0.4 to 7.4** percent, and only about **half** of illegal immigrants pay income taxes.

A BETTER PATH FORWARD: SECURE OUR BORDERS AND ENACT IMMIGRATION REFORM

Congress should immediately provide the funding needed for increased physical barriers, border patrol agents, technology, and immigration judges to process cases.

Congress should also develop a comprehensive immigration plan that offers opportunity, rewards hard work and merit, and honors the rule of law.

We should continue to welcome people here **legally**, while being fair to both immigrants and U.S. citizens.

But we must put our national interests, including our security and our economy, first.

Misperceptions v. Facts

MISPERCEPTION: Americans support illegal immigration.

FACT: Americans support LEGAL—not ILLEGAL—immigration. A whopping 84 percent of Americans view legal immigration as a good thing. Six-in-ten Americans (65 percent) say immigrants strengthen the country “because of their hard work and talents.” However, 77 percent of Americans view the large numbers of illegal immigrants entering our border as either a critical

or important threat. The United States welcomes approximately 1 million legal immigrants each year—more than any other nation in the world—and imposes no restrictions based on race or religion. The law requires that anyone entering the United States do so legally and an overwhelming majority of Americans agree. **(Sources: Gallup, Pew Research, Pew Research)**

MISPERCEPTION: The U.S. does not accept enough people from other countries.

FACT: There are more immigrants in the U.S. (here legally and illegally) than any other country in the world. There were about 44.5 million immigrants living in the

U.S. in 2017. They comprised 13.7 percent of the population, the highest share since 1910. **(Sources: Pew Research, New York Times)**

MISPERCEPTION: Most immigrants are here illegally.

FACT: There are about 44.5 million immigrants living in the U.S., and a big majority (three-quarters or 33.8 million) are here lawfully. In 2015, among lawful immigrants, 19.8 million held U.S. citizenship, 11.9 million were permanent residents, and 2.1 million people were in the U.S. on temporary visas. More than one million people immigrate to the

United States each year, and the majority do so legally. However, in 2018, each day, about 2,200 people tried to enter our border unlawfully. The United States welcomes immigrants, but they must enter lawfully. **(Sources: Pew Research, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, The Washington Post)**

continued >>

MISPERCEPTION: Immigrants overstaying their visas is not an issue of concern.

FACT: Visa overstays are major driver of illegal immigration. According to Pew Research, the share of unauthorized immigrants who arrive legally but overstay their visas is rising, growing substantially between 2007 and 2016. The Center for Migration Studies found

that in 2014, 42 percent of the total illegal population (about 4.5 million people) were overstays. While we look to discourage illegal immigration, this is an issue we should not ignore. **(Sources: [Pew Research](#), [Center for Migration Studies](#))**

MISPERCEPTION: U.S. immigration laws discriminate against specific races or religions.

FACT: Our current admissions policy imposes no restrictions on religion or race. In order to prevent possible terrorists from entering the country, immigration from countries with a high risk of terrorism is subject to extra scrutiny. The current U.S. admissions policy focuses on family ties, work,

and diversity. The government grants unlimited family visas to spouses, children, and parents of current citizens, as well as 226,000 visas to other family members. We also grant 85,000 HB-1 visas to skilled workers and 50,000 “diversity” visas to countries with low levels of immigration. **(Source: [CNN](#))**

MISPERCEPTION: Illegal immigration is a net benefit for the economy.

FACT: Immigration (both legal and illegal) has a mixed effect on the economy. An influx of immigrants means more labor supply, which lowers the cost of labor. This is good for businesses and the overall economy, creating as much as \$50 billion in benefits. As of 2016, 19.5 million workers were lawful immigrants and an additional 8 million (5 percent of the labor force) were illegal immigrants. However, this decrease in the price of

labor hurts the U.S. workers who compete with immigrants because for them, the result is lower wages. Economists estimate that illegal immigration has caused the wages of low-skilled U.S. workers to decrease by anywhere from 0.4 to 7.4 percent. **(Sources: [Pew Research](#), [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), [New York Times](#))**

continued >>

MISPERCEPTION: We need illegal immigration because we don't have enough low-skilled workers to do the jobs here in America.

