

# Ledger Gazette

## Immigrants On Welfare: Central Americans And Mexicans Get US Food Stamps

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While that sentiment is likely to resonate with conservatives, the facts prove otherwise: Native-born Americans aren't footing the bill for immigrants so much as immigrants are contributing to a welfare system that many of them can't take advantage of. While 30% of the Americans who are native to the country rely on services such as school lunch programs, Medicaid and housing assistance, 51% of immigrant-led households were dependent on the same welfare. Although the center's report doesn't quantify the cost of welfare spending on immigrants, a new study by the Government Accountability Office this week identified 82 federal social-welfare programs and assorted tax expenditures totaling \$742 billion in fiscal 2013.

While CIS said that its report was supported by the independent demographic consulting firm Decision Demographics, some observers have called the findings into question and said it "vastly over exaggerates immigrant welfare use compared to natives".

Welfare use is high for both new arrivals and well-established immigrants.

Immigrants who have been in the USA more than 20 years use welfare less often, but their rates remain higher than native-born households.

Table 5 shows that welfare use for the most-educated immigrant households is surprisingly high at 26 percent.

"The immigrant-headed household variable CIS uses is ambiguous, poorly defined, and less used in a lot of modern research for those reasons", wrote Alex Nowrasteh, an immigration policy analyst at the Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity.

They don't need a study to know how bad things are and how imperative it is that we stem the flow of illegals crossing our border. "In 2012, 76 percent of households headed by an immigrant who had not graduated high school used one or more welfare programs, as did 63 percent of households headed by an immigrant with only a high school education", the report said.

The study should add fuel to the immigration debate, putting Democrats and immigration reform advocates on the defensive.

Our legal immigration system admits large numbers of less-educated immigrants who are primarily the family members of immigrants already here. “More specifically, what criteria for immigrant admission might be used when admitting immigrants if self-sufficiency is a policy goal”, he continued.

“Most people have a sense that if you were to work for \$10 an hour, 40 hours a week, you couldn’t be receiving welfare, could you?” The group looked at data from a 2012 Census Bureau survey. However, it is important to keep in mind that the basis of the organization’s existence is immigration studies – not constitutional studies.

Universal: That political responsibility may be lived at all levels as a high form of charity.

The issue is not that the immigrant households accessing these welfare benefits are not working.

She claims Camarota’s study is skewed since many benefits counted in his study were actually going to American-born children of immigrants. “In all the recycled, power-washed talk about our “broken immigration system”, (which inevitably centers on how to help corporations) the exploitation of the welfare system remains one of the most endemic and overlooked problems”, the statement said. However, if the individual states want to do so, that is their prerogative, though of course the ideal is for the charity to be provided via the churches and other private efforts.