BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP FACT SHEET

The information below was gathered from studies conducted by organizations such as the Center for Immigration Studies and the Pew Hispanic Center. This list is divided by how birthright citizenship impacts the population of the United States, what it costs the American taxpayer, the effects and costs of the birth tourism industry, and how the United States’ birthright citizenship practice compares to the rest of the world.

IMPACT

200,000 children
Are born annually to foreign women admitted as temporary visitors

4.5 million
Had parents illegally in the U.S.

8% of all U.S. births come from at least one illegal-alien parent

11.2 million
Illegal aliens were living in the United States in 2010

In 2010:

4 out of 5 children of illegal aliens residing in the U.S. were born here

Illegal aliens make up a small portion of the U.S. adult population but have higher birthrates

8% Newborns
4% Adults
7% Children

At 18, an “anchor baby” can sponsor an overseas spouse and unmarried children of his own

At 21, he can sponsor parents and siblings

COSTS

Illegal aliens can obtain welfare benefits such as Medicaid and food stamps on behalf of their U.S.-born children

WELFARE

71% of illegal-alien headed households with children are on welfare

HEALTHCARE

U.S. born children of illegal aliens are entitled to American public schools, health care, and more

Though illegal-alien households rarely pay taxes

EDUCATION

In one case, a birth tourist paid just $4,080 of a $28,845 hospital bill.

Investigations revealed that their bank account had charges at Louis Vuitton, Rolex, and the Wynn Las Vegas Hotel.

BIRTH TOURISM

Around 36,000 Birth Tourists
Visit the U.S. each year, specifically so that the child will be an American citizen. Then they return home with the baby

Birth tourists have defrauded hospitals and taxpayers by taking advantage of healthcare meant for the indigent

U.S. Compared To The World

The United States and Canada are the only two developed countries that still allow birthright citizenship

Countries that have ended universal birthright citizenship include the United Kingdom, which ended the practice in 1983, Australia (1986), India (1987), Malta (1989), Ireland, which ended the practice through a national referendum in 2004, New Zealand (2006), and the Dominican Republic (2010)
Birthright Citizenship Fact Sheet References

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Impact

• In 2010, there were 4.5 million U.S.-born children whose parents were illegal immigrant.
  http://www.pewhispanic.org/2013/01/29/a-nation-of-immigrants/

• Nearly 200,000 children are born annually "to foreign women admitted as visitors, that is, tourists, students, guest workers, and other non-immigrant categories."  http://cis.org/birthright-citizenship-for-visitors

• 8% of all U.S. births (approximately 350,000 a year) come from at least one illegal-alien parent  http://www.pewhispanic.org/2011/02/01/Unauthorized-immigrant-population-brnational-and-state-trends-2010/

• As of March 2010, 11.2 million unauthorized immigrants were living in the United States  http://www.pewhispanic.org/2011/02/01/unauthorized-immigrant-population-brnational-and-state-trends-2010/

• The population of U.S.-born children with illegal alien parents has expanded rapidly in recent years from 2.7 million in 2003 to 4.5 million by 2010.


• As of 2010, four out of five children of illegal aliens residing in the U.S. were born here — some 4 million kids


• While illegal immigrants make up about 4% of the adult population, “because they have high birthrates, their children make up a much larger share of both the newborn population (8%) and the child population (7%) in this country.”


• At 18, an “anchor baby” can sponsor an overseas spouse and unmarried children of his own; at 21, he can sponsor parents and siblings.

**Costs**

• Illegal aliens can obtain welfare benefits such as Medicaid and food stamps on behalf of their U.S.-born children. Many of the welfare costs associated with illegal immigration, therefore, are due to the Executive Branch’s current interpretation of the 14th Amendment’s Citizenship Clause


• Currently, 71% of illegal-alien headed households with children make use of at least one major welfare program http://cis.org/immigrant-welfare-use-2011
• U.S.-born children of illegal aliens are entitled to American public schools, health care, and more, even though illegal-alien households rarely pay taxes.
  

• In 1994, 74,987 anchor babies in California hospital maternity units cost $215 million and constituted 36 percent of all Medi-Cal [California’s Medicaid program] births. Now [2005] they account for substantially more than half.
  
  [http://www.jpands.org/vol10no1/cosman.pdf](http://www.jpands.org/vol10no1/cosman.pdf)

**Birth Tourism**

• The number of birth tourists coming to the United States each year is very roughly around 35,000 to 36,000 people based on the limited governmental data available. [http://www.cis.org/camarota/there-are-possibly-36000-birth-tourists-annually](http://www.cis.org/camarota/there-are-possibly-36000-birth-tourists-annually)

• The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that 896,363 women who gave birth in 2012 indicated that they were born outside of the United States. If only 2 or 3 percent of these births were to women who are engaging in birth tourism, it would mean the United States sees 18,000 to 27,000 births annually. [http://www.cis.org/camarota/there-are-possibly-36000-birth-tourists-annually](http://www.cis.org/camarota/there-are-possibly-36000-birth-tourists-annually)

U.S. compared to the World

• Of advanced economies, as rated by the International Monetary Fund, Canada and the United States are the only countries that grant automatic citizenship to children born to illegal aliens. http://cis.org/birthright-citizenship

• Only 30 of the world’s 194 countries grant automatic citizenship to children born to illegal aliens http://cis.org/birthright-citizenship

• Countries that have ended universal birthright citizenship include the United Kingdom, which ended the practice in 1983, Australia (1986), India (1987), Malta (1989), Ireland, which ended the practice through a national referendum in 2004, New Zealand (2006), and the Dominican Republic, which ended the practice in January 2010 http://cis.org/birthright-citizenship