

NATIONAL

50-state overview

- **State immigration policies range from stringent to welcoming** (*NYT*)



From driver's licenses to work permits, states' responses to undocumented immigrants vary greatly. Georgia is one of the most restrictive states in terms of driver's licenses, in-state tuition for the undocumented and local law enforcement cooperating with federal immigration authorities. See [related story](#) and [graphic](#).

Congress

- **[Senator Menendez is a key voice, but indictment may end his career](#)** (NBC, Politico, The Hill)

Often seen as a key Latino voice in the US Senate, Bob Menendez has been serving as the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The NJ native is the son of Cuban immigrants and [a champion for immigration reform](#). [Menendez may become the deciding vote on Attorney General nominee Loretta Lynch](#). His recent indictment on corruption charges may end his career.

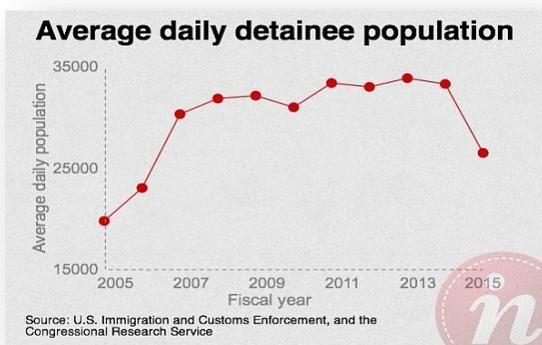
Courts

- **[NJ Governor Chris Christie joins Texas in opposing President's executive actions](#)** (NJ.com)

Twenty-six states are now suing Obama in a Texas federal district court over his executive actions on immigration. Silent until now, NJ Governor Chris Christie has signed onto a [friend of the court brief](#) opposing the President's request to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to stay the preliminary injunction that halted his executive actions. The other states on the brief—Texas, Louisiana and South Dakota—were part of the original lawsuit filed in December. The addition of New Jersey makes 27 states actively opposing Obama's executive actions through litigation. [A hearing is set for April 17](#) to determine whether the preliminary injunction will end and the executive actions may continue. To see the DOJ's [brief](#) to the Fifth Circuit, click here. The friend of the court brief to the Fifth Circuit from cities and counties supporting the executive actions may be found [here](#), and the American Immigration Council et al. friend of the court brief may be found [here](#). Friend of the court brief filed by [181 Democratic members of the House](#) may be found [here](#). Related: [Fifth Circuit rules in DACA-related suit](#) that Mississippi lacked standing to sue because harm DACA caused the state was too speculative. [Texas Judge denies request to lift injunction](#).

Federal agencies

- **[Numbers show US government detaining fewer immigrants](#)** (KPBS.org and inewsource.org)



State and federal policy changes may have brought the number of detained immigrants to its lowest point in nearly a decade—26,374 was the average for the first five months of fiscal 2015. This low number may also reveal a shift in what has been referred to as the “bed quota”—a federal rule that mandates at least 34,000 detention beds exist across the country and requires ICE to fill them. Detention prompts numerous protests, including a recent hunger strike by [dozens of detained mothers](#).

