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REFUGEE INTEGRATION IN AMERICA

BY MARK REGETS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Real earnings for refugees increased by 70% in the 10 years after arriving in the United States, showing refugees integrate and make economic progress in America, according to a new National Foundation for American Policy (NFAP) analysis. The research finds refugees have low rates of incarceration and, over time, significantly increase their education level, use less welfare and improve their ability to speak English.

Refugees are admitted legally to the United States through the [U.S. Refugee Admissions Program](#) administered by the U.S. Department of State. For much of the post-World War II era, admitting refugees enjoyed bipartisan consensus. The Refugee Act of 1980 passed the U.S. Senate unanimously and by 328 to 47 in the House.¹

Like other immigrants, refugees improve with time in the United States, particularly by investing in their skills and education, explaining why a dynamic analysis presents a more accurate picture of refugee integration than snapshots taken soon after refugees arrive.

The NFAP analysis examined more than 30 years of data and found refugees start with comparatively lower earnings but, over the next 10 years, on average, experience much higher real earnings growth than other workers: 70% for refugees vs. 25% for the U.S.-born. (Real earnings are income adjusted for inflation.)

Refugees succeed in America because they add value to the U.S. economy and benefit Americans. Due to their rapid income growth, within a decade, refugees generally no longer have low incomes. Social scientists find families with upward income mobility integrate well in their communities. A key reason refugees succeed economically is they speak English or improve their ability to speak English and increase their educational level. Approximately 20% of refugees aged 21 to 54 attend school shortly after arrival compared to 10% of the U.S.-born.

With their rapid income growth, refugees show they adapt to the U.S. labor market and overcome the circumstances that drove them from their countries of birth. Refugees invest in U.S.-specific skills, find niches and make the U.S. economy more dynamic by 1) adapting to existing needs and 2) providing services that we didn't know were desired or needed, such as by founding or working in new restaurants, nail salons and other businesses.

¹ <https://www.archivesfoundation.org/documents/refugee-act-1980/>.

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The research was conducted by examining earnings growth and other characteristics of individuals 21 to 54 who entered the United States from countries with a high percentage of refugee admissions over five-year periods from 1985 through 2009. NFAP used Census and immigration data.

International events drive much of the U.S. refugee admission flow. The Vietnam War created refugees of U.S. allies in a number of countries after the fall of Saigon. The end of the Soviet Union sent refugees to America, as did war and ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia and violence and military conflict in Africa.

Among the findings in the research:

- Refugees have extremely low rates of incarceration. Only 0.2% of refugees arriving in the United States between 1985 and 2009 were in jail or prison a year or more after entry vs. 1.3% for the U.S.-born. Incarceration rates remain low for refugees 10 years later.
- The vast majority of refugees to the United States speak English when they arrive and improve significantly with time spent in America. Over 83% of refugees coming to the United States between 1985 and 2009 spoke English a year or more after arrival, rising to 92% 10 years later.
- Over 49% of refugees coming to the United States between 1985 and 2009 spoke English well a year or more after arrival, increasing to 66% 10 years later, a 35% improvement.
- Refugee use of welfare drops significantly with time in the United States, another indicator of integrating into the United States. Refugees arriving between 1985 and 2009, on average, saw welfare use decline from 9.4% in the year after arrival to 3.5% 10 years later, a 63% decline. Welfare use measures “receipt of any public assistance income,” which includes state and federal assistance.
- On average, refugees enter the U.S. at relatively high levels of education and show significant increases in educational attainment with time spent in America. In the year after arrival, 21.7% of refugees arriving between 1985 and 2009 had a bachelor’s degree or higher compared to 26.5% for the U.S.-born. Ten years later, 28.2% of refugees arriving between 1985 and 2009 had a bachelor’s degree, an increase of 30%.
- The proportion of Ethiopians who arrived in the U.S. between 1985 and 1989 with a bachelor’s degree rose from 17% in 1990 to 45% by 2000, a more than 100% increase.
- In the year after arrival, 70% of refugees coming to the U.S. between 1985 and 2009 had a high school degree or higher compared to 89% for the U.S.-born. Ten years later, 76% of refugees arriving between 1985 and 2009 had a high school degree or higher, increasing by 9%.
- The war in Iraq produced many refugees. Iraqis who arrived in the United States between 2005 and 2009 experienced real earnings growth of 127% over the next decade, compared to 25% for U.S.-born workers.
- Afghans who arrived in America between 1985 and 1989 after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan experienced 98% growth in real earnings over the next 10-year period, compared to 35% for U.S.-born

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workers. Vietnamese who arrived in the United States between 1985 and 1989 saw 89% real earnings growth over the next decade.

The rapid earnings growth of refugees and their improving levels of education and ability to speak English show they integrate into American society, fill niches and expand the economy, rewarding the American people for welcoming them to a new land.

