

ARTICLE TYPE

Supplementary Material for: Immigration is Difficult?! Informing Voters About Immigration Policy Fosters Pro-immigration Views

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1. Survey Instrument

Policy knowledge (pre-treatment) [Random ordering of categories, matrix question]

“If the below person applied to legally immigrate to the US to become a permanent resident, how long do you think it would take on average for their application to be approved? Even if you don’t know, please take a guess. For reference, it currently takes spouses of US citizens approximately 12–18 months.”

Categories:

- Adult Sibling of US Citizen [Correct answer: 3 to 10 years]
- Aunt or Uncle of US Citizen [Correct answer: not eligible]
- Doctor without a Job Offer [Correct answer: not eligible]
- Famous Athlete or Artist [Correct answer: less than 1 year]
- Nanny with a Job Offer [Correct answer: 1 to 3 years]

Answer options:

- Less than 1 year
- 1 to 3 years
- 3 to 10 years
- More than 10 years
- Not eligible

[The answer is considered “Almost correct” if it is adjacent to the correct answer]

Information provision experiment

“You are about to be presented with information. Please take your time and read it carefully. You will be asked questions related to the information afterward. The “Next” button will appear shortly.”

[This text is shown before any of the experimental conditions. All treatments have an equal 1/3 chance of being presented.]

- *Placebo Control Condition:* An “immigrant” is a person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence. An “emigrant” is someone who leaves their place of residence or country to live elsewhere. A “migrant” can refer to either an immigrant or an emigrant. “Immigrate” refers to entering a new place; “emigrate” refers to leaving the original place. Migration is defined as a change in a person’s permanent residence from one geographical area to another. International migration consists of people changing residence across countries. Net migration flows to a country are calculated as the difference between (1) immigration to that country and

- (2) emigration from that country during a particular period of time. If a country has negative net migration flows, it means that more people are leaving than entering that country. If a country has positive net migration flows, it means that more people are entering than leaving that country.
- *Treatment Condition 1 (Burdenome)*: The US immigration system is complex and burdensome. There are nearly two hundred different visa types, which makes it difficult to know which visa a potential immigrant can apply for, if any. Applying for a visa is also burdensome in terms of money and waiting time. Application fees and legal consultation costs thousands of dollars. The application fee to become a permanent resident is \$1,140 without legal fees. Legal fees for petitioning a spouse of a US citizen to obtain permanent residency, one of the simplest processes, costs around \$3,000. Additionally, the average wait time for a visa appointment is 244 days, and some wait over two years. This doesn't include the time it takes to become eligible for a visa, or for application processing (which can take more than a year depending on the visa type). The difficulty, costs, and long wait times of the immigration process makes it impractical for many.
 - *Treatment Condition 2 (Restrictive)*: The US immigration system is restrictive. There is a yearly numerical cap of about 220,000 for family-based visa categories and 140,000 for employment-based visas. This means that, if someone received a job offer from a willing employer after the employment-based visa cap was already filled, they would have to wait until at least the next year before being allowed to try immigrating again. Additional restrictions may apply based on immigrant's country of origin. For example, family members of US citizens from certain countries wait for decades before they can immigrate to become permanent residents. Some foreign workers may also have to wait for decades to obtain permanent residency for which they are otherwise eligible. As of 2022, applicants from the most impacted countries are only now processing applications from the early to mid-2000s because of how restrictive the immigration system is.

Immigration policy preferences (post-treatment) [0-1 index calculated as the average of two items recorded to vary from 0 (the most anti-immigration) to 1 (the most pro-immigration option)]

- “Do you think it should be easier or harder for foreigners to legally immigrate to the United States than it is currently?” [Much harder / Harder / Neither harder nor easier / Easier / Much easier]
- “Do you think the number of legal immigrants from foreign countries who are permitted to come to the United States should be increased a lot, increased a little, decreased a little, or decreased a lot?” [Increased a lot / Increased a little / Neither increased nor decreased / Decreased a little / Decreased a lot]

Immigration difficulty beliefs / manipulation checks (post-treatment) [0-1 index calculated as the average of two items recorded to vary from 0 (immigration is easy) to 1 (immigration is difficult)]

- “How burdensome do you think it is to legally immigrate to the US (in terms of time or money spent on the application process)?” [Very burdensome / A little burdensome / Not very burdensome / Not burdensome at all]
- “Do you think the annual limit on the number of people who can legally immigrate to the US is high or low?” [Very high / A little high / A little low / Very low]