FACT: Immigration can help fill employment needs in the labor force such as shortages of workers with specific skills or temporary workers. However, illegal immigration and even legal immigration can have a negative impact on low-skilled workers in the U.S. Immigration has reduced the wages and employment rates of groups such as young people and black men. Illegal immigrants are most likely to be working

in low-skilled jobs, such as farming, fishing and forestry (where they comprise 26 percent of the total workforce), food and preparation (10 percent) or construction jobs (15 percent). Sometimes companies abuse our temporary-visa programs and employ illegal immigrants to save money. This puts U.S. workers at a disadvantage. **(Sources: [Federal Reserve](#), [National Bureau of Economic Research](#), [Pew Research](#))**

MISPERCEPTION: Illegal immigration is good because illegal immigrants pay taxes.

FACT: Only about half of illegal immigrants pay taxes, totaling about \$23.6 billion in revenues annually. Many receive cash payments and have little incentive to report that income for tax purposes. Of those unauthorized workers who work and pay taxes, they do so by defrauding their employers and the government. They may use a fake Social

Security number or steal someone else's Social Security number for employment verification. We should not encourage the willful defrauding of government. It is also unfair to tax-paying citizens and legal non-citizens to turn a blind eye to those who skip paying taxes, which fund the public goods and services that everyone enjoys. **(Source: [Vox](#))**

MISPERCEPTION: Illegal immigrants do not use public assistance.

FACT: Illegal immigrants are ineligible for federal entitlement and welfare programs aside from emergency medical care. Yet, some are still able to gain access to these public benefits. How can this be? There

are several explanations: Illegal-immigrant households may access welfare benefits on behalf of their U.S.-born children or may receive benefits for legal immigrants

continued >>

in the household who qualify. In addition, some states provide state-funded welfare programs to illegal immigrants. As a separate issue, although the law prohibits federal dollars from funding health care

for illegal immigrants through either Medicaid or the Affordable Care Act, taxpayers otherwise provided tens of billions of dollars in healthcare each year for illegal immigrants. **(Source: [Forbes](#))**

MISPERCEPTION: Illegal immigrants don't commit many crimes.

FACT: Entering the United States unlawfully is a crime. However, many illegal immigrants commit other (dangerous) crimes and pose public safety risks after entering unlawfully. Over a quarter-million illegal immigrants were incarcerated in the United States from 2017-2018 for crimes such as drug

violations, assault, homicide, robbery, sex offense, kidnapping, or immigration offense. Between 2011-2016, there were 730,000 non-U.S. citizens in federal, state, and local prisons. **(Sources: [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#), [The Hill](#))**

MISPERCEPTION: Illegal immigrants are deported if they commit a crime.

FACT: The deportation process is long and does not guarantee criminals will be removed. It may take months for a deportation proceeding—from the notice to appear before immigration authorities to a final ruling from an immigration judge to an actual removal from the country. Meanwhile, criminals continue to offend. Some 22 percent of federal inmates were non-U.S. citizens and nearly 20,000 of them were re-incarcerated in federal, state, or local prisons. The average illegal immigrant in federal, state, or local prison has been arrested an average of 8.3 times.

Sanctuary Cities have become enablers for repeated offenders. According to a 2014 report from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, over an eight-month period there were 8,145 illegal immigrants in Sanctuary Cities for whom detainers were declined, meaning they were released by local law enforcement after being apprehended for committing a crime. Of those, about 23 percent later faced criminal arrests. **(Sources: [AP News](#), [Department of Homeland Security & Department of Justice](#), [The Hill](#), [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#))**

continued >>

MISPERCEPTION: Human trafficking is not a major issue.