REFUGEES EXPERIENCE RAPID EARNINGS GROWTH

On average, real earnings for refugees arriving between 1985 and 2009 increased by 70% in the 10 years after arrival compared to 25% for U.S.-born workers during the same decade. Earnings were adjusted for inflation.²

The NFAP research analyzes whether refugees integrate into American society, which earnings growth helps measure. If refugees experience earnings growth, it means they integrate and even thrive, particularly if their income growth exceeds that of U.S.-born workers. According to the analysis, that is the case.³

Table 1
Real Earnings Growth of Refugees

Year of Entry for Refugees (High-Refugee Countries)	Real Earnings Growth in 10-Year Period After Arrival
1985-1989	87%
1995-1999	54%
2000-2004	68%
2005-2009	88%
All Entry Periods (1985-2009)	70%
U.S.-Born	25%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1985-1989 cohort was observed in 1990. The 1995-1999 cohort was observed in 2000 and in 2009-2011. The 2000-2004 cohort was observed in 2004-2006 and in 2009-2011. The 2005 to 2009 cohort was observed in 2009-2011 and 2019-2021. Earnings include both wage and self-employment income and were converted to 2023 dollars using the Personal Consumption Expenditure Index.

The research was conducted by examining the earnings growth over 10 years of individuals 21 to 54 who entered the United States from countries with a high percentage of refugee admissions over five-year periods from 1985 through 2009. NFAP used Census data to measure real earnings growth during the 10-year periods after their entry. Earnings include both wage and self-employment income and were converted to 2023 dollars using the Personal Consumption Expenditure Index.

The Appendix includes additional tables on individual cohorts by years of entry.

² Throughout this report, data on refugees come from U.S. Census data on immigrants who entered the United States over five-year periods during which a majority of entries from their country were admitted as refugees (based upon INS and USCIS data).

³ The human capital and earnings growth of family-based immigrants is discussed in Harriet Duleep and Mark Regets, "Immigrants and Human Capital Investment," *American Economic Review*, May 1999.

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Individuals who arrived in America from Afghanistan between 1985 and 1989 experienced 98% growth in real earnings over the next 10-year period, compared to 35% for U.S.-born workers. Vietnamese who arrived in the United States between 1985 and 1989 saw 89% real earnings growth over the next decade.⁴

Individuals who arrived in America from Belarus between 1995 and 1999 experienced 100% growth in real earnings over the next 10-year period, compared to 24% for U.S.-born workers. Individuals who arrived in the United States from Ukraine between 1995 and 1999 experienced 74% real earnings growth over the next 10-year period.

Individuals who arrived in the United States from Sudan between 2000 and 2004 saw real earnings increase by 88% over the next 10-year period, compared to 19.2% for U.S.-born workers. Those arriving from Liberia in this timeframe saw 59% growth in real earnings, and individuals from Somalia experienced 56% real earnings growth.

The war in Iraq resulted in many refugees. Iraqis who arrived in the United States between 2005 and 2009 experienced real earnings growth of 127% over the next decade, compared to 25% for U.S.-born workers. Individuals who arrived in the United States between 2005 and 2009 from Somalia saw 98% growth in real earnings, and those coming from Burma saw 78% real earnings growth.

Despite needing to overcome disadvantages, refugees are doing well, even if at a different income level from the U.S.-born. (Averaging across the four entry cohorts examined, a refugee who came to the United States between 1985 and 2009 had annual real earnings of \$61,025 after 10 years vs. \$78,696 for the U.S.-born.) A refugee earning less than the average American does not make Americans worse off. U.S. citizens who earn a higher income than their next-door neighbors or people a nearby town are not harmed by the difference. Some refugee groups, such as those from the former Soviet Union, surpass the annual earnings of the U.S.-born.

⁴ Similar high rates of earnings growth were found for earlier cohorts of refugees from southeast Asia in Duleep, Regets, Sanders and Wunnava, *Human Capital Investment: A History of Asian Immigrants and Their Family Ties*, Palgrave, 2020.

REFUGEES ARE FAR LESS LIKELY TO COMMIT CRIMES THAN U.S.-BORN

Refugees have extremely low rates of incarceration (in jail or prisons): 0.2% for refugees arriving between 1985 and 2009 vs. 1.3% for the U.S.-born.⁵ Incarceration rates for refugees are low a year or more after entry and remain low 10 years later.

Table 2
Refugees and Rate of Institutionalization (Jails and Prisons)

Year of Entry for Refugees (High-Refugee Countries)	Rate of Institutionalization (Jails and Prisons)
1985-1989	0.2%
1995-1999	0.2%
2000-2004	0.1%
2005-2009	0.3%
All Entry Periods (1985-2009)	0.2%
U.S.-Born	1.3%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1985-1989 cohort was observed in 1990. The 1995-1999 cohort was observed in 2000 and in 2009-2011. The 2000-2004 cohort was observed in 2004-2006 and in 2009-2011. The 2005 to 2009 cohort was observed in 2009-2011 and 2019-2021.

The research examined individuals 21 to 54 who entered the United States from countries with a high percentage of refugee admissions over five-year periods from 1985 through 2009. NFAP used Census data on institutionalization for the year after the entry of the refugee cohort.

Only 0.1% of refugees from Vietnam and 0.2% from Afghanistan entering the U.S. between 1985 and 1989 were in jails or prisons in 1990, compared to 1.1% of U.S.-born.

Only 0.1% of refugees from Somalia who arrived between 1995 and 1999 were in jail or prison in 2000, compared to 1.1% of U.S.-born.