Presidency

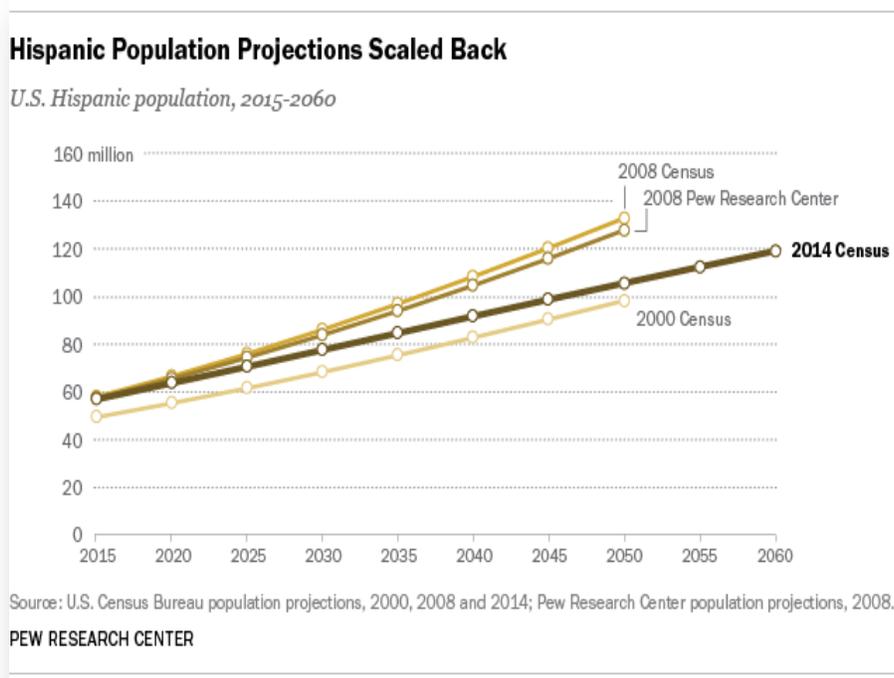
- **2016 presidential race and immigration: Where hopefuls seem to stand on particular aspects of immigration reform** (NBC, CNN, *Washington Post*, and others)

Republicans*		Democrats*	
1. Carly Fiorina (WSJ bio)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes President’s executive actions • Supported the 2010 DREAM Act for young immigrants (see GPO.gov for Senate version and House version) 	1. Hillary Clinton (PBS bio)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports President’s executive actions • In the past, supported path to legalization • Voted for 2007 McCain-Kennedy bill that would have provided path to legalization
2. Marco Rubio (Senate bio)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes President’s executive actions • Would end DACA • Helped draft and voted for 2013 bipartisan Senate bill for immigration relief (See also Fox News) 	2. Martin O’ Malley (State of MD website bio)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports President’s executive actions • Opposed 2013 Senate bipartisan legislation for immigration relief • Criticized President for deportation of children
3. Ted Cruz (Senate bio) *(declared candidacy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes President’s executive actions • Would end DACA • Voted against 2013 bipartisan Senate bill for immigration relief 	3. Jim Webb (NY Review of Books bio)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports President’s executive actions (President has legal authority for them) • In the past, expressed support for undocumented path to citizenship • Voted against 2007 McCain-Kennedy bill that would have provided path to legalization • Voted for 2010 DREAM Act for young immigrants
4. Jeb Bush (Tampa Bay Times bio)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes President’s executive actions • Would end DACA • Has expressed sympathy for undocumented who come to the US to feed their families 	4. Bernie Sanders (Senate bio) *(may run as independent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports President’s executive actions • Prefers Congress/President working together to resolve immigration issues (see CNN video, 2:22) • Voted against 2007 McCain-Kennedy bill that would have provided path to legalization (see also CNN) • Voted for 2010 DREAM Act for young immigrants (as independent) • Voted for 2013 bipartisan Senate bill for immigration relief (as independent)
5. Scott Walker (State of WI website bio)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes President’s executive actions • Previously supported 2007 McCain-Kennedy bill that would have provided path to legalization 		
6. Rand Paul (Senate bio) *(declared candidacy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes President’s executive actions (here) • Voted against 2013 bipartisan Senate bill for immigration relief 		

