

## Strategic Memo

**Five Questions**

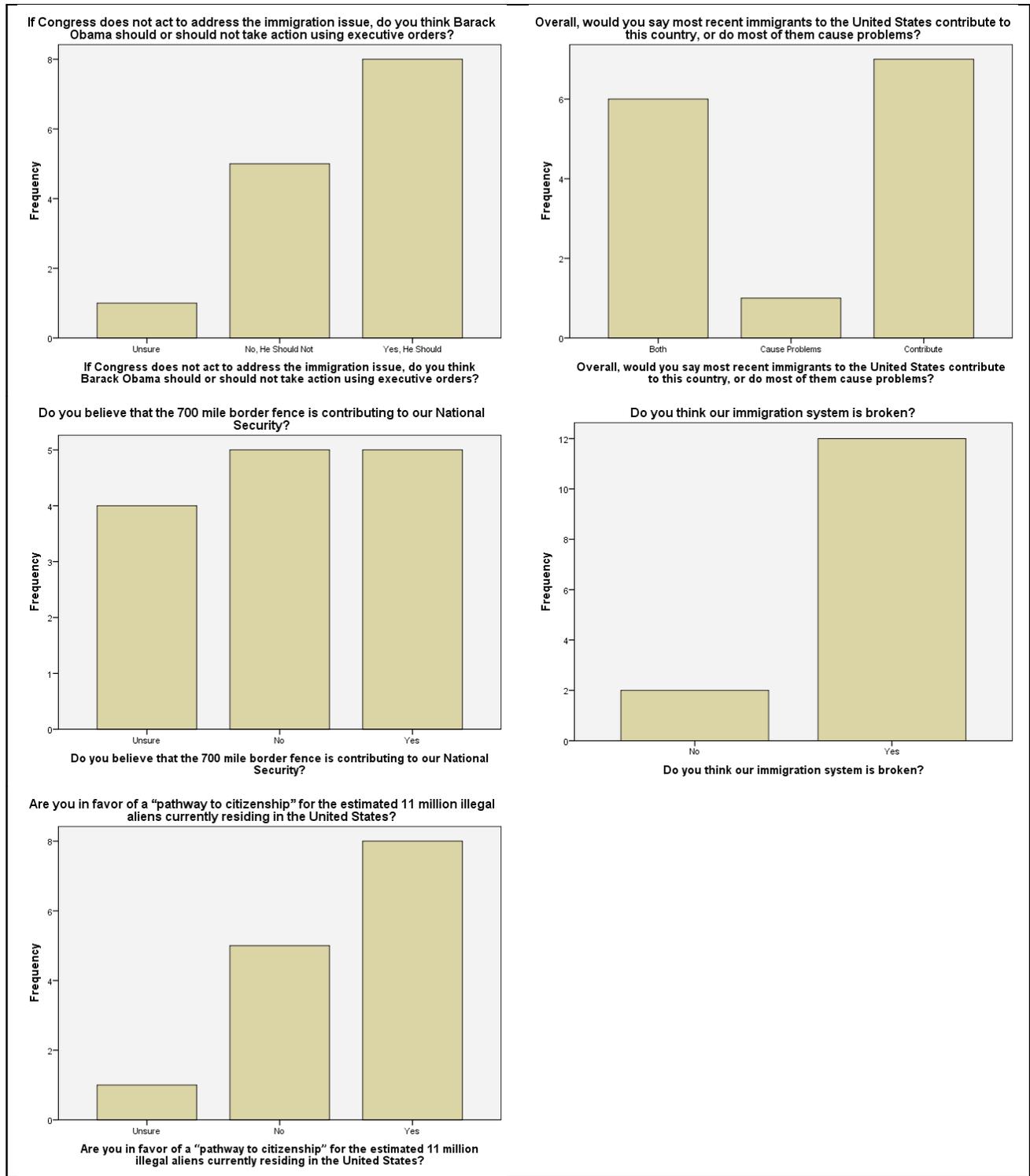
The five questions analyzed in this memo are as follows:

- ❑ If Congress does not act to address the immigration issue, do you think Barack Obama should or should not take action using executive orders?
- ❑ Overall, would you say most recent immigrants to the United States contribute to this country, or do most of them cause problems?
- ❑ Do you believe that a 700-mile border fence is contributing to our national security?
- ❑ Do you think our immigration system is broken?
- ❑ Are you in favor of a “pathway to citizenship” for the estimated 11 million illegal aliens currently residing in the United States?

