



A Year of Inaction: How Failure to Pass Immigration Harms Workers Fact Sheet

Latino Workers Reshaping Our Communities and Workforce

- By 2050, Latinos will constitute nearly 30% of the total U.S. population and one-third of all working-age Americans.
- The House of Representatives' failure to pass meaningful immigration reform leaves our nation with an enforcement-only immigration policy that is fueling a black market for cheap exploitable labor, ripping families apart, and costing our economy millions.
- The scapegoating of immigrant workers has caused real hardships: hate crimes against immigrants and Latinos have reached a historic high; families are being separated; and Latino immigrants suffer high incidences of wage theft, death and injuries at work.
- Latino immigrants face the highest workplace fatality rate of any segment of the workforce, making them the most vulnerable workers in the country. 748 Latino fatalities were reported in 2012.
- Latinos suffer more minimum-wage and overtime pay violations than any other ethnic group. 77.6% of Latinos surveyed in various low wage industries did not receive overtime pay.
- Latino workers have a higher risk of fatalities because they face abuse, exploitation, and fear of retaliation if they raise concerns about unsafe working conditions.
- The negative impact of the failure to enact immigration reform disproportionately impacts the Latino community. Undocumented Latino workers are more likely to work in jobs where labor protections are skirted because of their legal status.

Trabajadoras: Challenges and Conditions of Latina Workers in the United States

- Latinas are a part of the largest and fastest growing minority group in the U.S. There are over 24 million Latinas in the country today.
- Latina women are overrepresented in the lowest paying job sectors. 65% of employed Latinas work in either service occupations or sales and office occupations. In these positions, they are more likely to be robbed of their legally mandated wages and rights.
- On average, Latina women earned \$549 in median weekly earnings and only earn a meager 57 cents for every dollar earned by a white man, representing the largest wage gap of any other group of working women.
- For undocumented Latinas the situation is worse. These women are routinely intimidated in the workplace and robbed of wages-- and all too often they become victims of sexual harassment at the workplace. Latinas in the food and agriculture industries are subjected to some of the highest incidences of sexual harassment.
- Two million non-citizen Latinas live in poverty. 55% of these women earn less than \$15,000 a year.

Deportations Disproportionately Devastate Latino Workers

- Deportation disproportionately impacts Latino communities. In 2013, 96.7 percent, or 356,303, of all deportees were of Latino descent.
- When the Obama Administration reached the two million deportations mark, the number of Latino deportees was equal to the populations of Wyoming, Vermont, and North Dakota combined.
- The overrepresentation of Latinos in deportations is not simply a byproduct of the large undocumented Latino population, but also a direct result of discriminatory policies at the federal, state, and local level. This number continues to grow today.
- Two-thirds of all deportations under President Barack Obama involve individuals who had committed minor traffic violations or had no criminal record at all.
- The Administration spends more on immigration enforcement than all other forms of federal enforcement combined.
- Undocumented workers often do not speak up against wage or workplace safety violations because of the fear of deportation. This hampers the collective bargaining ability for all workers within that industry, regardless of their immigration status.
- Immigration reform is necessary to strengthen the Latino and Labor community.

Sources:

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