

# Immigration Policy Center (IPC)

*...providing factual information about immigration and immigrants in the United States.*

April 4, 2008

## **This Week's Immigration *OnPoint* Highlights** **The Consequences of Federal Failure: Raids' Impact on Families and Hate Groups On the Rise**

*Immigration OnPoint: Facts at Your Fingertips for Frequently Asked Immigration Questions*

Last summer's failure by the federal government to reform the nation's broken immigration system has had strong and lasting repercussions. The Administration's stepped up raids and door-to-door operations while not denting the overall size of the undocumented population is causing tremendous upheaval on the families and communities caught up in raids. At the same time, anti-immigrant extremists, white supremacists, and far-right-wing media pundits have hijacked the immigration debate for their own purposes, stoking extremist attitudes and action in an attempt to move into the mainstream. Latinos, regardless of immigration status, are feeling the impact of the extremist rhetoric and report increased discrimination and anxiety, while experts have documented an increase in hate crimes and extremist behavior. Both of these disturbing trends provide additional evidence of the need for a solution to our ongoing immigration policy problems. The U.S. needs a national immigration policy for the 21st century that ends undocumented immigration as we know it, meets the needs of our economy, and is consistent with our traditional American values.

**Immigration Enforcement and Its Unintended Consequences: The Impact on America's Children** (Immigration Policy Center – March 2008) – Drawing from a longer, more in-depth study, this document covers immigration raids' effects on children and short-term recommendations on how to minimize their impact.

**Extremists Hijack Immigration Debate: Increased Reports of Hate Crimes and Discrimination Aimed at U.S.- and Foreign-Born Latinos** (Immigration Policy Center – Updated March 2008) Information and examples on how the immigration debate has spurred discrimination, hate, and violence.

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Immigration *OnPoint* is a project coordinated by the Immigration Policy Center to create and maintain an online catalogue of short documents and fact sheets that provide quick answers to commonly asked questions about immigrants and immigration. Immigration is a notoriously complex issue area, and the current immigration debate is filled with myths, misinformation, fear, and emotion, making reasoned decision-making difficult. *OnPoint* documents are meant to confront myths and provide factual information about immigrants and immigration policy.

Documents on the *OnPoint* website are meant to be widely distributed to the public, press, policymakers, and others in order to inject factual information into the immigration debate. Many different organizations have contributed their time and expertise to create these documents. *OnPoint* will continue to grow and be updated throughout the year.

OnPoint documents are organized by topic. Check back frequently to see if any new items have been added!

***OnPoint* subject areas include:**

**Immigrants and the U.S. Economy** -- What is the impact of immigration on the U.S. economy? This section includes information on immigrants and public benefits usage, tax payments, the U.S. labor market, and more.

**Coming to the U.S. through Legal Channels** -- How does the U.S. immigration system operate? What options are available to immigrants looking to come to the U.S. legally? Are immigrants choosing to remain here illegally? This section seeks to demystify U.S. immigration law and policy.

**Immigrants in our Communities** -- Who are today's immigrants? How do they impact the communities we live in? This section addresses immigrant integration, examines foreign-born crime rates, and a host of other issues.

**Federal, State, and Local Policy Debates** -- What is the federal government doing to address immigration issues? How are state and local governments responding to their specific immigration challenges? This section includes information on legislation being considered in Congress, as well as in state and local legislatures.

**Facts on the Restrictionists** -- This section includes information on restrictionist groups and anti-immigrant activities. It also contains information about discrimination and hate crimes targeting immigrant communities.

**Faith-Based Perspectives** -- How do different faith communities view immigration? How can we respond to immigration debates from a faith-based perspective? This section provides materials and perspectives from the faith community on immigration and related topics.

**Politics and the Immigration Debate** -- How is the immigration debate affecting politics and the elections? This section includes information on the immigrant vote, elections, and the public's view on the immigration debate.

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*IPC is a division of the American Immigration Law Foundation. Visit our website at [www.immigrationpolicy.org](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org).*