

NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – APRIL 17, 2023

LATEST STATISTICS

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2019		
USBP	Demographic	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	76,020
	Family Units*	473,682
	Single Adult	301,806
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		851,508

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2020		
USBP	Demographic	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	30,557
	Family Units*	52,230
	Single Adult	317,864
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		400,651

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2021		
USBP	Demographic	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	144,834
	Family Units*	451,087
	Single Adult	1,063,285
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		1,659,206

Data Sources:

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fy-2019> ; <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration-fy2020> ;
<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2022														
USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	12,625	13,745	11,704	8,607	11,779	13,892	11,857	14,420	14,929	13,003	10,993	11,539	149,093
	Family Units*	41,556	43,279	49,437	30,419	25,165	34,052	37,082	51,166	44,071	42,851	39,305	44,579	482,962
	Single Adult	104,932	109,991	109,461	108,851	122,226	163,237	154,565	158,784	133,399	125,980	131,476	151,479	1,574,381
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		159,113	167,015	170,602	147,877	159,063	211,181	203,504	224,370	192,399	181,834	181,774	207,597	2,206,436

Data Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2023							
USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	11,651	12,787	11,831	9,035	10,451	55,755
	Family Units*	46,666	49,685	60,674	25,511	25,249	207,785
	Single Adult	146,544	144,958	149,188	94,367	93,177	628,234
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		204,861	207,430	221,693	128,913	128,877	891,774

Data Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

LATEST STATISTICS CONT'D

Trends in migration through Mexico

By Adam Isacson, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), April 6, 2023

- ❖ Mexico's Refugee Aid Commission (Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados, COMAR), which operates the country's asylum system, reported receiving 37,606 applications for asylum in Mexico during the first three months of the year. This is the largest number of asylum requests that Mexico has ever recorded during the first quarter of a year; if sustained over all of 2023 it would total over 150,000, a record by far. Applications jumped from 6,497 in January, to 6,932 in February, to 8,993 in March. So far this year, applications from citizens of Haiti are the most frequent with 13,631 (In addition, COMAR lists 1,344 from Brazil and 1,302 from Chile, noting that most are children of Haitian citizens who had been residing in those countries). Honduras (8,620), Cuba (2,596) and Venezuela (2,547) follow. Of 7,369 requests that COMAR has managed to process so far this year, it has granted asylum in 69 percent of cases (5,104). During the final days of March, Mexico's Migration Policy Unit (Unidad de Política Migratoria) published data about authorities' apprehensions of migrants in Mexico through February 2023. The number-one nationality of migrants apprehended in Mexico in February was Venezuela 6,331, barely edging out Ecuador (6,249), which is actually the number-one nationality for the 2023 calendar year so far. Mexico's apprehensions of Venezuelan migrants increased by over 1,000 over January, even though since October 2022, Venezuelans apprehended on the U.S. side of the border rarely get a chance to seek asylum: they are subject to Title 42 expulsion to Mexico. (In February, U.S. authorities encountered a majority of Venezuelan migrants at ports of entry, presumably with "CBP One" appointments.). During the first two months of the year, Mexico has apprehended migrants from 101 countries.



Migrants who crossed the U.S.-Mexico border in El Paso, Texas, in a photo dated May 29, 2019.
© 2019 US Customs and Border Protection via AP, File

Enrique Lucero, the director of migration policy in the Tijuana mayor's office, told Border Report that the city has seen an "ongoing flow" of migrants from Africa, mainly the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana and Somalia, who "are all taking the same route through Brazil, they'll cross South America and then on to Mexico City and finally Tijuana." Mexican border cities, like Tijuana and Ciudad Juárez, continue to host ever larger numbers of stranded migrants. Shelters are now so full in Ciudad Juárez, Border Report found, that Central and South American migrants—including entire families—are now living in abandoned buildings and on the streets. Desperation is so great that the slightest rumor—like a Facebook message on March 31—can cause large groups to cross the border at once. That day, more than 1,000 migrants, mostly from Venezuela, crossed the Rio Grande and sought to turn themselves in to Border Patrol on the mistaken belief that they would be allowed to enter.

- ❖ Source: <https://www.wola.org/2023/04/weekly-u-s-mexico-border-update-ciudad-juarez-tragedy-mexico-migration-data-darien-gap/>

ICE Air Flights: March 2023 and Last 12 Months (including summaries for 2020,2021,2022)

By Thomas H Cartwright, Witness at the Border, April 3, 2023

- ❖ ICE air flights increase before potential end of title 42. 145 removal flights in March; 2nd highest month in over 3 years. total flights of 767; 3rd highest in over 3 years.
- ❖ 20,945 total ICE air flights operated in 2020-March 2023. since inauguration: 15,839 total flights.
- ❖ 3,829 removal flights operated in 2020-March 2023. since inauguration: 2,762 removal flights.
- ❖ 767 total ICE air flights operated in March, up 82 (12%) from the prior month. March was 90 (13%) above the prior 6-month average of 677.
- ❖ Total ICE air flights of 767 were up 139 (22%) from March 2022.
- ❖ 145 removal flights in March, up 18 (14%) from the prior month and up 17 (13%) from March 2022, and up 46 (46%) from the prior 6-month average of 99
- ❖ Source:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e221cacff87ba2d2833cf54/t/642acbf65d24f027378c054e/1680526327183/ICE+Air+MarTHCPDF.pdf>