⁵ The term “institutionalized” in Census data primarily refers to individuals in jails and prisons but included some individuals with severe mental or physical disabilities placed in facilities against their will.

REFUGEES HAVE GOOD AND IMPROVING ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

The vast majority of refugees to the United States speak English when they arrive and improve significantly with time spent in America. Over 83% of refugees coming to the United States between 1985 and 2009 spoke English a year or more after arrival, rising to 92% 10 years later.

Over 49% of refugees coming to the United States between 1985 and 2009 spoke English well a year or more after arrival, increasing to 66% 10 years later, a 35% improvement.

Table 3
Refugees Who Speak English

Year of Entry for Refugees (High-Refugee Countries)	Year After Arrival	10 Years Later	10-Year Change
1985-1989 Entry Cohort	86.0%	92.6%	7.7%
1995-1999 Entry Cohort	86.2%	92.7%	7.5%
2000-2004 Entry Cohort	94.2%	97.8%	3.9%
2005-2009 Entry Cohort	71.8%	88.2%	22.9%
All Entry Cohorts	83.2%	91.9%	10.4%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1985-1989 cohort was observed in 1990. The 1995-1999 cohort was observed in 2000 and in 2009-2011. The 2000-2004 cohort was observed in 2004-2006 and in 2009-2011. The 2005 to 2009 cohort was observed in 2009-2011 and 2019-2021.

The research examined individuals 21 to 54 who entered the United States from countries with a high percentage of refugee admissions over five-year periods from 1985 through 2009.

Ninety percent of Afghans who arrived between 1985 and 1989 reported speaking English in 1990, and the proportion reporting speaking English well rose from 59% in 1990 to 73% in 2000, a 24% increase. Ninety-one percent of Vietnamese who arrived between 1985 and 1989 reported speaking English in 1990, and the proportion speaking English well rose from 42% in 1990 to 55% in 2000.

**Table 4
Refugees Who Speak English Well**

Year of Entry for Refugees (High-Refugee Countries)	Year After Arrival	10 Years Later	10-Year Change
1985-1989 Entry Cohort	47.3%	61.4%	29.9%
1995-1999 Entry Cohort	54.3%	70.6%	29.9%
2000-2004 Entry Cohort	73.9%	88.8%	20.2%
2005-2009 Entry Cohort	36.7%	59.2%	61.4%
All Entry Cohorts	49.2%	66.2%	34.6%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1985-1989 cohort was observed in 1990. The 1995-1999 cohort was observed in 2000 and in 2009-2011. The 2000-2004 cohort was observed in 2004-2006 and in 2009-2011. The 2005 to 2009 cohort was observed in 2009-2011 and 2019-2021.

REFUGEES WELFARE USE DECLINES RAPIDLY WITH TIME IN AMERICA

Refugee use of welfare drops significantly with time in the United States, another indicator of integrating into the United States. On average, refugees arriving between 1985 and 2009 saw welfare use decline from 9.4% in the year after arrival to 3.5% 10 years later, a 63% decline.

**Table 5
Refugees and Receipt of Public Assistance Income**

Year of Entry for Refugees (High-Refugee Countries)	Year After Arrival	10 Years Later	10-Year Change
1985-1989 Entry Cohort	15.7%	6.3%	-60%
1995-1999 Entry Cohort	6.5%	1.6%	-75%
2000-2004 Entry Cohort	8.1%	5.1%	-38%
2005-2009 Entry Cohort	7.1%	3.3%	-53%
All Entry Cohorts	9.4%	3.5%	-63%
U.S. Born	2.4%	1.7%	-28%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1985-1989 cohort was observed in 1990. The 1995-1999 cohort was observed in 2000 and in 2009-2011. The 2000-2004 cohort was observed in 2004-2006 and in 2009-2011. The 2005 to 2009 cohort was observed in 2009-2011 and 2019-2021.

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Welfare use means “receipt of any public assistance income” for individuals 21 to 54 and 10 years later (aged 31 to 64) from Census reports. It includes state and federal assistance. The corresponding U.S.-born figure is 2.4%, falling to 1.7% after 10 years.

The use of any public assistance income by individuals who arrived in America from Bosnia between 1995 and 1999 dropped from 7% in 2000 to 1.2% in 2010, an 83% decline. That is a good example of why a dynamic approach presents a more accurate picture than snapshots taken soon after refugees arrive. Bosnians experienced terrible wars and ethnic violence in the 1990s, causing many to flee for their lives.

After the Vietnam War, Americans felt an obligation to those left to the mercy of the new communist leaders in Vietnam, U.S. allies from Laos and people fleeing horrific human rights abuses at the hands of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. Although some of these groups had high initial welfare use, it dropped significantly with time in the United States. The use of any public assistance income by individuals who arrived in America from Vietnam between 1985 and 1989 dropped from 17.8% in 1990 to 4.9% in 2000, a 72% decline. The corresponding figures for individuals from Cambodia are a drop of 62% between 1990 and 2000 (41.6% to 16%) and for refugees from Laos, a decline of 60% (33.7% in 1990 to 13.6% in 2000).