**Descriptive Statistics of Five Questions, Including Cross-Tabulations**

		If Congress does not act to address the immigration issue, do you think Barack Obama should or should not take action using executive orders?	Overall, would you say most recent immigrants to the United States contribute to this country, or do most of them cause problems?	Do you believe that a 700-mile border fence is contributing to our National Security?	Do you think our immigration system is broken?	Are you in favor of a “pathway to citizenship” for the estimated 11 million illegal aliens currently residing in the United States?
N	Valid	14	14	14	14	14
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0
Mean		1.50	1.07	1.07	1.86	1.50
Median		2.00	1.50	1.00	2.00	2.00
Mode		2	2	1 <sup>a</sup>	2	2
Std. Deviation		.650	.997	.829	.363	.650
Variance		.423	.995	.687	.132	.423

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

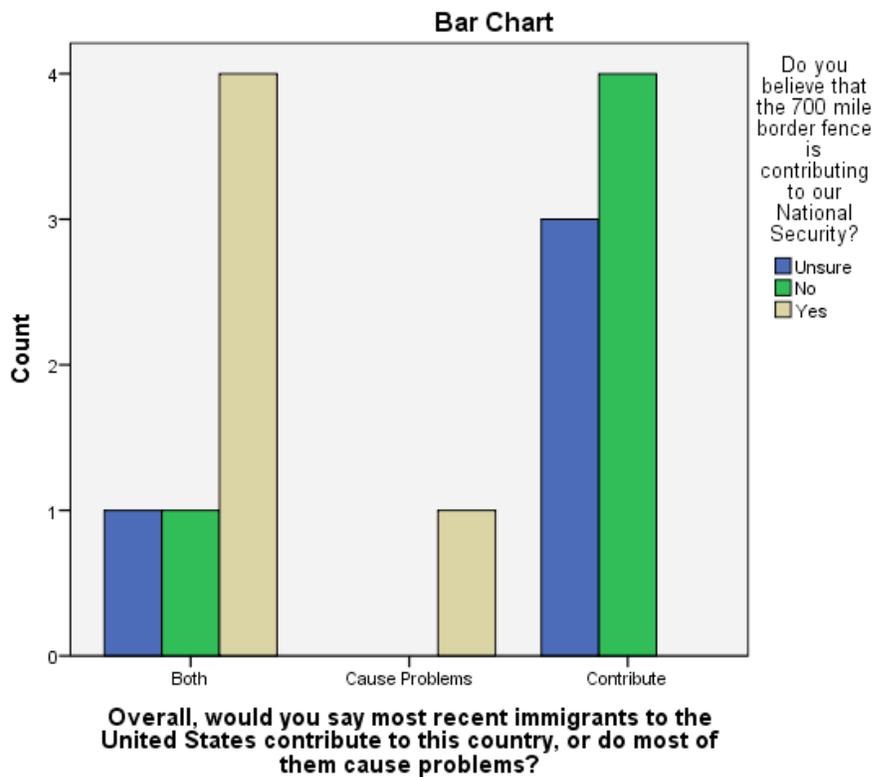
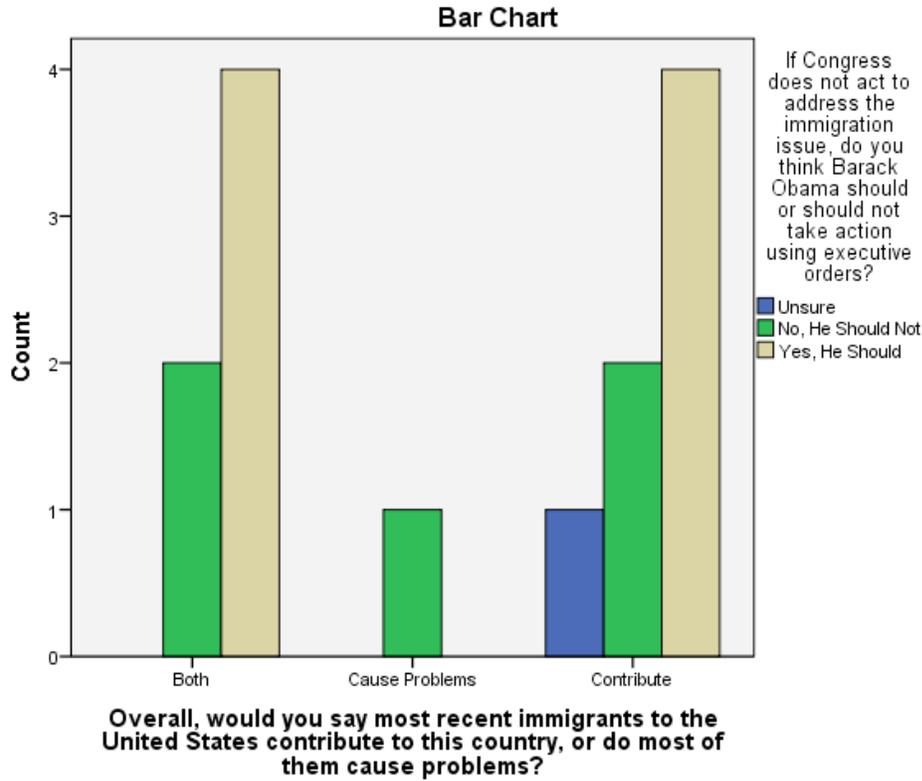