2. Additional Figures and Tables

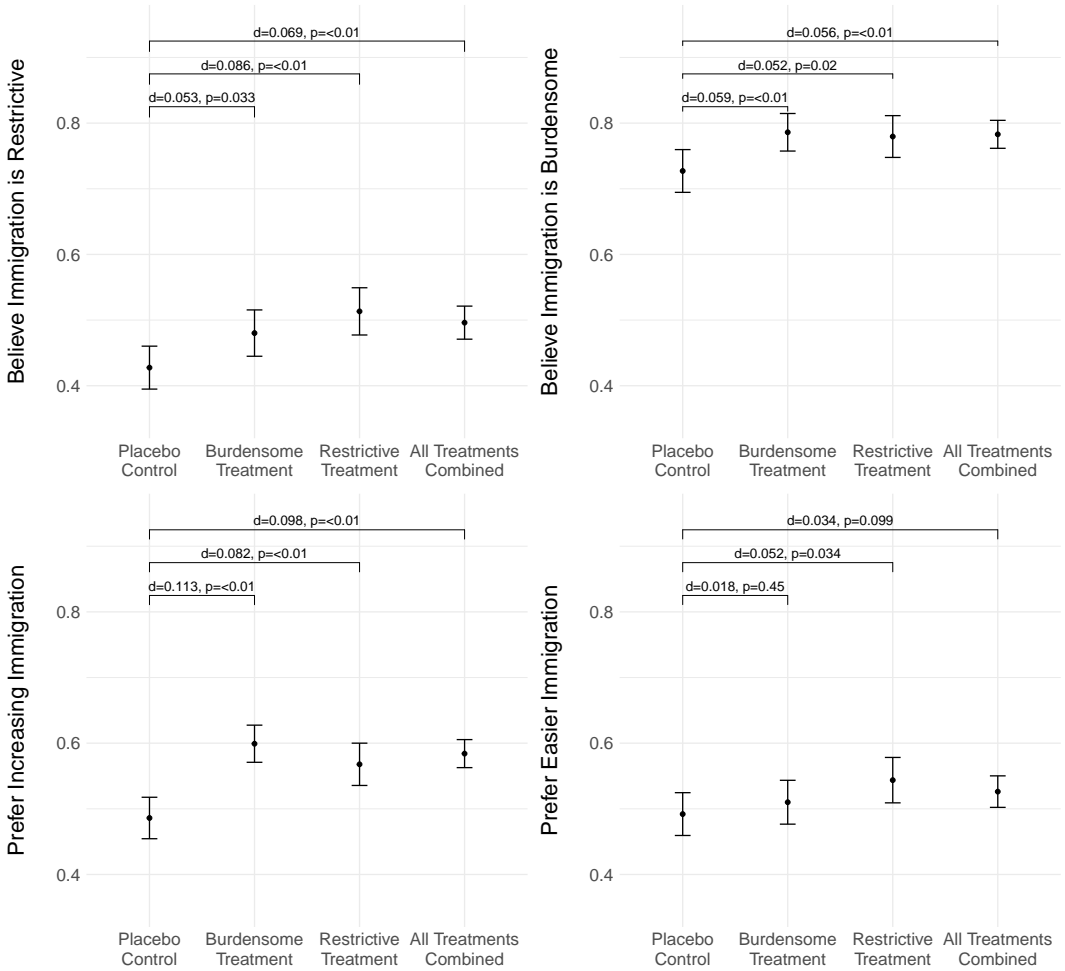


Figure A1. (Positive) Effects of Immigration Policy Information on Beliefs and Preferences. This figure depicts the additional exploratory hypotheses tests for separate treatments and outcome measures. Bars indicate 95%/84% confidence intervals.