FACT: According to the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. is a destination country for thousands of trafficked men, women, and children from other parts of the world. These victims are brought here, many lured from their home under false pretenses of opportunity, and trafficked for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation. The Southern border is a particularly dangerous zone for

women and children. Nearly one third of women surveyed reported that they had been sexually abused on the journey through Mexico to our Southern Border. Thousands of children are brought illegally to our borders, many by human traffickers and smugglers who wish to exploit them. **(Source: [Doctors Without Borders](#))**

MISPERCEPTION: Border walls do not work.

FACT: Border walls built with the right mix of personnel and technology lead to massive declines in illegal crossings – usually by 90 percent or more. Examples:

- San Diego built a wall in 1992 and apprehensions of illegal aliens crossing the border have dropped 95 percent over the past 23 years. **(Source: [NPR](#))**
- El Paso, TX built a wall in 1993 and apprehensions of illegal aliens crossing the border dropped 72 percent in one year and 95 percent over the next 22 years. **(Source: [ABC News](#))**

- Tucson, AZ built in 2000 and apprehensions of illegal aliens crossing the border fell 90 percent over 15 years. **(Source: [KGUN](#))**
- Yuma built in 2005 and its apprehensions dropped 95 percent over 9 years. **(Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#))**

Download these graphics to include with ANY Twitter, Facebook or Instagram posts.

IMMIGRATION: WHAT'S AT STAKE

The Southern Border is a humanitarian crisis

- 1 Over **76,000** unauthorized migrants crossed in February 2019, an 11-year high.
- 2 More migrants traveled with families during the last six months, over **36,000** in February alone, making family units now the majority of illegal entrants.
- 3 Nearly **one in three women** reported being sexually assaulted during the journey through Central America and Mexico.
- 4 More than **50,000** adults are now in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody, the highest number ever.
- 5 About **2,200** newcomers arrive each day, requiring processing, shelter and medical care.
- 6 A shortage of immigration staff has created a backlog of **1 million** pending cases.



IMMIGRATION: WHAT'S AT STAKE

Illegal immigration has consequences



PUBLIC SAFETY

- Over the last two years, **266,000** criminal aliens have been arrested on charges that include nearly 100,000 assaults, 30,000 sex crimes, and 4,000 killings.



DRUG TRAFFICKING

- Drug smugglers flood our border with dangerous substances; **90%** of all fentanyl and heroin is trafficked through the Southern border.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Thousands of children are brought illegally to our borders, many by **human traffickers and smugglers** who wish to exploit them.



ECONOMY

- Illegal immigration reduces the wages of low-skilled U.S. workers by **0.4 to 7.4%**, and only about half of illegal immigrants pay income taxes.

Congress should immediately provide the funding needed for increased physical barriers, border patrol agents, technology, and immigration judges to process cases.

Congress should also develop a comprehensive immigration plan that offers opportunity, rewards hard work and merit, and honors the rule of law.

iwv.org

IndependentWomen'sVoice®

Immigration: A Better Path Forward

Secure our borders and enact immigration reform

- 1 ■ **Congress should immediately provide** the funding needed for increased physical barriers, border patrol agents, technology, and immigration judges to process cases.
- 2 ■ **Congress should** also develop a comprehensive immigration plan that offers opportunity, rewards hard work and merit, and honors the rule of law.
- 3 ■ We should continue to welcome people here **legally**, while being fair to both immigrants and U.S. citizens.
- 4 ■ We must put the **United States's national interests**, including our security and our economy, first.

iwv.org

IndependentWomen'sVoice®

Illegal Immigration Misperceptions

Illegal immigrants don't use public assistance

Illegal immigrants are technically ineligible for federal entitlement and welfare programs aside from emergency medical care, but public dollars still flow to this population:



- **Taxpayers provide tens of billions of dollars** in subsidized care each year to illegal immigrants



- Some states provide **state-funded welfare** programs to illegal immigrants.



