

Deporting the Undocumented

A COST ASSESSMENT

Deporting the Undocumented: A Cost Assessment provides the first-ever cost assessment of a policy designed to deport all undocumented persons currently in the United States and those who successfully cross the border (approximately 10 million people). Based on publicly available data, we estimate the costs of a mass deportation effort to be at least \$206 billion over five years (\$41.2 billion annually), and could be as high as \$230 billion or more. Spending \$41.2 billion annually would:

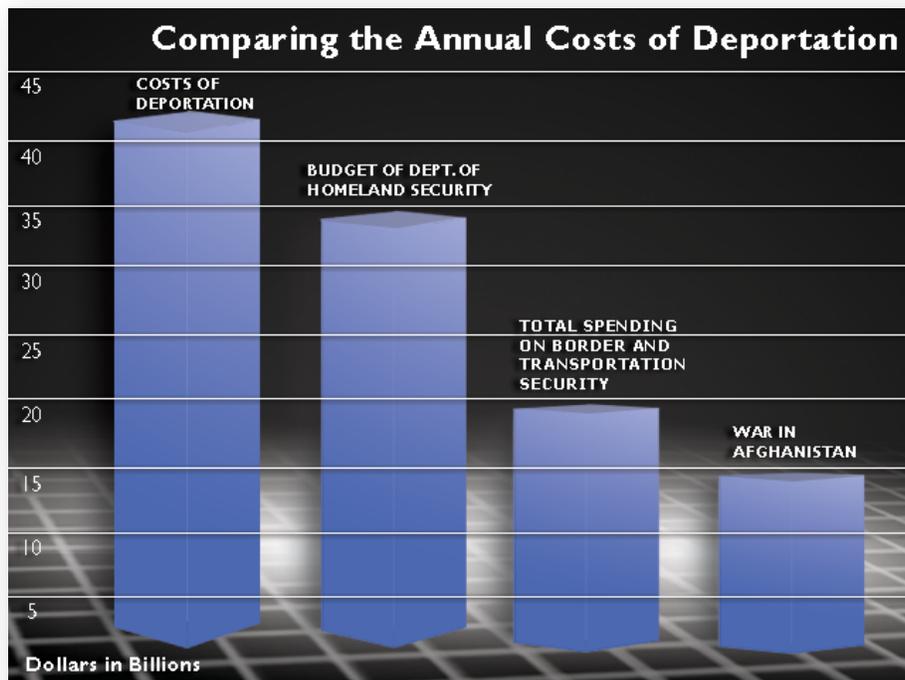
- Exceed the entire budget of the Department of Homeland Security for FY 2006 (\$34.2 billion);
- More than double annual spending on border and transportation security (\$19.3 billion);
- More than double the annual cost of military operations in Afghanistan (\$16.8 billion).

Relying on data analysis by David Jaeger, Ph.D., associate professor of economics at William & Mary, and authored by Rajeev Goyle, the report illustrates the false allure of a mass deportation policy. Real solutions are needed to repair our nation's broken immigration system, not unrealistic and costly ideas that would drain our Treasury without increasing our security.

The report makes conservative assumptions for key variables; most notably, it estimates that 20% of the undocumented population will self-deport and leave voluntarily.

The report estimates the costs of deporting the existing pool of undocumented individuals and the flow across the border. The costs of reducing the pool to zero are driven by five factors: apprehension, detention (including bed space), legal processing, and transportation.

The costs of reducing the flow across the border to zero are driven by increasing border patrol agents.



Costs of Reducing Pool of 10 Million Undocumented Population to Zero Over Five Years Under Different Assumptions (in millions \$)

Number of Involuntary Removals	8.0 million (assumes 20% leave voluntarily)	9.0 million (assumes 10% leave voluntarily)
Apprehension	\$140,824	\$158,427
Detention	\$30,600	\$34,425
Additional Beds	\$2,333	\$2,659
Legal Processing	\$9,539	\$10,732
Transportation	\$8,000	\$9,000
Total Cost	\$191,296	\$215,243

All figures in nominal dollars.

Costs of Reducing the Flow to Zero Over Five Years (in millions \$)

Current Border Patrol Costs	\$8,995
Additional Border Patrol Costs	\$5,950
Total Border Patrol Costs	\$14,945