LATEST NEWS

Biden signs bill ending Covid-19 national emergency

By Kelly Garrity, Politico, April 10, 2023

- ❖ President Joe Biden on Monday, April 10, signed a House bill [House Joint Resolution 7 (H.J.Res. 7)] immediately ending the Covid-19 national emergency, first enacted during the Trump administration in 2020. The White House initially announced plans to extend the Covid-19 national emergency, as well as the public health emergency, until May 11. But shortly after, House Republicans put forth bills to end both imminently. The bill that the president signed into law on Monday [April 10] ended only the national emergency. The White House voiced opposition to the bills, saying the resolutions “would be a grave disservice to the American people.” In a Statement of Administration Policy, the Biden administration said that an abrupt end to the emergency declarations would “create wide-ranging chaos and uncertainty throughout the health care system.” Despite this, Biden told Senate Majority Chuck Schumer last month that he did not plan to veto it — marking the second time in recent weeks that the president has signaled opposition to a Republican-sponsored bill, only to later decline to veto it. Last month, Biden told the Senate that he would not veto a GOP-back bill that would repeal changes to the D.C. criminal code, a move that came as a surprise to Democrats. Ending the national emergency will end the use of some waivers for federal health programs meant to help health care providers during the height of the pandemic. The law Biden signed Monday did not affect the public health emergency, which is still set to expire in May — along with the Trump-era Title 42 border policy. In the Statement of Administration Policy objecting to the GOP bills seeking to end the pandemic emergencies, the White House warned that an abrupt end to the public health emergency and Title 42 would prove particularly problematic, and could “allow thousands of migrants per day into the country immediately without the necessary policies in place.”
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/04/10/biden-ends-covid-19-national-emergency-00091313>

U.S. and Canada Reach an Agreement on Diverting Asylum Seekers

By Michael D. Shear and Ian Austen, New York Times, March 23, 2023

- ❖ The United States and Canada have reached an agreement that will allow both countries to divert asylum seekers from their borders at a time when migration has surged across the hemisphere, a U.S. official familiar with the agreement said. The deal will allow Canada to turn back immigrants at Roxham Road, a popular unofficial crossing point from New York for migrants seeking asylum in Canada. In exchange, Canada has agreed to provide a new, legal refugee program for 15,000 migrants who are fleeing violence, persecution and economic devastation in South and Central America, the official said, lessening the pressure of illegal crossings into the United States from Mexico. The agreement removes one of the relatively few disputes between Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Biden. Mr. Trudeau’s government has been pushing for months to expand a 2004 migration treaty with the United States that limits how many asylum seekers Canada can turn away at its border and send back to the United States. The treaty only allows Canada to turn back a migrant — for example, someone fleeing violence in El Salvador — if the person crosses at an official port of entry between the two countries. Crossings at unofficial points of entry like Roxham Road have surged in the past several years, putting pressure on Mr. Trudeau to limit them. Until recently, officials in the United States have been resisting a change in the treaty.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/23/us/politics/us-canada-asylum-seekers.html>

U.S.-Born Children, Too, Were Separated From Parents at the Border

By Miriam Jordan, New York Times, April 11, 2023

- ❖ The Trump administration intentionally separated thousands of migrant children from their parents at the southern border in the spring of 2018, an aggressive attempt to discourage family crossings that caused lasting trauma and drew widespread condemnation. What is only now becoming clear, however, is that a significant number of U.S. citizen children were also removed from their parents under the so-called zero tolerance policy, in which migrant parents were criminally prosecuted and jailed for crossing the border without authorization. Hundreds, and possibly as many as 1,000, children born to immigrant parents in the United States were removed from them at the border, according to lawyers and immigrant advocates who are working with the government to find the families. In many cases, the U.S.-born children were placed into foster care for lengthy periods, and some have yet to be reunited with their parents, lost in the system nearly five years after the separations took place. “We don’t even know where these parents are today, and whether or not they know where their children are. Some 5,500 foreign-born children were already known to have been separated from their parents under the policy. The separations usually lasted for a matter of weeks, but in some cases they lasted years.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/11/us/migrant-family-separations-citizens.html#:~:text=Hundreds%2C%20and%20possibly%20as%20many,government%20to%20find%20the%20families.>

GOP Rep Slams ‘Unchristian’ GOP Immigration Proposals

By Arthur Delaney, Huff Post, March 29, 2023

- ❖ Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-Texas) just made life more difficult for House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.). Gonzales said he'd oppose a broader deal McCarthy wants to strike with President Joe Biden over federal spending and the debt ceiling if the House votes on immigration restrictions Gonzales considers downright unchristian. "Bring unchristian anti-immigrant bills to the floor and I am a NO on the debt ceiling," Gonzales said on Twitter. Unless Biden agrees to spending cuts, McCarthy has said he would oppose an increase in the Treasury Department's ability to borrow money, without which the federal government would default on its debts sometime this summer, potentially causing a bank crisis and recession. In a letter to Biden, McCarthy offered some broad ideas for what kind of policy changes he wants to see, including spending cuts and "work requirements" for unspecified federal programs. The letter also mentioned policies "to secure our border from the flow of deadly fentanyl that is killing 300 Americans per day." McCarthy had planned for the House to take up border security legislation, including a bill by Rep. Chip Roy (R-Texas), an influential member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, back in January. Roy's legislation would block asylum seekers from entering the country if the Department of Homeland Security can't detain or deport them. But McCarthy abandoned plans for a floor vote amid divisions between hardliners like Roy and moderates like Gonzales.
- ❖ News Article Source: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/tony-gonzales-border-security-kevin-mccarthy_n_64247607e4b0ba5d60376397?ncid=APPLENEWS00001

'It feels like Groundhog Day': Federal officials frustrated by whiplash as Biden turns to Trump-era border policies