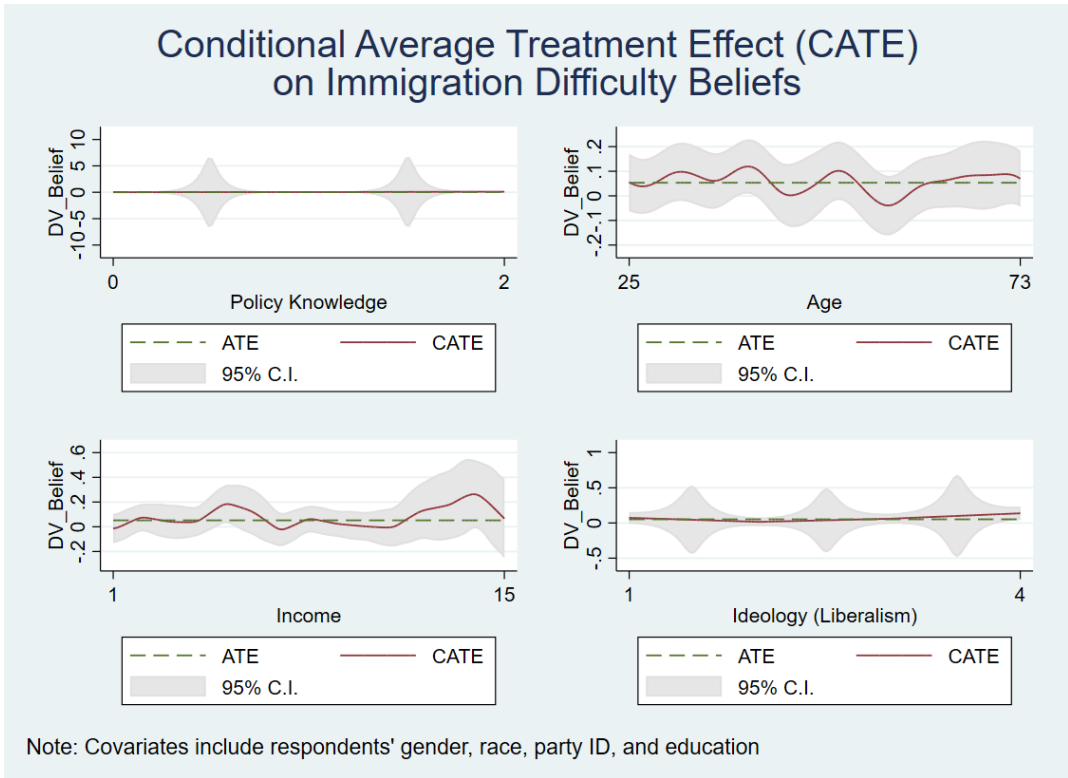


Figure A2. Doubly robust conditional average treatment effect (CATE) function and uniform confidence bands on Immigration Difficulty Beliefs. Estimated using the 'DRCATE' stata program. Combined treatment.

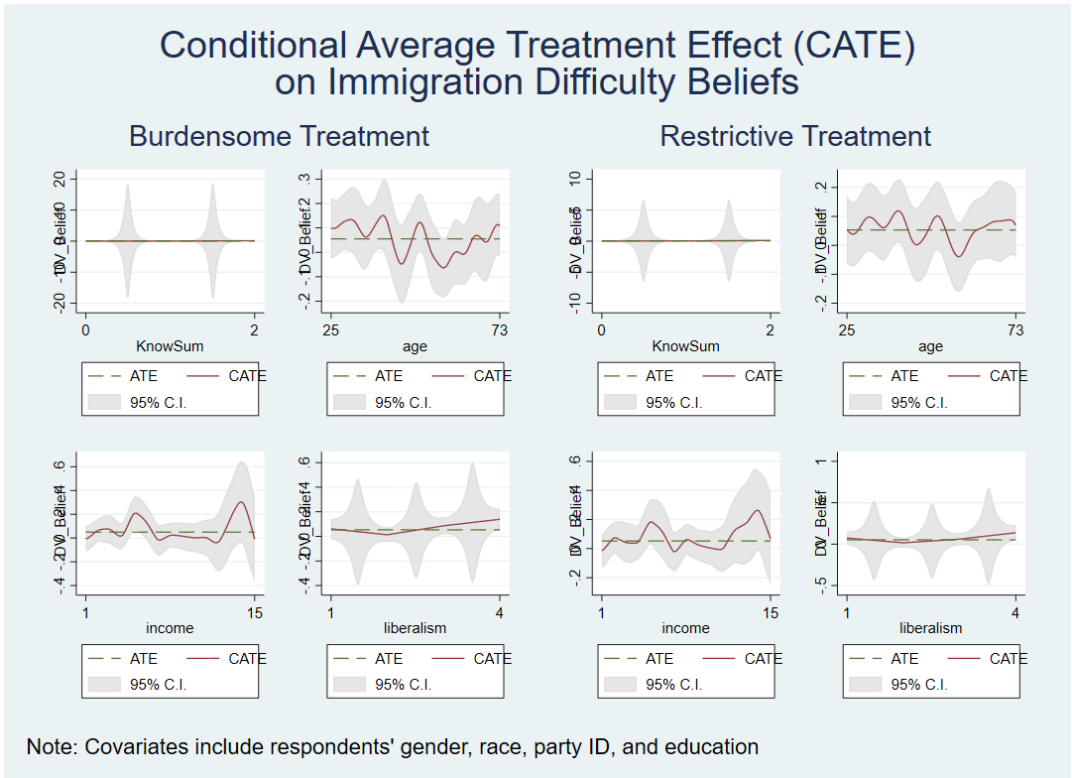


Figure A3. Doubly robust conditional average treatment effect (CATE) function and uniform confidence bands on Immigration Difficulty Beliefs. Estimated using the 'DRCATE' stata program. Treatment broken up by 'Burdensome' and 'Restrictive'.