More recently, individuals who arrived from Liberia between 2000 and 2004 saw their use of public assistance income fall from 7.2% in 2005 to 1.6% in 2015, a drop of 78%.

The research examined individuals 21 to 54 who entered the United States from countries with a high percentage of refugee admissions over five-year periods from 1985 through 2009.

REFUGEES SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THEIR EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

On average, refugees enter the U.S. at relatively high levels of education and show significant increases in educational attainment with time spent in America. In the year after arrival, 21.7% of refugees coming between 1985 and 2009 had a bachelor’s degree or higher compared to 26.5% for the U.S.-born. Ten years later, 28.2% of refugees arriving between 1985 and 2009 had a bachelor’s degree, an increase of 30.1%. For the U.S.-born, 31.3% had a bachelor’s degree 10 years later.

Table 6
Educational Attainment (Bachelor's Degree or Higher) for Refugees

Year of Entry for Refugees (High-Refugee Countries)	Year After Arrival	10 Years Later	10-Year Change
1985-1989 Entry Cohort	14.4%	20.4%	42.0%
1995-1999 Entry Cohort	29.0%	35.9%	23.6%
2000-2004 Entry Cohort	11.9%	26.7%	123.5%
2005-2009 Entry Cohort	19.3%	24.0%	24.3%
All Entry Cohorts	21.7%	28.2%	30.1%
U.S. Born	26.5%	31.3%	18.4%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1985-1989 cohort was observed in 1990. The 1995-1999 cohort was observed in 2000 and in 2009-2011. The 2000-2004 cohort was observed in 2004-2006 and in 2009-2011. The 2005 to 2009 cohort was observed in 2009-2011 and 2019-2021.

The research examined individuals 21 to 54 who entered the United States from countries with a high percentage of refugee admissions over five-year periods from 1985 through 2009.

Refugees from Ukraine who entered the United States between 1995 and 1999 with a bachelor's degree or higher rose from 34.6% in 2000 to 48.2% in 2010, a 39% increase.

Seventeen percent of Ethiopians who arrived in the U.S. between 1985 and 1989 had a bachelor's degree in 1990 compared to 22.7% of U.S.-born aged 21 to 54. However, by 2000, 45% of the Ethiopians who arrived in the U.S. between 1985 and 1989 had at least a bachelor's degree, a more than 100% increase. Ethiopians who arrived in this cohort saw the percentage with a high school education or higher rise from 79.3% in 1990 to 86.2% in 2000.

In the year after arrival, 70% of refugees coming to the U.S. between 1985 and 2009 had a high school degree or higher compared to 89% for the U.S.-born. Ten years later, 76% of refugees arriving between 1985 and 2009 had a high school degree or higher, an increase of 9%. For the U.S.-born, 91% had at least a high school degree 10 years later.

Refugees from Somalia who arrived in the U.S. between 1995 and 1999 with a high school education or higher increased from 56.8% in 2000 to 77.3% in 2010, a 36% rise. For Bosnians during this period, individuals with a high school education or more increased from 75.2% in 2000 to 85.9% in 2010.

Table 7
Educational Attainment (High School Degree or Higher) for Refugees

Year of Entry for Refugees (High-Refugee Countries)	Year After Arrival	10 Years Later	10-Year Change
1985-1989 Entry Cohort	53.7%	59.6%	11.0%
1995-1999 Entry Cohort	79.8%	88.4%	10.7%
2000-2004 Entry Cohort	70.3%	80.8%	14.9%
2005-2009 Entry Cohort	71.4%	74.3%	4.1%
All Entry Cohorts	69.8%	76.4%	9.4%
U.S. Born	88.9%	90.9%	2.2%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1985-1989 cohort was observed in 1990. The 1995-1999 cohort was observed in 2000 and in 2009-2011. The 2000-2004 cohort was observed in 2004-2006 and in 2009-2011. The 2005 to 2009 cohort was observed in 2009-2011 and 2019-2021.

Eighty-two percent of refugees from Sudan who came to the U.S. between 2000 and 2004 had a high school education or higher in 2005, which increased to 94.6% by 2015, compared to 92% of U.S.-born aged 21 to 54.

Approximately 20% of refugees aged 21 to 54 attend school shortly after arrival compared to 10% of the U.S.-born in the same range.

OTHER RECENT RESEARCH ON REFUGEES

Other recent research supports the general findings of this NFAP analysis by concluding refugees are economic contributors to the United States. A Health and Human Services study finished during the Trump administration found, "Overall, this report estimated that the net fiscal impact of refugees was *positive* over the 10-year period, at \$63 billion."⁶ The [New York Times](#) reported that White House immigration adviser Stephen Miller stopped release of the report's positive findings, which were leaked to the press.

George Mason University economics professor Michael Clemens, in a study for the Center for Global Development, concluded, "Today there are roughly 295,000 refugees 'missing' from the U.S. population due to the 86% reduction

⁶ Julie Hirschfeld Davis and Somini Sengupta, "Trump Administration Rejects Study Showing Positive Impact of Refugees," *New York Times*, September 18, 2017. Emphasis added.