By Priscilla Alvarez, CNN, April 12, 2023

- ❖ US asylum officers are frustrated by policy whiplash under President Joe Biden, and some are considering leaving their posts, as administration officials contemplate restarting controversial Trump-era border policies that would largely limit who could seek refuge in the United States. "At this point, I can't tell the difference between Biden immigration policy and Trump immigration policy," one asylum officer told CNN. The concerns shared among asylum officers who spoke with CNN and were reflected in a March filing come as Biden stares down another potential border crisis next month when a Covid-era restriction, known as Title 42, lifts. The authority, invoked under former President Donald Trump at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, allows border officials to turn away certain migrants encountered at the US southern border. It's set to expire on May 11 when the Covid-19 public health emergency ends. White House and Homeland Security officials have met frequently ahead of an anticipated influx of people at the border when the authority lifts and weighing policies that, they hope, will help manage the flow. But those policies, some of which echo Trump administration actions, are putting Biden at odds with his allies and even among some in the workforce, including asylum officers who interview asylum seekers. A major point of contention is a new proposed regulation that largely bars migrants who traveled through other countries on their way to the US-Mexico border from applying for asylum in the United States, marking a departure from decadeslong protocol. The proposed asylum rule is similar to one rolled out during the Trump administration, though administration officials have rejected the comparison, citing newly launched programs that provide a legal pathway for certain migrants trying to come to the US and therefore, they say, an alternative to crossing the border. But in a formal filing opposing the proposal, the union that represents federal asylum officers, known as Council 119 of the American Federation of Government Employees, called the proposed rule "draconian" and argued that enforcing it "could make them complicit in violations of U.S. and international law." The rule will likely take effect in May and is expected to last for two years. Asylum officers are often conducting difficult interviews with migrants describing the trauma and conditions they're fleeing in their home countries. Many officers only stay in the job for up to three years before moving on to other posts in US Citizenship and Immigration Services or elsewhere, according to Michael Knowles, president of a local union that represents asylum officers and a spokesperson for AFGE Council 119. "People feel crushed by the work. We have to produce a lot of quality decisions in a short amount of time," Knowles said. "Those decisions are involving people's significant trauma. Our officers absorb secondary trauma." As the administration prepares for the end of Title 42, other policies with echoes of the Trump administration may also make a comeback. Administration officials are now planning on restarting a policy that could expedite the asylum process. That policy would require that some migrants remain in US Customs and Border Protection facilities for their credible fear interviews, the first step in the asylum process, according to three sources familiar with the discussions. Those screenings usually happen in Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, which typically have spaces for the sensitive interviews. The policy has echoes of the Prompt Asylum Claim Review, which was implemented under the Trump administration and fielded fierce criticism from immigrant advocates who argued it put asylum seekers at a disadvantage.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2023/04/11/politics/biden-border-policies-trump/index.html>

DEADLY FIRE AT CIUDAD JUÁREZ IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTER

40 Migrants Died in Detention Center Fire Because They Couldn't Afford to Bribe the Guards

By Prem Thakker, *New Republic*, April 6, 2023

- ❖ Back in March, a disastrous fire at an immigration detention center near the U.S. border in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, left 40 people dead. And it turns out, the migrants were stuck there because they couldn't pay a \$200 bribe to guards to be released, according to Vice. The revelations come after a video from the facility showed guards seeming to walk away from migrants burning to death behind bars. Three survivors and two guards at the facility told Vice that the detention center was essentially an "extortion center," where only migrants who could pay were released. Joan, a Venezuelan migrant who was locked up there, said he was released not long before the fire because his family back home sent money in time for the guards' 7 p.m. deadline to pay a bribe or be deported. "I'm only alive because my family paid," he told Vice. Guards told Vice that the extortion payments (up to \$500) were split among the guards and that they also sold cigarettes, lighters, and "drugs of all kinds" to the detained migrants. Vice reported that at least one migrant allegedly started the fire in protest of not being given food and water for some 10 hours. Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said the fire began after migrants reportedly lit their mattress on fire in protest as they feared imminent deportation. Mexico's chief public security secretary, Rosa Icela Rodríguez, said that the detention center would be closed and that its operator "will no longer provide services in the state of Chihuahua—where Ciudad Juárez sits."
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://newrepublic.com/maz/post/171690/40-migrants-died-detention-center-fire-couldnt-afford-bribe-guards>

Mexico releases names of migrants affected by Juárez fire

By Lauren Villagran, *El Paso Times*, March 29, 2023

- ❖ Mexican authorities released the names of the victims of a fire inside a migrant holding center in Juárez. The list doesn't specify who is dead and who is alive. According to information provided Tuesday, March 28, by Mexico's federal investigative body, the Fiscalía General de la República, 37 men were killed in the fire and two more died of their injuries in the hospital. A total of 68 migrants were detained in cells located in an immigration center near the foot of the Stanton-Lerdo international bridge in Juárez. Grupos Beta, a Mexican federal migrant rescue agency, on Wednesday said 24 people remained hospitalized in Juárez, in hospitals belonging to the Mexican public health system. They included 15 intubated men and nine men in stable condition. The names of the migrants affected by the fire are listed by their country of origin:
 - ❖ **Guatemala:** Bacilio Sutuj Saravia; Byron López Xol; Cristian Vidal Alexander Ventura Sacalxot; Cruz Ernesto Chich Marroquín; Diego Sau Guarchaj; Diego Tzaj Ixtos; Edwin Gilberto Ixpertay Macario; Eliseo Gutiérrez Valdez; Elvis Ademar Pérez Esteban; Enrique Coy Pop; Eyner Anibal García Dieguez; Fernando Pu Castro; Francisco Gaspar Rojche Chiquival; Francisco Javier Sohom Tzoc; Gaspar Josue Cuc Tzinquin; Gaspar Santiago Ixcotoyoc Tum; Juan Fernando Quiñonez Montejo; Kevin Estuardo Cardona Lopez; Manuel Alexander Chox Tambriz; Marco Antonio Lucas Paiz; Marcos Abdon Tziquin Cuc; Miguel Rojche Zapalu; Miguel Sebastian Pedro Mateo; Raymundo Quib Tzalam; Roberto González Hernández; Rubbelsy Manrique Pérez Rodríguez; Santiago Caal Tzul and Wilson Alexander Juárez Hernández
 - ❖ **Honduras:** Brayan Orlando Rodríguez Funes; Cristhian Javier Carranza Toro; Dikson Aron Córdova Perdomo; Edin Josué Umaña Madrid; Higinio Alberto Ramírez Torres; Jesús Adony Alvarado Madrid; José Alfredo Hernández Muñoz; José Ángel Ceballos Molina; José Armando Rivera Muñoz; Juan Carlos De Jesús Gómez; Juan Carlos Trochez Aguilar; Oscar Danilo Serrano Ramírez and Oscar Pineda Torres
 - ❖ **Venezuela:** Carlos Eduardo Rodríguez Cordero; Masculino Desconocido Sin Identificar; Eduardo De Jesús Carballo López; Jeison Daniel Catari Rivas; Jesús Eduardo Velásquez Perdomo; Joel Alexander Leal Peña; Orangel José López Guerrero; Orlando José Maldonado Pérez; Oscar José Regalado Silva; Rafael Mendoza Mendoza; Rannier Edelber Requena Infante; Samuel José Marchena Guilarte and Stefan Arango Morillo
 - ❖ **El Salvador:** Andrés Fernando Calderón Carbajal; Brayan Eduardo Flamenco Quinteros; Carlos Alberto Pacheco Gutiérrez; Daniel de Jesús Varela Ramírez; Enrique Alfonso Melara Rivera; Inmer Onesi Molina Hernández; José Amílcar Portillo Solórzano; José Pedro Rivera García; Marvin Armides García Pacheco, Milton Alexis Melara Melgar; Misael Antonio Aguilar López and Roberto Antonio Henríquez Evangelista
 - ❖ **Colombia:** Julián David Villamil Arévalo
 - ❖ **Ecuador:** Jorge Luis Tumbaco Santiestevan
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/mexico-releases-names-migrants-affected-180722599.html>

