Public Religion Research Institute

Religion & Politics Tracking Survey
July 23 – July 27, 2014
N=1,026 Adults (age 18+)

Q.1 As I read a pair of statements, please say whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. **[ROTATE OPTIONS]**

	Immigrants today strengthen our country because of their hard work and talents	Immigrants today are a burden on our country because they take our jobs, housing and health care	Neither/ Both Equally (VOL.)	Don't know/ Refused (VOL.)	Total
July 23-27	49	42	5	2	100
July 16-20	48	41	7	4	100
July 9-13	52	39	6	3	100
July 2-6	55	35	6	4	100
June 25-30	54	35	6	4	100
June 18-23	53	38	5	3	100
June 11-16	55	37	5	3	100
June 4-9	57	35	6	2	100
May 28-June 1	57	31	7	4	100
May 21-26	57	34	5	3	100
May 14-19	57	34	6	3	100
May 7-12	58	32	6	3	100
April 30-May 5	61	29	7	4	100
April 16-21	54	34	7	4	100
April 9-14	55	37	5	3	100
April 2-7	54	38	5	3	100

Q.2 Which statement comes closest to your view about how the immigration system should deal with immigrants who are currently living in the U.S. illegally? The immigration system should… **[FORM 1 READ IN ORDER (1-3), FORM 2 READ REVERSE ORDER (3-1)]**

	Allow them a way to become citizens provided they meet certain requirements	Allow them to become permanent legal residents, but not citizens	Identify and deport them	None of these (VOL.)	Don't know/ Refused (VOL.)	Total
July 23-27	58	17	22	1	2	100
July 16-20	59	18	20	1	2	100
July 9-13	59	15	23	1	2	100
July 2-6	58	18	19	2	4	100
June 25-30	59	18	19	1	2	100
June 18-23	58	18	22	1	2	100
June 11-16	62	18	16	1	2	100
June 4-9	61	16	20	1	2	100
May 28-June 1	63	15	17	2	3	100
May 21-26	61	18	18	1	2	100
May 14-19	62	19	16	1	1	100
May 7-12	64	16	17	1	2	100
April 30-May 5	62	19	16	1	2	100
April 16-21	61	18	17	1	4	100
April 9-14	61	16	21	1	1	100
April 2-7	61	16	20	1	2	100

Q.3 How much, if anything, have you heard about the large number of children from Central America now coming to the U.S. without their parents?

49	A lot
31	A little
20	Nothing at all
1	DK/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.4 To the best of your knowledge, what do you think is the PRIMARY reason that more children from Central America are now coming to the U.S.? Would you say the primary reason they are coming is… **[ROTATE OPTIONS]**

34	To seek better education and economic opportunities in general
45	To escape violence and serious threats to their own safety in their home countries
14	Both equally (VOL.)
3	Some other reason (SPECIFY-VOL.)
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.5 Which statement comes closest to your views about what the U.S. should do about the children who are currently arriving from Central America without their parents? We should… **[ROTATE OPTIONS]**

70	Offer shelter and support while beginning a process to determine whether they should be deported or allowed to stay in the U.S.
26	Deport them immediately back to their home countries
2	None of these (VOL.)
*	Other (SPECIFY-VOL.)
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.6 Now I'm going to read you a few pairs of statements. For each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE OPTIONS]** Next... **[INSERT NEXT]. [READ IF NECESSARY:** Which statement comes closer to your own view?**]**

a.

38	The families of children arriving from Central American are taking advantage of American good will and are really seeking a back door to immigrate to our country
56	The families of children arriving from Central American are doing what they can to keep their children safe in very difficult circumstances
3	Neither/Both (VOL.)
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b.

27	The children arriving from Central American should be treated as illegal immigrants and should be deported back to their home countries
69	The children arriving from Central America should be treated as refugees and should be allowed to stay in the U.S. if authorities determine it is NOT safe for them to return to their home country
3	Neither/Both (VOL.)
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.7 Would you say that the children now coming from Central America into the U.S. is… **[READ IN ORDER]**

36	A crisis
43	A serious problem, but not a crisis
19	A minor problem
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

Q.8 Now, please tell me if you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree with the following statements. First… **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**. Next…

a. We should provide refuge and protection for all people who come to the U.S. when they are facing serious danger in their home country.

26	Completely agree
45	Mostly agree
17	Mostly disagree
10	Completely disagree
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. The U.S. should NOT allow children now coming from Central America to stay because it will encourage others to ignore our laws and increase illegal immigration.

27	Completely agree
32	Mostly agree
27	Mostly disagree
12	Completely disagree
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. While children from Central America are waiting for their cases to be heard, they should be released to the care of relatives, host families or churches rather than be detained by immigration authorities.

31	Completely agree
40	Mostly agree
15	Mostly disagree
13	Completely disagree
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Note: Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding

Survey Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by Public Religion Research Institute. The survey was made possible by The Carnegie Corporation of New York and Public Interest Projects/Four Freedoms Fund. Results of the survey were based on bilingual (Spanish and English) RDD telephone interviews conducted between July 23, 2014 and July 27, 2014 by professional interviewers under the direction of SSRS. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 1,026 adults 18 years of age or older in the continental United States (512 respondents were interviewed on a cell phone).

The final sample was weighted to six different parameters—age, sex, geographic region, race, education and telephone usage[1]—to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total adult population.

The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.1 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context and order effects.

[1] Telephone usage refers to whether respondents have only a landline telephone, only a cell phone or both types and the frequency with which they use each type.