"Crimmigration" in the Heartland: Unauthorized Immigrant Detention in Oklahoma and Arkansas

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Snapshot Before 2007

- 22 new growth states mostly in interior
 - OK & AR in top 5 for % growth in children of immigrants (2000-07)
 - 50-75,000 unauthorized in OK; 30-50,000 in AR (2006)

Oklahoma

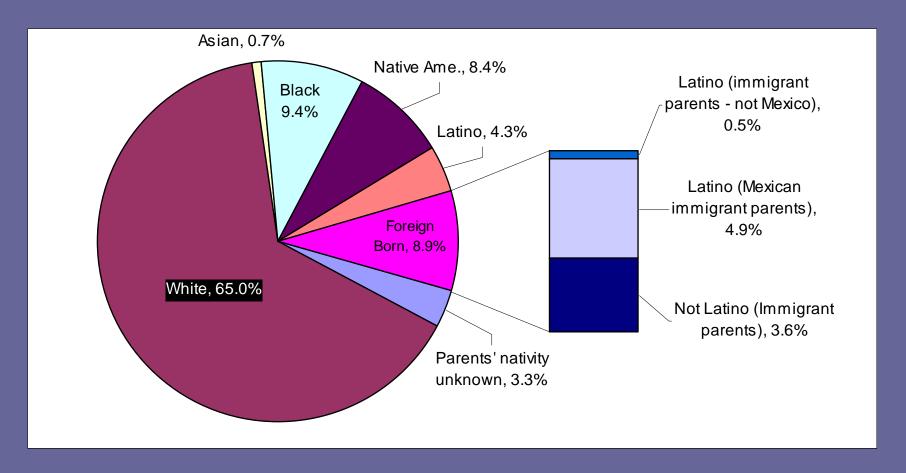
- Employment magnet from 2000-07 (unemployment 3-6%)
- In-state tuition and scholarships increased higher ed. access (2003-07)
- Study estimated short-term impact of losing 25,000 workers: \$785 million [EPI, 2008]

Arkansas

- Fastest growing Latino population in United States (2000-2005; 48%)
- ½ immigrants unauthorized; most came for work
- Integration part of workforce development
- Immigrant economic impact of \$2.9 billion (2004)
 - Dwarfs fiscal benefit of \$19 million



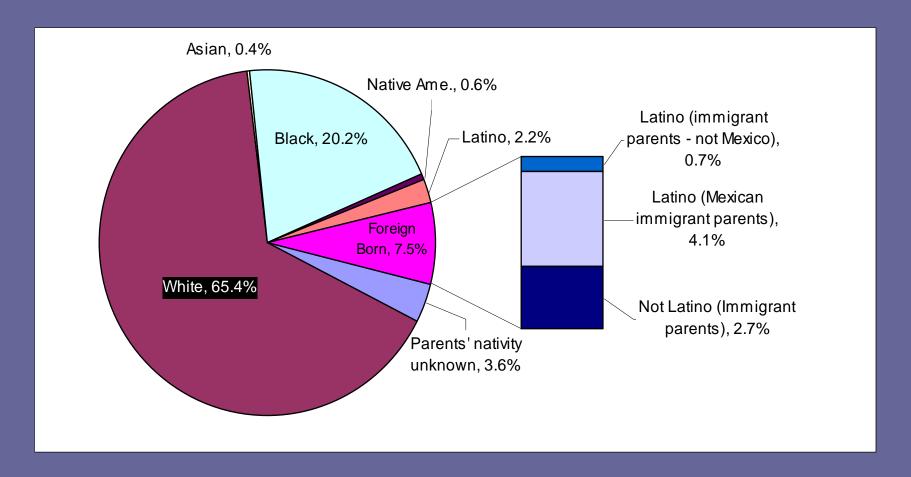
OKLAHOMA CHILDREN & YOUTH (2005-06)



91% of Latino children of immigrants were citizens 65% had US citizen parents



ARKANSAS CHILDREN & YOUTH (2005-06)



