

NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – AUGUST 12, 2021

Preliminary Statistics for the Month of July

- ◆ **August 2:** U.S. authorities likely picked up more than 19,000 unaccompanied children in July, according to David Shahoulian, assistant secretary for border and immigration policy at the Department of Homeland Security. The number of people encountered in families during July is expected at about 80,000. Overall, U.S. authorities stopped migrants about 210,000 times at the border in July. Over the first 29 days of July, authorities encountered a daily average of 6,779 people, including 616 unaccompanied children and 2,583 who came in families. *AP, 8/2/21*

Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP)

- ◆ **June 1:** The U.S. formally ended the Migrant Protection Protocols policy, which forced tens of thousands of Central American asylum-seekers to wait in Mexico for U.S. court cases. President Joe Biden paused the program shortly after he took office on January 20. Since then, more than 11,000 migrants enrolled in it have been allowed to enter the U.S. to pursue asylum claims. *Reuters, 6/1/21*

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- ◆ **July 16:** Judge Andrew Hanen blocked the administration from approving new applications for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (current recipients will remain unaffected for now). The judge ruled that the Department of Homeland Security could continue to process DACA renewals for now. *Politico, 7/16/21*

Zero Tolerance Policy

- ◆ **June 8:** The Reunification of Families Task Force released a progress report which determined that a total of 3,913 children were separated from their families at the U.S.-Mexico Border between July 1, 2017 and January 20, 2021. The report also states that there were 2,127 children for whom the Task Force did not have a confirmed record of reunification. *DHS, 6/8/21*

"Influx" Facilities for Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

- ◆ **June 30:** The administration began closing six emergency housing facilities that were used to accommodate unaccompanied children. Facilities include: Lackland Airforce Base in San Antonio, a former camp for oil workers in Midland, Texas, two other makeshift shelters in Carrizo Springs and Donna, Texas, and convention centers in San Diego and Long Beach, California. *CBS News, 6/30/21*
- ◆ **August 4:** There were a little more than 4,300 children in emergency shelters and about 10,100 in shelters with higher standards for care, according to government figures. *NYT, 8/6/21*
- ◆ **August 9:** Lawyers representing children in U.S. immigration custody asked a federal court to order the release of migrant teenagers from two emergency housing sites in Texas [Fort Bliss U.S. Army base and a camp for oil workers in Pecos, TX] where minors have reported prolonged stays and inadequate services. In their lawsuit, the attorneys accused the Biden administration of violating the 1997 Flores Settlement Agreement and its rules regarding the treatment of migrant children. *CBS News, 8/9/21*
- ◆ **August 9:** There were 15,282 children in HHS care, including 5,349 minors in emergency intake sites. *CNN, 8/10/21*
- ◆ **August 10:** Unaccompanied migrant children at a temporary facility in Pecos, Texas, reported poor conditions, including undercooked food, long wait times for medical attention and prolonged stays, according to court declarations filed August 9. As of July 23, 380 children had been held for 20 days or more at Pecos. *CNN, 8/10/21*

Border Wall

- ◆ **July 20:** Texas state troopers began arresting and charging migrants with trespassing in Del Rio for climbing a border fence built on private land. *Texas Tribune, 7/30/21*
- ◆ **July 23:** The Biden administration is canceling two border wall contracts in the Laredo [TX] sector of the US-Mexico border that span roughly 31 miles. *CNN, 7/23/21*

Asylum Seekers

- ◆ **June 29:** The Supreme Court ruled that deported noncitizens who re-enter the U.S. illegally and claim asylum must remain in custody while their cases are processed. *Wall Street Journal, 6/29/21*
- ◆ **July 30:** The U.S. resumed fast-track deportation flights for migrant families arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border. *Reuters, 7/30/21*
- ◆ **August 6:** The California Department of Public Health has contracted two San Diego hotels to provide temporary housing to asylum seekers. The contracts with the Sheraton and Ramada hotels are costing the state agency \$46,000 per day and about \$25,000 per day, respectively. *CBS News, 8/6/21*