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in refugee resettlement starting in 2017—those who would be present now if refugee admissions during 2017–2021 had stayed at their 2016 levels.”⁷

According to Clemens, “These missing refugees cost the overall U.S. economy over \$9.1 billion each year (\$30,962 per missing refugee per year, on average) and cost public coffers at all levels of government over \$2.0 billion each year (\$6,844 per missing refugee per year, on average). . . . Relative to 2019 levels, a 10 percent reduction in refugee resettlement to the United States likely causes a loss to the American economy of more than \$1.4 billion, and a loss to public coffers (federal, state, and local) of more than \$310 million, cumulatively over the subsequent five years.”⁸

CONCLUSION

Examining refugee arrivals between 1985 and 2009 finds real earnings for refugees increased by 70% in the 10 years after arriving in the United States, showing refugees integrate and make economic progress in America. The analysis finds despite needing to overcome disadvantages, refugees are doing well in America. The rapid earnings growth, low incarceration rate, declining welfare use and significant increases in education and ability to speak English show refugees integrate into American society, fill niches and expand the economy, rewarding the American people for welcoming them to a new land.

⁷ Michael Clemens, *The Economic and Fiscal Effects on the United States from Reduced Numbers of Refugees and Asylum Seekers*, Center for Global Development, Working Paper 610, March 2022.

⁸ *Ibid.*

Appendix

Appendix Table 1
Real Earnings Growth of New Refugees: 1990 to 2000 (1985-1989 Refugee Cohort)

High-Refugee Countries	10-Year Growth in Real Earnings (1990 to 2000)	1990 Annual Earnings (2023 2nd Qtr. Dollars)	2000 Annual Earnings (2023 2nd Qtr. Dollars)
Afghanistan	97.6%	\$28,855	\$57,028
Cambodia	61.1%	\$26,944	\$43,399
Cuba	87.3%	\$25,582	\$47,922
Ethiopia	90.1%	\$29,445	\$55,979
Hungary	60.5%	\$47,583	\$76,362
Indonesia	97.7%	\$36,281	\$71,737
Laos	52.6%	26871.65	\$41,004
Romania	91.1%	\$39,916	\$76,276
Thailand	56.4%	\$32,748	\$51,227
Vietnam	88.6%	\$26,500	\$49,987
All selected high-refugee countries	73.8%	\$29,354	\$51,012
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54 in 1990	34.6%	\$51,917	\$69,884

Source: National Foundation for American Policy estimates using 1990 and 2000 Census PUMS files and INS Public Use Immigration Files. Notes: Individuals aged 21 to 54 in 1990 who entered the United States between 1985 and 1989 with earnings from fulltime employment or self-employment. Selected countries of birth with a high percentages of refugee admissions during the entry period. Includes both males and females.

Appendix Table 2
Earnings Growth of New Refugees: 2000 to 2010 (1995-1999 Refugee Cohort)

High-Refugee Countries	10-Year Growth in Real Earnings (1990 to 2000)	2000 Annual Earnings (2003 2nd Qtr. Dollars)	2010 Annual Earnings (2003 2nd Qtr. Dollars)
Azerbaijan	54.4%	\$45,315	\$69,972
Belarus	100.1%	\$42,499	\$85,024
Bosnia	34.2%	\$34,964	\$46,937
Croatia	75.5%	\$36,733	\$64,481
Cuba	34.7%	\$33,177	\$44,674
Kenya	38.9%	\$49,949	\$69,361
Russia	54.2%	\$54,817	\$84,507
Somalia	51.6%	\$31,358	\$47,539
Ukraine	73.9%	\$42,677	\$74,221
All selected high-refugee countries	51.6%	\$38,365	\$58,178
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54 in 2000	24.4%	\$62,373	\$77,607

Source: National Foundation for American Policy estimates using 2000 Census PUMS file, Census American Community Survey files for 2009-2011 and INS Public Use Immigration Files. Data for 2010 is from a merged American Community Survey file including 2009 and 2011. Notes: Individuals aged 21 to 54 in 2000 who entered the United States between 1995 and 1999 with earnings from fulltime employment or self-employment. Selected countries of birth with a high percentages of refugee admissions during the entry period. Includes both males and females.

Appendix Table 3
Earnings Growth of New Refugees:2005 to 2015 (2000-2004 Refugee Cohort)

High-Refugee Countries	10-Year Growth in Real Earnings (1990 to 2000)	2005 Annual Earnings (2003 2nd Qtr. Dollars)	2015 Annual Earnings (2003 2nd Qtr. Dollars)
Sudan	88.2%	\$29,490	\$55,506
Liberia	58.8%	\$29,465	\$46,799
Somalia	56.1%	\$25,587	\$39,949
All selected high-refugee countries	57.3%	\$28,336	\$44,585
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54 in 2005	19.2%	\$67,611	\$80,607

Source: National Foundation for American Policy estimates using 2000 Census PUMS file, Census American Community Survey files and Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook. Data for 2005 and 2015 are from merged American Community Survey files that include the preceding and following year. Notes: Individuals aged 21 to 54 in 2005 who entered the United States between 2000 and 2004 with earnings from fulltime employment or self-employment. Selected countries of birth with a high percentages of refugee admissions during the entry period. Includes both males and females.