87% of Latino children of immigrants were citizens 52% had US citizen parents



2007-2010 Policies: Oklahoma

Year	Agencies	Policy / Legislation	Policy Areas	
2007	Local-fed.	287(g) (Tulsa County)	local law enforcement	
2007	State	HB 1804	omnibus legislation	
2007	State	SB 820	higher ed. access limited	
2009	State	HB 2245	"rapid repatriation"	
2009	State	HB 2250	tax on remittances	
2009	State	SB 1102	DNA from arrested immigrants	
2010	State	HB 2837	DNA from arrested immigrants	
2010	State	HB 3384	verify students' status (did not pass)	
2010	Local-fed.	Secure Communities	Jail status checks (OKC, Tulsa)	



2007-2010 Policies: Arkansas

Year	Agencies	Policy / Legislation	Policy Areas
2007	Local-fed.	287(g) (4 agencies)	local law enforcement
2007	State	HB 1024	verify state employees' work eligibility
			target harboring, transporting, or sheltering unauthorized immigrants
2007	State	HB 2279	did not pass
2009	State	HB 1860, HB 1978	driver's licenses



287(g) Agreements

State	LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY	TYPE	SIGNED
ОК	Tulsa County Sheriff's Office	Jail & Task Force	8/6/07
AR	Rogers Police Department	Task Force	9/25/07
AR	City of Springdale Police Department	Task Force	9/26/07
AR	Benton County Sheriff's Office	Jail & Task Force	9/26/07
AR	Washington County Sheriff's Office	Jail & Task Force	9/26/07



287(g) Agreements

- Over 1,000 287(g) arrests in NW Arkansas (by Nov. 2009)
 - No public figures on types of offenses
- Over 1,500 287(g) arrests in Tulsa County (by Nov. 2009)
 - In first year in Tulsa County...
 - about ³/₄ detainees referred for removal
 - 763 arrested for traffic violations, 367 for unknown reasons, just 17 for illegal presence
- GAO and DHS-OIG criticize programs
 - Lack of performance measures
 - Failure to comply with original agreements
 - DHS-OIG investigate Arkansas 287(g) programs

287(g) arrest figures released online: http://www.cis.org/287greport



Deportations (April 2007-March 2008)

Oklahoma

- 1,695 deported, released, or left ICE detention
- 90% of immigrants who left Oklahoma County and Tulsa
 County Jail were deported
 - Oklahoma County deportations and releases more than doubled from previous year...
 - ...and are up more than 450% from FY2000
 - Only 2-4% bonded out for release

Arkansas

- 528 deported, released, or left ICE detention
- 24 deported or "voluntarily departed" from Washington
 County Jail (but none from Benton County)
 - ³/₄ bonded out and were released while cases decided
- 144 deported or "voluntarily departed" from Ft. Smith



Consequences for Immigrants: Oklahoma

- HB1804: "Bark but (almost) no bite"
 - Social services and school enrollment steady
 - Limits access to higher ed., specialized care, work credentials
- 287(g) + "Rapid Repatriation" + Secure Communities
 - Immigration consequences of routine violations
 - Bonding out more difficult
 - "Enforcement-only" approach in justice and detention systems

• Culture of Fear

- Policies "made the police's wings grow"
- Hiding behaviors and fear of law enforcement
- Unauthorized avoid driving
- Public suspicious of Spanish language, children of immigrants
- No guidance for employers, landlords, public servants



Consequences for Immigrants: Arkansas

• Untargeted arrests

- Originally intended to arrest serious criminals
- Immigrants referred to DHS for minor offenses
- Overly broad targeting of "gang" activity
- Victims of abuse detained

• Culture of Fear

- Immigrant community fears Arkansas will follow Oklahoma's lead
 - Local officials deny OK laws play role in AR policy experiments
- Immigrants fear driving
- Students fear police near schools

• Family separation

- Local police unfamiliar with humanitarian release
- 287(g) arrests result in long-term separation
- Home arrests especially traumatic
- Parents isolated, face mental health problems
- Limited response effort isolates families
- Parents make difficult decisions following deportations



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