Latinos and national trends

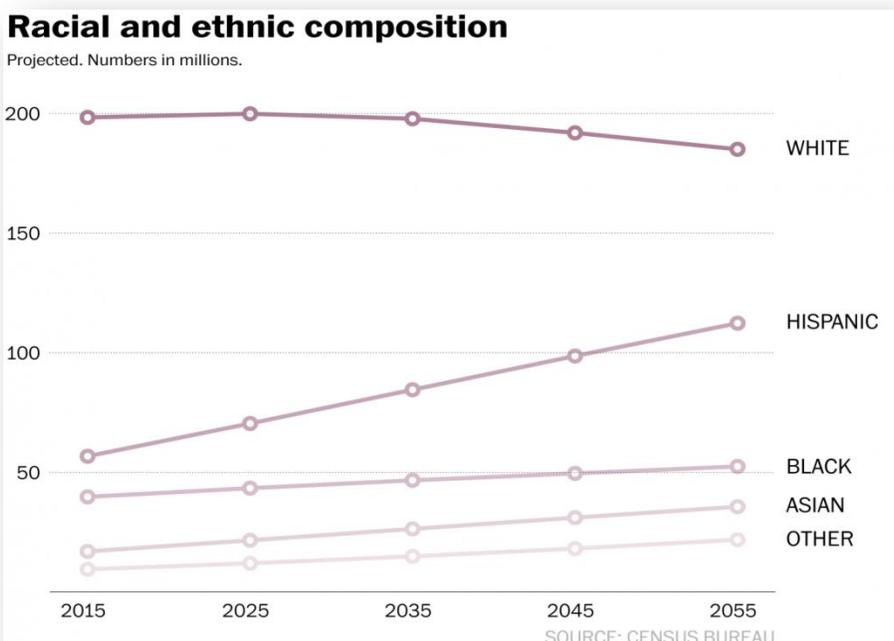
- **More undocumented now in white-collar positions (Pew)**

The number of undocumented individuals in professional or management jobs increased by 180,000 from 2007 to 2012, according to a new [Pew Research Center report](#) but still accounts for a higher percentage of the total work force in certain areas, including construction (14%), cleaning and maintenance (17%) and farming (26%). Undocumented workers made up 5.1% of the national labor force in 2012.



- **Future Latino population growth lower than first expected (Pew, Washington Post)**

While Hispanics still account for a huge amount of US population growth, [growth projections have been scaled back](#) since Latin American immigration began to stagnate in the late 2000s.



Even with the scaled-back predictions, there will still be over twice as [many Hispanics as African-Americans in the US by 2050, and there will be nearly three times as many Hispanics as Asians by 2050.](#)

STATE AND LOCAL

- **Georgia legislative session closed on 4/2 with little movement on immigrant legislation**

-In-state tuition for DREAMERS. [SB 44](#) did not pass this year, having never left the Senate Higher Education Committee. Watch for next session.

-No licenses for DREAMERS. [SB 6](#) did not pass this year, having never left the Senate Public Safety Committee. A last-ditch attempt was made on March 31 to [attach SB 6 as an amendment to another driver's license bill](#). Watch for next session.

-Improving immigrant access to public services. [HB 137](#) did not pass this year. Watch for next session.

- [Emory University announces financial aid for undocumented](#) (WABE)

Emory has announced it will provide needs-based financial aid for students with Deferred Action status. At present, undocumented students—including those with deferred action under DACA—must pay out-of-state tuition at Georgia public colleges and universities. For other institutions that may be “friendly” to undocumented students, see [UNC-Wilmington's Centro Hispano List](#) and [MALDEF's Scholarship Resource Guide](#).

INTERNATIONAL

- [Central American Minors again surge at the border](#) (*Washington Times, Vox, NYT*)

