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Public Divided Over Increased Deportation of Unauthorized Immigrants

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

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Public Divided over Increased Deportation of Unauthorized Immigrants

Immigration legislation is stalled in the House, but the public continues to broadly support a path to legalization for undocumented immigrants. At the same time, however, Americans are evenly divided over the growing number of undocumented immigrants who have been deported from the U.S. in recent years, with as many viewing this as a good thing as a bad thing (45% each).

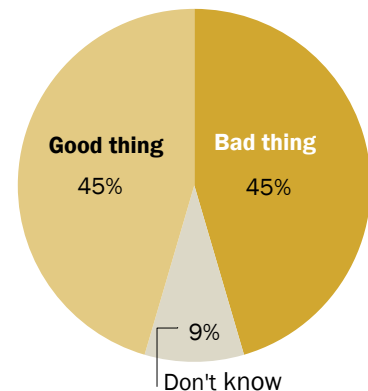
The total number of deportations reached a record number of 419,384 in fiscal year 2012, according to the Department of Homeland Security. With roughly three years left in Barack Obama's second term, more than 1.6 million undocumented immigrants have been deported since he took office. In former President Bush's eight years in office, two million were deported.

While opinion about the growing number of deportations is divided along partisan lines – with Republicans more supportive of the practice than Democrats – there also are sizable differences between Hispanics and whites. By 60% to 35%, most Hispanics view the increased number of deportations negatively, while whites are more likely to see this trend as a good thing (49%) rather than bad (42%).

A survey conducted last fall by the Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project found widespread concern over the threat of deportation among Hispanics.

Divided Views of Increased Deportations

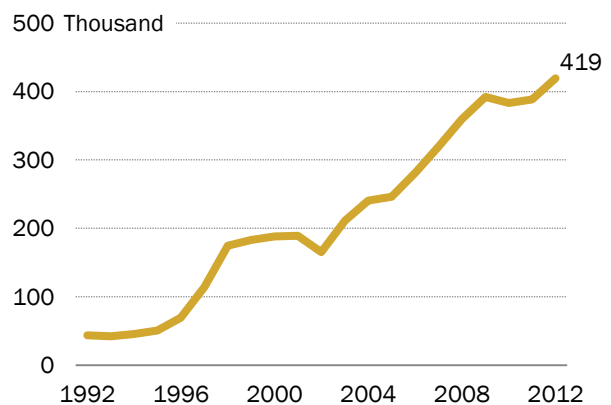
Deportation of undocumented immigrants has increased in the last few years. Is this a...



Survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014.

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Annual Deportations Now Top 400,000



Note: Years are fiscal years. Data reflect removals (undocumented individuals legally compelled to leave the U.S.)

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, [Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2012 \(Table 39\)](#)

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In fact, a majority of Hispanics (55%) said it was more important for undocumented immigrants to be able to work and live in the U.S. without the threat of deportation than to obtain a pathway to citizenship. About three quarters of the nation's 11.7 million undocumented immigrants are Hispanic, according to Pew Research Center estimates.

The new national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Feb. 14-23 among 1,821 adults, finds little change in overall opinion about immigration legislation since [last May](#). Nearly three-quarters of Americans (73%) say there should be a way for people in the United States illegally to remain in this country if they meet certain requirements, while just 24% oppose this. But fewer than half (46%) believe that those who are in the U.S. illegally should be allowed to apply for citizenship.

There also has been little overall change in opinions about the importance of passing new immigration legislation. About half (49%) say the passage of new immigration legislation is extremely or very important, while 26% view this as somewhat important and 21% say it is not too important or not at all important.

However, the goal of enacting immigration legislation has taken on greater importance among Democrats – particularly liberal Democrats. Currently, 60% of Democrats say it is extremely or very important to pass new immigration legislation this year, up from 53% last June. But among liberal Democrats, 66% see this goal as highly important, compared with 53% who said this in June 2013. By contrast, there has been little change in the shares of moderate and conservative Democrats

Broad Support for Path to Legal Status, Less Support for Citizenship

<i>Immigrants currently living in the U.S. illegally who meet certain requirements ...</i>	Feb 2014
	%
Should have a way to stay legally	73
To apply for citizenship	46
To apply for permanent residency only	24
Don't know	3
Should not be allowed to stay legally	24
Don't know	3
	100

Survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Q24/25.