Arrest orders are issued for 6 people in the deadly Mexican immigration center fire

By *The Associated Press*, March 31, 2023

- ❖ A Mexican court issued arrest orders for six people in relation to the fire that killed 39 migrants at a detention facility in the border city of Ciudad Juárez, according to the federal prosecutor leading the investigation. Sara Irene Herrerías said they include three officials from the National Immigration Institute, two private security guards contracted by the agency and the detained migrant accused of starting the fire. She said five of the six had already been arrested and would face charges of homicide and causing injuries. Federal Public Safety Secretary Rosa Icela Rodríguez said 27 migrants remained hospitalized, all of them in either serious or critical condition. One other migrant had been discharged, she said. The migrant accused of starting the fire suffered only slight injuries and has already been released from the hospital, presumably into custody. Rodríguez also said the private security firm involved, which she identified as Grupo de Seguridad Privada CAMSA, had a federal contract to provide security at immigration facilities in 23 states. She said it would have its operating permit revoked and face a fine. Forty-eight federal agents would take over security duties at migrant facilities in the state of Chihuahua, where the fire occurred, Rodríguez said.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.npr.org/2023/03/31/1167393055/mexico-migrant-center-fire-arrests>

CBP ONE APP

Government Documents Reveal Information about the Development of the CBP One App

By *the American Immigration Council*, February 28, 2023

- ❖ On October 28, 2020, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) launched a mobile device application called CBP One. In January 2023, the Biden administration announced that it would expand the use of CBP One. CBP One is now used by migrants in the following situations: (1) Migrants seeking to schedule appointments to obtain exemptions at ports of entry from Title 42 – the health law used by the government to expel asylum seekers based on the COVID-19 pandemic. (2) Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans can use CBP One from their home countries to submit biometric information to CBP as part of the process to apply for travel authorization and obtain parole through special programs for those nationalities. In July 2021, the American Immigration Council requested information from CBP to inform the public about the app, its uses, and the technologies' inherent flaws. The Council sued CBP pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in December 2021 to obtain these records. Documents obtained from the ensuing litigation show that, so far, the federal government has strongly pushed for using CBP One to manage the border without much consideration of the app's inherent flaws or the need for transparency with regards to the app's functions. The agency's rapid implementation of some CBP One functions created confusion even among government officials. It promised government watchdogs that some features would be optional – namely, the submission of a photo – only to later make them mandatory. As CBP's use of the app has expanded, certain flaws have become apparent, including problems with the app's photograph capturing function (especially with photo submissions of asylum-seekers with darker skin color) and GPS location capabilities. The documents obtained thus far fail to show whether or not CBP considered these flaws before forcing asylum-seekers to use an app that could fail them. CBP created an informational webpage about CBP One that has failed to keep up with the app's expansion. The webpage provides web links where users can download the app when the website is accessed via a mobile device. This webpage, however, provides limited information about CBP One's functions and what will be required of travelers who wish to use it. The webpage links to the latest version of the Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) published by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The PIA is a dense government document that agencies are required to publish describing potential privacy issues for all new or substantially changed technology that collects, uses, disseminates, or maintains personally identifiable information, and how the agency plans to mitigate these issues. The CBP One PIA contains more details about the app's functions, but it too has often lagged behind changes to the app's use. Even though the Council's FOIA request asked for information about CBP's plans for CBP One's future uses, the agency has shared only limited information about the app's planned expansion.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/FOIA/government-documents-reveal-information-about-development-cbp-one-app>

CBP One app becomes main portal to U.S. asylum system under Biden border strategy

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, April 11, 2023

- ❖ The Biden administration is planning to make CBP One, the main portal to the U.S. asylum system at the southern border, sending the message that those who fail to wait for an appointment and attempt to enter the country without permission will be swiftly turned back. More than 60,000 asylum-seekers have secured appointments to enter the U.S. since the CBP One app became available to migrants in mid-January, according to unpublished government data. Most of those who have scheduled appointments hail from Venezuela, Haiti, Russia, Mexico, Honduras, Cuba, Chile and Brazil. The app is one component of a revamped border strategy President Biden unveiled in January, along with the expansion of a pandemic-era rule known as Title 42 to expel those who enter the country unlawfully and a sponsor program to admit up to 30,000 migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela each month. The policies have so far led to a two-year low in apprehensions of migrants in between official border crossings. CBP One will continue to play a major role in the administration's border policy after May 11, when the expiration of the national COVID-19 public health emergency is set to trigger Title 42's end. The administration is planning to increase the number of migrants allowed to enter the U.S. daily under the CBP One process from 740 to 1,000, senior U.S. officials told CBS News, requesting anonymity to discuss internal plans. The number of participating bridges will also increase, the officials said. Currently, CBP One allows migrants to request humanitarian exemptions to Title 42. But after the pandemic-era rule is lifted, the app will allow migrants to avoid being subjected to a soon-to-be-published regulation that will bar migrants from asylum if they failed to seek refuge in a third country en route to the U.S. Those who fail to use the app and cross into the U.S. illegally will risk being promptly deported. Anyone with a smartphone can download CBP One. But migrants seeking an exemption to Title 42 can only secure an appointment if they are north of Mexico City, due to a geofencing limit placed by U.S. officials. The app, which is available in English, Spanish and Haitian creole, asks migrants to create a profile and submit a photo of their face and basic information, such as their legal name, nationality and date of birth. On paper, the app says Title 42 exemptions are only available to those with a physical or mental illness or a disability; pregnant women; migrants lacking safe and stable housing in Mexico; those under the age of 21 or over the age of 70; or asylum-seekers who have been threatened or harmed in Mexico. The app, however, does not require migrants to prove they are part of one of the vulnerable groups. Every morning at 11 a.m. ET / 9 a.m. MT, the U.S. distributes several hundred new CBP One appointments, 13 days in advance. In a matter of minutes, they're all gone. While the CBP One app has allowed 60,000 asylum-seekers to secure appointments to enter the U.S., it has also created a bottleneck of frustrated migrants in Mexico.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cbp-one-app-us-border-asylum-biden/>