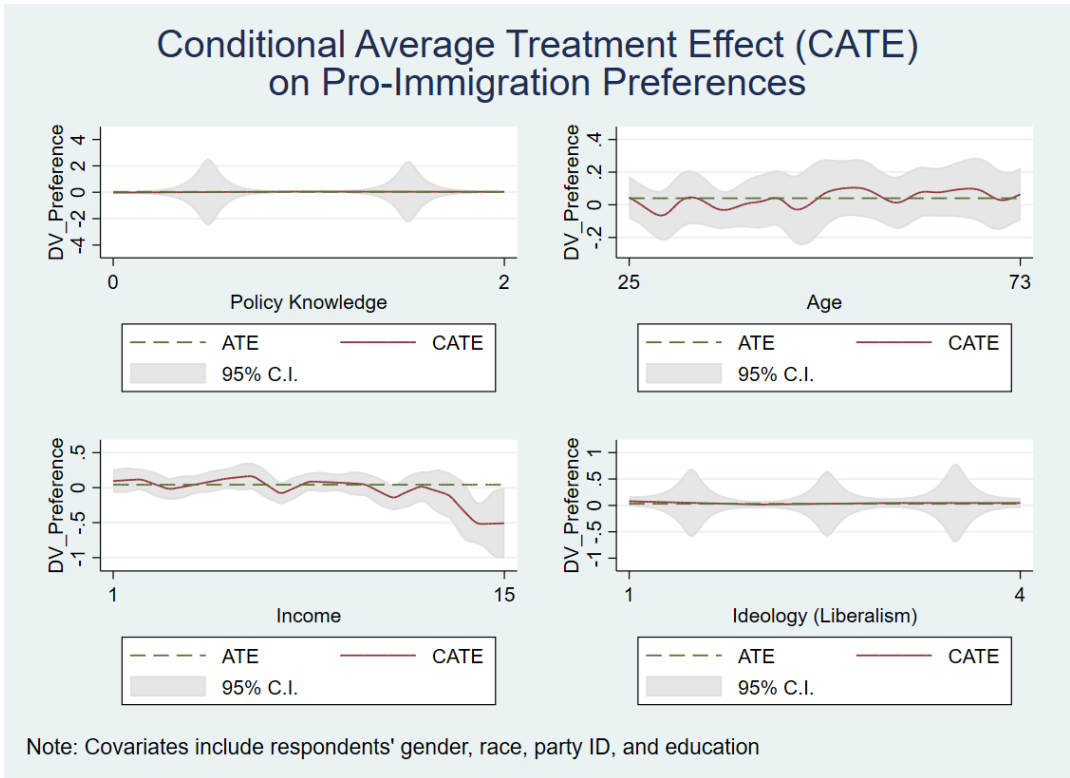
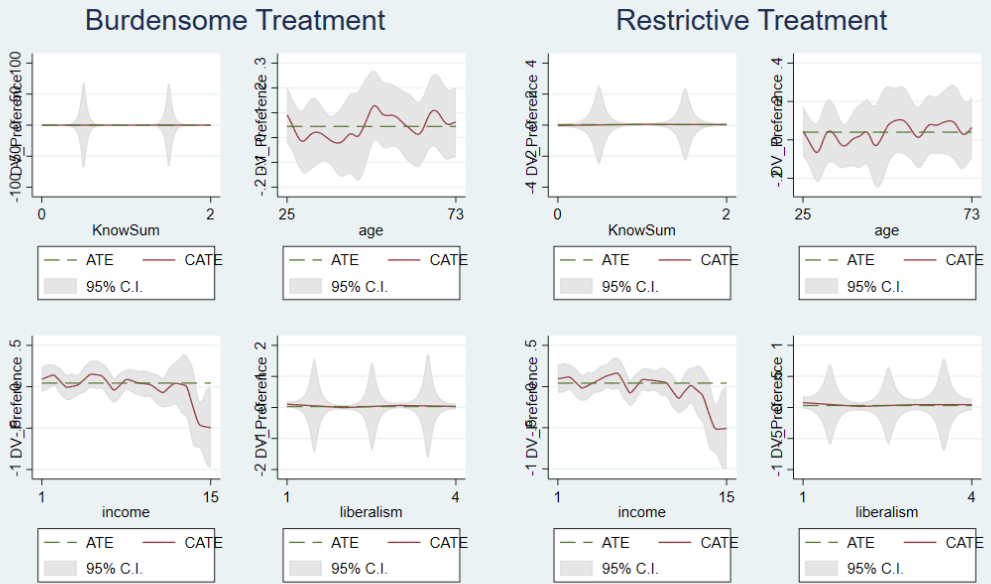


Figure A4. Doubly robust conditional average treatment effect (CATE) function and uniform confidence bands on Pro Immigration Beliefs. Estimated using the 'DRCATE' stata program. Combined treatment.

Conditional Average Treatment Effect (CATE) on Pro-Immigration Beliefs



Note: Covariates include respondents' gender, race, party ID, and education

Figure A5. Doubly robust conditional average treatment effect (CATE) function and uniform confidence bands on Pro Immigration Beliefs. Estimated using the 'DRCATE' stata program. Treatment broken up by 'Burdensome' and 'Restrictive'.

Table A1. (Positive) Effects of Immigration Policy Information on Beliefs and Preferences. This table depicts the pre-registered hypotheses tests shown in Figure 1 and the tests with additional pre-treatment controls for greater precision.

