



Putting the Child Refugees in Context

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The children fleeing violence at our southern border are a miniscule portion of the worldwide refugee population...

- **One-tenth of 1% of the world's refugees:** Across the globe, there are [51.2 million](#) refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs). This means that the [62,998 children](#) who have arrived through July 31 of this fiscal year, constitute only 0.12% of the all refugees anywhere. Even excluding IDPs, these children are only 0.35% of the [17.9 million](#) international refugees.

...And a drop in the bucket when it comes to America's foreign born population

- **One-and-a-half of 1% of all immigrants in the U.S.:** There are [40.7 million](#) foreign born individuals in the U.S., which means that the [62,998 children](#) who have fled violence to the U.S. makes up only 0.15% of the total foreign born population.
- **Only four-tenths of 1% of all immigrants from Central America:** With [14.6 million](#) foreign born individuals from Central America (including Mexico), the children make up only 0.4% of that population.

No burden on our public schools

- **Just over one-tenth of 1% of all public school children:** There are currently 50.1 million K-12 students in public schools across the United States. If every child refugee who has arrived so far attends public schools in the fall, that would mean an increase of only 0.13%.
- **Even the states that have [sheltered the greatest number of children](#) will see only a tiny increase:¹**
 - [Texas](#) – **Less than one-tenth of 1%:** 4280 children, in a student population of 5 million, or **0.09%**
 - [New York](#) – **Just over one-tenth of 1%:** 3347 children, in a student population of 2.7 million, or **0.12%**
 - [Florida](#) – **Just over one-tenth of 1%:** 3181 children, in a student population of 2.7 million, or **0.12%**
 - [California](#) – **One-half-of-one-half of 1%:** 3150 children, in a student population of 6.2 million, or **0.05%**
 - [Virginia](#) – **Two-tenths of 1%:** 2234 children, in a student population of 1.26 million, or **0.18%**
 - [Maryland](#) – **One-quarter of 1%:** 2205 children, in a student population of 850,000, or **0.26%**
 - [New Jersey](#) – **One-tenth of 1%:** 1504 children, in a student population of 1.35 million, or **0.11%**
 - [North Carolina](#) – **Less than one-tenth of 1%:** 1191 children, in a student population of 1.5 million, or **0.08%**
 - [Louisiana](#) – **One-and-a-half-tenths of 1%:** 1071 children, in a student population of 702,000, or **0.15%**
 - [Georgia](#) – **Less than one-tenth of 1%:** 1154 children, in a student population of 1.7 million, or **0.07%**
 - [Colorado](#) – **Three-one-hundredths of 1%:** 221 children, in a student population of 854,000, or **0.03%**
 - [Arkansas](#) – **Three-one-hundredths of 1%:** 166 children, in a student population of 483,000, or **0.03%**
 - [Alaska](#) – **Four-one-thousandths of 1%:** 5 children, in a student population of 131,000, or **0.0038%**

¹ All state enrollment data is for public schools, from the National Center for Education Statistics ELSi, available at: <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/>