

Reporting on immigration

when you're far from the southern border



Does your publication have
an immigration beat?



How many languages do
your reporters speak?

Reporting on immigration is...

- **Nuanced:** Conducting interviews (sometimes in multiple languages), analyzing court documents and federal policy changes
- **Appealing:** It's a hot topic, and readers love it or hate it, but they all read it
- **Much more than Trump:** You can write reactions, but you can also find features and watchdog stories with a local angle

DAILIES

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Trump gives immigrant families getting medical care 33 days to leave

Attorneys say children with cancer, epilepsy will be deported

By SARAH BETANCOURT Aug 26, 2019

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SAMUEL FONSECA WAS only three when he was diagnosed with short bowel syndrome, a condition that inhibits the body's ability to absorb nutrients from food. Now five, he napped on his mother's lap on Monday with a feeding tube sticking out of his dark blue shirt as she described the critical medical treatment he gets in Boston.

That care could soon be ending, as Fonseca's family is one of at least 20 immigrant households receiving medical care in Massachusetts being told they must leave the country, an order from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services agency that advocates say will amount to a death sentence for some.

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By Cynthia McCormick

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Posted Aug 13, 2019 at 8:38 PM

Updated Aug 14, 2019 at 7:07 AM



Agencies to challenge bid to use public benefits to restrict legal status.

A Hyannis immigration lawyer says scores if not hundreds of Cape Cod residents could be affected by the Trump administration's new rule that will prohibit immigrants who receive certain types of public benefits from upgrading their residency status or renewing green cards.

The expanded "public charge" definition expected to be published today by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security says immigrants who receive Medicaid, SNAP and certain other types of aid will be ineligible to apply for a green card, renew a green card or apply for citizenship, said Collin Mickle, a lawyer and coordinator of the Immigration Resource Center.

Massachusetts prosecutors, immigrant rights advocates sue ICE over courthouse arrests

Updated Apr 29, 2019; Posted Apr 29, 2019



Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan announces she and several plaintiffs have filed a federal lawsuit against Immigration and Customs Enforcement over the legality of its arrests at local courthouses.

53

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By Stenb Solis ssolis@masslive.com

After Trust Act signing, Gross defensive

Points to arrests, convictions; 'How come you never hear about that?'

By SARAH BETANCOURT Dec 19, 2019

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ONLY MOMENTS AFTER Boston Mayor Marty Walsh signed the Immigrant Trust Act, Police Commissioner William Gross fended off questions about his department previously sharing information with federal immigration enforcement under the very sort of circumstances the revised ordinance prohibits.

Since the original 2014 Trust Act, the department has been instructed to ignore detainee requests from federal immigration officials unless the immigrant is wanted for a crime separate from his or her deportation case. The goal is to develop a more trusting atmosphere with immigrants so they are not afraid to approach police about crimes in their communities without the fear of having their personal information turned over to federal authorities.

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In October, records obtained by **WBUR** and the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts showed that a Boston police officer had been assigned work as a liaison with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a fact that was the best-kept secret in the Boston law enforcement world.

The documents revealed that the officer, Sgt. Det. Gregory Gallagher, had shared information with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement about immigrants that had not committed criminal offenses, which did not comply with the original Trust Act. Gallagher was subsequently removed, but his work undercut the public message put forward by Walsh and Gross that police were only cooperating with ICE in cases involving violent crime and drugs.

Politics

Shahab Dehghani, Iranian studying at Northeastern University, detained at Boston Logan International Airport

Updated Jan 21, 2020; Posted Jan 20, 2020



A group of protesters are calling for the release of Shahab Dehghani, an Iranian citizen who was detained at Boston Logan International Airport. He landed Sunday night planning to start his spring semester at Northeastern University.

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FEATURES/ENTERPRISE

DACA Immigrants With Health Insurance Worry About What's Next



Immigrants and supporters chant outside the New York-New York Hotel & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip during a "We Rise for the Dream" rally to oppose U.S. President Donald Trump's order to end DACA on September 10, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Ethan Miller / Getty Images

Sept. 17, 2017, 8:26 AM

EDT / Updated Sept. 17, 2017, 8:26 AM EDT

By Sarah Betancourt

Immigrants with Temporary Protected Status face bureaucratic hurdles as program winds down

WORK PERMITS ARE ARRIVING WEEKS LATE, AND CONFUSION ABOUT THE PROGRAM'S STATUS HAVE LEFT MANY IMMIGRANTS IN LIMBO WHEN SEEKING DRIVER'S LICENSES.

Steph Solis, North Jersey Record

Published 6:30 a.m. ET Oct. 22, 2018 | Updated 2:59 p.m. ET Oct. 23, 2018

Politics

TPS holders are being denied driver's license renewals in Mass. despite extension to stay in U.S., activists say

Updated Dec 19, 2019; Posted Dec 19, 2019

Politics

Immigrants with temporary status brace for disrupted employment, services as program winds down

Posted Sep 10, 2019

WATCHDOG STORIES

IMMIGRATION

Waltham company supplying DNA test kits to ICE

Used to verify whether families at border are biologically related

 SARAH BETANCOURT Aug 5, 2019

SHARE    187  12

FEDERAL OFFICIALS ARE USING RAPID DNA testing kits produced by a Massachusetts biotechnology company to verify the family connections of immigrants at the US-Mexico border.

