

Immigration

- [Borders](#)
 - [Why do States Build Walls\(Study\)\[2015\]](#)
 - [List of Countries with Border-Barriers\(Wiki\)](#)
- [Impacts](#)
 - [Estimated Percentage of Workers Who Were Undocumented Immigrants US\(Statista\)\[2017\]](#)
 - [The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration on US Taxpayers\(FAIR\)\[2017\]](#)
 - [Federal Benefits to Unauthorized Immigrants\(NCSL\)\[2014\]](#)
 - [US Citizen vs Non-US Citizen Crime Stats \[L\] \(USDOJ BJS\)](#)
- [Process](#)
 - [Process for Becoming a Citizen \[L\] \(USCIS\)](#)
 - [Process for Getting a Green Card \[L\] \(USCIS\)](#)
 - [Process for Seeking Asylum \[L\] \(USCIS\)](#)
 - [Seeking Asylum - General Info \[L\] \(WIKI\)](#)

Borders

Why do States Build Walls(Study)[2015]

Borders constitute the international system of states. Accordingly, states will, from time to time, take assertive measures to secure the border, with among the most aggressive strategies being the construction of physical barriers, which we refer to as “border walls.” Using original data on man-made border wall construction from 1800 to 2014, we theorize and find that in many cases, wall construction is about economic security. Significant economic disparities between the states will create incentives to illegally transport people or move goods readily available in the poorer country but highly regulated in the richer country. We find that economic disparities have a substantial and significant impact on the presence of a physical wall that is independent of formal border disputes and concerns over instability from civil wars in neighbors. In other words, “prominent examples such as the Maginot Line”, constructed largely out of fear of attack, is an exception, not the exemplar, of the reasons states construct border walls.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0022002715596776>

List of Countries with Border- Barriers(Wiki)

Note: The table can be sorted alphabetically or chronologically using the [Sort both.gif](#) or type [icon](#) known

Name	Countries affected	Built and maintained by	Date built	Length (km)	Type	Deaths during crossing attempts	References
Argentina-Paraguay	Argentina and Paraguay	Argentina	2014	1.3	Anti-illegal immigration		[4]
Austrian border barrier	Austria , Italy , and Slovenia	Austria	2015	3.7	Anti-illegal immigration		[5]
Belize-Guatemala	Belize and Guatemala	Belize	Proposed, agreed	N/A	Disputed territory and anti-illegal immigration		
Botswana-Zimbabwe	Botswana and Zimbabwe	Botswana	2003	500	Protection of livestock against disease (Botswana), anti-immigration (purported from Zimbabwe officials)	8	[6]
Brunei-Malaysia	Brunei and the city of Limbang , Malaysia	Brunei	2005	20	Anti-illegal immigration		
Bulgaria-Turkey barrier	Bulgaria and Turkey	Bulgaria	2014	30	Anti-illegal immigration		[7]

Name	Countries affected	Built and maintained by	Date built	Length (km)	Type	Deaths during crossing attempts	References
Calais border barrier	United Kingdom and France	United Kingdom and France	2016	1	Anti-illegal immigration		[8]
Ceuta border fence	Spain and Morocco	Spain	2001	8	Anti-illegal immigration	13-18 depending on estimates. [9]	
Costa Rica-Nicaragua	Costa Rica and Nicaragua	Costa Rica	Proposed	N/A	Anti-illegal immigration		
Green Line (Cyprus)	Cyprus and Northern Cyprus	Cyprus and the United Nations	1964	180	Buffer Zone		
Chinese-Korean border fence	China and North Korea	China	2011	1,416	Anti-illegal immigration		[10]
Denmark-Germany border fence	Denmark and Germany	Denmark	2019	70	Wildlife control (official), Anti-immigration (third party claims)		[11] [12] [13]
Dominican-Haiti border fence	Dominican Republic and Haiti	Dominican Republic	Announced 2021	N/A	Anti-illegal immigration and crime		[14]
Egypt-Gaza barrier	Egypt and Gaza Strip	Egypt	1979, subterranean barrier under construction	3.1	Anti-terrorism and anti-illegal immigration		[15]
Estonia-Russia barrier	Estonia and Russia	Estonia	2018	110	Against Russian intrusion, illegal trade and illegal immigration		[16]

Name	Countries affected	Built and maintained by	Date built	Length (km)	Type	Deaths during crossing attempts	References
Greece-Turkey border	Greece and Turkey	Greece	2012, expanded 2021 [17] [18]	200	Anti-illegal immigration		[19] [20] [21] [22]
North Macedonia-Greece barrier	North Macedonia and Greece	North Macedonia	2015	30	Anti-illegal immigration		[23]
Malaysia-Thailand border	Thailand and Malaysia	Thailand	Proposed	650	Anti-terrorism		
Melilla border fence	Spain and Morocco	Spain	1998	11	Anti-illegal immigration		
Hungary-Serbia barrier	Hungary and Serbia	Hungary	2015	175	Anti-illegal immigration		[24] [25] [26] [27] [28]
Hungary-Croatia barrier	Hungary and Croatia	Hungary	2015	41	Anti-illegal immigration		
India-Bangladesh barrier	India and Bangladesh	India	Under construction	3,268	Anti-illegal immigration		
India-Myanmar barrier	India and Myanmar	India	Under construction	1,624	Anti-drug smuggling and anti-terrorism		
India-Pakistan barrier	India and Pakistan	India	2004	550	Anti-terrorism		[29]
Iran-Pakistan barrier	Iran and Pakistan	Iran	Under construction	959	Anti-terrorism and Anti-drug smuggling		[30] [31] [32]