ASYLUM SEEKERS

Migrant found dead in train car in Texas, the second fatal incident in 2 days

By Andi Babineau and Rebekah Riess, CNN, March 27, 2023

- ❖ A migrant was found dead in a train car in Texas – the second fatal incident in as many days, according to a statement from Union Pacific. Union Pacific said border patrol agents found a dozen people in a boxcar Saturday, March 25, after one of the individuals called 911. According to the statement, one of them died, three were hospitalized and eight were detained by the agents. Two migrants died and over a dozen more needed urgent medical attention after being found in train cars in Uvalde, Texas, on March 24, 2023. In a news release Friday, March 24, Uvalde police said they “received a 911 phone call from an unknown third-party caller advising there were numerous undocumented immigrants ‘suffocating’ inside of a train car.” US Border Patrol officers stopped the train, which was operating on Union Pacific tracks, near the town of Knippa, northeast of Uvalde, police said. A total of 17 people were found on the train, including 15 men and two women, according to an official for Homeland Security Investigations. Union Pacific previously told CNN there were 15 people found in two different train cars. The railway reported that two of them died, four were airlifted to San Antonio, and six were taken to local hospitals. 2022 was the deadliest year so far for migrants crossing the US-Mexico border, with 748 people dying at the border, according to the Department of Homeland Security. The worst such incident came in June 2022 when 53 migrants died after being packed into a tractor-trailer and abandoned on the outskirts of San Antonio.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/27/us/migrant-train-death-texas/index.html>

U.S. to test expedited asylum screenings at Mexico border

By Rebecca Santana and Elliot Spagat, Associated Press, April 10, 2023

- ❖ Migrants who enter the United States illegally will be screened by asylum officers while in custody under a limited experiment that provides them access to legal counsel, the Department of Homeland Security said. The new approach will start soon with a tiny number of migrants. Officials said the trial run is part of preparations for the end of a pandemic-related rule expected on May 11 that has suspended rights to seek asylum for many. If expanded, the new screening could bring major change to how people are processed upon reaching U.S. soil to seek asylum. The screening interviews will be conducted in large U.S. Customs and Border Protection temporary facilities stocked with phone lines that will be used for the hearings, officials said. CBP policy limits detention to 72 hours, which will be the target to complete the screenings. Currently, it takes about four weeks to conduct a screening interview and, if someone fails to meet the criteria, another four to five weeks for air transportation back to their countries, officials said. The new tack aims to shorten that time to less than 72 hours, the maximum allowed to hold someone in a CBP facility under agency policy. Currently, few migrants are screened at the border if they express fear of being returned home and are often released to pursue asylum in backlogged U.S. immigration courts, which takes years. The initial screening establishes a relatively low bar, with 77% passing in March, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The final approval rate for asylum is much lower.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/immigration/2023/04/10/us-to-test-expedited-asylum-screenings-at-mexico-border/70099436007/>

Paso Del Norte bridge closes again as large migrant group gathers

By Lauren Villagran, El Paso Times, April 10, 2023

- ❖ The Paso Del Norte bridge connecting El Paso and Juárez was temporarily closed to traffic Monday morning [April 10] after a large group of migrants gathered on the Mexican side. U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which operates the port of entry, said it is limiting vehicle traffic but continues to process pedestrian traffic. CBP said it also conducted a "mobile field force" exercise at 9:30 a.m., which disrupted traffic. "We are monitoring a large group at the base of the Paso Del Norte crossing in Juárez," El Paso CBP spokesman Roger Maier said in an email. "It is our understanding that the group is linked to a protest related to Juárez fire and is being organized by college students." Hundreds of people gathered near the foot of the bridge on Avenida Juárez early Monday, many of them migrants from Venezuela. As of midmorning, the group hadn't attempted to rush onto the bridge as others did last month; Mexican National Guard soldiers guarded the Mexican side.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/immigration/2023/04/10/cbp-shuts-paso-del-norte-bridge-as-migrants-gather-on-juarez-side/70099562007/>

