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More Prioritize Border Security in Immigration Debate

How to Accommodate Undocumented Central American Children in the U.S.?

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More Prioritize Border Security in Immigration Debate

How to Accommodate Undocumented Central American Children in the U.S.?

As President Obama considers executive action to delay the deportation of millions of undocumented immigrants, the public's priorities for U.S. immigration policy have shifted, with more people favoring a focus on better border security and tougher enforcement of immigration laws.

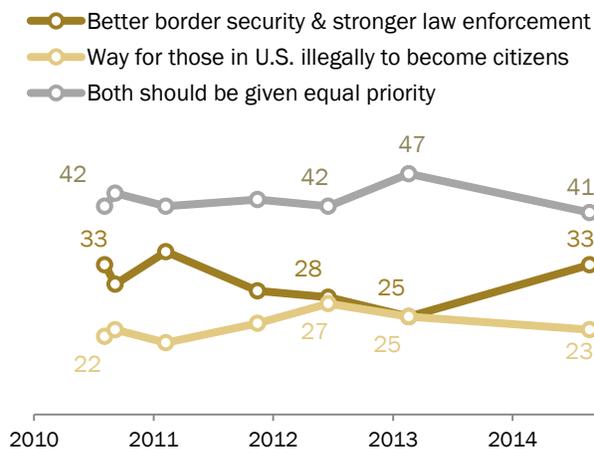
The national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted August 20-24 among 1,501 adults, finds that 33% say the priority should be on better border security and tougher enforcement of immigration laws, while 23% prioritize creating a way for people in the U.S. illegally to become citizens if they meet certain conditions. About four-in-ten (41%) say both should be given equal priority.

These priorities have changed since Feb. 2013, early in Obama's second term. The share saying that both approaches should be given equal priority has fallen from 47% to 41%. Over the same period, the percentage prioritizing enhanced border security and stronger enforcement of immigration laws has risen eight points, from 25% to 33%. There has been little change in the percentage saying the priority should be creating a path to citizenship for people in the U.S. illegally (25% in Feb. 2013, 23% today).

By a 17-point margin (53% to 36%), more Republicans now say the priority should be on better border security and stricter law enforcement than on an approach that also includes a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. In Feb. 2013, 43% favored better border security and stricter law enforcement, while an identical percentage (43%) supported an approach that also included a path to citizenship. Relatively few Republicans – then or now – think the priority should just be on a path to citizenship (11% in Feb. 2013, 9% today)

Public's Priorities for Immigration Policy

% saying ____ should be the priority for dealing with illegal immigration in the U.S. ...



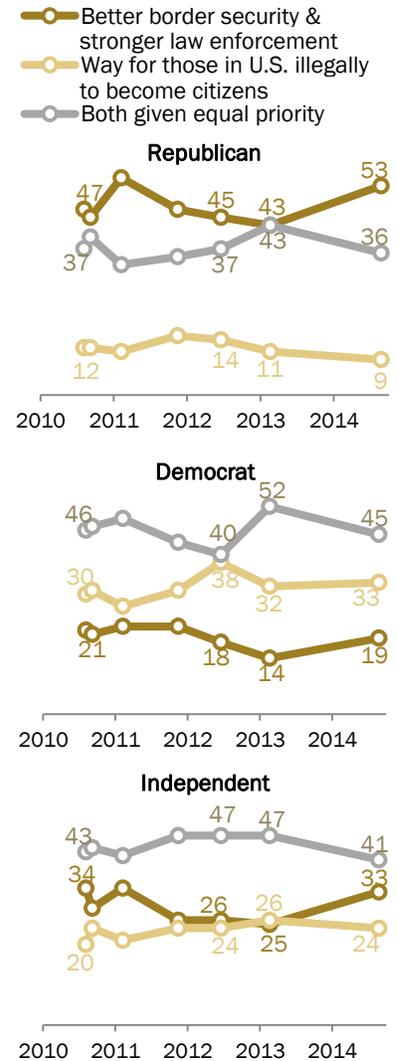
Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014.

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Among independents, support for giving equal priority to a path to citizenship for those in the U.S. illegally *and* better border security and tougher enforcement of immigration laws has slipped since Feb. 2013 (from 47% to 41%), while support for better border security and tougher law enforcement alone has increased, from 25% to 33%.

Similarly, fewer Democrats give equal priority to both a path to citizenship and enhanced border security and stricter law enforcement than did so at the beginning of last year (52% then, 45% now), while the share saying the priority should be just on better border security and tougher law enforcement has increased from 14% to 19%. A third of Democrats (33%) say the priority should be on creating a way for people here illegally to become citizens if they meet certain requirements, which is little changed since Feb. 2013 (32%).

Wide Partisan Gap in Immigration Priorities



Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014.

