

Dr. Laura's Anti-Immigrant Allegations (in the SB News-Press, 11/4/07)

1. 26% of the jail inmates in Ventura County are foreign-born. 80% are undocumented immigrants. (Are the numbers correct? What is the percentage of citizens of the same income level in jail? How many are being held for immigration related offenses?)
2. In 2004, 17% of the federal prison population consisted of undocumented aliens. (Is the number correct? How many are incarcerated for immigration-related offenses?)
3. From 1995 to 2000, the INS released 25,000 "criminal aliens" instead of deporting them. (Is the number correct? What is the definition of a "criminal alien"?)
4. 11,000 "criminal aliens" released from 1995 to 2000 committed "serious crimes." (is the number correct? What defines a "serious crime"?)
5. 1,800 of these crimes were "violent" including 98 homicides, 142 sexual assaults, and 44 kidnappings. (Are the numbers correct? What defines a violent crime? What were the remaining 1516 violent crimes?)
6. In 2001, because of a Supreme Court ruling, the INS released 3,000 "criminal aliens" who had collectively been convicted of 125 homicides, 387 sex offenses, and 772 assault charges. (Are the numbers correct? "What is the definition of a criminal alien"?)
7. The proportion of immigrant-headed households using at least one major welfare program is 24.5% compared to 16.3% for native households. (Are the numbers correct? What constitutes a major welfare program? What is the percentage use of such programs by native households of the same average income level as the immigrant-headed households?)
8. Undocumented immigrants are 50% more likely to be on welfare than citizens. (Is the number correct? What does it mean to "be on welfare"? What is the comparison for groups of the same income level?)