The kits, developed by Waltham-based ANDE Corp., were tested by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement in a three-day trial in May in El Paso, Texas, that was extended for several months in July at a total cost of \$52,000. The kits are now being used at five more locations along the southwest border.



They Got Hurt at Work. Then They Got Deported.

How insurance companies use a Florida law to get undocumented immigrants arrested and deported when they get injured on the job — and what it means in Trump's America.

Researcher Sarah Betancourt of ProPublica

ECONOMY / IMMIGRATION

Mass. businesses paid \$180 million by border patrol agency

Contracts range from tech companies to Brigham and Women's Hospital and doggie day care

 SARAH BETANCOURT Jul 2, 2019

Mistreated

U.S. Immigration Agency Fails to Provide Adequate Medical Care for Children in Family Detention Centers



Sarah Betancourt [Follow](#)

Jan 9, 2019 · 30 min read





WATCHDOG STORIES

Some Chinese restaurants pay immigrant workers less than minimum wage



Cheng Hui Zheng, owner of Oriental Flavor in Amherst, acknowledged paying kitchen workers \$1,500 a month for 50-hour weeks — \$500 less than the legal minimum.

WATCHDOG STORIES

The Guardian

Sarah Betancourt in
Leansport, Pennsylvania

@sweetadelinet

Sun 27 Mar 2016 12:23 EDT

Detained child's disease 'went untreated for weeks' at US immigration center

Mother says complaints went unheeded as five-year-old daughter suffered from diarrhea and fever at Berks County Residential Center in Pennsylvania



▲ Immigration reform activists pray in front of a detention center in Pennsylvania. Photograph: John Moore/Getty Images

Five-year-old Briany nibbled her nails as she peeked from behind her mother. Her eyes rimmed with dark circles, she continued to ask if she could go out to play. Her mother, Gladis, shook her head.

ICE agents routinely make arrests at Middlesex County Courthouse



(Photo: MARK R. SULLIVAN,
MARK R. SULLIVAN/STAFF
PHOTOGRAPHER)

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Middlesex County's efforts to limit cooperation with federal immigration officials haven't stopped enforcement agents from arresting immigrants showing up at court in New Brunswick.

Immigration agents entered the courthouse 10 times between September and April, according to visitor logs recently provided to The Record and NorthJersey.com. Emilio Dabul, a spokesman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Newark, said agents made arrests outside the courthouse during those visits. He would not say how many arrests were made, only that they were immigrants facing a variety of criminal charges.

"ICE Newark has continued to pursue its mission of protecting communities, despite the uncooperative demeanor of Middlesex County when it comes to honoring ICE detainers," Dabul said in a statement.

Since 2017, Middlesex County has prohibited local law enforcement from honoring federal detainer orders from ICE unless an inmate has been convicted of a serious felony, such as sexual assault or murder.

The local officials have also instructed sheriff's officers to only accept judicial arrest warrants, not Homeland Security detainer or arrest orders lacking judicial approval.

A startling trend in state's drownings

A little girl who loved the color purple. An avid fisherman who cast his line into lakes and ponds, rain or shine. A janitor enjoying a warm summer day.

All lost their lives in accidental drownings in Massachusetts, heartbreaking tragedies that loom over every summer. But these victims are also part of a disturbing and largely invisible trend: They are all immigrants or their children.

Immigrants are far more likely to drown in Massachusetts than the general population, according to a Globe review of death records from 1999 to 2013, the most recent available. And their children are at even higher risk.



What constitutes an immigration story?

- Any story can have an immigration angle: housing, school budget, business, etc.
- Reach out to immigration attorneys, community organizers, prosecutors and others for ideas
- Local events are a good springboard



Building trust in your communities

- Don't make false promises
- Try meeting advocates, pastors, other leaders first
- Remind them about the objective method
- Cultivate a variety of law enforcement sources, ranging from ICE to TSA to local officers who may patrol immigrant communities



Building trust in your communities

- Be thoughtful in your questioning
- It helps to have bilingual reporters
- Sensitivity

Peruvian immigrant in sanctuary at Springfield church: 'We have gone over all the possible options, but they all end in sadness'

Updated Jan 30, 2019; Posted Mar 28, 2018

Gisella Collazo, facing deportation, takes sanctuary at South Congregational Church on Maple Street, Springfield



Gallery: Gisella Collazo, facing deportation, takes sanctuary at South Congregational Church on Maple Street, Springfield

Comment



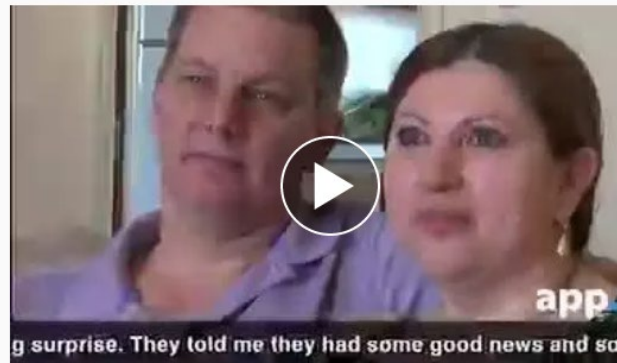
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By Elizabeth Román | eroman@repub.com

SPRINGFIELD -- When she left Peru 17 years ago, Gisella Collazo

A family's ordeal

One of the businesses that was cited in the state sweep is Consuelo's Travel LLC, which has locations in Lakewood, Freehold Borough, Bradley Beach and, until recently, Red Bank.



