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## **Pearson Institute/AP-NORC Poll: Few view Mexico as a close ally, but many say the U.S. and Mexico share responsibility for border issues**

*69% have a favorable opinion of Mexican immigrants living in the U.S. legally, but only 20% have a favorable view of Mexican immigrants living in the U.S. illegally*

**CHICAGO, October 19, 2023** – Only 16% of adults view Mexico as a close ally, compared to 62% who say the same about Canada. However, majorities of adults believe the U.S and Mexican governments share a responsibility to prevent illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

These are among the findings of a new study from [The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts at the University of Chicago](#) and [The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research](#) released today ahead of the [2023 Pearson Global Forum](#). The Forum on October 20<sup>th</sup> will bring together researchers and policymakers to address these issues and develop strategies to prevent and resolve international conflicts.

About 7 in 10 describe the U.S. relationship with Mexico as at least friendly, while 3 in 10 describe it as more adversarial.

Sixty-four percent say both the U.S. and Mexican governments are responsible for preventing immigrants from Mexico entering the U.S. illegally and 73% say both are responsible for preventing illegal drug trafficking. Yet, 62% believe only the Mexican government is responsible for combating organized crime in Mexico.

Sixty-five percent of adults have a favorable view of Mexican culture, and majorities of the public report engaging with Mexican culture within the U.S. (60%) and interacting with people of Mexican heritage (83%).

“This study shows that many adults in the U.S. engage with Mexican culture, and this engagement is related to their attitudes toward Mexican immigrants,” said Sheila Kohanteb, Forum Executive Director at The Pearson Institute for Study and Resolution of Global Conflict. “People who have engaged with Mexican culture in the U.S. are more likely than those who have not to hold favorable opinions of Mexican immigrants living in the U.S. both legally and illegally.”

Eight in 10 Americans think preventing illegal immigration across the U.S.-Mexico border is an important foreign policy goal and more than 7 in 10 say the same for creating more opportunities for legal immigration and increasing trade with Mexico. Fewer view reducing inequality and poverty in Mexico as important.

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to prioritize creating more opportunities for legal immigration (57% vs. 25%), whereas Republicans are more likely than Democrats to prioritize preventing illegal immigration at the U.S.-Mexico border (80% vs. 35%).

“The public believes immigration is a key U.S. foreign policy issue with Mexico that both countries are responsible for improving,” said David Sterrett, a senior research scientist with The AP-NORC Center. “Most adults view Mexican immigrants living in the U.S. legally favorably, but few have positive views of Mexican immigrants living in the U.S. illegally.”

### **About the Study**

This study was funded by The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts at the University of Chicago and conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Staff from the Pearson Institute, at Harris Public Policy, and The AP-NORC Center collaborated on all aspects of the study. Interviews for this survey were conducted between September 21 and September 25, 2023, with adults age 18 and older representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,191 completed the survey. Interviews were conducted in English. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.8 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect.

A full description of the study methodology for the survey can be found at the end of the report on [www.apnorc.org](http://www.apnorc.org)

### **About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research**

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is an independent global news organization dedicated to factual reporting. Founded in 1846, AP today remains the most trusted source of fast, accurate, unbiased news in all formats and the essential provider of the technology and services vital to the news business. More than half the world’s population sees AP journalism every day. [www.ap.org](http://www.ap.org)
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest objective and nonpartisan research institutions in the world. [www.norc.org](http://www.norc.org)

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals. In its 10 years, The AP-NORC Center has conducted more than 250 studies exploring the critical issues facing the public, covering topics like health care, the economy, COVID-19, trust in media, and more. Learn more at [www.apnorc.org](http://www.apnorc.org).

### **About the Pearson Institute**

The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts at the University of Chicago promotes the ongoing discussion, understanding and resolution of global conflicts, and contributes to the advancement of a global society more at peace. Established through a grant from The Thomas L. Pearson and The Pearson Family Members Foundation, and led by Institute Director James Robinson, co-author of *Why Nations Fail* and *The Narrow Corridor*, the Institute achieves this by employing an analytically rigorous, data-driven approach and global perspective to understanding violent conflict. It is global in its scope, activities and footprint. Attracting students and scholars from around the world, its faculty is in the field studying conflicts – and approaches to conflict resolution – in Nigeria, Colombia and Afghanistan, to name just a few. 2023 marks the sixth consecutive year of the Pearson Global Forum.

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