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The Hidden Costs of Illegal Immigration

By Aaron Bailey
ANP NEWS

Immigration has been a big talking point over the years, especially in this recent election. Both sides bring up data from all over the place, which makes it difficult to quantify everything with a number that makes everyone pleased with themselves.

On one hand, there's concerns that illegal immigrants are taking our jobs and utilizing healthcare without ever paying into the system, while on the other hand, there's an understanding that our economy unfortunately seems to rely on illegal labor in some sectors, as well as the belief that it would be immoral to deport families.

Even still, there's issues that neither side has spent much time on.

They Took Our Jobs!

According to data from the Pew Research Center, undocumented immigrants make up 3.5% of the US population and 5% of the work force as of 2014. This may not sound like much, but that accounts for around 8 million workers.



The same year, the unemployment rate was at 6.2%, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. So it stands to reason that if the 5% of undocumented workers weren't in the equation, that the unemployment rate for American citizens would be almost nonexistent.



As illegal immigrants tend to only take unskilled jobs, it's those jobs that are effected most. This includes farm hands, roofers, kitchen workers, etc. The fact that undocumented work applies specifically to unskilled work can make the numbers even more significant to our unskilled citizens.

This may effect black workers especially, who make up a considerable portion of the unskilled labor market compared to their demographic overall. U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner Peter Kirsanow has remarked concerning Obama's desire to grant executive amnesty to millions of undocumented immigrants that "Illegal immigration has a disparate impact on African-American men, because these men are disproportionately represented in the low-skilled labor force," continuing on to say that, "since 1986, we have seen that

granting legal status to illegal immigrants, or even mere rumors that legal status will be granted, increases illegal immigration."

Funny how incentivizing illegal activity seems to create more of it.

Costs to Medical Care

The Center for Immigration Studies estimates that uninsured illegal immigrants attaining treatment at emergency rooms and free clinics to cost taxpayers \$4.3 billion per year.

While illegal immigrants may be barred from receiving health insurance (except for in California, where they may receive emergency Medicaid), emergency rooms legally can't turn them away.

This, in turn, forces hospitals to shift the cost and raise prices for everyone else to compensate for those freeloaders who can't pay for their ER visits (this includes illegal immigrants as well as uninsured citizens), which raises the overall cost of health insurance for the rest of us hardworking Americans.

And you'd better believe hospitals write off these bad debts on their taxes. Nonprofit hospitals may write these off as "charity care" to justify their nonprofit status, while for-profit hospitals may still write them off as "charity care", but use it to justify a tax deduction, hence reducing the cost they pay in income tax.



This translates to less money in government budgets. And guess who picks up those tabs?

Illegal Immigrants in Our Prison System



Unfortunately, there's a lack of good data as to just how many illegal immigrants are in the nation's prisons and jails, since state and local correctional facilities use self-reporting in their statistics. As such, the numbers that follow may be understated.

In 2014, illegal immigrants represented 36.7% of federal sentences – and that's just at the federal prison level. The same year, immigrants here legally only accounted for about 4%.

Illegal immigrants over-represent our prison population. And they costed us \$1.87 Billion in 2014. The worst part is that oftentimes, we don't even have the capability to deport these people because their countries refuse to take them back.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement just last year labeled 23 countries as "recalcitrant," or uncooperative in taking back their citizens deported from the US for criminal activity. 23 countries.

The problem is that like with any foreign travel, paperwork like passports and such are needed, and these countries consistently refuse to issue the necessary documents.

Of course, we could just deny visas to those countries' citizens until the countries are pressured to take back their criminals. In fact, such a provision is explicitly stated in 243(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, yet has not been implemented by the State department in 15 years.

Frankly, our hands are tied on these issues. Our state and local governments have repeatedly refused to enforce laws that could keep illegal immigrants from our workforce, refused to implement laws that could at the very least deport immigrants after receiving healthcare, and enforcing restrictions that might make these 23 countries more willing to take their criminals back.



Hell, for that matter the Obama Administration granted amnesty to 541,000 then-illegal immigrants just in 2015 alone. By all means, come into our country without going through the proper channels! We won't deport you, and we might even give you amnesty! The more the merrier, right? Well, that's basically the message we've been sending.

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