An abandoned building that became waiting room to US for migrants

By Lauren Villagran, El Paso Times, April 10, 2023

- ❖ As hazardous as the burned-out two-story building appeared, Maria Sosa saw safety. A place for her toddler and two teenagers to rest. A roof over their heads that wouldn't cost a thing but for the work to clear out the trash. The family, from Venezuela, arrived alongside hundreds of other migrants by cargo train on a frigid week in mid-March and began the wait for an appointment to cross into the U.S. The abandoned building has become an anteroom for dozens of migrants trying daily — most without success — to use the CBP One digital application to seek asylum at the Southwest border. "I got to work cleaning up," Sosa said, "and two days later the train arrived again with other paisanos and I told them, 'Come stay here.' That's how we started accumulating all sorts of migrants, from Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and El Salvador." The building is within walking distance to the city's Downtown international bridges. Hundreds, and potentially thousands, of migrants in Mexican border cities are trying every day to make an appointment via the CBP One application. The app was one of the Biden administration's answers to a growing humanitarian crisis at the Southwest border late last year, when migrants were lining up at gates in the border fence to turn themselves in to Border Patrol and overwhelming the capacity of border communities like El Paso to shelter them. The Biden administration launched the new app features for certain asylum seekers in mid-January and doubled-down on Title 42 expulsions to Mexico for migrants from Central American nations, Cuba and Venezuela. In Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott expanded his Operation Lone Star to El Paso, dispatching the National Guard to the borderline and installing miles of concertina wire in the Rio Grande canal. The shelter network in Juárez is strained, with hundreds of migrants arriving or being expelled to the city each day. The Mexican federal government is working to expand its Leona Vicario shelter, the largest in the city, which has reached its maximum of roughly 800 people, said Dylan Corbett, executive director of the Hope Border Institute, which provides migrant aid at the shelter. At the building, migrants swept floors and dumped trash onto a mound of garbage they cleared out. It rose nearly a story high and sat rotting on the street.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/2023/04/10/migrants-homeless-juarez-mexico-cbp-one-biden-immigration/70077647007/>

More Chinese migrants are coming to the U.S. on foot, officials say

By Sakshi Venkatraman, NBC News, March 29, 2023

- ❖ A growing number of Chinese immigrants are crossing into the U.S. without papers, often taking harrowing journeys through several countries and modes of transport and using social media as their guide. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported that, in the past five months, at least 4,300 Chinese undocumented migrants have been apprehended crossing the southern border, which amounts to more than double the number for all of the previous year.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/chinese-migrants-are-coming-us-foot-officials-say-rcna77244>

Over 1,000 migrants, angered by asylum policies, rush to U.S.-Mexico border

By Lizbeth Diaz, Reuters, March 30, 2023

- ❖ More than a thousand migrants in northern Mexico surrendered to U.S. border authorities, frustrated by recent asylum policies, and shaken by a fire at a nearby migrant detention center that killed dozens. A Customs and Border Protection (CBP) spokesperson said the agency was processing over a thousand migrants who turned themselves in on Wednesday [March 29] in El Paso, Texas, reachable on foot from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. In a statement, CBP said it was expelling migrants under a COVID-era order known as Title 42, and beginning removal proceedings for other migrants who cannot be returned under the measure and lack legal status. A false rumor circulated on social media Wednesday, March 29, that migrants surrendering at a specific spot at the border would be able to freely cross into U.S. territory. Some migrants turned back, fearful of arrest, but by late afternoon hundreds had formed a line along the steel barrier on U.S. soil. By early evening, CBP agents had begun processing migrants through a door intended for maintenance workers.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/over-1000-migrants-angered-by-asylum-policies-rush-us-mexico-border-2023-03-30/>

OPERATION LONE STAR

“We just want parity”: Military groups call on lawmakers to give Operation Lone Star troops death benefits

By James Barragán, The Texas Tribune, and Davis Winkie, Military Times March 16, 2023

- ❖ Military organizations urged lawmakers to pass legislation named after Sgt. Bishop Evans, a soldier who died while rescuing migrants on the Rio Grande, that would guarantee National Guard troops on state deployment \$500,000 in death benefits for their survivors. Evans' death in April exposed a lack of benefits for National Guard service members deployed to Operation Lone Star, Gov. Greg Abbott's lengthy and unprecedented border security deployment. While state law guarantees law enforcement officers, like Department of Public Safety troopers, a \$500,000 death benefit if they die on duty, National Guard troops who stand shoulder to shoulder with those troopers on the mission do not have the same guarantee. House Bill 90, filed by Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, aims to provide that equity in death benefits for National Guard troops who die while on state active duty, such as during Operation Lone Star. The bill, dubbed the “Bishop Evans Act” is not retroactive, so it would not apply to the Evans family. Service members deployed to Operation Lone Star are on a military status called “state active duty,” which is fully state-funded. Troops on state active duty are activated and employed at the governor's discretion. Under federal deployments of 30 days or more, service members get benefits like no-cost military health insurance, and those who die receive a six-figure lump sum death payment regardless of the mission's length. Benefits for state deployments are established and funded at the state level — if they exist at all. Texas lags behind other states in this regard. Peer states with large National Guards such as California, Pennsylvania and Ohio have established death benefits — ranging from \$10,000 to \$175,000 — covering Guard members on state active duty. Others, like New York, reimburse life insurance premiums as a lower-cost measure. Members of the National Guard serve part time and have civilian jobs. They're usually called to help in emergency situations, such as hurricanes, tornadoes or crowd control and historically have been used for short-term deployments that last weeks at the most. Abbott involuntarily activated thousands of soldiers to the border for deployments of up to a year at a time, some of them with only 72-hour notice. At one point, Abbott said there were 10,000 troops deployed to the border. (In reality, there were 6,500 at the border, with others scattered throughout the state for logistical help.) The bill remained pending in committee at the hearing's conclusion but is expected to move forward.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/03/16/texas-national-guard-death-benefits-bishop-evans/>

DEVELOPING STORIES

Texas House proposes state border unit, enlisting citizens to help with border operations