Todd Naecker of Toms River estimates that he spent about \$2,000 over four years with a so-called 'notario' who he said advised his undocumented wife, Olga, to return to her native Honduras and return in a year or two. The couple were separated for years. Asbury Park Press



Undocumented victims of domestic violence and advocates en route to the State House.

IMMIGRATION / POLITICS

Undocumented abuse survivors break silence on bus

Travel to State House seeking passage of Safe Communities Act

 SARAH BETANCOURT Jun 26, 2019

SHARE    531  20

THE PARKING LOT STOOD EMPTY Wednesday morning, but then women in groups of two or three, dressed in white shirts, began streaming in, murmuring about the humidity in Spanish. A yellow school bus pulled up. Women began smiling and climbing aboard, reconnecting over bottled water. One woman handed out apples and snacks. Sandy Rodriguez, 16, sat down in one seat, and pointed out an empty spot to her mother, Maria Rodriguez.



Harnessing data

- Challenge official statements and anecdotal evidence
- Identify story leads
- Monitor long-term trends
- Deepen connections to your community



Data sources

- TRAC data: <https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/reports/reports.php>
- WRAP - Department of State: <https://www.wrapsnet.org/admissions-and-arrivals/>
- US Census data: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>
- Student enrollment - state DOE:
<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/search/search.aspx?leftNavId=11238>
- Worker comp records from site, etc.: DOL (spreadsheet)
- AG's Fair Labor Division Complaints: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ags-fair-labor-division-complaints>
- File a public records request
- Federal contracts/bidding site: <https://beta.sam.gov/>

News

Your comments: Data on refugee relocations to Western Massachusetts cities and towns

Updated Mar 24, 2019; Posted Aug 16, 2013

Comment

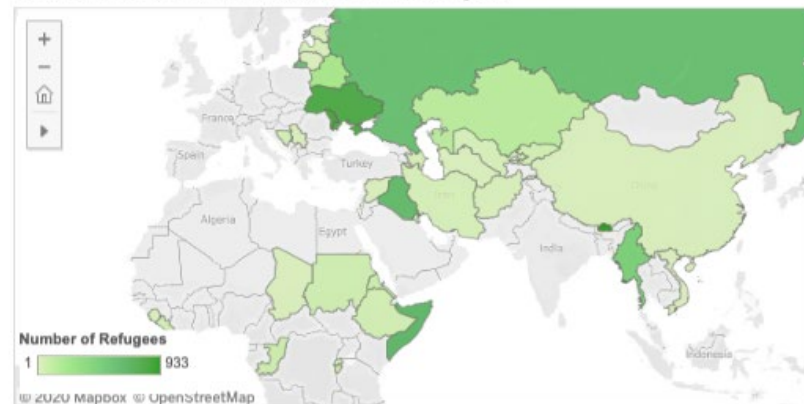


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By [Greg Saulmon](#) | gsaulmon@repub.com

Staff writer Peter Goonan published a [post Wednesday](#) about how local organizations assisting in refugee relocation are reacting to Mayor Domenic Sarno's appeal to the U.S. Department of State to stop placing refugees in Springfield. In response to Goonan's piece, [MassLive.com reader NoPol](#) wrote:

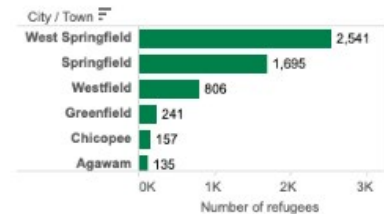
Home Countries of Western Massachusetts Refugees



Western Mass. Host Cities and Towns

Country of Origin	Host Community	Number of Refugees
Afghanistan	Springfield	2
	West Springfield	5
Azerbaijan	Springfield	9
	West Springfield	11
Belarus	Agawam	1
	Chicopee	29
	Longmeadow	1
	Springfield	14
	West Springfield	101
Bhutan	Westfield	45
	Springfield	264
Bosnia and Herzegovina	West Springfield	669
	Amherst	4
Burma	West Springfield	289
	Springfield	159

Total Refugees, Jan. 2001-July 2013



Percent of Total Population



Source: U.S. Department of State
Data Analysis+Graphic by [Greg Saulmon](#)



West Springfield mayor welcomes refugees as 'boon,' but shares Mayor Sarno's concerns about schools

Updated Jan 07, 2019; Posted Feb 09, 2017



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