- **Illegal immigrants** may also access **welfare** benefits on behalf of their U.S.-born children.



- Meanwhile, **only about half of illegal immigrants pay taxes**, totaling about \$23.6 billion in revenues annually.

iwv.org

IndependentWomen'sVoice®

Quiz #1: Facts About Immigration to the U.S.

1 What percent of the current population was born outside the United States?

- A. 2.1%
- B. 4.7%
- C. 9.6%
- D. 13.7%

2 Since 1970, immigrants' share of the U.S. population has nearly tripled.

- A. True
- B. False

3 How many people immigrate to the U.S. annually?

- A. Approximately 1,000 people
- B. 10,000
- C. 100,000
- D. Over 1,000,000

4 What percent of the projected U.S. population growth through 2065 is expected to come from immigrants and their descendants?

- A. 88%
- B. 65%
- C. 40%
- D. 25%

5 What percent of U.S. public school children are immigrants or the children of immigrants?

- A. 6%
- B. 10%
- C. 16%
- D. 25%

6 On average, how many individuals attempt to illegally immigrate to the U.S. each day?

- A. 20
- B. 270
- C. 2,700
- D. None of the above

continue to answers >>

Quiz #1 Answers

Q1 ANSWER: D.

13.7%. There are more immigrants, including those here legally and not legally, in the U.S. than any country in the world. In 2017, there were about 44.5 million immigrants, or 13.7% of the population, in the U.S. This is the highest share since 1910.

Sources: Pew Research and *The New York Times*.

Q2 ANSWER: B.

True: Immigrants' share of the total population has fluctuated over time. In 1970, immigrants accounted for just 4.7% of the population. Today they are 13.7% of the population. Immigrants and their U.S.-born children make up 27% of the U.S. population (86.4 million people).

Sources: Migration Policy Institute, Pew Research

Q3 ANSWER: D.

Over 1,000,000. According to the Office of Immigration Statistics, more than one million people immigrate to the United States each year. Of the 1,127,167 individuals who arrived in the United States in FY 2017 as lawful permanent residents (LPRs), 748,746 (66%) came through family ties; 137,855 (12%) were issued employment-based green cards; 146,003 (13%) were refugees; and 51,592 (5%) were issued diversity visas. **Sources:** CNN, Office of Immigration Statistics

Q4 ANSWER: A.

88%. In addition to new immigrants, U.S. births to immigrant parents will be a big factor. In 2016, 7.4% of immigrant women gave birth versus 5.9% of U.S.-born women. **Source:** Pew Research

Q5 ANSWER: D.

About 25% of U.S. public school children are first-generation immigrants or the children of immigrants (second-generation immigrants). There was a 51% increase in the number of first- and second-generation immigrants in the U.S. public school system between 1995 and 2014. **Source:** *U.S. News & World Report*

Q6 ANSWER: C.

An average of more than 2,700 individuals attempted to illegally cross the border each day in February. That's an average of roughly 76,000 individuals per month.

Source: *The New York Times*

QUIZ #2: U.S. Immigration Policy and Family Ties

1 Which of the following is our current policy on visas for admission to the U.S.?

- A.** The focus is on family ties, work, and diversity. The government issues unlimited family visas to spouses, children, and parents of current citizens, as well as 226,000 visas to other family members. We also grant 85,000 HB-1 visas to skilled workers and 50,000 “diversity” visas to countries with low levels of immigration.
- B.** The focus is on family ties, work, and merit. The government issues unlimited family visas to spouses and children and 150,000 visas for parents of current citizens. We also have a merit-based system that grants 85,000 HB-1 visas to skilled workers, but there is no diversity program.

2 What was the total number of legal immigrants admitted into the U.S. in FY 2017 as a result of chain migration?

- A.** 750
- B.** 7,500
- C.** 75,000
- D.** 750,000

3 Chain migration can be used by cousins, aunts, and uncles, not just parents and children.

- A.** True
- B.** False

4 What percent of Americans think legal immigration levels should decrease in the future?

- A.** 49%
- B.** 34%
- C.** 27%
- D.** 15%

continued >>

Quiz #2 Answers

Q1 ANSWER: A.

