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Disease

Today, tens of thousands of immigrants from third-world countries are bringing numerous diseases back into America that had been eliminated from the population. Sandra Nazario wrote, in her book *Enrique's Journey*, about thousands of immigrant children from third-world countries in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. They are traveling to the U.S. by riding on top of trains in search of their mothers who have abandoned them in order to find employment in America. As a result of U.S. law stating that these children cannot be turned away, immigrant children are appreciating protection and treatment, but at the same time, they are bringing many diseases into America. Central American immigrant children are living in improvised countries that are causing them to contract deadly diseases that have already been eradicated from the American population; these children are bringing them to America, which is causing the spread of diseases and creating a burden on the American health care system.

Immigrant children are leaving their poor countries American citizens are spending money on treatment for immigrant children who were raped on their journey to the U.S. by gangs in Mexico. Luiza Savage and David Argen stated in "Running for Their Lives," "Some children have been robbed, assaulted or even raped by the time they reach the desert borderlands between Mexico and the U.S." (1). Immigrant children are trying to leave countries that are replete with gangs. They are getting diseases from being raped by other gangs on their journey to the U.S. Savage and Argen then gave the cause in "Running for Their Lives," "The President asked

Congress to authorize new spending of U.S. \$3.7 billion to help temporarily care for the children” (2). In brief, Americans are spending money on the immigrant children for treatment. The American people fear that if the children are going to be in the U.S. they will spread diseases and the U.S. wants to get the disease outbreak under control. Other reasons immigrants are heading to the U.S. are things such as poverty and gang violence.

Poverty and gang violence are causing many immigrants to come to the U.S. with diseases, causing a widespread disease outbreak. Luiza Savage and David Argen stated in “Running for Their Lives,” “They are coming mainly from the violent and poverty-stricken Central American nations... Some children have been robbed, assaulted or even raped” (1). To clarify, poverty and gang violence are causing the children to catch diseases. These children have had a mutual agreement to go to the U.S. for protection and medicine. Cort Kirkwood wrote in “A Resurgence of Deadly Diseases,” “Among the deadly maladies pouring across the border is tuberculosis, mostly wiped out in modern America” (19). In other words, immigrants coming to the U.S. have spread their diseases throughout the country. A lot of the diseases they pick up are highly contagious and some are even airborne, so when they cough it goes into American air that American citizens are breathing. Vaccines and medical care are important in keeping people from getting certain diseases, but third world countries are too poor to have such necessities so they are going to the U.S. for them.

Lack of vaccines and medical care in foreign countries are causing many diseased immigrants to come to the U.S. where money is being spent to vaccinate and treat them. Jennifer Harper explains in “84 percent of patients infected with MDR-TB “were foreign born” and that of those infected are four times as likely to die from the disease and twice as likely to “transmit the disease to others”... TB Seen in Many Aliens, Study Says; Costs May Rise in Border States”

that the U.S.-Mexico Border Counties Coalition, found that, “The four states bordering Mexico are still owed more than \$200 million in costs from the emergency treatment and transport of ailing or injured illegals” (2). In simpler terms, Immigrants are catching all kinds of diseases because there is a lack of medical care and vaccines in their poor countries. This is causing immigrants to go the U.S. for treatment. Luiza Savage and David Argen argued in “Running for Their Lives,” “The Federal Emergency Management Agency is scrambling to get the kids out of detention facilities and into shelters to receive medical exams, vaccinations, and counseling” (1). For the most part, America is spending millions of dollars on immigrants to vaccinate and treat them. Immigrants don’t have any means of vaccination to keep them from getting diseases and so they are coming to the U.S. for vaccinations and at the same time spreading the deadly diseases.

American citizens are spending money on treatment and vaccinations for immigrant children, who come from poverty and unsanitary conditions. Central Americans are coming from countries that lack vaccines and medical care, such as Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, and are making their way to the U.S. for treatment and better living conditions. But on their journey to the U.S. the Central Americans are being sexually assaulted and catching diseases, and then bringing the diseases to America and spreading such diseases causing a widespread disease outbreak. This situation is similar to the Industrial Revolution in the late 1900s when there were many job opportunities that immigrants from Eastern and Western Europe sought to acquire. Along with the immigrants came many diseases that were spread quickly and deadly through American cities. These Immigrants were shoved into small corners of towns called slums and from there the diseases and illnesses became worse.

Works Cited

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