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 fiscal year 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 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 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 U.S.-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, 8/2/21

**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 21). TRAC, 7/27/21

**Texas in the News**
- **June 1:** Gov. Greg 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 dollar 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. The order prohibits nongovernmental organizations 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. Huffington Post, 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 ground transportation of migrants. Huffington Post, 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
Preliminary Statistics for the Month of July
- Children stopped at border likely hit record-high in July
  https://apnews.com/article/health-immigration-coronavirus-pandemic-a361bb903e71011432012d11ac33f9fc

Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP)
- U.S. formally ends Trump’s ‘remain in Mexico’ asylum policy

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- Federal judge finds DACA unlawful, blocks new applicants

Zero Tolerance Policy
- Family Reunification Task Force Provides Initial Progress Report and Announces Upcoming Reunification of 29 Families

Influx” Facilities for Unaccompanied Immigrant Children
- U.S. closing 6 makeshift housing sites for unaccompanied migrant children
- Biden Administration Is Still Struggling to Care for Migrant Children
- Biden administration sued over substandard conditions at emergency sites for migrant teens
  https://www.cbsnews.com/news/biden-administration-sued-over-substandard-conditions-at-emergency-sites-for-migrant-teens/
- Migrant kids describe raw food and extended stays at Texas temporary facility

Border Wall
- Gov. Greg Abbott’s border security initiative rolls out with confusion, missteps and a whole lot of state troopers in Val Verde County
  https://www.texastribune.org/2021/07/30/texas-greg-abbott-border-security/
- Biden administration terminates two border wall contracts in Texas

Asylum Seekers
- Supreme Court Rules Noncitizens Who Re-Enter U.S. Illegally Must Be Held
- U.S. resumes fast-track deportation flights of Central American migrant families
- San Diego hotels under contract to temporarily house asylum seekers

Title 42—Public Health Safety Act
- Biden Administration Digs in Heels on Controversial Title 42 Border Order
- Title 42 Foes Go Back To Court To Try To End COVID Measure Blocking Asylum-Seekers

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency Immigration Detention
- Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC): Immigration Detention Quick Facts
  https://trac.syr.edu/immigration/quickfacts/

Texas in the News
- Texas effort to bar state shelters from housing migrant children could put Biden in a bind
- Texas governor puts $250 million down payment on a border wall
  https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/texas-governor-puts-250-million-down-payment-on-a-border-wall/2021/06/16/da4dde0c-ccfa-e11eb-8cd2-4e95230cfa2_story.html
- Texas empties prison to prepare to detain immigrants arrested during ramped-up border enforcement
  https://www.texastribune.org/2021/06/17/immigration-prison-border-jail/
- Citing COVID-19 Concerns, Texas Governor Bans Ground Transportation Of Migrants
  https://www.huffpost.com/entry/texas-greg-abbott-migrant-transportation-ban-executive-order_n_6101d41ce4b000b997ddcaba
- Biden Administration Sues Texas For ‘Unlawful’ Crackdown On Transporting Migrants
  https://www.huffpost.com/entry/justice-department-sues-texas-transporting-migrants_n_6104756e4b0d3b5897db306

Federal Judge Blocks Texas Ban on Transporting Migrants
- https://www.waj.com/articles/federal-judge-blocks-texas-ban-on-transporting-migrants-11628038137
- ACLU Files Federal Lawsuit Challenging Texas Migrant Transportation Order
- Texas shelters housing migrant children to operate without state oversight

Plan for Pathway to Citizenship
- Budget package includes plan for pathway to citizenship, green cards for millions

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