Our current admissions policy is focused on family ties, work, and diversity. Answer choice 2 is the policy proposed by the Trump Administration, which would focus purely on nuclear families and skilled workers. Sources: *NPR*, White House Fact Sheet

Q2 ANSWER: D.

748,746 (66%) of the 1,127,167 immigrants to the U.S. in FY 2017 were admitted on the basis of family ties, not on skills. This means a family member who is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident sponsored them. This is often referred to as chain migration. Sources: Office of Immigration Statistics, Congressional Research Service

Q3 ANSWER: A.

True. Technically an immigrant who becomes a citizen can get green cards for their spouses, parents, and/or children. But over time, the parents can bring in their other children, who can bring in their spouses, who also can bring in their parents, etc. Sources: Department of Homeland Security, *The New York Times*

Q4 ANSWER: A.

49% of Americans think legal immigration should decrease, 34% think it should stay at the same levels, and 15% think it should increase. Source: Pew Research

QUIZ #3: Immigration and Economic Impact

1 How many immigrants were working in the U.S. in 2017?

- A. 40 million
- B. 37 million
- C. 30 million
- D. 27 million

2 Legal immigrants are considered a “public charge” (i.e. dependent on the government) if they participate in which of the following government programs?

- A. Medicaid
- B. CHIP
- C. Food Stamps / WIC / National School Lunch
- D. Housing Benefits
- E. Child care services
- F. None of the above.

3 U.S. immigrants are nearly 3 times as likely to lack health insurance versus U.S. citizens.

- A. True
- B. False

4 What portion of illegal immigrants pay income taxes?

- A. Almost all
- B. About three-quarters
- C. About half

5 Over the past two decades, illegal immigration has increased the size of the low-skilled workforce significantly. What effect has this had on low-skilled U.S. workers?

- A. Nothing. Their earnings increased at the same rate as other workers in the economy.
- B. Their earnings increased faster than average earnings because there were more of them.
- C. Their earnings decreased because more workers competed for these jobs.

6 Is immigration an economic benefit or loss to the country?

- A. A benefit—it increases labor supply and reduces the cost of many goods. Immigrants earn money, pay taxes, and spend their earnings back into the economy.
- B. A loss—it lowers wages by increasing competition for jobs. Immigrants use government services and increase the burden on American taxpayers.
- C. Both of the above are true.

continue to answers >>

Quiz #3 Answers

Q1 ANSWER: D.

27 million immigrants (17% of the total civilian labor force) were working in the U.S. in 2017. As of 2016, 19.5 million were lawful immigrants and an additional 8 million (5% of the labor force) were illegal immigrants. (This breakdown is not yet available for 2017.) Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Pew Research

Q2 ANSWER: F.

None. Since 1882, in an effort to limit the burden to our social welfare system, the government has denied legal immigration to anyone who is likely to become a “public charge” and dependent on the government. Currently, immigrants are only considered a public charge if they receive cash benefits from the government (for example, through the Temporary Aid for Needy Families program). The Administration has advocated for changing the rules so that non-cash welfare services, like those listed above, would also be considered. Sources: Brookings Institution, *The New York Times*

Q3 ANSWER: A.

True. 20% of immigrants lack health insurance versus 7% of U.S.-born citizens. From 2013 to 2016, the time the Affordable Care Act was implemented, the immigrant uninsured rate fell from 32% to 20%, largely due to the expansion of Medicaid. Source: Migration Policy Institute

Q4 ANSWER: C.

About half of illegal immigrants pay income taxes, totaling about \$23.6 billion in revenues annually. Source: Vox

Q5 ANSWER: C.