By Robert T. Garrett, Dallas Morning News, March 10, 2023

- ❖ A bill that would create a Texas Border Protection Unit, allow the governor to declare a migrant “invasion” and let the new border unit enlist the help of citizens was introduced in the House late Friday [March 10]. To make arrests, citizen volunteers would have to be trained, and their arrest powers would have to be “specifically authorized” by the governor. House Bill 20, authored by Tyler GOP Rep. Matt Schaefer, one of the chamber’s most conservative members, is “a bold new approach to border security,” Schaefer said in a written statement. Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, promptly declared Schaefer’s HB 20 and HB 7 by Rio Grande City GOP Rep. Ryan Guillen priority bills for the chamber this session. Guillen’s bill would create a Legislative Border Safety Oversight Committee, create a fund to compensate border-area landowners for damage to their property and create court programs to handle border-related legal matters. Schaefer’s bill would make it a third-degree felony to “trespass while entering the state of Texas.” Gov. Greg Abbott’s Operation Lone Star has used a misdemeanor criminal trespassing offense to arrest unauthorized immigrants. The bill would let the governor name the chief of the Border Protection Unit. It would be under the Public Safety Commission, which oversees the Department of Public Safety. The new unit could erect and maintain “walls, fences, or other physical barriers along the border with Mexico” and deputize citizens, as well as trained law enforcement officers, to help with border enforcement. The citizen volunteers could not have been convicted of a felony. They, local law enforcement officers and other police academy-trained personnel whom the Border Protection Unit chief deploys would “have immunity from criminal and civil liability for any actions taken that are authorized” by HB 20. The bill also would permit the governor to declare or the Legislature to find that a surge of migrants constitutes an invasion or a state of imminent danger, invoking Article 1, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution. The bill also would empower the state border force to “return aliens to Mexico who have been observed actually crossing the Mexican border illegally, and were apprehended or detained in the immediate vicinity of the border.” And Mexican drug cartel “operatives” in the border region could be repelled, arrested or detained.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2023/03/10/texas-house-proposes-state-border-unit-enlisting-citizens-to-help-with-border-operations/>

Brutal smuggling tactics: Behind the recent uptick in horrific migrant deaths in Texas

By Marc Duvoisin, San Antonio Express-News, April 1, 2023

- ❖ Human smugglers routinely bundle migrants into rail cars or tractor trailers to transport them across Texas in suffocating conditions. Three people were found dead in sweltering rail cars in just the last few days.
 - ❖ **Who’s behind this activity?** Criminal organizations whose reach spans the U.S.-Mexico border.
 - ❖ **How does it work?** Much of the activity is along the Interstate 35 corridor between Laredo and San Antonio. Drivers in human smuggling cases have told federal investigators they were recruited on social media or through people they knew. Smugglers offer drivers cash payments to transport a load from one point to another, no questions asked.
 - ❖ **How long has this been going on?** For many years. What’s changed is the method.
 - ❖ **How large are the numbers?** In March 2022, the driver of an 18-wheeler led police on a chase that began in Laredo and ended in Cotulla, about halfway to San Antonio. Police found 60 immigrants in the rig. On April 7, federal agents searched a trailer at an immigration checkpoint north of Laredo and found 87 people inside. That was a light load compared to the 145 migrants discovered in a trailer a week later at the same checkpoint. One of the migrants, a Guatemalan, told federal investigators the trailer was “excessively hot” and there was no water. That same month, a trucker was arrested after agents found 98 migrants in a trailer he was hauling.
 - ❖ **How much do drivers get paid to do this?** The driver who was hauling the 98 migrants told federal agents he was promised \$800 to \$1,000. In December 2021, a Louisiana trucker named Roderick Dewayne Chisley was promised \$50,000 to drive a load from Laredo to San Antonio. At least that’s what he told federal agents who arrested him at the Laredo checkpoint after finding 52 migrants in his trailer. A driver arrested last April told agents, “I met these guys on the internet, and they told me to come down and pick up a load and they would pay me \$20,000. When I got here, I asked them, ‘This isn’t drugs, is it?’ They said, ‘No, it’s just immigrants.’”
 - ❖ **Are most smugglers caught at checkpoints?** No, it’s believed that most get through undetected. That’s because the volume of traffic is so great that agents can thoroughly inspect only a fraction of the rigs that pass through. About 20,000 trucks travel the Laredo-San Antonio corridor every day.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/border-mexico/article/deadly-toll-of-human-smuggling-17863277.php>

DeSantis Pushes Toughest Immigration Crackdown in the Nation

By Miriam Jordan, *New York Times*, April 10, 2023

- ❖ Led by Gov. Ron DeSantis, the Florida Legislature is considering a sweeping package of immigration measures that would represent the toughest crackdown on undocumented immigration by any state in more than a decade. Expected to pass within weeks, the bills are part of what Mr. DeSantis describes as a response to President Biden's "open borders agenda," which he said has allowed an uncontrolled flow of immigrants to cross into the United States from Mexico. The bills would expose people to felony charges for sheltering, hiring and transporting undocumented immigrants; require hospitals to ask patients their immigration status and report to the state; invalidate out-of-state driver's licenses issued to undocumented immigrants; prevent undocumented immigrants from being admitted to the bar in Florida; and direct the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to provide assistance to federal authorities in enforcing the nation's immigration laws. Mr. DeSantis has separately proposed eliminating in-state college tuition for undocumented students and beneficiaries of the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, who were brought to the United States as young children. The tuition law was enacted by his predecessor Rick Scott, now a Republican U.S. senator, in 2014. The new measures represent the most far-reaching state immigration legislation since 2010, when Arizona, a border state that was the nation's busiest corridor for human smuggling at the time, passed a law that required the police to ask people they stopped for proof of immigration status if they had a reason to suspect they might be in the country illegally.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/10/us/florida-desantis-immigration.html>