Name	Countries affected	Built and maintained by	Date built	Length (km)	Type	Deaths during crossing attempts	References
Israel-West Bank barrier	Israel and Palestine	Israel	Partially Completed	708	Anti-terrorism (disputed territory)		[33]
Israel-Egypt barrier	Israel and Egypt	Israel	2013	245	Anti-illegal immigration		
Israel-Lebanon barrier	Israel and Lebanon	Israel	2018	11	Conflict zone		
Israel-Gaza barrier	Israel and Gaza Strip	Israel	1994	N/A	Anti-terrorism		
Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan barrier	Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan	Kazakhstan	2006	45	Anti-drug smuggling		
Korean Demilitarized Zone	North Korea and South Korea	North Korea and United Nations Command	1953	248	Conflict zone		
Kruger National Park	South Africa and Mozambique	South Africa	1975	120	Anti-illegal immigration	89 (Army), over 200 (Various churches)	
South Africa-Zimbabwe Border	South Africa and Zimbabwe	South Africa	2000s	225	Anti-illegal immigration , anti-drug smuggling, anti-weapon smuggling		[34] [35] [36] [37]
Kuwait-Iraq barrier	Kuwait and Iraq	Kuwait	1991	193	Conflict zone		
Latvia-Russia border fence	Latvia and Russia	Latvia	2015	90	Anti-illegal immigration		[38]

Name	Countries affected	Built and maintained by	Date built	Length (km)	Type	Deaths during crossing attempts	References
Libya-Tunisia barrier	Libya and Tunisia	Tunisia	TBA	460	Anti-terrorism, Anti-illegal immigration		
Lithuania-Kaliningrad border fence	Lithuania and Russia	Lithuania	2017	130	Anti-smuggling, anti-illegal immigration , anti-invasion		[39]
Moroccan Western Sahara Wall	Morocco and Western Sahara	Morocco	1980	2,700	Conflict zone		[40] [41]
Norway-Russia border barrier	Norway and Russia	Norway	2016	200	Anti-illegal immigration		[42]
Pakistan-Afghanistan barrier	Pakistan and Afghanistan	Pakistan	ongoing	2,670	Anti-terrorism, anti-illegal immigration , anti drug smuggling		[43] [44]
Poland-Belarus barrier	Poland and Belarus	Poland	under construction	186	Anti-illegal immigration	21 [45]	[46] [47] [48] [49] [50]
Saudi-Yemen barrier	Saudi Arabia and Yemen	Saudi Arabia	2004	75	Anti-illegal immigration		
Saudi-Iraq barrier	Saudi Arabia and Iraq	Saudi Arabia	2014	900	Anti-illegal immigration and conflict zone		[51] [52] [53]
Slovenia-Croatia barrier	Slovenia and Croatia	Slovenia	2016	220	Anti-illegal immigration		[54] [55] [56]

Name	Countries affected	Built and maintained by	Date built	Length (km)	Type	Deaths during crossing attempts	References
Serbia-North Macedonia barrier	Serbia and North Macedonia	Serbia	2020	240	Anti-illegal immigration		[57]
Turkey-Syria border barrier	Turkey and Syria	Turkey	2018	828	Anti-terrorism, anti-illegal immigration and smuggling		[58]
Turkey-Iran border barrier	Turkey and Iran	Turkey	2019	144	Anti-terrorism, anti-illegal immigration and smuggling		
Turkmen-Uzbekistan barrier	Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	Turkmenistan	2001	1,700	Anti-illegal immigration		
Ukraine-Russia barrier	Ukraine and Russia	Ukraine	Under construction	2,000	Anti Weapon Smuggling and Conflict zone		
United Arab Emirates-Oman barrier	United Arab Emirates and Oman	United Arab Emirates	2018	410	Anti-illegal immigration		
Mexico-United States barrier	United States and Mexico	United States	Partially Constructed	1,000	Anti-illegal immigration and smuggling		[59] [60] [61] [62] [63] [64] [65] [66] [67] [68]
Uzbek-Afghanistan barrier	Uzbekistan and Afghanistan	Uzbekistan	2001	209	Anti-illegal immigration		
Uzbek-Kyrgyzstan barrier	Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan	1999	870	Conflict zone		