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Wider Partisan Gap over Importance of Passing New Immigration Legislation

% saying passage is extremely/very important ...

	June 2013	Feb 2014
	%	%
Total	50	49
Republican	50	46
Democrat	53	60
Independent	46	44
Rep-Dem diff	-3	-14
White	45	44
Black	53	49
Hispanic	70	72
Wh-Hisp diff	-25	-28

Survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Q23.

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(currently, 54% extremely/very important) -- or independents or Republicans -- who view this as a major goal.

Hispanics continue to view the passage of an immigration bill as more important than do either whites or blacks. Fully 72% of Hispanics say it is extremely or very important that the president and Congress pass new immigration legislation, compared with 44% of whites and 49% of blacks.

A majority of Republicans (55%) views the growing number of deportations of undocumented immigrants in recent years as a good thing, while nearly as many Democrats (53%) express a negative view of this trend. Independents are divided (46% good thing/43% bad thing).

Tea Party Republicans have an especially positive view of the rising number of deportations. Nearly two-thirds of Republicans and Republican leaners who agree with the tea Party (65%) say the increase in deportations of unauthorized immigrants is a good thing, compared with about half (52%) of non-Tea Party Republicans.

Democrats Express Negative View of Increased Deportations

Deportation of undocumented immigrants has increased in recent years. Is this a...

	Good thing	Bad thing	DK
	%	%	%
Total	45	45	9=100
White	49	42	9=100
Black	39	48	13=100
Hispanic	35	60	5=100
Republican	55	40	5=100
Cons Rep	56	40	5=100
Mod/Lib Rep	56	41	3=100
Independent	46	43	10=100
Democrat	37	53	10=100
Cons/Mod Dem	41	50	9=100
Liberal Dem	33	56	11=100
<i>Among Rep/Rep lean</i>			
Tea Party	65	31	4=100
Non-Tea Party	52	42	6=100

Survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Q30.

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Bipartisan Support for Legal Status for Undocumented Immigrants

While there also are partisan differences over how to deal with those in the U.S. illegally, majorities across partisan and ideological groups say there should be a way for unauthorized immigrants to stay in the U.S. if they meet certain requirements.

Yet there is far less support for allowing those in the U.S. illegally to apply for citizenship. Among ideological groups, liberal Democrats are the only one in which a majority (66%) favors allowing those in the U.S. illegally to apply for citizenship.

Republicans generally favor finding a way to allow unauthorized immigrants to stay in the U.S. legally (64%), including a majority of Republicans and Republican leaners who agree with the tea Party (56%). But just 32% of Republicans overall and a quarter of Tea Party Republicans (25%) want those here illegally to be able to apply for citizenship.

Majorities of Republicans and Democrats Favor Path to Legal Status for Undocumented Immigrants

	Should be allowed to stay legally %	And be able to apply for...		Should not be allowed to stay legally %	DK %
		Citizenship %	Permanent residency %		
Total	73	46	24	24	3=100
White	70	43	23	28	2=100
Black	77	57	16	21	2=100
Hispanic	89	57	30	8	3=100
Republican	64	32	29	34	2=100
Cons Rep	61	31	27	37	2=100
Mod/Lib Rep	72	34	32	28	1=100
Independent	74	47	25	24	3=100
Democrat	81	56	21	17	2=100
Cons/Mod Dem	73	46	22	26	1=100
Liberal Dem	90	66	20	8	1=100
<i>Among Rep/Rep lean</i>					
Tea Party	56	25	28	41	3=100
Non-Tea Party	69	40	26	29	2=100

Survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. "Don't know" responses to question about citizenship/permanent residency are not shown. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Q24/Q25.

