

NumbersUSA

U.S. Amnesties for Illegal Aliens

**Congress has passed 7 amnesties for
illegal aliens, starting in 1986.**

1. Immigration and Reform Control Act (IRCA) Amnesty, 1986: A blanket amnesty for some **2.7 million illegal aliens**

2. Section 245(i) Amnesty, 1994: A temporary rolling amnesty for **578,000 illegal aliens**

3. Section 245(i) Extension Amnesty, 1997: An extension of the rolling amnesty created in 1994

4. Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) Amnesty, 1997: An amnesty for **close to one million illegal aliens from Central America**

5. Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act Amnesty (HRIFA), 1998: An amnesty for **125,000 illegal aliens from Haiti**

6. Late Amnesty, 2000: An amnesty for some illegal aliens who claim they should have been amnestied under the 1986 IRCA amnesty, an estimated **400,000 illegal aliens**

7. LIFE Act Amnesty, 2000: A reinstatement of the rolling Section 245(i) amnesty, an estimated **900,000 illegal aliens**

8. Nine current bills are vying to be **Amnesty No. 8**

What is Amnesty?

Amnesties are all too common legislative efforts to forgive the breaking of immigration laws and to make it possible for illegal aliens to live permanently in the United States. Amnesties represent a system of federal rewards and assistance for illegal migrants, and they entice an even greater number of illegal migrants. Census 2000 results indicate that 700,000 to 800,000 illegal aliens settle in the U.S. each year, with an estimated 8-11 million illegal aliens currently living in the United States.

According to INS estimates released in October, 2000, the amnesties granted in 1986 as a result of the Immigration Reform and Control Act significantly contributed to an increase in illegal immigration as the relatives of newly legalized illegal immigrants came illegally to the United States to join their family members. In the decade following the 1986 amnesty,