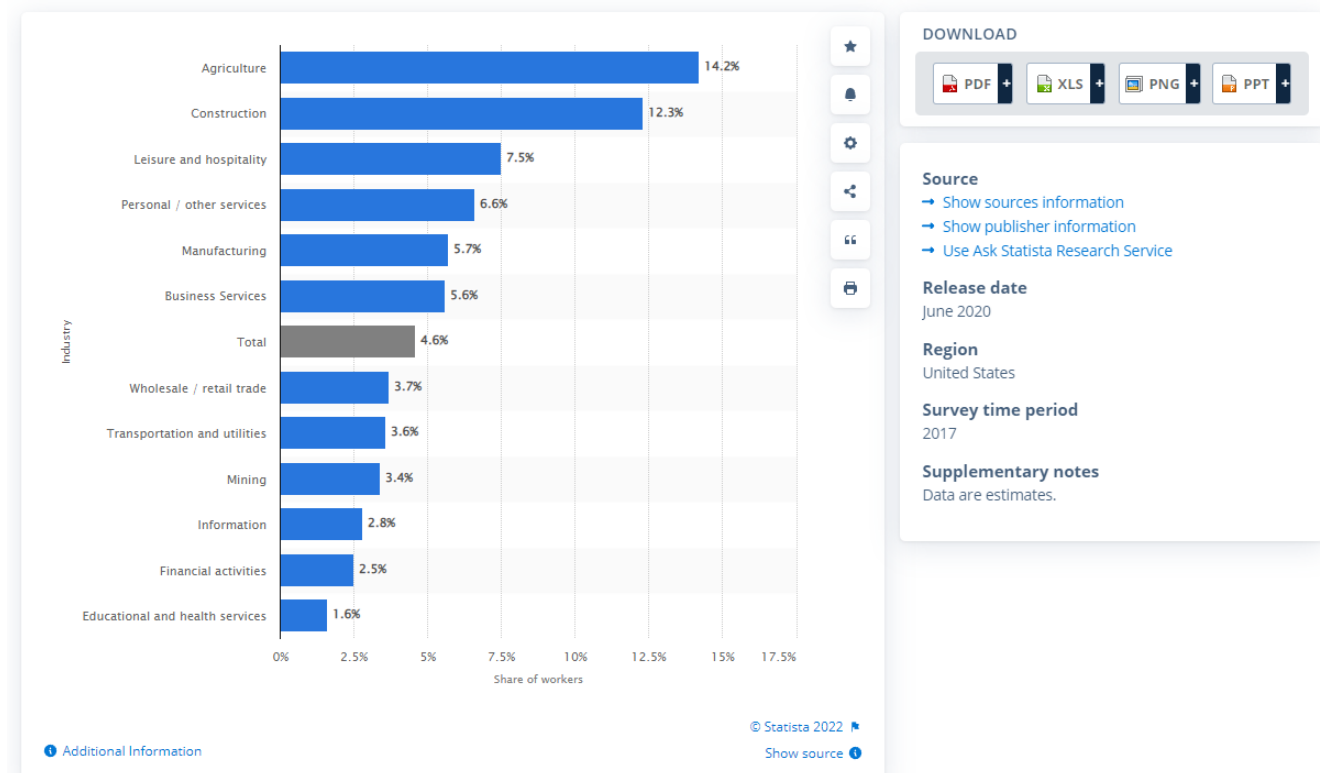
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Border_barrier

Impacts

Estimated Percentage of Workers Who Were Undocumented Immigrants US(Statista)[2017]

Economy & Politics > Economy

Estimated percentage of workers who were undocumented immigrants in the United States in 2017, by industry



<https://www.statista.com/statistics/652960/employed-undocumented-immigrants-in-the-us-by-industry/>

The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration on US Taxpayers(FAIR)[2017]

- In 2017, the total cost of illegal immigration for the United States – at the federal, state, and local levels – was approximately \$116 billion.
- FAIR arrived at this number by subtracting the tax revenue paid by illegal aliens – about \$19 billion – from the total economic impact of illegal migration, \$134.9 billion.
- In 2013, the estimated total cost of illegal migration was approximately \$113 billion. So, in under four years, the cost has risen nearly \$3 billion.
- Evidence shows that the tax payments made by illegal aliens fail to cover the costs of the many services they consume.
- A large percentage of illegal aliens who work in the underground economy frequently avoid paying any income tax at all.
- Many illegal aliens actually receive a net cash profit through refundable tax credit programs.

<https://www.fairus.org/issue/publications-resources/fiscal-burden-illegal-immigration-united-states-taxpayers>

Federal Benefits to Unauthorized Immigrants(NCSL)[2014]

In general, unauthorized immigrants within the United States **are not eligible for any federal public benefits, except:**

- Emergency medical treatment under Medicaid, if the individual otherwise meets the eligibility requirements and the medical condition is not related to an organ transplant procedure
- Immunizations for immunizable diseases and testing for and treatment of symptoms of communicable diseases (does not include assistance from Medicaid)
- Short-term, non-cash, in-kind emergency disaster relief
- Programs, services, or assistance that deliver in-kind services at the community level, do not have conditions for assistance on the recipients' income or resources, and are necessary for the protection of life and safety
 - Includes access to soup kitchens, crisis counseling and intervention, short-term shelter, mental health services, and child and adult protective services
- To the extent that an immigrant was receiving assistance on 8/22/96, programs for housing, community development, or financial assistance administered by the HUD Secretary, which include:
 - Financial assistance in rural areas to farmers, owners, developers, and the elderly for loan insurance, the purchase of property, housing for trainees, and low rent housing for farm workers under title V of the Housing Act of 1949
 - Loans and grants for water access and waste treatment to alleviate health risks under Section 306C of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act
- Free public education for grades K-12
- Federally subsidized school lunch and school breakfast programs for individuals eligible for free public education under state or local law
- At state option, medical coverage under SCHIP, including prenatal care and delivery services, for unborn children who meet other program eligibility criteria

Note: Exceptions 2 and 3 above only grant access to disaster relief and emergency assistance for the protection of life and safety, and do not extend to non-emergency aid based on each recipient's need.

Unauthorized immigrants are eligible for the following nutrition assistance programs:

- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Summer Food Service program
- Special Milk program
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Note: States may, at their discretion, deny unauthorized immigrants' access to the above programs.

Unauthorized immigrants also appear to be able to receive services provided by federally funded community health centers regardless of immigration status; however, migrant health center services are statutorily prohibited to unauthorized immigrants by Title IV of PRWORA.