	Dependent variable:								
	Believe Immigration is Difficult				Pro-Immigration Preference				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	
Combined Treatment	0.062*** (0.016)		0.058*** (0.015)		0.066*** (0.018)		0.067*** (0.016)		
Burdensome Treatment		0.056** (0.018)		0.054** (0.017)		0.066** (0.020)		0.073*** (0.019)	
Restrictive Treatment		0.069*** (0.018)		0.062*** (0.017)		0.067** (0.021)		0.060** (0.019)	
Policy knowledge (visa almost correct)			0.223*** (0.051)	0.224*** (0.051)			0.253*** (0.056)	0.253*** (0.056)	
Female			0.028* (0.014)	0.028* (0.014)			-0.019 (0.015)	-0.019 (0.015)	
Old (40+)			-0.008 (0.015)	-0.008 (0.015)			-0.113*** (0.016)	-0.114*** (0.016)	
White Non-Hisp.			0.033* (0.017)	0.033* (0.017)			0.019 (0.018)	0.018 (0.018)	
Spanish-speaking			0.020 (0.024)	0.019 (0.024)			-0.018 (0.026)	-0.017 (0.026)	
College-educated			0.069*** (0.016)	0.069*** (0.016)			0.051** (0.018)	0.052** (0.018)	
High-income			0.047* (0.018)	0.047** (0.018)			0.041* (0.020)	0.040* (0.020)	
Independent			-0.071*** (0.016)	-0.071*** (0.016)			-0.104*** (0.018)	-0.104*** (0.018)	
Republican			-0.161*** (0.018)	-0.161*** (0.018)			-0.211*** (0.020)	-0.211*** (0.020)	
Constant	0.577*** (0.013)	0.577*** (0.013)	0.500*** (0.028)	0.499*** (0.028)	0.489*** (0.014)	0.489*** (0.014)	0.533*** (0.031)	0.534*** (0.031)	
Observations	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
R ²	0.016	0.016	0.155	0.155	0.014	0.014	0.206	0.206	
Adjusted R ²	0.015	0.014	0.146	0.146	0.013	0.012	0.198	0.197	
Note:								Standard errors in parentheses * p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001	

Table A2. Heterogeneous Treatment Effects on Immigration Difficulty Beliefs. This table depicts the (underpowered) exploratory analyses for possible heterogeneous treatment effects across different subgroups.

	Dependent variable:								
	Believe Immigration is Difficult								
	Policy knowledge (1)	Female (2)	Old (40+) (3)	White Non-Hisp. (4)	Spanish-speaking (5)	College-educated (6)	High-income (7)	Party ID (Independent) (8)	Party ID (Republican) (9)
Combined Treatment	0.049* (0.025)	0.053** (0.022)	0.089*** (0.025)	0.082*** (0.025)	0.060*** (0.017)	0.061*** (0.018)	0.072*** (0.017)	0.089*** (0.026)	0.089*** (0.026)
Subgroup	0.043* (0.026)	0.025 (0.025)	0.002 (0.026)	0.032 (0.026)	-0.008 (0.038)	0.093*** (0.027)	0.111*** (0.031)	-0.031 (0.029)	-0.156*** (0.030)
Treatment × Subgroup	0.020 (0.032)	0.018 (0.031)	-0.041 (0.032)	-0.033 (0.032)	0.016 (0.047)	0.006 (0.033)	-0.047 (0.039)	-0.074** (0.035)	-0.018 (0.038)
Observations	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
R ²	0.029	0.022	0.020	0.017	0.016	0.052	0.036	0.097	0.097
Adjusted R ²	0.026	0.019	0.017	0.014	0.013	0.049	0.033	0.093	0.093

Note: Standard errors in parentheses
* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001

Table A3. Heterogeneous Treatment Effects on Pro-Immigration Preferences. This table depicts the (underpowered) exploratory analyses for possible heterogeneous treatment effects across different subgroups.

	Dependent variable:								
	Pro-Immigration Preference								
	Policy knowledge (1)	Female (2)	Old (40+) (3)	White Non-Hisp. (4)	Spanish-speaking (5)	College-educated (6)	High-income (7)	Party ID (Independent) (8)	Party ID (Republican) (9)
Combined Treatment	0.083*** (0.029)	0.062** (0.026)	0.048* (0.028)	0.081*** (0.028)	0.074*** (0.019)	0.061*** (0.021)	0.082*** (0.020)	0.087*** (0.028)	0.087*** (0.028)
Subgroup	0.053* (0.030)	-0.015 (0.029)	-0.162*** (0.029)	-0.003 (0.029)	0.034 (0.043)	0.072** (0.031)	0.124*** (0.036)	-0.069** (0.032)	-0.231*** (0.034)
Treatment × Subgroup	-0.027 (0.037)	0.008 (0.036)	0.042 (0.036)	-0.023 (0.036)	-0.064 (0.054)	0.017 (0.038)	-0.076* (0.045)	-0.070* (0.039)	-0.012 (0.043)
Observations	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
R ²	0.018	0.014	0.073	0.015	0.015	0.034	0.029	0.137	0.137
Adjusted R ²	0.015	0.011	0.070	0.012	0.012	0.031	0.026	0.132	0.132

Note: Standard errors in parentheses
* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001

Table A4. Heterogeneous Treatment Effects on Immigration Difficulty Beliefs. This table depicts the exploratory analyses for possible heterogeneous treatment effects across different subgroups and treatment arms.

