Impact of the Travel Ban on NYC

June 26, 2018

On June 26, 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court held that President Trump’s third travel ban, issued on September 24, 2017, was not unconstitutional. This ban applied varying travel and immigration restrictions for certain people from eight countries: Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, and Somalia. On April 10, 2018, the White House announced that it would lift restrictions on nationals of Chad, bringing the list of countries impacted by the Travel Ban to seven:

- Iran
- Libya
- North Korea
- Syria
- Venezuela
- Yemen
- Somalia

The Travel Ban impacts tens of thousands of families in New York City

The Travel Ban impacts about 26,000 New Yorkers who were born in the targeted countries and who may have family members who are subject to the ban or “enhanced screening and vetting.” The majority (about 65%, or 17,000) of these New Yorkers are U.S. citizens.

The number of New York City residents who were born in the targeted countries has grown significantly over the past several years, increasing by about 45% from 2013 to 2016.

These immigrant communities are deeply integrated in our City

NYC residents born in Yemen, Iran, and Syria make up the vast majority of the New Yorkers whose family members may be subject to the Travel Ban.

There are approximately 13,400 New Yorkers born in Yemen, including about 3,300 children:

- **Citizenship.** 61% of Yemeni immigrants in NYC are naturalized citizens.
- **Educational Attainment.** About 13% of the Yemeni immigrant population age 25 and older in NYC have a bachelor’s degree or higher.
- **NYC Labor Force.** Yemeni New Yorkers participate in the labor force at a rate of 54%.
  - About one-third (31%) of the Yemeni immigrant workforce in grocery/food stores.
  - 17% of Yemeni immigrants in the labor force are business owners.

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1 All estimates are from U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Samples unless otherwise noted. Labor force participation rates are estimated based on populations age 16 and older.
2 Data are not available about residents born in North Korea. This figure does not include residents born in Venezuela and Iraq because, while nationals of those countries are subject to certain entry restrictions or heightened scrutiny, those rules are significantly different and less stringent than those applicable to Yemen, Syria, Iran, Somalia, Libya, and North Korea.
• **Length of stay.** The majority (60%) of Yemeni New Yorkers have lived in the United States 10 years or longer.

There are approximately 6,900 New Yorkers born in Iran:
• **Citizenship.** Nearly 70% of Iranian immigrants in NYC are naturalized citizens.
• **Educational Attainment.** Over one-third (34%) of the Iranian immigrant population age 25 and older in NYC have a master’s degree or higher.
• **NYC Labor Force.** Iranian-born New Yorkers participate in the labor force at a rate of 65% (about the same as the general population).
  o 22% of Iranian immigrants in the New York City labor force are business owners.
  o Nearly 10% of Iranian-born New Yorkers are physicians, surgeons, or in financial services.
• **Length of stay.** The majority (65%) of Iran-born New Yorkers have lived in the United States 20 years or longer.

There are approximately 5,100 New Yorkers born in Syria:
• **Citizenship.** Nearly 74% of Syrian immigrants in NYC are naturalized citizens.
• **Educational Attainment.** Nearly a quarter (24%) of the Syrian immigrant population age 25 and older in NYC have a bachelor’s degree or higher.
• **NYC Labor Force.** Syrian-born New Yorkers participate in the labor force at a rate of 54%.
  o 22% of Syrian immigrants in the New York City labor force are business owners.
• **Length of stay.** The majority (75%) of Syria-born New Yorkers have lived in the United States 20 years or longer.

New York City has been receiving fewer refugees from the travel ban-affected countries
More than 2,000 refugees have been resettled in New York City since 2010. However, since President Trump entered office, on average, New York City has received about half the number of refugees per month compared to the last year of the Obama administration, from about 29 refugees placed in New York City per month in 2016 to about 15 per month during Trump’s administration to-date. In addition, the city has received far fewer refugees from the countries targeted by President Trump’s travel and refugee-admissions restrictions, with 77 resettled in New York City in calendar year 2016 falling to a total of just 25 in 2017—a drop of 68%. To date, there have been 0 refugees from the ban-affected countries resettled to New York City in 2018, a drop of 100% over 2016.

The travel ban hurts our communities
**Bias Crimes.** In the six months following the President’s first Travel Ban in January 2017, the NYPD Hate Crime Task Force identified 215 incidents of bias crime that occurred in the city. This was an increase of 31% compared to the same timeframe in the prior year.

By the end of 2017, recorded incidents of bias crime receded to pre-Trump Administration levels overall, but New York City continued to see a 17% increase in bias crimes against Muslims in particular, as compared to the same timeframe in the previous year.

From January to May 2018, New York City saw a 23% decrease in bias crimes overall, compared to the same timeframe in 2017. Similarly, bias crimes against Muslims in New York City have returned to pre-Trump Administration levels during this period.

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