

SAFE Cities Program

Vera Institute of Justice

Above the Fold Explainer SEP 30, 2016 - 2:45PM

How America's Immigration System Failed and Why We Need to Fix It

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Time to reform broken immigration system

Date: June 24, 2014

The US immigration system is broken

Huge amounts of money are wasted on immigration detention in the US - it's inhumane, unjust, and possibly unconstitutional



▲ Immigration rights demonstrators in Madison, Wisconsin, in 2006. Photograph: Craig Schreiner/AP

NEWS Posted Yesterday at 9:44 PM

INCREASE FONT SIZE

System is broken, says Rhode Island mother released from immigration detention

She and her husband went to the citizenship office for a routine interview, and next thing she knew, she was in custody.

BY MICHELLE R. SMITH ASSOCIATED PRESS

Immigrant families make up our communities



Prince George's County Residents Facing Deportation

- Elderly Haitian green card holder, licensed minister with USC children, lived in Prince George's County for decades
- Adult son/caretaker of severely ill Prince George's County resident with temporary protected status

Immigration detention = jail



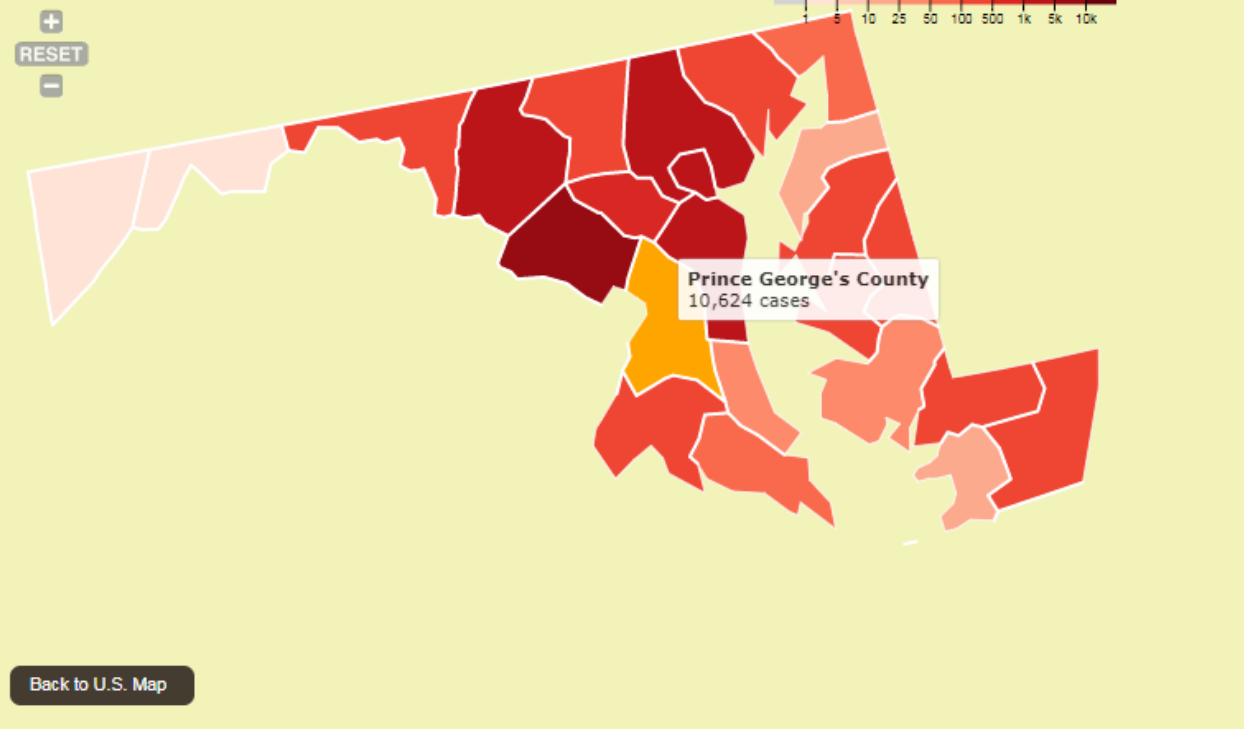
Lack of Access to Counsel

Immigrants do not have a
right to government-
appointed counsel

Lack of Access to Counsel



Maryland



County Subdivision County

click on column headings to sort

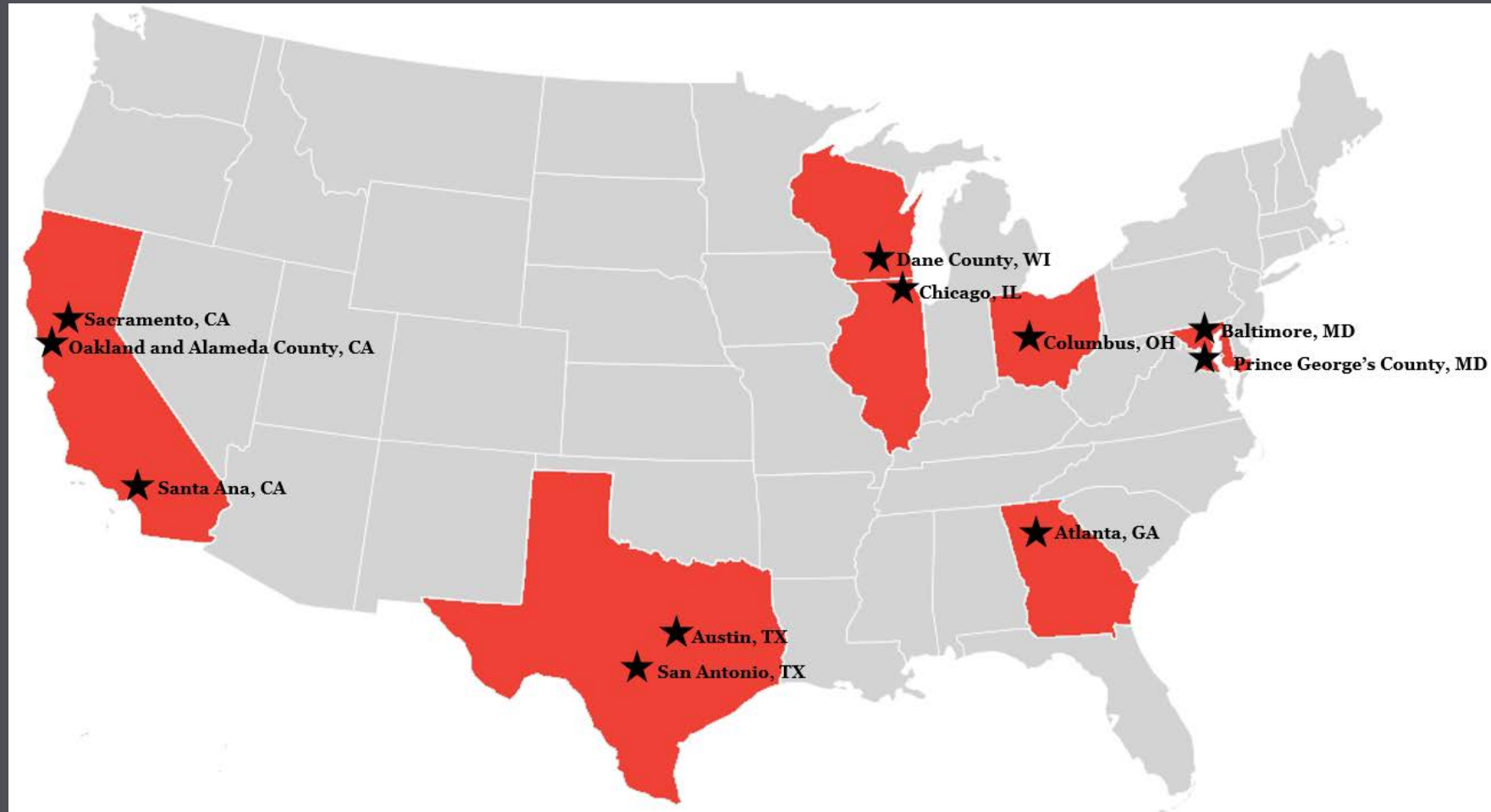
County Name	All Pending Cases			Cases Filed Last 90 Days		
	Number	Represented	Odds of Representation	Number	Represented	Odds of Representation
Prince George's County	10,624	5,736	54.0	212	36	16.9
Montgomery County	8,460	4,884	57.7	162	39	24.1
Baltimore County	2,800	1,433	51.2	83	14	17.1
Baltimore city	2,794	1,278	45.7	78	12	15.7
Anne Arundel County	1,744	947	54.3	64	21	33.6
Frederick County	1,083	647	59.7	35	14	40.9
Howard County	895	487	54.4	35	12	34.4
Wicomico County	398	154	38.6	30	7	23.3
Charles County	306	145	47.4	7	1	14.4
Harford County	206	109	52.8	10	3	30.0
Washington County	198	100	50.4	16	5	30.7
Carroll County	181	97	53.3	6	0	0.0
Talbot County	178	87	48.9	9	0	0.0

SAFE (Safety and Fairness for Everyone) Cities Network



A multi-jurisdiction network dedicated to providing publicly-funded representation for people facing deportation.