House Republicans release sweeping immigration bill

By Suzanne Monyak, *Roll Call*, April 17, 2023

- ❖ House Republicans released sweeping immigration legislation on Monday, April 17, that would tighten asylum eligibility, expand migrant family detention and crack down on the employment of undocumented workers. The 137-page proposed bill represents the legislative response to high levels of migration on the U.S.-Mexico border from House Republicans, who have made border security a focal point of their new majority. The House Judiciary Committee is scheduled to mark up the bill Wednesday, April 19. But the legislation may still face hurdles to make it through the House, given internal disagreement within the House Republican caucus over border security. It's also unlikely to gain traction in the Democrat-controlled Senate. The new legislation includes only some of the language from a border security bill introduced by Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas. Last December, House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., had included Roy's bill in a list of so-called "ready-to-go" legislation that would be brought to the House floor for a vote "in the first two weeks of 2023." But consideration of Roy's bill was bumped in January after several House Republicans raised concerns that the bill went too far to restrict asylum. The new bill includes provisions from Roy's bill that would authorize the Homeland Security chief to block any foreign citizen from entering the U.S. if the official decides it "is necessary in order to achieve operational control over such border." But it does not include language from Roy's bill that would also bar the government from allowing in asylum-seekers unless they can be detained or returned to Mexico. The House Homeland Security is also expected to release a counterpart border security measure. The Judiciary Committee's bill, introduced by Reps. Tom McClintock of California and Andy Biggs of Arizona, would revive several Trump-era programs to significantly limit asylum eligibility for migrants traveling to the U.S.-Mexico border. The bill would restrict eligibility from migrants who have traveled through another country en route to the U.S., and had not first attempted to seek protection in the other country, a policy reminiscent of the Trump administration's "safe third country" agreements. It would also require migrants to seek asylum at a designated port of entry, rather than after crossing the border at any point, and revise a standard used by asylum officers as they evaluate a migrant's initial eligibility for asylum. The bill would also impose a \$50 asylum fee for adults. The Trump administration had also attempted to impose an asylum fee, but the effort was halted in court. The bill would further revise anti-trafficking laws to allow migrant children — who under current law, cannot be detained longer than 20 days — to be detained with their parents for the duration of their immigration court proceedings. Republicans also want to crack down on the Biden administration's use of an authority known as parole, which allows the federal government to give migrants temporary permission to live and work in the U.S. The bill states that parole should not be granted "according to eligibility criteria describing an entire class of potential parole recipients." Parole has provided the legal authority for programs like the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, as well as programs to help Ukrainians fleeing Russia's invasion. Beyond the border, the bill also takes aim at employers that hire undocumented immigrants, including by ramping up requirements for them to electronically verify that their employees have permission to work in the U.S.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://rollcall.com/2023/04/17/house-republicans-release-sweeping-immigration-bill/#:~:text=The%20bill%20would%20restrict%20eligibility,%E2%80%9Csafe%20third%20country%E2%80%9D%20agreements.>

Texas Republicans back bill allowing vigilante policing of immigrants

By Michael Murney, Chron April 17, 2023

- ❖ Texas Republicans are lining up behind a bill that would set up a system for deputizing citizens as immigration officers. House Bill 20, authored by Rep. Matt Schaefer of District 6 in east Texas, would create a so-called "Border Protection Unit" within Texas' immigration security apparatus. Under HB 20, the Border Protection Unit's chief would be able to "employ law-abiding citizens without a felony conviction to participate in unit operations and functions," according to the latest available text version of the bill. HB 20 would also allow certain participating citizens who have been "trained and specifically authorized by the governor" to arrest suspected undocumented immigrants. Schaefer's bill has garnered more than 50 Republican sponsors so far, according to Legiscan.com. "They could set up outside a church, for example we have a heavy immigrant population in Dallas that attends our Lady of Guadalupe, about 11,000 people every Sunday," Rep. Rafael Anchía of Dallas pointed out during a hearing last week. "They could set up outside the church in Dallas...and not even to arrest them, just ask them for immigration status," Anchía added. Activists also denounced the bill during last week's public testimony session. Roberto Lopez of the Texas Civil Rights Project, warned that the bill could empower and legitimize vigilante groups that are already active on the southern border. "We have already seen paramilitary organizations operating in border communities," Lopez told The Texas Tribune. "Giving them the power to capture and detain people seeking safety and protection at our borders would create chaos that will endanger the safety of all Texans," Lopez continued. Rep. Schaefer's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/texas-border-immigration-law-17901688.php>

Biden administration to widen Medicaid and ACA health coverage to DACA immigrants

By Amy Goldstein and David Ovalle, Washington Post, April 13, 2023

- ❖ The Biden administration is proposing rules that would allow immigrants covered by DACA — the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program — to qualify for health insurance through Medicaid and Affordable Care Act marketplaces. The plan, which the White House says would benefit up to 580,000 people brought to the United States as children, would broaden the definition of who qualifies for those two insurance programs and one other. The expansion would rely on a regulatory change the Health and Human Services Department proposed Thursday that turns on two words: who has "lawful presence" in the country for purposes of being eligible for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and ACA marketplaces. It widens that umbrella to include DACA participants. Such changes in federal regulations often take considerable time, with months-long periods for public comments. But a statement from the White House says: "We recognize that every day counts, and we expect to get the proposed rule done by the end of the month." Until now, ACA insurance marketplaces have been closed to DACA participants. Those marketplaces are designed for consumers who do not have access to affordable health benefits through a job, and they provide federal subsidies to most of the 16 million people who have private health plans through these insurance exchanges. Medicaid is the nation's largest public insurance program, run jointly by the federal government and states. It provides coverage to about 85 million low-income people. It has not included DACA participants, but several states have used their own money to permit similar coverage to such people. In addition, 18 states have adopted an option, available for about two decades, to provide prenatal care to people regardless of their immigration status, according to data from the Kaiser Family Foundation, a health-policy organization. CHIP has existed since the late 1990s as a form of public insurance for children of the working poor, with nearly 10 million youngsters currently enrolled. Health insurance has been a particular sore spot for immigrants of all kinds, lawful and undocumented. As of 2021, the most recent data available, one-fourth of legal immigrants and nearly half of undocumented immigrants were uninsured, compared with about 1 in 10 U.S. citizens. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said about one-third of the 580,000 people participating in DACA do not have health insurance coverage. "Today's rule would change that," he said in a statement.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/04/13/aca-daca-biden-expansion/>

Mexico's top immigration official will face criminal charges in migrant detention center fire

By Nicole Acevedo, NBC News, April 12, 2023

- ❖ Mexico's top immigration official will face criminal charges in connection with a fire that killed 40 migrants, most of whom were Central American, in a government-run detention center in Ciudad Juárez last month. Federal prosecutors announced their decision to charge Francisco Garduño, the head of Mexico's National Immigration Institute, and five other people in a news release.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/mexicos-top-immigration-official-will-face-criminal-charges-migrant-de-rcna79303>