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The survey finds that 42% of Hispanics favor prioritizing both a path to citizenship for those in the U.S. illegally and stronger enforcement of immigration laws and better border security; about as many say the priority should be to create a way for people in the U.S. illegally to become citizens. Just 15% think better border security and stronger enforcement of immigration laws should be the priority.

Among whites, there is much more support for improving border security and enforcing immigration laws more strictly: 37% of whites say that should be the priority for U.S. policy, more than double the percentage of Hispanics. About four-in-ten whites (39%) say the priority should be both improving border security (and tougher law enforcement) as well as providing a way for those here illegally to gain citizenship if they meet certain conditions. However, just 21% of whites say the focus should be mainly on creating a path to citizenship.

There also are age differences in immigration priorities: 36% of those under 30 say the priority should be on creating a way for people here illegally to become citizens, the highest share of any age group. Those 50 and older are more likely than those under 50 to emphasize better border security and stronger enforcement of immigration laws.

Hispanics, Young People Give Greater Priority to ‘Path to Citizenship’

Priority for dealing with illegal immigration in U.S. ...

	Better border security/ stronger law enforcement	Creating a way for those in US illegally to become citizens	Both should be equal priorities
	%	%	%
Total	33	23	41
White	37	21	39
Black	26	20	51
Hispanic	15	41	42
18-29	24	36	38
30-49	26	23	48
50-64	40	15	43
65+	43	22	30
Republican	53	9	36
Democrat	19	33	45
Independent	33	24	41
<i>Among Rep/Lean Rep</i>			
Tea Party	67	3	28
Non-Tea	43	16	40

Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. “Other/Don’t know” responses not shown.

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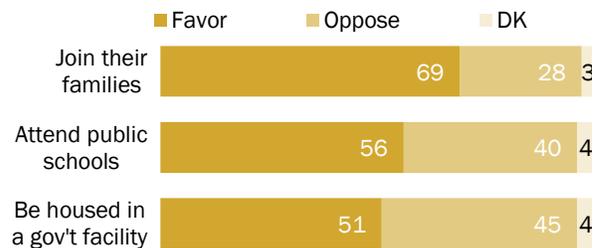
Dealing with Central American Children in U.S. Illegally

The [number of unaccompanied minors from Central America](#) crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally has risen sharply this year. [A Pew Research Center survey last month](#) found that 53% favored speeding up the legal processing of the Central American children, even if some who are eligible for asylum are deported; 39% favored following the current policy, even though the process could take a long time.

In terms of dealing with the thousands of Central American children in this country, 69% favor allowing them to join their families living in the U.S. while their cases are pending; 56% say they should be allowed to attend public schools, while 51% favor allowing them to be housed in a government facility in the U.S.

What to do about Children from Central America in U.S. Illegally?

Favor/oppose allowing Central American children in U.S. illegally to ____ while immigration cases are pending ...



Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Majorities across most partisan and demographic groups say the Central American children in the U.S. illegally should be allowed to join family members in the United States. But there are wider differences over allowing the children to attend public schools and be housed at U.S. government facilities.

While 67% of whites say children from Central America should be allowed to join family members in this country while their immigration cases are pending, only about half of whites say the children should be allowed to attend public schools (51%) and be housed at U.S. government facilities (49%). Among Hispanics, 78% say the children should be able to attend schools while their cases are pending and 59% favor them being housed at government facilities.

Most Republicans (57%) favor Central American children in the U.S. illegally being allowed to join families in the U.S. while their cases are pending. But just 40% think they should be allowed to attend public schools and the same percentage favors allowing them to be housed at U.S. government facilities. Among Democrats, majorities favor the children joining their families in the U.S. (80%) and being allowed to attend schools (71%) and be housed at U.S. government facilities (61%).

Republicans and Republican leaners who agree with the Tea Party are generally opposed to allowing Central American children in the U.S. illegally to join their families or to benefit from government services while their cases are pending. Just 43% favor them being allowed to join their families in the U.S. (55% are opposed), 22% favor them being allowed to attend U.S. public schools (76% are opposed) and 29% favor allowing them to be housed at government facilities (69% are opposed).

Most OK with Children Joining Families; Schools, Gov't Facilities More Divisive

% favor allowing Central American children illegally in U.S. to _____ while cases are pending...