Affordable Care Act: Unauthorized immigrants and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) grantees are not eligible to purchase insurance on the exchanges or receive premium tax credits or lower copayments; they are exempt from the individual mandate.

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/immigration/federal-benefits-to-unauthorized-immigrants.aspx>

US Citizen vs Non-US Citizen Crime Stats [L] (USDOD BJS)

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

Revised January 27, 2021



AUGUST 2019, NCJ 253116

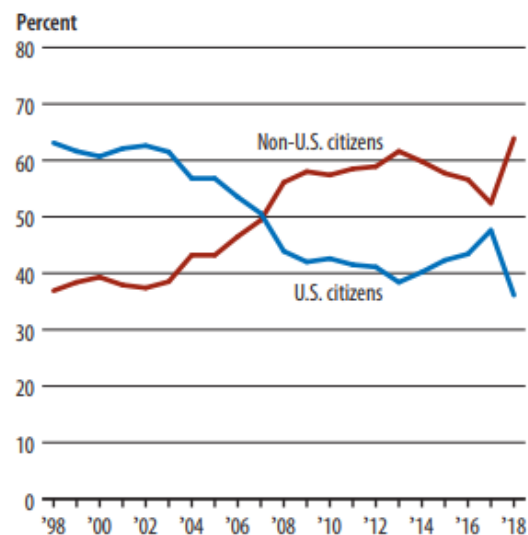
Immigration, Citizenship, and the Federal Justice System, 1998-2018

Mark Motivans, Ph.D., *BJS Statistician*

This report highlights trends in federal arrests and prosecutions by the country of citizenship of persons processed through the federal criminal justice system. It shows changes from 1998 through 2018. The report provides statistics on law enforcement and prosecutions along the U.S.-Mexico border, as well as in non-border areas. It shows the number of suspects arrested and prosecuted for both immigration and non-immigration offenses, including by their citizenship status. It details activities for all 94 federal judicial districts, while also separately detailing activities for the 5 districts along the U.S.-Mexico border. (See map on page 6.)

The statistical findings in this report are based on data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP). The FJSP receives administrative data from six federal justice agencies: the U.S. Marshals Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, U.S. Sentencing Commission, and Federal Bureau of Prisons. BJS links and standardizes this information to maximize comparability and to facilitate analysis across and within agencies over time.

FIGURE 1
Percent of all federal arrests, by citizenship status, FY 1998-2018



Note: Percentages based on available data. See table 4.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information System, fiscal years 1998-2018.

This enables the production of statistics that are not available elsewhere. See *Methodology* for additional details.

Process

Process

Process for Becoming a Citizen [L] (USCIS)



Search our Site



Sign In

Topics Forms Newsroom Citizenship Green Card Laws Tools

Need Help? Ask Emma

Citizenship Resource Center

Interagency Strategy for Promoting Naturalization

New U.S. Citizens

Learn About Citizenship

[Should I Consider U.S. Citizenship?](#)[Naturalization Eligibility Tool](#)[Citizenship and Naturalization](#)

10 Steps to Naturalization

[The Naturalization Interview and Test](#)[Naturalization Ceremonies](#)[Commonly Asked Questions](#)

Apply for Citizenship

[Find Study Materials and Resources](#)[Resources for Educational Programs](#)[Civic Integration](#)[Outreach Tools](#)[Naturalization Statistics](#)

Home > Citizenship Resource Center > Learn About Citizenship > 10 Steps to Naturalization

10 Steps to Naturalization

Understanding the Process of Becoming a U.S. Citizen

In this section, you will find a general description of the naturalization application process. Before you apply, be sure that you meet all [eligibility requirements](#) and check if you qualify for any [exceptions and accommodations](#). USCIS has also developed responses to [commonly asked questions](#) about citizenship and the naturalization process.

[Close All](#) [Open All](#)

Step 1. Determine if you are already a U.S. citizen

What to do: If you are not a U.S. citizen by birth, or you did not acquire or derive U.S. citizenship from your parent(s) automatically after birth, go to the next step.

Step 2. Determine if you are eligible to become a U.S. citizen

What to do: Review the [naturalization eligibility worksheet \(PDF, 300.55 KB\)](#) to help you decide if you are eligible to apply for naturalization.

Step 3. Prepare your Form N-400, Application for Naturalization

This form is available to file online. Start by [creating your free online account](#).

What to do: Read the instructions to complete [Form N-400](#). Collect the necessary documents to demonstrate your eligibility for naturalization. If you reside outside the United States, get 2 passport-style photos taken. Use the [document checklist \(PDF, 178.19 KB\)](#) to make sure you collect all the required documents.

Step 4. Submit your Form N-400 and pay your fees

This form is available to file online. You may also pay your fees online.

Once you submit Form N-400, USCIS will send you a receipt notice. You can [check case processing times](#) and your [case status online](#).

Step 5. Go to your biometrics appointment, if applicable

What to do: If you need to take biometrics, USCIS will send you an appointment notice that includes your biometrics appointment date, time, and location. Arrive at the designated location at the scheduled time. Have your biometrics taken.

Step 6. Complete the interview

Once all the preliminary processes on your case are complete, USCIS will schedule an interview with you to complete the naturalization process. You must report to the USCIS office at the date and time on your appointment notice. Please bring the appointment notice with you.

Step 7. Receive a decision from USCIS on your Form N-400

USCIS will mail a notice of decision to you. If you filed your N-400 online, you can also access the electronic notice in your account.