Appendix Table 4
Earnings Growth of New Refugees:2010 to 2020 (2005-2009 Refugee Cohort)

High-Refugee Countries	10-Year Growth in Real Earnings (1990 to 2000)	2010 Annual Earnings (2023 2nd Qtr. Dollars)	2020 Annual Earnings (2023 2nd Qtr. Dollars)
Burma	77.5%	\$31,346	\$55,627
Cuba	79.4%	\$28,472	\$51,064
Iraq	127.4%	\$29,084	\$66,140
Somalia	98.2%	\$23,465	\$46,505
All selected high-refugee countries	72.4%	\$29,434	\$50,747
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54 in 2010	24.7%	\$68,924	\$85,967

Source: National Foundation for American Policy estimates using 2000 Census PUMS file, Census American Community Survey files for 2009-2011 and Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook. Data for 2010 and 2020 are from merged American Community Survey files that include the preceding and following year. Notes: Individuals aged 21 to 54 in 2010 who entered the United States between 1995 and 1999 with earnings from fulltime employment or self-employment. Selected countries of birth with a high percentages of refugee admissions during the entry period. Includes both males and females

Appendix Table 5
Speaks English (1985-1989 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	1990	2000	10-Year Change
Cuba	62.4%	82%	30.8%
Hungary	97.4%	100%	2.7%
Romania	92.9%	98%	5.9%
Cambodia	77.8%	86%	10.3%
Indonesia	97.2%	100%	2.7%
Laos	77.9%	86%	10.2%
Thailand	96.3%	99%	2.9%
Vietnam	91.3%	95%	4.5%
Afghanistan	89.9%	93%	3.5%
Ethiopia	98.7%	100%	1.3%
US Born aged 21 to 54 in 1990	99.9%	99.9%	0.0%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1985 to 1989 cohort was observed on the 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses.

Appendix Table 6
Speaks English (1995-1999 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	2000	2010	10-Year Change
Cuba	67.4%	82.4%	22.3%
Croatia	94.7%	97.7%	3.2%
Bosnia	92.1%	96.2%	4.4%
Russia	95.9%	98.2%	2.5%
Byelorussia	95.9%	97.5%	1.7%
Ukraine	93.9%	96.8%	3.1%
Azerbaijan	95.5%	95.6%	0.1%
Kenya	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Somalia	94.2%	95.4%	1.3%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54	99.9%	99.9%	0.0%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1995 to 1999 cohort was observed on the 2000 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey in 2009-2011.

Appendix Table 7
Speaks English (2000-2004 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	2005	2015	10-Year Change
Sudan	95.1%	99.2%	4.3%
Liberia	99.8%	100.0%	0.2%
Somalia	83.9%	92.6%	10.3%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54	99.9%	99.9%	0.0%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 2000 to 2004 cohort was observed on the American Community Survey in 2004-2006 and 2014-2015.

**Appendix Table 8
Speaks English (2005-2009 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)**

High-Refugee Countries	2010	2020	10-Year Change
Cuba	62.8%	84.8%	35.0%
Burma	76.4%	88.5%	15.9%
Iraq	90.9%	96.9%	6.7%
Somalia	87.1%	93.4%	7.3%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54	99.9%	99.9%	0.0%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 2005 to 2009 cohort was observed on the American Community Survey in 2009-2011 and 2019-2021.

**Appendix Table 9
Speaks English Well (1985-1989 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)**

High-Refugee Countries	1990	2000	10-Year Change
Cuba	29%	48%	63.3%
Hungary	67%	88%	30.8%
Romania	71%	89%	25.3%
Cambodia	32%	43%	33.2%
Indonesia	83%	94%	13.4%
Laos	30%	45%	50.6%
Thailand	69%	80%	15.4%
Vietnam	42%	55%	32.4%
Afghanistan	59%	73%	24.1%
Ethiopia	85%	95%	11.8%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54 in 1990	99.4%	99.5%	0.1%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1985 to 1989 cohort was observed on the 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses.

**Appendix Table 10
Speaks English Well (1995-1999 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)**

High-Refugee Countries	2000	2010	10-Year Change
Cuba	33.3%	49.4%	48.3%
Croatia	78.9%	83.8%	6.2%
Bosnia	53.9%	77.0%	42.8%
Russia	66.7%	83.1%	24.6%
Byelorussia	63.6%	74.5%	17.1%
Ukraine	55.9%	74.0%	32.3%
Azerbaijan	69.1%	70.3%	1.7%
Kenya	98.5%	98.1%	-0.4%
Somalia	64.4%	78.6%	22.0%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54 in 2000	99.4%	99.5%	0.1%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1995 to 1999 cohort was observed on the 2000 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey in 2009-2011.

**Appendix Table 11
Speaks English Well (2000-2004 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)**

High-Refugee Countries	2005	2015	10-Year Change
Sudan	72.2%	93.3%	29.2%
Liberia	90.2%	98.4%	9.1%
Somalia	50.3%	67.5%	34.0%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54 in 2000	99.4%	99.5%	0.1%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1995 to 1999 cohort was observed on the 2000 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey in 2009-2011.