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>								
	Believe Immigration is Difficult								
	Policy knowledge	Female	Old (40+)	White Non-Hisp.	Spanish-speaking	College-educated	High-income	Party ID (Independent)	Party ID (Republican)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Burdensome Treatment	0.038 (0.029)	0.038 (0.026)	0.125*** (0.030)	0.068** (0.030)	0.055*** (0.019)	0.056*** (0.021)	0.073*** (0.020)	0.087*** (0.030)	0.087*** (0.030)
Restrictive Treatment	0.061** (0.029)	0.069*** (0.026)	0.057* (0.029)	0.092*** (0.028)	0.066*** (0.020)	0.066*** (0.022)	0.072*** (0.020)	0.091*** (0.029)	0.091*** (0.029)
Subgroup	0.043* (0.026)	0.025 (0.025)	0.002 (0.026)	0.032 (0.026)	-0.008 (0.038)	0.093*** (0.027)	0.111*** (0.031)	-0.031 (0.029)	-0.156*** (0.030)
Burdensome × Subgroup	0.027 (0.037)	0.034 (0.036)	-0.100*** (0.037)	-0.023 (0.037)	0.006 (0.059)	0.006 (0.039)	-0.085* (0.044)	-0.063 (0.041)	-0.037 (0.044)
Restrictive × Subgroup	0.014 (0.037)	0.001 (0.036)	0.020 (0.037)	-0.040 (0.037)	0.019 (0.052)	0.006 (0.039)	-0.001 (0.046)	-0.086** (0.041)	0.007 (0.045)
Observations	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
R ²	0.030	0.023	0.029	0.018	0.016	0.052	0.039	0.097	0.097
Adjusted R ²	0.025	0.018	0.025	0.013	0.011	0.049	0.034	0.093	0.093

Note: Standard errors in parentheses
* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001

Table A5. Heterogeneous Treatment Effects on Pro-Immigration Preferences. This table depicts the exploratory analyses for possible heterogeneous treatment effects across different subgroups and treatment arms.

	Dependent variable:								
	Pro-immigration Preferences								
	Policy knowledge	Female	Old (40+)	White Non-Hisp.	Spanish-speaking	College-educated	High-income	Party ID (Independent)	Party ID (Republican)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
Burdensome Treatment	0.057* (0.033)	0.044 (0.029)	0.064* (0.034)	0.079*** (0.034)	0.070*** (0.022)	0.056** (0.024)	0.082*** (0.023)	0.106*** (0.033)	0.106*** (0.033)
Restrictive Treatment	0.110*** (0.034)	0.081*** (0.030)	0.034 (0.033)	0.082** (0.032)	0.079*** (0.023)	0.067*** (0.025)	0.082*** (0.023)	0.070** (0.033)	0.070** (0.033)
Subgroup	0.053* (0.030)	-0.015 (0.029)	-0.162*** (0.029)	-0.003 (0.029)	0.034 (0.043)	0.072** (0.031)	0.124*** (0.036)	-0.069** (0.032)	-0.231*** (0.034)
Burdensome × Subgroup	0.012 (0.042)	0.042 (0.041)	0.023 (0.042)	-0.020 (0.043)	-0.035 (0.067)	0.040 (0.044)	-0.081 (0.051)	-0.100** (0.045)	-0.018 (0.049)
Restrictive × Subgroup	-0.069 (0.043)	-0.028 (0.042)	0.059 (0.042)	-0.028 (0.042)	-0.083 (0.059)	-0.005 (0.045)	-0.069 (0.053)	-0.039 (0.046)	-0.011 (0.051)
Observations	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
R ²	0.022	0.017	0.074	0.015	0.016	0.035	0.029	0.139	0.139
Adjusted R ²	0.017	0.012	0.069	0.010	0.011	0.030	0.024	0.132	0.132

Note: Standard errors in parentheses
* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001

3. Pilot Survey Instrument



Figure A6. Immigration Maze Political Cartoon

Combined Information Treatment [includes the maze graphic from Figure above]:

The US immigration system is complex, burdensome, and restrictive.

There are nearly two hundred different visa types, which makes it difficult to know which visa a potential immigrant can apply for, if any. Applying for a visa is also burdensome in terms of money and waiting time. Application fees and legal consultation costs thousands of dollars. The application fee to become a permanent resident is \$1,140 without legal fees. Legal fees for petitioning a spouse of a US citizen to obtain permanent residency, one of the simplest processes, costs around \$3,000.

Additionally, the average wait time for a visa appointment is 244 days, and some wait over two years. This doesn't include the time it takes to become eligible for a visa, or for application processing (which can take more than a year depending on the visa type). The difficulty, cost, and long wait times of the immigration process makes it impractical for many.