Title 42—Public Health Safety Act

- ◆ **August 2:** The administration indefinitely extended the public health order, known as Title 42, that allows border agents to immediately expel migrants caught crossing the border illegally, depriving them of the right to seek asylum in the U.S. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, issued the new order, citing the spread of the COVID-19 delta variant, the increase in migrant apprehensions at the border and limited capacity of Customs and Border Patrol facilities. *US News, 8/3/21*
- ◆ **August 2:** The American Civil Liberties Union and other groups plan to file a preliminary injunction to stop the continued use of the Title 42 public health law that has allowed border agents to swiftly remove tens of thousands of migrants and asylum-seekers arriving at the border. *NPR, 8/2/21*

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency Immigration Detention

- ◆ **July 22:** A total of 26,771 individuals were held in ICE detention. 21,254 out of 26,771 of those individuals held in ICE detention have no criminal record. ICE relied on detention facilities in Texas to house the most people during FY 2021 [Texas 4,828, Louisiana 2,494, Arizona 1,946, Georgia 1,256, and California 1,177]. The South Texas ICE Processing Center in Pearsall, Texas held the largest number of ICE detainees so far in FY 2021, averaging 769 per day (as of July 2021). *TRAC, 7/27/21*

Texas in the News

- ◆ **June 1:** Gov. Gregg Abbott instructed state authorities to stop the licensing of shelters and foster care programs housing migrant children by August 30. That could impact 52 state-licensed shelters and foster care programs in Texas with more than 8,600 beds. *CBS News, 6/4/21*
- ◆ **June 16:** Gov. Abbott announced he was putting a \$250 million down payment on a state-led project to build "hundreds of miles" of border wall. *Washington Post, 6/16/21*
- ◆ **June 16:** Texas officials emptied the Dolph Briscoe Unit in Dilley — a small city southwest of San Antonio — so the prison can be used as a central holding facility for immigrants. *Texas Tribune, 6/17/21*
- ◆ **July 28:** Gov. Abbott issued an executive order restricting the ground transportation of migrants in the state of Texas. The order prohibits nongovernment individuals and organizations from transporting migrants who have been released from federal custody. It also gives authority to the Texas Department of Public Safety to stop and seize any private vehicle suspected of carrying migrants. Abbott cited the threat of COVID-19 as the reason for the new order. *HuffPost, 7/29/21*
- ◆ **July 29:** The Department of Justice sent a letter to Gov. Abbott, urging him to "immediately rescind" his executive order restricting the transportation of migrants. *HuffPost, 7/29/21*
- ◆ **August 3:** U.S. District Judge Kathleen Cardone in El Paso blocked the executive order by Gov. Abbott that banned the transportation of migrants within the state by anyone other than law enforcement. The order will remain in place until Aug. 13, when the judge has scheduled a hearing on whether to issue a longer-term injunction against Texas. *Wall Street Journal, 8/3/21*
- ◆ **August 5:** The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the ACLU of Texas are suing Gov. Abbott over his executive order that bars the transportation of certain migrants in the state. *ACLU, 8/5/21*
- ◆ **August 6:** At least 36 Texas-based shelters housing migrant children in federal care are slated to operate without state oversight in September in response to an order by Gov. Abbott, which will put them at risk of violating legal requirements designed to protect minors in U.S. custody. *CBS News, 8/6/21*

Plan for Pathway to Citizenship

- ◆ **August 9:** Democrats' \$3.5 trillion budget resolution package instructs lawmakers to chart a pathway to citizenship for millions of people while investing in border security. The bill text includes some \$107 billion for the Senate Judiciary Committee to spend on each, giving lawmakers a soft deadline of September 15. *The Hill, 8/9/21*



Central American migrants climb the U.S./Mexico border fence, in Tijuana. Credit: Pedro Pardo/AFP/Getty Images file

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Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP)

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Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

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Zero Tolerance Policy

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"Influx" Facilities for Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

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Border Wall

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Asylum Seekers

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Title 42—Public Health Safety Act

- ◆ *Biden Administration Digs in Heels on Controversial Title 42 Border Order*
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Texas in the News

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Plan for Pathway to Citizenship

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