

Welcoming Immigrants Helps NYC:

Fact #1



FEAR: Immigrants drain resources available to resident New Yorkers.



FACT: Immigrants benefit our economy, irrespective of their status.

Immigrant New Yorkers are key to our economic vitality and contribute billions of dollars to the New York economy in spending power and tax revenue.

In 2021, immigrant New Yorkers paid \$61 billion dollars in taxes and constituted \$138 billion dollars in spending power; undocumented immigrants contributed \$30.8 billion in total taxes nationally, including \$18.6 billion in federal income taxes and \$12.2 billion in state and local taxes.

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Fact #2



FEAR: Asylum seekers are increasing NYC crime rates



FACT: Immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than native-born Americans.

Research shows that immigrants (including asylum seekers and undocumented immigrants) are less likely to commit a crime than those born here. There is no correlation between immigration rates and crime rates.

A 2024 New York Daily News investigation found that crime rates decreased from the past year in NYC neighborhoods where asylum seekers were being sheltered.

Cited from: "Criminal Immigrants in Texas: Illegal Immigrant Conviction and Arrest Rates," CATO Institute, 26 Feb 2018, <https://www.cato.org/publications/immigration-research-policy-brief/criminal-immigrants-texas-illegal-immigrant>; "Fears of a migrant crime wave are growing in NYC, but actual evidence is scant.," NY Daily News, 10 Feb, 2024, <https://www.nydailynews.com/2024/02/10/fears-of-a-migrant-crime-wave-are-growing-in-nyc-but-actual-evidence-is-scant/>



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Fact #3



FEAR: Immigrants take our jobs.



FACT: Immigrants drive workforce growth.

New immigration helps the economy compensate for declining birth rates, slow population growth, and residents moving out of the city. NYC lost over 100,000 workers since February 2020.

Immigrant workers do not take jobs away from native-born workers, instead, immigrants are statistically more likely to be entrepreneurs and create more jobs than native-born Americans.

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Fact #4



FEAR: Asylum seekers are here illegally.



FACT: Seeking asylum is lawful immigration.

The right to seek asylum in the U.S. is enshrined under federal law. 8 U.S.C. § 1158(a)(1)

Every asylum seeker, no matter where they are from, has a right to have their claims adjudicated through our immigration system.

Asylum seekers may apply for asylum regardless of how they arrived in the U.S. – whether they presented themselves to authorities at the southern border, arrived at an airport, or otherwise.

This information in this flyer was adapted from [MYTHBUSTING: Amid Rising Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric, Comptroller Lander Unveils Fact Sheet on How Immigrants Benefit New York City](#): Office of the New York City Comptroller Brad Lander (nyc.gov), January 4, 2024. All citations can be found therein.



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Fact #5



FEAR: By helping asylum seekers, we prop up failed federal immigration policies.



FACT: We are obligated to shelter asylum seekers already in NYC.

NYC is a Right to Shelter city. No citizen or non-citizen can be refused a shelter bed.

While comprehensive immigration reform is needed to address the root causes of a broken immigration system, we have a moral and legal obligation to humanely shelter asylum seekers already in NYC.

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Fact #6



FEAR: NYC is allowing more immigrants into our city than ever before.



FACT: This is not an unprecedented surge in immigration.

The USA and NYC have seen periods of comparable or greater growth in immigration populations relative to this period of asylum seeker arrivals.

The period from 2012 to 2022 saw slower growth in the immigrant share of the population than in recent decades. The U.S. immigrant population grew exponentially from 19 million to over 30 million between 1990-2000.

The undocumented population in NYC has declined over the last decade.

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Fact #7



FEAR: The US shoulders more than its fair share of refugees.



FACT: Low- and middle-income countries host the majority of displaced persons.

The duty to welcome displaced people has disproportionately fallen on countries other than the U.S. The vast majority, 76%, of displaced people are hosted by low- and middle-income countries. About 6 million out of the over 7 million displaced Venezuelans have migrated to other Latin American or Caribbean countries.

The world is currently experiencing a global refugee crisis – more people have been forced to leave their home countries than ever before. Globally, over 100 million people have been displaced due to climate disasters, instability, and violence.

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Fact #8



FEAR: High levels of immigration will destroy our city.



FACT: NYC has been and continues to be one of the world's great immigrant cities.

NYC has a rich history of welcoming immigrants. NYC's population increased by over 1.3 million people from 1900 to 1910 due to immigration. As many as 40 percent of all current U.S. citizens can trace at least one of their ancestors to Ellis Island. In just one day in 1907, over 11,000 immigrants entered NYC via Ellis Island.

Over 3 million NYC residents are immigrants, comprising about 40 percent of our city's population.

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