As labor supply increases, the price of labor (wages) decreases. Labor economists estimate that illegal immigration has caused the wages of low-skilled U.S. workers to decrease by anywhere from 0.4 to 7.4%. Source: *The New York Times*

Q6 ANSWER: C.

Immigration (both legal and illegal) lowers the cost of labor, which is good for businesses and the overall economy, creating as much as \$50 billion in benefits. But this is bad for laborers who have to compete with immigrants for jobs. Immigrants pay taxes, but because their wages are lower than average and because they consume government services at a higher rate than native-born Americans, they create a “fiscal hole” estimated to be about \$50 billion annually. This offsets the economic benefits of immigration, so the net effect is about neutral. Although various Americans are affected differently, low-skilled workers are disproportionately harmed. Source: *Politico*

QUIZ #4: Illegal Immigrants and Crime

1 How many illegal immigrants were incarcerated for criminal offenses from 2017-2018?

- A. Fewer than 10,000
- B. Between 100,000 and 200,000
- C. Over 250,000

2 Are all illegal immigrants with prior criminal convictions, who are apprehended by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), automatically deported from the United States?

- A. Yes
- B. No

3 What percent of illegal immigrants, who are apprehended in Sanctuary Cities then released, get arrested for criminal activity later?

- A. Less than 5%
- B. Between 10 and 20%
- C. Between 20 and 30%

4 How many of those approved for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) had one or more arrests or apprehensions prior to their most recent approval?

- A. Fewer than 5,000
- B. Between 5,000 and 10,000
- C. Between 10,000 and 50,000
- D. More than 50,000

5 How many members of the violent gang MS-13 are in the United States?

- A. About 500, concentrated in just a couple of states.
- B. About 5,000, in about 25 different states.
- C. About 10,000, in about 40 different states.

6 How many foreign nationals from countries that support terrorism were apprehended trying to cross the Southern border in 2015?

- A. 25
- B. 100
- C. 1,000
- D. 4,000

7 What percentage of heroin consumed in the U.S. enters the U.S. through the U.S.-Mexican border?

- A. 9%
- B. 29%
- C. 59%
- D. 90%

continue to answers >>

Quiz #4 Answers

Q1 ANSWER: C.

Over a quarter-million illegal immigrants (266,000) were incarcerated in the United States from 2017-2018 for crimes such as drug violation, assault, homicide, robbery, sex offense, kidnapping, or immigration offense, according to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement report. The average illegal immigrant in federal, state, or local prison has been arrested an average of 8.3 times, meaning that chronically criminal aliens are repeatedly jailed and released, then commit more crimes. Sources: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *The Hill*

Q2 ANSWER: B.

No. It may take months for a deportation proceeding—from the notice to appear before immigration authorities to a final ruling from an immigration judge to an actual removal from the country. In certain cases—such as being 100 miles or closer to the border or in the country for less than two weeks—there can be expedited removals, which do not require a hearing before an immigration judge. The Administration is looking into expanding these rules to anywhere in the U.S. and in the country for less than two years. Under broad asylum rules, asylum can be claimed even for non-political fear of crime, e.g. domestic abuse. Asylum proceedings can take months. Source: *The Associated Press*, USCIS

Q3 ANSWER: C.

There are over 500 Sanctuary Cities in the U.S. According to a 2014 report from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, there were 8,145 people in Sanctuary Cities for whom detainers were declined, meaning they were released. Of those, 1,867, or about 23%, later faced criminal arrests. Source: USCIS

Q4 ANSWER: D.

According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 53,792 DACA requestors were approved with a prior arrest. Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Q5 ANSWER: C.

There are about 10,000 MS-13 gang members scattered throughout 40 states in the U.S. One goal of our immigration policy is to keep violent criminals out of our country. Source: Department of Justice

Q6 ANSWER: D.

In 2015, federal officials apprehended 3,977 people from the 14 countries classified as “state sponsors of terrorism” or “countries of interest.” Between 2006 and 2015, more than 67,000 people from those nations were apprehended when attempting to enter, or live illegally, in the USA. Sources: Department of Homeland Security, CNN

Q7 ANSWER: D.