Current SAFE Cities Network: 11 Cities and Counties



SAFE Cities Network

- Focus on detained removal defense
- Goal of universal representation
- Public funding investment
- Vera provides:
 - “Catalyst fund” match
 - TA to jurisdictions and legal services providers
 - Program reporting and research
 - Strategic communications support

NYIFUP: The Model for SAFE Cities

- ◆ Model piloted and proven by Vera
 - ◆ Pilot in FY2013 (\$500k)
 - ◆ Vera released an evaluation in 2017 – proved the success of the model

NYIFUP evaluation: Representation Matters!

4%

The percentage of successful cases for unrepresented people in NYC before NYIFUP.



48%

The estimated percentage of successful NYIFUP cases.

People who win their legal case gain or maintain work authorization, manifesting in **\$2.7 million** in annual projected tax revenues.

Immigrants in Removal Proceedings in NYC are Entrenched in The Community

16 residing
in the United
States for the
average
years NYIFUP client

41%

of NYIFUP clients
entered or resided in
the U.S. legally.

64%

of NYIFUP clients
were employed.

1,859
children

with a NYIFUP parent
among 1,772 clients.
Majority have legal
status.

Being a member of SAFE Cities

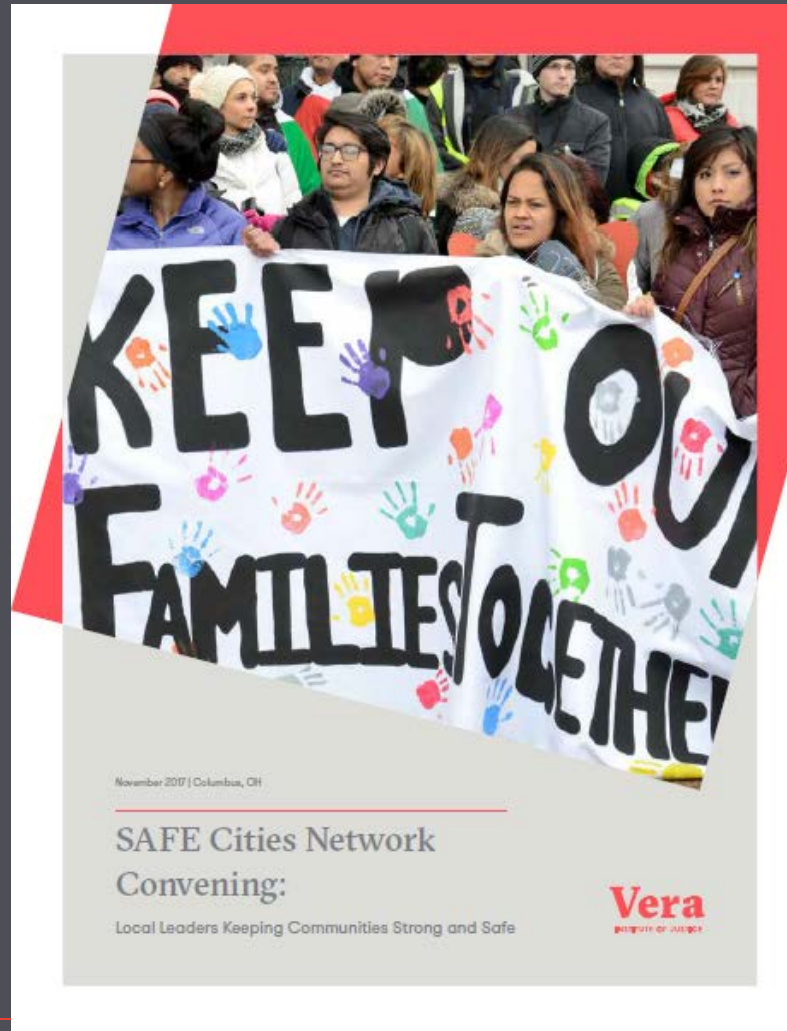
National Network

Program Reporting and Evaluation

Technical Assistance and Trainings

Impact on family unity, economic stability, due process

SAFE Cities convenings and future trainings



Communications



A New York courtroom gave every detained immigrant a lawyer. The results were staggering.

And now a dozen more cities are getting on board.

Updated by Dara Lind | dara@vox.com | Nov 9, 2017, 9:10am EST



Family unity, economic growth, due process