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About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014 among a national sample of 1,821 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, including an oversample of young adults ages 18 to 33 (481 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,340 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 786 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used. In order to increase the number of 18 to 33 year-old respondents in the sample additional interviews were conducted with that cohort by screening separate random digit dial cell sample. Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2013 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,821	2.6 percentage points
White, non-Hispanic	1,236	3.2 percentage points
Black, non-Hispanic	220	7.6 percentage points
Hispanic	216	7.7 percentage points
Republican	406	5.6 percentage points
Democrat	576	4.7 percentage points
Independent	723	4.2 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
FEBRUARY 2014 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
February 14-23, 2014
N=1,821**

**QUESTIONS 1-4, 10, 15-18 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
NO QUESTIONS 2-3, 5-9, 11-14, 19-22**

ASK ALL:

Q.23 How important is it to you that the president and Congress pass significant new immigration legislation this year – extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?

		(U)
Feb 14-23 <u>2014</u>		Jun 12-16 <u>2013</u>
21	Extremely important	21
29	Very important	29
26	Somewhat important	29
9	Not too important	10
12	Not important at all	9
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

How important is the issue of illegal immigration to you...

Gallup/USA Today

Jul 2007

35	Extremely important
27	Very important
26	Somewhat important
7	Not too important
4	Not important at all
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Next, I have some questions about immigrants who are now living in the U.S. illegally. We will use the term "undocumented immigrants" to refer to people in this situation.

ASK ALL:

Q.24 Which comes closer to your view about how to handle undocumented immigrants who are now living in the U.S.? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

ASK IF ALLOWED TO STAY IN THE COUNTRY (Q.24=2):

Q.25 And do you think immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally and meet the requirements should **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 14-23 <u>2014</u>		Jun 12-16 <u>2013</u>	May 1-5 <u>2013</u> ¹	Mar 13-17 <u>2013</u>
24	They should not be allowed to stay in the country legally	27	25	27
73	There should be a way for those who meet certain requirements to stay in the country legally	71	73	71
46	Be able to apply for U.S. citizenship	--	44	43
24	Be able to apply for permanent residency, but not U.S. citizenship	--	25	24
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	--	4	4
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	3	2

NO QUESTIONS 26-29

¹ In May 2013 and March 2013, question read "Which comes closer to your view about how to handle immigrants who are now living in the U.S. illegally?" and the second answer choice read "There should be a way for those who meet certain requirements to stay in the country legally."

ASK ALL:

Q.30 As you may know, the number of undocumented immigrants deported from the U.S. has increased in the last few years. Do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing?

Feb 14-23

2014

45 Good thing
45 Bad thing
9 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS 31-35, 40-44, 49-51, 54, 59, 64-70, 77-99**QUESTIONS 36-39, 45-48, 52-53, 55-58, 60-63, 71-76, 100-105 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Feb 14-23, 2014	22	32	39	4	1	2	14	17
Jan 15-19, 2014	21	31	41	3	1	2	18	16
Dec 3-8, 2013	24	34	37	3	*	2	17	15
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Oct 9-13, 2013	25	32	37	3	1	3	16	18
Sep 4-8, 2013	26	32	38	3	1	1	17	15
Jul 17-21, 2013	19	29	46	3	*	2	19	18
Jun 12-16, 2013	23	33	39	3	*	2	17	15
May 1-5, 2013	25	32	37	2	1	3	14	16
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb 13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Yearly Totals								
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=689]:

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/ DK
Feb 14-23, 2014	36	9	54	1	1	--
Jan 15-19, 2014	35	12	52	1	*	--
Dec 3-8, 2013	32	9	57	1	1	--
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	40	9	48	2	1	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	11	45	2	1	--
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9	54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10	50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9	46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7	48	1	3	--
May 1-5, 2013	28	8	61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7	47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9	52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9	45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10	51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11	51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8	49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9	50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2013	39	7	52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9	47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9	53	1	2	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ²	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	21

² In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."

**NO QUESTIONS 106-108
QUESTIONS 109-110 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U)

Pew Research Center/USA Today polls