The results indicate the following:

- ❑ Most (57.1%) of the respondents believe the President should take executive action if Congress does not act to address the immigration issue.
- ❑ Exactly half (50%) of the respondents believe that immigrants contribute to the United States, but 42.9% of the respondents believe that immigrants both contribute *and* cause problems.
- ❑ There is a great deal of variability in perceptions of the usefulness of the border fence, with 35.7% of respondents believing that the fence contributed to national security, 35.7% of the respondents believing that the fence did not contribute to national security, and 28.6% being unsure.
- ❑ Most (85.7%) of the respondents believe the immigration system is broken.
- ❑ There was mixed support for the pathway to citizenship, with 57.1% in favor and 35.7% opposed.

### **Patterns in the Data**

The use of cross-tabulated graphs makes it possible to determine how attitudes to one question were associated with attitudes associated with another question. Two graphs were created to reveal such patterns. In the first graph, the sample was divided into attitudes about the contribution of recent immigrants and measured in terms of attitudes towards executive action. In the second graph, the sample was also divided into attitudes about the contribution of recent immigrants and measured in terms of support of the border fence. The results indicate (a) broad support of executive action regardless of evaluation of immigrants and (b) more positive evaluations of the usefulness of the border fence among those who consider recent immigrants to create problems.



Note that the participant who believed that immigrants caused problems without also bringing benefits did not want the President to act on immigration reform. On the other hand, participants who believed that immigrants made some contribution, even if that contribution were mixed with problems, wanted President Obama to act. Supporters of executive reaction on immigration reform are therefore likely to have at least some positive views of the contributions made by immigrants.

Note also that participants who believed immigrants to make contributions (without any accompanying problems) did not believe that the border fence was helpful, while participants who cited the problems caused by immigrants were far more likely to believe that the border fence was helpful. It is possible that belief in immigrants' contributions colors the 'law and order' instinct according to which the fence is rated as helpful or not.

There is a clear split in the survey between two broad positions: (a) A position of support for immigrants that is also coupled with skepticism about the effectiveness of the border fence and a desire for executive action related to immigration reform and (b) a position of skepticism about immigration that is combined with a positive evaluation of the border fence. There does not appear to be much middle ground between these two groups.