

Immigration in North Carolina – Fact Sheet

Community Colleges and Universities

- Undocumented students who are not in high school and attending community colleges must pay out-of-state tuition of \$7,465 compared to in-state of \$1,400. In 2006-07 there were 112 undocumented degree-seeking students in community colleges out of a total of 297,000.
- Undocumented students attending universities must pay out-of-state tuition of \$21,000 compared to \$5,340 for in-state students. It is the same amount paid by foreign students attending the universities.
- In 2006-07, there were 27 undocumented immigrant students in the North Carolina public university system, out of a total of 200,000 students.
- Undocumented students in universities do not take classroom seats from North Carolina students. They are counted against the out-of-state/foreign students cap.
- Undocumented students attending universities and community colleges are not eligible for state or federal scholarships or loans.
- No state in the country has banned undocumented students from enrolling in either community colleges or universities. Ten states allow students to enroll paying in-state tuition.

Receiving no Medicare, no Social Security, but paying for them

- Each year U.S. employers deduct billions of dollars of Social Security and Medicare taxes from the paychecks of undocumented workers, although those same undocumented workers are not eligible for Medicare or Social Security. The undocumented workers will never be able to collect those funds.

Economic Benefits are Significant

- A 2006 UNC study concludes that North Carolina Hispanic population contributes more than \$9 billion to the state's economy. Undocumented workers are about half of the Hispanic population.
- In 2004, Hispanic buying power was \$8.4 billion or an average of \$84 million in North Carolina's 100 counties.
- Hispanics are woven into the economic fabric of North Carolina. In 2004, Hispanics in North Carolina provided 51,931 workers for the construction industry; 18,400 agriculture workers; 8,051 cooks and food preparation workers; and 4,748 food processing workers.
- According to a Pew report, on a national basis, undocumented immigrants in 2005 accounted for 24% of all workers in farming, fishing and forestry; 17% in building and grounds cleaning and maintenance; 14% in construction; and 12% in food preparation and serving.

Undocumented Immigrants Pay Taxes

- According to a UNC study, Hispanics accounted for \$757 million in North Carolina taxes in 2004. About half of Hispanics are undocumented immigrants.
- According to a variety of sources, each year tens of thousands of W-2s are filed with mismatched Social Security numbers. Those returns generated \$7 to \$9 billion in Social Security taxes and \$1.5 to \$1.9 billion in Medicare taken out of \$50 to \$75 billion in wages. Most of those are submitted by undocumented workers. While the IRS and Social Security Administration decline to specify how many, there is a direct correlation between the increase in mismatches and the growth of undocumented immigrants in America. Undocumented workers will never be able to collect these funds.
- According to the Social Security Administration and other sources, 50-75% of undocumented workers pay Social Security taxes and Medicare taxes through payroll deductions, along with income taxes that are withheld. Undocumented workers will never be able to collect these funds.

Primary and Secondary Education Required

- All states, including North Carolina, are required by federal law to provide K-12 education to non-citizen residents. There are approximately 150,000 Latino students in K-12. More than half are citizens.
- By 2018, one out of every three high school graduates in North Carolina is expected to be Latino, with the vast majority being citizens.
- Undocumented workers cannot receive state or federal education grants or loans.

Healthcare and Corrections

- A 2005 study in the *American Journal of Public Health* found that per capita expenditures on health care services were lower for immigrants than U.S. citizens. U.S. born citizens' health care costs were more than double that of immigrants (\$2,546 per capita versus \$1,139). Immigrants' emergency care costs were about one-third of U.S.-born citizens (\$33 versus \$91 per capita, respectively). Further, it is estimated total spending on immigrants represents a fraction of spending on native-born citizens. A recent *Health Affairs* article noted that only 6.4% of non-citizens used hospital emergency services in 2003 compared to 31.8% of citizens. (One reason for those differences is that the immigrant population is much younger than American-born citizens.)
- Based on N.C. Department of Corrections statistics, Hispanics in prison, on parole and on probation are less than their share of the proportion of North Carolina's total population. Studies done elsewhere conclude that the incarceration rate of immigrants is lower than for natives.