- **Granted** - USCIS may approve your Form N-400 if the evidence in your record establishes that you are eligible for naturalization.
- **Continued** - USCIS may continue your application if you need to provide additional evidence/documentation, fail to provide USCIS the correct documents, or fail the English and/or civics test the first time.
- **Denied** - USCIS will deny your Form N-400 if the evidence in your record establishes you are not eligible for naturalization.

Step 8. Receive a notice to take the Oath of Allegiance

What to expect: If USCIS approved your Form N-400 in step 7, you may be able to participate in a [naturalization ceremony](#) on the same day as your interview. If a same day naturalization ceremony is unavailable, USCIS will mail you a notification with the date, time, and location of your scheduled ceremony. If you filed your N-400 online, you can also access the electronic notice in your application.

Step 9. Take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States

You are not a U.S. citizen until you take the [Oath of Allegiance](#) at a naturalization ceremony.

What to do:

- Complete the questionnaire on Form N-445, Notice of Naturalization Oath Ceremony.
- Report for your naturalization ceremony and check in with USCIS. A USCIS officer will review your responses to Form N-445.
- Turn in your Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).
- Take the Oath of Allegiance to become a U.S. citizen.
- Receive your Certificate of Naturalization, review it, and notify USCIS of any errors you see on your certificate before leaving the ceremony site.

Step 10. Understanding U.S. citizenship

Citizenship is the common thread that connects all Americans. Check out this list of some of the most important [rights and responsibilities](#) that all citizens—both Americans by birth and by choice—should exercise, honor, and respect.

Additional Resources

- [USCIS Policy Manual: Citizenship and Naturalization](#)
- [10 Steps to Naturalization brochure \(PDF, 790.4 KB\)](#)
- [2008 Civics Test and English Test Study Materials](#)
- [2020 Civics Test and English Test Study Materials](#)
- [Find Help in Your Community](#)
- [Free Naturalization Information Sessions](#)

[Close All](#) [Open All](#)

<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship/10-steps-to-naturalization>

Process for Getting a Green Card [L] (USCIS)



Search our Site



Sign In

[Topics](#) [Forms](#) [Newsroom](#) [Citizenship](#) [Green Card](#) [Laws](#) [Tools](#)

Green Card

[Green Card Eligibility](#)
[How to Apply for a Green Card](#)

Green Card Processes and Procedures

[Adjustment of Status](#)
[Consular Processing](#)
[Concurrent Filing of Form I-485](#)
[Visa Availability & Priority Dates](#)
[Travel Documents](#)
[Employment Authorization Document](#)
[Finding a Medical Doctor](#)
[Affidavit of Support](#)
[Public Charge](#)
[Child Status Protection Act](#)[While Your Green Card Application is Pending with USCIS](#)[After Receiving a Decision](#)[After We Grant Your Green Card](#)[Home](#) > [Green Card](#) > [Green Card Processes and Procedures](#)

Green Card Processes and Procedures

ALERT: There are an exceptionally high number of employment-based visas available this fiscal year (October 2021 through September 2022).[See more](#)

Need Help? Ask Emma

Each Green Card category have specific steps and procedures to follow. Listed below are some general processes and procedures to help you apply either while in the United States (known as "adjustment of status") or while outside the United States (known as "consular processing").

Page Title	Summary
Green Card Eligibility Categories	Determine if you are eligible for permanent resident status. Review the eligibility requirements needed before applying for your Green Card.
Adjustment of Status	Adjusting your status to a permanent resident is the process immigrants use to get a Green Card while in the United States.
Consular Processing	Consular processing is the method immigrants use to get their Green Card when outside the United States or when ineligible to adjust status in the United States.
Concurrent Filing	When getting a Green Card through employment, family, or as a special immigrant, someone may need to file a petition for you. Concurrent filing is generally when the immigrant petition is filed at the same time you file your application to get a Green Card. Learn what concurrent filing is and what categories are eligible to concurrently file.
Visa Availability and Priority Dates	In general, a visa must be available for you before you can apply for a Green Card. In some categories, visas are always available, while in others, there are a limited number. Priority dates are given to immigrants waiting in line to get an immigrant visa and determine when a visa becomes available. Learn how to tell if a visa is available to you.
Travel Documents	Learn more about if and when you can travel outside the United States after applying for a Green Card or once you have a Green Card. You can also learn how to apply for advance parole, a Refugee Travel Document, and a re-entry permit.
Employment Authorization Document	Learn more about if you are eligible for work authorization in the United States and how to apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD).
Immigration Medical Examinations	Most applications for a Green Card require a medical exam. Learn about who must complete a medical exam and the specific forms and procedures that you must follow.
Affidavit of Support	An affidavit of support is a form that a sponsor files on your behalf when you are applying for a Green Card or immigrant visa. It is required for some (but not all) categories of immigrants before they can become a permanent resident of the United States. The purpose of the form is to show you have the financial means to live in the United States without needing welfare or financial benefits from the U.S. government.
Public Charge	To get a Green Card, most immigrants must show that they will not become a public charge. Learn more about public charge .
Child Status Protection Act	Your age can determine whether you are eligible for a Green Card as a "child." The Child Status Protection Act, often referred to as CSPA, allows certain children who have aged out (become 21 years or older) after an immigrant petition has been filed to still be eligible for a Green Card through their parents.
Transfer of Underlying Basis	An adjustment of status applicant occasionally prefers to have their pending application considered under a different immigrant category. For more information about transferring, see the USCIS Policy Manual . To transfer the basis of your pending adjustment of status application to a different eligibility category, you generally must submit a written request to the USCIS office with jurisdiction over the application. Through September 30, 2022, USCIS has established a new location that should be used for submitting transfer requests between employment-based categories. See Green Card for Employment-Based Immigrants: Transfer of Underlying Basis .