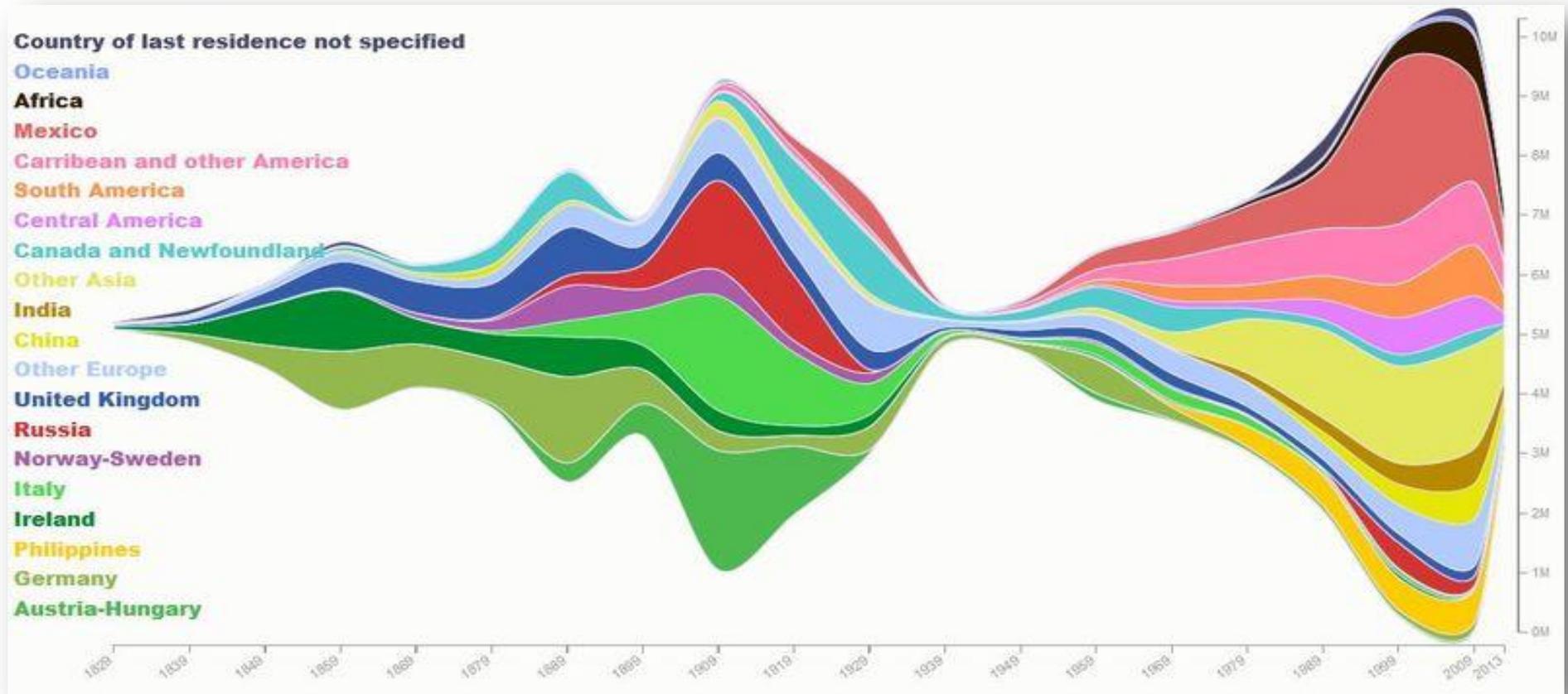
More than 3,000 unaccompanied minors crossed the Mexican-US border in the last month. This figure is the highest since the height of last summer's crisis. Of the 15,647 caught at the border since October 1, 5,465 were from Guatemala; 2,788 were from El Salvador; 1,549 were from Honduras, and 5,572 were from Mexico. In general, children who are not from Mexico must be screened and turned in to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (a unit of the Department of Health and Human Services). [The HHS will either \(a\) find a suitable relative to care for the child or \(b\) the child will be placed in foster care. US policy allows Mexican children to be sent back almost immediately after apprehension.](#) Experts explain that the flow of Central American children will continue as long as the underlying motivation for fleeing—violence in Central America—remains in place.

- [Unaccompanied Central American children: Seeking to protect children from a dangerous journey, US may pay for flights for some children](#) (Fox News, USCIS, American Immigration Council)

Some Central American minors may come to the US paid for by the US government. The information was released on a USCIS teleconference call on March 31, 2015 (see call [invitation](#)). Like other refugees, Central American children who come to the United States under the [CAM program](#) must prove they are fleeing [certain forms of persecution](#) and, if they can prove that, may be eligible for certain public benefits ([USCIS](#)). The US permits [approximately 70,000 refugees](#) to enter the country each year, and any Central American refugees permitted entry will become part of that 70,000 total. Although flying refugee children directly to the United States might seem novel, this would not be the first time that the US has been involved in transporting children by plane to the United States (next page)

and then supporting their transition to American life. For example, the US participated in [Operation Pedro Pan](#) (1960-62), in which the government worked with various groups to arrange commercial flights for unaccompanied minors and paid \$100/month per child to help support newly-arrived Cuban children. Adjusted for inflation, this would have a [2015 value of \\$785](#).

- [Latino and others' immigration to the United States, in one graphic](#) ([Natalia Bronshtein, Ph.D.](#) and [here](#))



Related: [“35 maps that explain how America is a nation of immigrants”](#)