**Appendix Table 12
Speaks English Well (2005-2009 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)**

High-Refugee Countries	2010	2020	10-Year Change
Cuba	28.4%	52.4%	84.8%
Burma	30.6%	47.4%	54.7%
Iraq	58.7%	81.3%	38.5%
Somalia	57.6%	78.7%	36.6%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54 in 2000	99.5%	99.5%	0.0%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1995 to 1999 cohort was observed on the 2000 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey in 2009-2011.

**Appendix Table 13
High School Education (1985-1989 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)**

High-Refugee Countries	1990 (Percent with H.S. Education)	2000 (Percent with H.S. Education)	10-Year Change
Cuba	46.3%	50.6%	9.3%
Hungary	83.8%	96.5%	15.2%
Romania	73.3%	88.2%	20.4%
Cambodia	26.6%	26.8%	0.8%
Indonesia	94.1%	95.5%	1.5%
Laos	32.0%	31.4%	-1.9%
Thailand	80.4%	73.3%	-8.9%
Vietnam	48.6%	59.4%	22.1%
Afghanistan	66.8%	70.6%	5.7%
Ethiopia	79.3%	86.2%	8.8%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54 in 2000	85.3%	87.3%	2.3%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1985 to 1989 cohort was observed on the 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses.

Appendix Table 14
High School or Higher (1995-1999 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	2000 (Percent with H.S. Education)	2010 (Percent with H.S. Education)	10-Year Change
Cuba	66.3%	79.2%	19.5%
Croatia	89.3%	96.1%	7.6%
Bosnia	75.2%	85.9%	14.2%
USSR/Russia	94.6%	97.1%	2.7%
Byelorussia	91.6%	97.5%	6.4%
Ukraine	87.2%	94.2%	8.0%
Azerbaijan	96.6%	96.7%	0.1%
Kenya	97.3%	97.7%	0.5%
Somalia	56.8%	77.3%	35.9%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54	88.4%	91.3%	3.2%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1995 to 1999 cohort was observed on the 2000 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey in 2009-2011.

Appendix Table 15
High School or Higher (2000-2004 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	2005 (Percent with H.S. Education)	2015 (Percent with H.S. Education)	10-Year Change
Sudan	81.6%	94.6%	16.0%
Liberia	77.5%	84.5%	8.9%
Somalia	43.4%	56.1%	29.2%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54	90.5%	92.0%	1.6%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 2000 to 2004 cohort was observed on the American Community Survey in 2004-2006 and 2014-2015.

Appendix Table 16
High School or Higher (2005-2009 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	2010 (Percent with H.S. Education)	2020 (Percent with H.S. Education)	10-Year Change
Cuba	81.7%	82.4%	0.8%
Burma	38.5%	40.6%	5.4%
Iraq	74.9%	78.9%	5.4%
Somalia	46.7%	63.2%	35.4%
US Born aged 21 to 54	91.3%	92.8%	1.7%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 2005 to 2009 cohort was observed on the American Community Survey in 2009-2011 and 2019-2021.

Appendix Table 17
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (1985-1989 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	1990 (Percent with Bachelor's Degree or Higher)	2000 (Percent with Bachelor's Degree or Higher)	10-Year Change
Cuba	9.0%	12.0%	33.4%
Hungary	38.9%	29.3%	-24.6%
Romania	29.4%	47.9%	62.8%
Cambodia	3.7%	3.4%	-7.1%
Indonesia	49.3%	54.5%	10.5%
Laos	4.6%	4.5%	-2.5%
Thailand	42.5%	45.8%	7.7%
Vietnam	6.8%	13.7%	102.6%
Afghanistan	20.3%	22.0%	8.0%
Ethiopia	17.0%	45.0%	163.8%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54 in 1990	22.7%	26.7%	17.6%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1985 to 1989 cohort was observed on the 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses.

Appendix Table 18
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (1995-1999 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	2000 (Percent with Bachelor's Degree or Higher)	2010 (Percent with Bachelor's Degree or Higher)	10-Year Change
Cuba	21.2%	22.3%	5.2%
Croatia	22.9%	21.2%	-7.4%
Bosnia	12.2%	12.2%	-0.2%
USSR/Russia	54.5%	66.6%	22.2%
Byelorussia	39.5%	54.1%	36.9%
Ukraine	34.6%	48.2%	39.4%
Azerbaijan	43.0%	38.6%	-10.3%
Kenya	25.9%	49.4%	90.7%
Somalia	7.2%	17.7%	146.7%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54 in 2000	26.4%	30.1%	14.1%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1995 to 1999 cohort was observed on the 2000 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey in 2009-2011.

Appendix Table 19
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (2000-2004 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	2005 (Percent with Bachelor's Degree or Higher)	2015 (Percent with Bachelor's Degree or Higher)	10-Year Change
Sudan	16.7%	48.0%	186.8%
Liberia	9.9%	15.8%	60.7%
Somalia	8.6%	14.6%	69.7%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54 in 2000	27.8%	32.2%	15.7%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 2000 to 2004 cohort was observed on the American Community Survey in 2004-2006 and 2014-2015.