Last Reviewed/Updated: 01/21/2022

Was this page helpful?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Submit

[Return to top](#)[Topics](#) [Forms](#) [Newsroom](#) [Citizenship](#) [Green Card](#) [Laws](#) [Tools](#)[Contact USCIS](#)USCIS.gov
An official website of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security[About USCIS](#)
[Accessibility](#)
[Budget and Performance](#)
[DHS Components](#)[Freedom of Information Act](#)
[No FEAR Act Data](#)
[Privacy and Legal Disclaimers](#)
[Site Map](#)[Office of the Inspector General](#)
[The White House](#)
[USA.gov](#)

<https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-processes-and-procedures>

Process

Process for Seeking Asylum [L] (USCIS)



Search our Site



Sign In

TopicsFormsNewsroomCitizenshipGreen CardLawsTools

Humanitarian

- Abused Spouses, Children and Parents
- Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- Deferred Enforced Departure
- Information for Afghan Nationals
- Uniting for Ukraine
- Humanitarian Parole

Refugees and Asylum

- Refugees
- Asylum
- Affirmative Asylum Interview Scheduling
- Asylum Frequently Asked Questions
- Establishing Good Cause or Exceptional Circumstances
- FACT SHEET: Implementation of the Credible Fear and Asylum Processing Interim Final Rule
- Types of Asylum Decisions
- The Affirmative Asylum Process
- Preparing for Your Asylum Interview
- Obtaining Asylum in the United States

Special Situations

- Temporary Protected Status
- Victims of Human Trafficking and Other Crimes
- Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting (FGM/C)
- Forced Marriage

Home > Humanitarian > Refugees and Asylum > Asylum > Obtaining Asylum in the United States

Obtaining Asylum in the United States

1

To continue to keep our workforce and applicants safe during the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining efficiency and access to the asylum process, USCIS announced another extension to the [temporary final rule](#) (TFR) that requires certain asylum applicants to use our contract telephonic interpreters instead of bringing their own interpreters to their affirmative asylum interviews. This rule is in effect through March 16, 2023. For more information, please visit our [TFR webpage](#).

The two ways of obtaining asylum in the United States are through the affirmative process and defensive process.

Close AllOpen All

Affirmative Asylum Processing with USCIS

To obtain asylum through the affirmative asylum process you must be physically present in the United States. You may apply for asylum regardless of how you arrived in the United States or your current immigration status.

You must apply for asylum within one year of the date of your last arrival in the United States, unless you can show:

- Changed circumstances that materially affect your eligibility for asylum or extraordinary circumstances relating to the delay in filing; and
- You filed within a reasonable amount of time given those circumstances.

You may apply for affirmative asylum by submitting Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal, to USCIS.

If your case is not approved and you do not have a legal immigration status, we will issue a Form I-862, Notice to Appear (NTA), and refer your case to an immigration judge at the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). The immigration judge conducts a "de novo" hearing of the case. This means that the judge conducts a new hearing and issues a decision that is independent of the decision made by USCIS. In certain circumstances, if USCIS does not have jurisdiction over your case, the asylum office will issue a Form I-863, Notice of Referral to Immigration Judge, for an asylum-only hearing. See the section "Defensive Asylum Processing With EOIR" below if this situation applies to you.

If you were previously issued an NTA that was not filed and docketed with the EOIR immigration court, or your previously issued NTA was filed and docketed with EOIR either shortly before (within 21 days) or after you filed your Form I-589 with USCIS, USCIS will refile your NTA (if necessary) and send your Form I-589 to the immigration court for adjudication.

To determine where to file your Form I-589, follow the instructions under the "Where to File" section on our [Form I-589](#) page. For more information, please see [What Happens After You File Your Form I-589 With USCIS](#).

You may live in the United States while your Form I-589 is pending before USCIS. If you are found ineligible, you can remain in the United States while your Form I-589 is pending with the immigration judge. Asylum applicants are not authorized to work unless you meet certain requirements. For more information, please see [Permission to Work in the United States](#). Affirmative asylum applicants are rarely detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Please see the [Affirmative Asylum Process](#) for step-by-step information on applying for asylum through the affirmative asylum process.

Defensive Asylum Processing with EOIR

A defensive application for asylum occurs when you request asylum as a defense against removal from the United States. For asylum processing to be defensive, you must be in removal proceedings in immigration court with the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR).

Individuals are generally placed into defensive asylum processing in one of two ways:

- They are referred to an immigration judge by USCIS after they have been determined to be ineligible for asylum at the end of the affirmative asylum process, or
- They are placed in removal proceedings because they:
 - Were apprehended in the United States or at a U.S. port of entry without proper legal documents or in violation of their immigration status; or
 - Were apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) trying to enter the United States without proper documentation, were placed in the expedited removal process, and were found to have a credible fear of persecution or torture by an asylum officer. See [Questions & Answers: Credible Fear Screenings](#) for more information on the credible fear process.

Immigration judges hear defensive asylum cases in adversarial (courtroom-like) proceedings. The judge will hear arguments from both of the following parties:

- You (and your attorney, if represented)
- The U.S. government, which is represented by an attorney from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

The immigration judge then decides whether you are eligible for asylum. If the immigration judge finds you eligible, they will grant asylum. If the immigration judge finds you ineligible for asylum, they will determine whether you are eligible for any other forms of relief from removal. If the immigration judge finds you ineligible for other forms of relief, they will order you to be removed from the United States. Either party can appeal the immigration judge's decision.