There is also a yearly numerical cap of about 220,000 for family-based visa categories and 140,000 for employment-based visas. This means that, if someone received a job offer from a willing employer after the employment-based visa cap was already filled, they would have to wait until at least the next year before being allowed to try immigrating again.

Additional restrictions may apply based on immigrant's country of origin. For example, family members of US citizens from certain countries wait for decades before they can immigrate to become permanent residents. Some foreign workers may also have to wait for decades to obtain permanent residency for which they are otherwise eligible. As of 2022, applicants from the most impacted countries are only now processing applications from the early to mid-2000s because of how restrictive the immigration system is.

Racial resentment [0-1 index calculated as the average of the following four items, considered high in racial resentment if scored ≥ 0.5]

- Irish, Italian, and Jewish ethnicities overcame prejudice and worked their way up. Blacks should do the same without any special favors.

- Generations of slavery and discrimination have created conditions that make it difficult for blacks to work their way out of the lower class.
- Over the past few years, blacks have gotten less than they deserve.
- It's really a matter of some people just not trying hard enough: if blacks would only try harder they could be just as well off as whites.

[Strongly agree / Somewhat agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Somewhat disagree / Strongly disagree]

4. Pre-Registration Analysis Plan

Also available on the Open Science Framework: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/XVH8Q>

Study Information

Hypotheses

H1: Receiving relevant information about the difficulty of legal immigration to the United States will increase respondents' awareness of this difficulty.

H2: Receiving relevant information about the difficulty of legal immigration to the United States will increase respondents' support for more open legal immigration policies.

Design Plan

Study type Experiment – A researcher randomly assigns treatments to study subjects, this includes field or lab experiments. This is also known as an intervention experiment and includes randomized controlled trials.

Blinding Personnel who interact directly with the study subjects (either human or non-human subjects) will not be aware of the assigned treatments. (Commonly known as “double blind”)

Is there any additional blinding in this study? *No response.*

Study design Pre-treatment, the subjects will be asked about their factual knowledge about the issue. Respondents will then be randomly exposed to one of the informational treatments with an encouragement to read it carefully. Post-treatment, respondents will complete a set of immigration preference items and a set of manipulation checks. The proposed two burdensome and restrictive 150-word treatments build on the publicly available information about various aspects of the immigration process in a form of an accessible, verifiable, and non-judgmental narrative. The burdensome treatment conveys that immigration application and legal fees amount to thousands of dollars and going through the right process takes many years. The restrictive treatment conveys that there is a limited number of immigrant visas available each year and that, depending on one's origin country, some immigrants may not be able to obtain permanent residency for which they are otherwise eligible. The control/placebo condition mentions policy-neutral facts about immigration. We are agnostic about which information would be more effective. Overall, using simple randomization 1/3 of respondents will be exposed to each of the two treatment conditions plus a further 1/3 of respondents will be exposed to a placebo condition—a text mentioning policy-neutral facts about immigration.

Randomization We will use simple randomization in which each participant will be randomly assigned to either the control or one of the treatment groups as described above.

Sampling Plan

Existing Data Registration prior to creation of data

Explanation of existing data As of the date of submission of this research plan for preregistration, the data have not yet been collected, created, or realized.

Data collection procedures The study will be based on a probability-based, nationally representative survey experiment (N=1000) in a reputable online panel of US adults.

Sample size 1000

Sample size rationale The sample size of the survey experiment (N = 1000) is determined conservatively based on having a sufficiently high statistical power of 80% to detect a small effect (0.04 on the 0-1 index scale) of providing information treatment on pro-immigration preference

index at $\alpha = 0.05$ for Hypotheses 1 and 2. This assumes, in line with the latest representative 2020 ANES benchmark data, the pro-immigration preference index mean of 0.5 out of 1 with the SD of 0.3 in the control group and a small treatment effect ($d = 0.2$ or 0.06 on the 0-1 index scale).

Stopping rule *No response*

Variables

Manipulated variables

The burdensome treatment conveys that immigration application and legal fees amount to thousands of dollars and going through the right process takes many years. The restrictive treatment conveys that there is a limited number of immigrant visas available each year and that, depending on one's origin country, some immigrants may not be able to obtain permanent residency for which they are otherwise eligible. The control/placebo condition mentions policy-neutral facts about immigration.

Using simple randomization 1/3 of respondents will be exposed to each of the two treatments plus a further 1/3 of respondents will be exposed to a placebo condition—a text mentioning policy-neutral facts about immigration.

