



**Kentucky Council of Churches
Assembly
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*Communication Challenges of
Immigration Issues*

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Can we get the facts straight?

- *Sources matter*
 - *MPI Migration Policy Institute*
www.migrationpolicy.org
 - *American Immigration Council*
www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org
 - *IPC Immigration Policy Center*
www.immigrationpolicy.org
 - *Pew Hispanic Center*
pewhispanic.org (do not use www.)
 - *US Department of Homeland Security* www.dhs.gov
 - *Census Bureau* www.census.gov

Can we deal with prejudice and bias?

- *Nativism: favors the native-born over immigrants*
- *Racial/color prejudice*
- *Class/economic bias*
- *Cultural bias*
- *Historical bias*
- *Language differences*
- *Power of words: “illegal alien”*
- *There has been 54% increase in the number of hate groups in the US since 2000 and a 40% increase in hate crimes against Latinos from 2003 – 2007.*

Assertion: Undocumented immigrants don't pay taxes

- *In 2005 the SSA estimated that 3/4ths of undocumented immigrants pay federal payroll taxes.
\$7B in SS taxes; \$1.5B in Medicare taxes
By law low-income workers may pay no income tax.*
- *Taxes paid by undocumented workers provide the Social Security system with a subsidy of about \$7B a year. The taxes paid by “other than legal” immigrants will close 15% of the system’s projected long-term deficit.*
- *The Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy estimated that in 2010 households headed by undocumented immigrants paid \$11.2B in state and local taxes. Kentucky = \$85M*
- *Sales tax*
- *Property tax*

Assertion: Undocumented immigrants come to draw public benefits.

- *By law undocumented immigrants cannot draw federal public benefits. State law varies.*
- *Legal Permanent Residents cannot draw public benefits until 5 years (for some) and 10 years (for others), after they receive green cards.*
- *The US citizens in mixed status families may be eligible for benefits.*
- *Non-citizens are less likely to use the benefits for which they are eligible than are citizens.*
- *The average immigrant uses less than half the dollar amount of health care services as the average native-born citizen.*
- *Communities with high rates of ER usage tend to have relatively small percentages of immigrants.*

Assertion: Undocumented workers take jobs away from and suppress the wages of US citizens.

- *Most studies show that undocumented workers do not compete with American workers, except for some instances of those Americans who do not have a high school diploma. Alabama is the test case now.*
- *In a 2007 report the White House Council of Economic Advisors concluded that about 90% of native-born workers experience wage gains from immigration (\$30 - \$80B a year).*

Assertion: Immigrants commit more crimes.

- *A 2005 Harvard University concluded that immigrants commit fewer crimes than native-born citizens and that a greater proportion of immigrants in a neighborhood is associated with lower rates of crime.*
- *A 2007 study by IPC found that the incarceration rate was 5 times higher for the native-born than for the foreign-born.*
- *11.7% of our population is foreign-born; non-citizen prisoners account for only 5.9% of the combined federal and state prison population.*
- *The National Bureau of Economic Research found that "...by 2000, immigrants ha[d] institutionalization rates that are 1/5th those of the native-born."*
- *The undocumented population doubled to about 12M from 1994 to 2004. During that time the violent crime rate in the US declined by 35.1% and the property crime rate fell by 25%.*
- *Between Jan. 2000 and Jan. 2008, Arizona's undocumented population grew 70%. The violent crime rate in Arizona was lower in 2006, 2007, and 2008 than any year since 1983.*

Assertion: Most immigrants are undocumented and have crossed the border illegally.

- *The Pew Hispanic Center states that in 2010 the foreign-born population in the US is composed of 37% naturalized citizens, 31% LPRs, 4% with temporary legal status, and 28% undocumented. Between 40 and 50% of the undocumented entered the US legally.*

Assertion: Kentucky has been invaded by immigrants.

- *In 2009 the foreign-born made up 3% of Kentucky's population. (127,973/4,314,113)*
- *31.8% of the foreign-born are USCs. (40,695)*
- *40.4% of the foreign-born are from Latin America. (51,701)*
- *The top three home countries of the foreign-born are Mexico, India and China.*
- *Of all Kentucky children under the age of 18, 6% lived in immigrant families.*
- *44,978 USC children in Kentucky live with at least one immigrant parent.*
- *445,519 Kentucky children under 18 live in low-income families; 6.4% (28,513) have at least one immigrant parent.*

Assertion: The federal government is not enforcing immigration law.

- *In 2010 the current administration was deporting 1,100 people every day.*
- *US ICE's total budget has increased from \$3.6B in 2005 to \$5.74B in 2010.*
- *US CBP's FY2010 budget was \$10.1B. CBP has a total workforce of 57,519, a 10% increase during FY2009.*
- *CBP has 20,119 Border Patrol agents at 139 Border Patrol stations, a 15% increase over FY2008.*
- *CBP daily deploys 1,419 canine enforcement teams, 21,862 automobiles, 290 aircraft, 225 marine vessels and 280 equestrian patrols. The Border Patrol is better staffed than at any time in its 86-year history.*
- *US ICE announced this week it deported nearly 400,000 people in FY 2011, the largest number of removals in the agency's history.*

Is there a solution?

- *DREAM Act*
- *Ag-Jobs bill*
- *Extend Section 245(i) of the INA*
- *Repeal the 3 and 10 year and permanent bars*
- *Provide due process rights throughout the system*
- *Define the purpose and intent of our immigration laws and the division of power between the federal government and the states*
- *Provide workplace safety and wage fairness*
- *Be sure our government policies support economic improvement in the underdeveloped and developing world*
- *Make family reunification and stability a priority*
- *And get everyone on board: the House, the Senate and the White House!*