90% of the heroin consumed in the U.S. comes from the U.S.-Mexican border. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, about 15,958 Americans die each week from heroin overdoses, or 306 each week. Sources: *Time Magazine*, CBS News

QUIZ #5: Immigration: Women and Children

1 If someone wants to enter the country illegally, are they better off coming with or without a child?

- A. With a child
- B. Without a child

2 Which of the following actions have been taken by the current Administration?

- A. An order to quickly bring an end to “catch and release” at the U.S. border
- B. An order to end the separation of children and their parents, who enter the country together illegally, at the border
- C. A proposal to end the 20-day rule
- D. None of the above
- E. All of the above

3 For 6 weeks during the summer of 2018, under a “zero tolerance” policy, children were detained separately from their parents at the border. Children and parents separated at the border were initially detained in holding cells separated by chain-link dividers. How long were children detained in these initial holding cells?

- A. 20 days
- B. Between 1 and 20 days
- C. Between 7 and 10 days
- D. Less than 3 days

4 As of November 2018, 147 migrant children who entered the country illegally remain separated from their parents in the custody of HHS. Which of the following reasons explain why these children are apart from their families?

- A. Parent is outside the U.S.
- B. Parent is in government custody
- C. Parent may pose a threat to child (red flag)
- D. None of the above
- E. All of the above

5 About how many of the women who travelling through Mexico with the intention of crossing the border are sexually assaulted along the way?

- A. Less than 10%
- B. About 5%
- C. About one in ten
- D. About one in three

continue to answers >>

Quiz #5 Answers

Q1 ANSWER: A.

For decades, the U.S. has been doing “catch and release,” which means we allow anyone with an accompanying minor to declare they are seeking asylum. Then, they are released on their own recognizance into the U.S., since minors cannot be detained for longer than 20 days, according to a 1997 court decree, reinforced in a June 2016 court ruling against the Obama Administration. Many who are released do not turn up for their later asylum court dates. Having a minor with you functions as a “get into the U.S. free” pass. This encourages both child trafficking and parents bringing their young children on a very dangerous journey.. Sources: Dept. of Homeland Security, U.S. Court of Appeals.

Q2 ANSWER: E.

In April 2018, the President signed a memo directing the Administration to take steps to quickly end “catch and release.” In response, the Administration began a “zero tolerance” policy starting in early May. In December, the Administration announced that those who arrive at the border with the intention to enter the country illegally and claim asylum will no longer be released into the U.S. In June, the Administration signed an executive order to end the separation of children and their parents at the border. In September, the Administration proposed new rules to end the 20-day rule to be able to detain families together while they await immigration proceedings. The proposal recently underwent a 60-day period of public comment (ending 11/06/18). The government is now examining the comments before it can be finalized. In the interim, the Administration is required to do “catch and release.” Sources: *The New York Times*, *Business Insider*, *The Washington Post*, Department of Homeland Security

Q3 ANSWER: D.

These holding cells are in Customs and Border Protection facilities. They were used during the summer of 2018 for separated children, the same way they were used in 2014 during a wave of unaccompanied children arriving at the border. Within 3 days, children were moved to other facilities managed by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, a division of the Department of Health and Human Services. These facilities are different and more comfortable than CBP facilities; they have beds, rooms, classes, and games. Source: *NPR*

Q4 ANSWER: E.

All of the above. According to *Roll Call*, as of November 2018, 147 children are still separated because their parents are outside the U.S., waived rights to be reunited with their child, are in jail on separate criminal charges, or may pose a danger to the child. It has long been U.S. policy to separate families under circumstances like these. Sources: *Roll Call*, *The Hill*

Q5 ANSWER: D.

About one-third. It is estimated that about one-third of women traveling through Mexico with the intention of crossing the border illegally are sexually assaulted along the way. Source: Doctors Without Borders