See the [Granted a Green Card by an Immigration Judge or Board of Immigration Appeals](#) page for information about the grant of asylum by an immigration judge.

For information about the Executive Office for Immigration Review, including the Immigration Courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals, see [Executive Office for Immigration Review](#). To determine where to file your Form I-589, follow the instructions under the "Where to File" section on our [Form I-589](#) page.

Key Differences Between "Affirmative" and "Defensive" Asylum Process

Key Differences Between "Affirmative" and "Defensive" Asylum Process	
Affirmative	Defensive
Individual has not been placed in removal proceedings before an immigration judge.	Individual has been placed in removal proceedings before an immigration judge.
Individual affirmatively submits Form I-589 to USCIS.	Individual: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Is placed in removal proceedings by an asylum officer;Is placed in removal proceedings for immigration violations; orTried to enter the United States without proper documents and was found to have a credible fear of persecution or torture. If the individual was referred by USCIS, the asylum application already filed will carry over to the immigration judge. If the individual did not yet submit an asylum application, they will submit it to the immigration judge.
Individual appears before a USCIS asylum officer for a non-adversarial interview	Individual appears before an immigration judge with the Executive Office for Immigration Review for an adversarial, court-like hearing.
Individual must provide a qualified interpreter for the interview.	The immigration court provides a qualified interpreter for the hearing.

<https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/asylum/obtaining-asylum-in-the-united-states>

Process

Seeking Asylum - General Info [L] (WIKI)

Asylum in the United States

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **United States** recognizes the **right of asylum** for **refugees** as specified by international and federal law. A specified number of legally defined **refugees** who are granted ***refugee status*** outside the United States are annually admitted under 8 U.S.C. § 1157 for **firm resettlement**.^{[1][2]} Other people enter the United States as **aliens** either lawfully or unlawfully and apply for asylum under section 1158.^{[3][4]}

Asylum in the United States has three basic requirements. First, asylum applicants must not be **convicted of a particularly serious crime** or an **aggravated felony**.^[5] Second, they must show a well-founded fear of **persecution** in their country of nationality and **permanent residency**.^{[6][7]} Third, asylum applicants must prove that they would be persecuted on account of at least one of five protected grounds: race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or particular social group.^{[3][8][9]}

Majority of asylum claims in the United States fail or are rejected. One third of asylum seekers go to courts unrepresented although those with legal representation have higher chances of winning.^[10] In 2015, the world saw the greatest displacement of people since World War II, with 65.3 million people having to flee their homes.^[11] The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), among other things, collects large amount of funds and then distribute it to refugee admission programs involved in relocating refugees into communities across the country.^[12]

More than three million refugees from various countries around the world have been admitted to the United States since 1980.^{[13][2]} From 2005 to 2007, approximately 40,000 refugees were accepted per year, comprising about one-tenth of total **immigration**. In terms of **per capita** refugee admissions, it ranked 28 of 43 industrialized countries reviewed by UNHCR from 2010 to 2014.^[14] Comprising about 25% of the OECD's population, the U.S. accounted for about 10% of all refugee acceptances in the OECD from 1998 to 2007.^{[15][16]}

Contents

- 1

History
- 1.1

Character of refugee inflows and resettlement
- 1.2

Sanctuary Movement
- 2

Relevant law and procedures
- 2.1

Refugee quotas
- 2.2

Application for resettlement by refugees abroad
- 2.3

Priority One
- 2.4

Priority Two
- 2.5

Priority Three
- 2.6

Individual application
- 2.7

INS v. Cardoza-Fonseca
- 2.7.1

Work permit and permanent residence status
- 2.8

Detention in the United States
- 3

Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program
- 4

Government support after arrival
- 5

Child separation
- 6

Obstacles faced by asylum seekers
- 6.1

LGBTQ asylum seekers
- 6.2

Gender
- 6.3

Gang violence
- 6.4

Climate change
- 7

Criticism
- 8

Film
- 9

See also
- 10

Notes and references
- 11

External links

History

Character of refugee inflows and resettlement

Further information: Third country resettlement

During the **Cold War**, and up until the mid-1990s, the majority of refugees **resettled** in the U.S. were people from the former-Soviet Union and Southeast Asia.^[17] The most conspicuous of the latter were the refugees from Vietnam following the Vietnam War, sometimes known as "boat people". Following the end of the Cold War, the largest resettled European group were refugees from the Balkans, primarily Serbs, from Kosovo, Bosnia and Croatia.^[17] In the 1990s and 2000s, the proportion of **Africans** rose in the annual resettled population, as many people fled **various ongoing conflicts**.^[17]

Large metropolitan areas have been the destination of most resettlements, with 72% of all resettlements between 1983 and 2004 going to 30 locations.^[18] The historical gateways for resettled refugees have been **California** (specifically **Los Angeles**, **Orange County**, **San Jose**, and **Sacramento**), the Mid-Atlantic region (**New York** in particular), the Midwest (specifically **Chicago**, **St. Louis**, **Minneapolis–Saint Paul**), and Northeast (**Providence**, **Rhode Island**).^[18] In the last decades of the twentieth century, **Northern Virginia**; **Seattle**, **Washington**; **Portland**, **Oregon**; and **Atlanta**, **Georgia** provided new gateways for resettled refugees. Particular cities are also identified with some national groups: metropolitan **Los Angeles** received almost half of the resettled refugees from **Iran**, 20% of **Iraqi** refugees went to **Detroit**, and nearly one-third of refugees from the former Soviet Union were resettled in and around **New York City**.^[18]