**Appendix Table 20
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (2005-2009 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)**

High-Refugee Countries	2010 (Percent with Bachelor's Degree or Higher)	2020 (Percent with Bachelor's Degree or Higher)	10-Year Change
Cuba	18.9%	23.3%	23.3%
Burma	18.0%	16.1%	-10.5%
Iraq	30.0%	38.1%	26.8%
Somalia	3.5%	13.2%	275.7%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54 in 2000	28.7%	35.9%	25.2%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 2005 to 2009 cohort was observed on the American Community Survey in 2009-2011 and 2019-2021.

**Appendix Table 21
Percent Institutionalized (1985-1989 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)**

High-Refugee Countries	1990
Cuba	0.7%
Hungary	0.4%
Romania	0.0%
Cambodia	0.0%
Indonesia	0.1%
Laos	0.0%
Thailand	0.1%
Vietnam	0.1%
Afghanistan	0.2%
Ethiopia	0.7%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54 in 1990	1.1%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1985 to 1989 cohort was observed on the 1990 Decennial Census.

Appendix Table 22
Percent Institutionalized (1995-1999 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	2000
Cuba	0.5%
Croatia	0.0%
Bosnia	0.0%
Russia	0.0%
Byelorussia	0.0%
Ukraine	0.0%
Azerbaijan	0.0%
Kenya	0.0%
Somalia	0.1%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54	1.1%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1995 to 1999 cohort was observed on the 2000 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey in 2009-2011.

Appendix Table 23
Percent Institutionalized 2000-2004 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	2006
Sudan	0.0%
Liberia	0.0%
Somalia	0.2%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54	1.5%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 2000 to 2004 cohort was observed on the American Community Survey only in 2006 since 2004 and 2005 ACS files did not include institutionalization data.

Appendix Table 24
School Attendance (2005-2009 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	2010
Cuba	0.4%
Burma	0.2%
Iraq	0.2%
Somalia	0.1%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54	1.6%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 2005 to 2009 cohort was observed on the American Community Survey in 2009-2011.

Appendix Table 25
Receipt of Any Public Assistance Income (1985-1989 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	1990	2000	10-Year Change
Cuba	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%
Hungary	3.8%	0.6%	-83.1%
Romania	3.9%	6.7%	70.7%
Cambodia	41.6%	16.0%	-61.7%
Indonesia	0.9%	0.3%	-70.8%
Laos	33.7%	13.6%	-59.8%
Thailand	1.1%	2.4%	115.4%
Vietnam	17.8%	4.9%	-72.6%
Afghanistan	22.0%	13.3%	-39.6%
Ethiopia	3.1%	1.9%	-39.8%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54 in 1990	3.9%	1.7%	-57.3%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1985 to 1989 cohort was observed on the 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses.

Appendix Table 26
Receipt of Any Public Assistance Income (1995-1999 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	2000	2010	10-Year Change
Cuba	3.2%	1.3%	-58.5%
Croatia	2.2%	1.3%	-40.2%
Bosnia	7.0%	1.2%	-83.2%
Russia	4.0%	1.1%	-72.7%
Byelorussia	5.8%	1.5%	-74.5%
Ukraine	15.9%	2.0%	-87.4%
Azerbaijan	19.6%	5.4%	-72.7%
Kenya	0.4%	0.4%	4.3%
Somalia	21.7%	10.0%	-54.0%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54	2.0%	1.7%	-13.2%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 1995 to 1999 cohort was observed on the 2000 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey in 2009-2011.

Appendix Table 27
Receipt of any Public Assistance (2000-2004 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	2005	2015	10-Year Change
Sudan	0.9%	8.3%	810.6%
Liberia	7.2%	1.6%	-77.3%
Somalia	19.5%	6.1%	-68.8%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54	1.7%	1.7%	-1.1%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 2000 to 2004 cohort was observed on the American Community Survey in 2004-2006 and 2014-2015.

Appendix Table 28
Receipt of Any Public Assistance Income (2005-2009 Entry Cohort from High Refugee Countries)

High-Refugee Countries	2010	2020	10-Year Change
Cuba	3.0%	2.2%	-25.6%
Burma	8.6%	5.5%	-35.6%
Iraq	15.2%	4.8%	-68.5%
Somalia	15.8%	4.2%	-73.4%
U.S.-Born aged 21 to 54	2.1%	1.9%	-11.0%

Source: National Foundation for American Policy tabulations and analysis of INS Immigrant Public Use Files, Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census Public Use Files and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Files. Note: Both immigrants and U.S. born are aged 21 to 54 in the year after arrival and aged 31 to 64 10 years after. The 2005 to 2009 cohort was observed on the American Community Survey in 2009-2011 and 2019-2021.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mark Regets is a Senior Fellow at the National Foundation for American Policy. Mark is a scholar with the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA-Bonn), and the Global Labor Organization. Mark was an economist in the National Science Foundation's (NSF) National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, which produces NSF's biennial *Science and Engineering Indicators*. He also has been an Adjunct Associate Professor at Georgetown University, a member of OECD working groups on high skill migration and Chinese human resources, and IZA's (Germany) representative to the EU's European Network on Human Mobility. He earned a Ph.D. in economics from the State University of New York at Binghamton.

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