Measured variables Immigration policy preferences (post-treatment): [0-1 index calculated as the average of the following two items] –Do you think it should be easier or harder for foreigners to legally immigrate to the United States than it is currently? [Much harder / Harder / Neither harder nor easier / Easier / Much easier] –Do you think the number of legal immigrants from foreign countries who are permitted to come to the United States should be increased a lot, increased a little, decreased a little, or decreased a lot? [Increased a lot / Increased a little / Neither increased nor decreased / Decreased a little / Decreased a lot]

Manipulation checks / immigration difficulty awareness (post-treatment) [2 units] [0-1 index calculated as the average of the following two items] –How burdensome do you think it is to legally immigrate to the US (in terms of time or money spent on the application process)? [Very burdensome / A little burdensome / Not very burdensome / Not burdensome at all] –Do you think the annual limit on the number of people who can legally immigrate to the US is high or low? [Very high / A little high / A little low / Very low]

Indices We will create 0-1 indices (calculated as simple averages) for both major dependent variables as described above. Since we are agnostic about which information would be more effective, we will combine the two treatment arms to test our hypotheses.

Analysis Plan

Statistical models Given a random assignment, to test our two main hypotheses we will simply compare the mean values for relevant issue importance indices between the combined treatment and the control/placebo groups.

Transformations We will create indices for the main outcome variables as described above.

Inference criteria For all hypotheses, we will use the standard $p < .05$ criteria for determining if the simple difference-in-means test (between experimental and control groups) suggests that the results are significantly different from those expected if the null hypothesis were correct.

Data exclusion No screening questions or attention checks will be used to remove respondents.

Missing data We will exclude all participants who have missing data in any of the main outcome or treatment variables.

Exploratory analysis We plan to explore the relationship between the outcomes and various sociodemographic and political characteristics of respondents.

5. Reporting Standards for Experiments

Adapted from our OSF pre-registration plan: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/XVH8Q>

5.1 Hypotheses

H1: Receiving relevant information about the difficulty of legal immigration to the United States will increase respondents' awareness of this difficulty.

H2: Receiving relevant information about the difficulty of legal immigration to the United States will increase respondents' support for more open legal immigration policies.

5.2 Subjects and Context

Data collection procedures The study will be based on a probability-based, nationally representative survey experiment (N=1000) in a reputable online panel of US adults.

Sample size 1000

Sample size rationale The sample size of the survey experiment (N = 1000) is determined conservatively based on having a sufficiently high statistical power of 80 percent to detect a small effect (0.04 on the 0-1 index scale) of providing information treatment on pro-immigration preference index at $\alpha = 0.05$ for Hypotheses 1 and 2. This assumes, in line with the latest representative 2020 ANES benchmark data, the pro-immigration preference index mean of 0.5 out of 1 with the SD of 0.3 in the control group and a small treatment effect ($d = 0.2$ or 0.06 on the 0-1 index scale).

5.3 Allocation Method

Using simple randomization 1/3 of respondents will be exposed to each of the two treatments plus a further 1/3 of respondents will be exposed to a placebo condition—a text mentioning policy-neutral facts about immigration.

5.4 Treatments

The proposed two burdensome and restrictive 150-word treatments build on the publicly available information about various aspects of the immigration process in a form of an accessible, verifiable, and non-judgmental narrative. The burdensome treatment conveys that immigration application and legal fees amount to thousands of dollars and going through the right process takes many years. The restrictive treatment conveys that there is a limited number of immigrant visas available each year and that, depending on one's origin country, some immigrants may not be able to obtain permanent residency for which they are otherwise eligible. The control/placebo condition mentions policy-neutral facts about immigration. We are agnostic about which information would be more effective. Overall, using simple randomization 1/3 of respondents will be exposed to each of the two treatment conditions plus a further 1/3 of respondents will be exposed to a placebo condition—a text mentioning policy-neutral facts about immigration.

5.5 Results

Statistical models Given a random assignment, to test our two main hypotheses we will simply compare the mean values for relevant issue importance indices between the combined treatment and the control/placebo groups.

Transformations We will create indices (see more information below) for the main outcome variables as described above.

Inference criteria For all hypotheses, we will use the standard $p < .05$ criteria for determining if

the simple difference-in-means test (between experimental and control groups) suggests that the results are significantly different from those expected if the null hypothesis were correct.

5.6 Other Information

Measured Outcome Variables Immigration policy preferences (post-treatment): [0-1 index calculated as the average of the following two items] –Do you think it should be easier or harder for foreigners to legally immigrate to the United States than it is currently? [Much harder / Harder / Neither harder nor easier / Easier / Much easier] –Do you think the number of legal immigrants from foreign countries who are permitted to come to the United States should be increased a lot, increased a little, decreased a little, or decreased a lot? [Increased a lot / Increased a little / Neither increased nor decreased / Decreased a little / Decreased a lot]

Manipulation checks / immigration difficulty awareness (post-treatment) [2 units] [0-1 index calculated as the average of the following two items] –How burdensome do you think it is to legally immigrate to the US (in terms of time or money spent on the application process)? [Very burdensome / A little burdensome / Not very burdensome / Not burdensome at all] –Do you think the annual limit on the number of people who can legally immigrate to the US is high or low? [Very high / A little high / A little low / Very low]

Indices We will create 0-1 indices (calculated as simple averages) for both major dependent variables as described above. Since we are agnostic about which information would be more effective, we will combine the two treatment arms to test our hypotheses.