	Join their families living in U.S.	Attend U.S. public schools	Be housed in gov't facility in U.S.
	%	%	%
Total	69	56	51
White	67	51	49
Black	73	65	58
Hispanic	79	78	59
18-29	80	72	60
30-49	70	57	51
50+	63	48	47
Republican	57	40	40
Democrat	80	71	61
Independent	68	54	50
<i>Among Rep/Lean Rep</i>			
Tea Party	43	22	29
Non-Tea Party	62	45	44

Survey conducted August 20-24, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

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About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted August 20-24, 2014 among a national sample of 1,501 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (600 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 901 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 487 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted under the direction of Abt SRBI. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2013 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,501	2.9 percentage points
Republican	382	5.8 percentage points
Democrat	473	5.2 percentage points
Independent	534	4.9 percentage points
White, non-Hispanic	1,082	3.4 percentage points
Black, non-Hispanic	153	9.1 percentage points
Hispanic	140	9.6 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
AUGUST 2014 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
August 20-24, 2014
N=1,501**

**QUESTIONS 1, 13a PREVIOUSLY RELEASED.
QUESTIONS 2-3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
NO QUESTIONS 4-12**

ASK ALL:

Thinking about some issues...

Q.13 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]?** **[REPEAT INTRODUCTION AS NECESSARY]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
b. The nation's immigration policy			
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	31	61	7
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	32	60	7
Jun 12-16, 2013	43	47	11
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	44	43	13
Nov 9-14, 2011	32	49	20
Jan 6-9, 2011	35	50	16
Jun 16-20, 2010	33	54	12
May 6-9, 2010	25	54	21
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	47	24
Jan 6-10, 2010	30	50	21
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	31	48	21

**QUESTIONS 13c-f, 14, THOUGHT, 21-22, 24-25, 49-50, 52, 54, 60, 62-63 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
NO QUESTIONS 15-20, 23, 26-29, 37, 39, 41-48, 51, 53, 55-59, 61, 64-65
QUESTIONS 30-36, 38, 40 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

ASK ALL:

Next,

Q.66 What should be the priority for dealing with illegal immigration in the U.S.? **[RANDOMIZE;** (one) better border security and stronger enforcement of our immigration laws; OR (two) creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements] OR should BOTH be given equal priority?

	<u>Better border security and stronger enforcement of our immigration laws.</u>	<u>Creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements</u>	<u>Both should be given equal priority</u>	<u>(VOL.) None of these</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Aug 20-24, 2014	33	23	41	1	2
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	25	25	47	1	2
Jun 7-17, 2012	28	27	42	1	2
Nov 9-14, 2011	29	24	43	2	2
Feb 2-7, 2011	35	21	42	1	2
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	30	23	44	1	1
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	33	22	42	1	3

NO QUESTIONS 67-68

ASK ALL:

Q.69 As you many know, thousands of children from Central America who entered the U.S. illegally have been apprehended at the U.S. border. Please tell me whether you would favor or oppose allowing these children to do each of the following. First, **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]** while their immigration cases are pending? How about to **[INSERT NEXT]** while their immigration cases are pending?

		<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Attend public school in the U.S. Aug 20-24, 2014	56	40	4
b.	Join their families already living in the U.S. Aug 20-24, 2014	69	28	3
c.	Be housed in a government facility in the U.S. Aug 20-24, 2014	51	45	4

ASK IF Q69A=1 [N=810]:

Q.70 And would you favor or oppose allowing some of these children to attend public school in your community?

Aug 20-24

2014

96	Favor
3	Oppose
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS 71-76, 78-84, 87-89
QUESTIONS 77, 85-86, 90-91 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) <u>No preference</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	31	37	4	1	4	15	16
Jul 8-14, 2014	25	34	37	2	1	1	16	15
Apr 23-27, 2014	24	30	41	2	1	2	18	17
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	22	31	41	3	1	2	17	17
Feb 14-23, 2014	22	32	39	4	1	2	14	17
Jan 15-19, 2014	21	31	41	3	1	2	18	16
Dec 3-8, 2013	24	34	37	3	*	2	17	15
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Oct 9-13, 2013	25	32	37	3	1	3	16	18
Sep 4-8, 2013	26	32	38	3	1	1	17	15
Jul 17-21, 2013	19	29	46	3	*	2	19	18
Yearly Totals								
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=608]

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/ DK
Aug 20-24, 2014	34	10	53	*	2	--
Jul 8-14, 2014	35	12	50	2	1	--
Apr 23-27, 2014	33	11	54	1	1	--
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	37	11	50	1	1	--
Feb 14-23, 2014	36	9	54	1	1	--
Jan 15-19, 2014	35	12	52	1	*	--
Dec 3-8, 2013	32	9	57	1	1	--
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	40	9	48	2	1	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	11	45	2	1	--
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9	54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10	50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9	46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7	48	1	3	--
May 1-5, 2013	28	8	61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7	47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9	52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9	45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10	51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11	51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8	49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9	50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2013	39	7	52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9	47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9	53	1	2	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--

TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	(VOL.) <u>Haven't heard of</u>	(VOL.) <u>Refused</u>	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ¹	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	2

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

¹ In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."