Between 2004 and 2007, nearly 4,000 Venezuelans claimed political asylum in the United States and almost 50% of them were granted. In comparison, in 1996, 328 Venezuelans claimed asylum and 20% of them were granted.^[19] According to *USA Today*, the number of asylums being granted to Venezuelan claimants has risen from 393 in 2009 to 969 in 2012.^[20] Other sources confirmed that between 2000 and 2010 the United States granted asylum to 4,500 immigrants from Venezuela.^[21]

Sanctuary Movement

See also: Sanctuary movement

As a pushback to hostile migration policies, many religious groups came together in the 1980s to provide safety for Central American migrants seeking refuge from civil wars in **El Salvador** and **Guatemala**. The movement, tied to the **right of asylum** that has been built into Western law since Ancient Greece and was built into the Christian faith. While this started as a religious movement meant mainly to protect refugees in need, it became quickly politicized, with many sanctuary movement leaders facing trial for going against the law.^[22] Sanctuaries have since played an important role in providing legal access and preventing deportation for asylum seekers, especially under the Trump administration.^[23]

Relevant law and procedures



This section **needs additional citations for verification**. Please help *improve this article* by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. (*June 2018*) (Learn how and when to remove this template message)

Main article: Refugee Act

"Under the [INA], the Attorney General may grant asylum to individuals who meet several statutory requirements, including that they have suffered or fear (1) 'persecution,' (2) 'on account of,' (3) their 'race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.'"^{[8][3]} The United States framework on migration is securitization, focusing on the safety of citizens.^[24] This results in strict U.S. policies and laws surrounding immigration and asylum.

The United States is obliged to recognize valid claims for asylum under the 1951 **Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees** and its 1967 Protocol. As defined by these agreements, a refugee is a person who is outside their country of nationality (or place of **habitual residence** if **stateless**) who, owing to a fear of **persecution** on account of a protected ground, is unable or unwilling to avail himself of the protection of the state. Protected grounds include race, nationality, religion, political opinion and membership of a **particular social group**. The signatories to these agreements are further obliged not to return or "refoul" refugees to countries or places where they would face persecution.

This commitment was codified and expanded by the United States Congress with the passing of the **Refugee Act of 1980**. Besides reiterating the definitions of the 1951 Convention and its Protocol, the Refugee Act provided for the establishment of an **Office of Refugee Resettlement** (ORR) within the U.S. **Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) to help refugees begin their lives in the U.S. The structure and procedures evolved and by 2004, federal handling of refugee affairs was led by PRM,^[12] working with the ORR at HHS. Asylum claims are mainly the responsibility of the U.S. **Department of Homeland Security** (DHS).

Refugee quotas

Each year, the **President of the United States** sends a proposal to the Congress for the maximum number of refugees to be admitted for the upcoming fiscal year, as specified under INA section 207(e).^{[1][22]} This number, known as the "refugee ceiling", is the target of annual lobbying by both refugee advocates seeking to raise it and anti-immigration groups seeking to lower it. However, once proposed, the ceiling is normally accepted without substantial Congressional debate and does not require Congressional approval. The **September 11, 2001 attacks** resulted in a substantial disruption to the processing of **resettlement** claims with actual admissions falling to about 26,000 in **fiscal year** 2002. Claims were double-checked for any suspicious activity and procedures were put in place to detect any possible terrorist infiltration.

United States citizenship and immigration



Immigration

Immigration to the United States
Emigration from the United States
Immigration policy of the United States
Effects of immigration to the United States
Permanent Residency (Green Card)

Refugees and asylum

Diversity Immigrant Visa
Illegal immigrants
Deportation of Americans from the United States

Citizenship

Oath of Allegiance
Birthright citizenship
U.S. citizens / nationals
Citizenship test
Passports
Relinquishment of nationality
Honorary citizenship

Agencies

USCIS
ICE

Legislation

United States nationality law

History

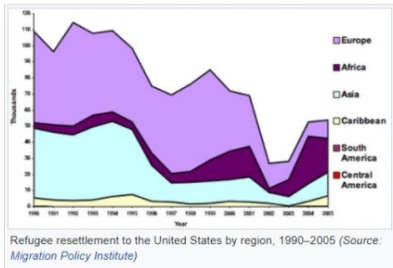
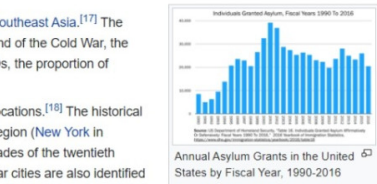
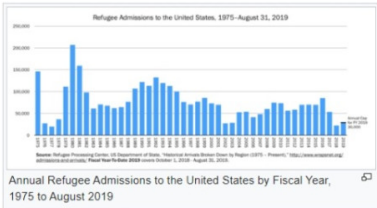
Colonial nationality law
Naturalization Act of 1790
Civil Rights Act of 1866
United States v. Wong Kim Ark
Indian Citizenship Act
Nationality Act of 1940

Relevant legislation

Citizenship Clause
Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 / 1965
Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986
Immigration Act of 1990
Child Citizenship Act of 2000

United States portal

• T • E



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asylum_in_the_United_States