

NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

U.S. BORDER PATROL 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	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	11,654	12,780	11,829	9,034	10,419	11,853	11,062	9,447	6,736	10,045	104,859
	Family Units	46,749	49,827	60,845	25,829	25,643	33,269	46,555	45,025	31,266	60,161	425,169
	Single Adult	146,739	145,099	149,349	94,651	94,458	118,553	126,302	116,915	61,537	62,446	1,116,049
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		205,142	207,706	222,023	129,514	130,520	163,675	183,919	171,387	99,539	132,652	1,646,077

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

LATEST NEWS

Operation Lone Star Defends Sovereign Authority To Secure Border

By the Office of the Texas Governor, Press Release, September 8, 2023

- ❖ As of September 8, Texas has bused:
 - Over 11,300 migrants to Washington, D.C. since April 2022
 - Over 13,500 migrants to New York City since August 2022
 - Over 7,000 migrants to Chicago since August 2022
 - Over 2,600 migrants to Philadelphia since November 2022
 - Over 1,100 migrants to Denver since May 18
 - Over 480 migrants to Los Angeles since June 14
- ❖ Press Release Source: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/operation-lone-star-defends-sovereign-authority-to-secure-border>

Benedictine Sisters Corporate Responsibility Coalition

Families crossing U.S. border illegally reached all-time high in August

By Nick Miroff and Maria Sacchetti, Washington Post, August 31, 2023

- ❖ The U.S. Border Patrol arrested at least 91,000 migrants who crossed as part of a family group in August, exceeding the prior one-month record of 84,486 set in May 2019, during the Trump administration. Families were the single largest demographic group crossing the border in August, surpassing single adults for the first time since Biden took office. Overall, the data show, border apprehensions have risen more than 30 percent for two consecutive months, after falling sharply in May and June as the Biden administration rolled out new restrictions and entry opportunities. The Border Patrol made more than 177,000 arrests along the Mexico border in August, up from 132,652 in July and 99,539 in June.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://wapo.st/45ZBLrb>

Editorial: Shameful: A Texas National Guardsmen shot an immigrant in Mexico

By the Express News Editorial Board, September 5, 2023

- ❖ A Texas National Guardsmen shot an immigrant in the leg on the night of Aug. 26. The shooting was bad enough, but the immigrant was standing in Juarez, Mexico, across the river from El Paso, dozens of feet away. “The incident is under investigation,” a spokesperson for the Texas Military Department said in a statement, according to the Texas Tribune. U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Washington Post the guardsman fired after seeing three individuals attack a group of migrants with a knife. The shooting victim, 37-year-old Darwin Jose Garcia, disputed that story, telling El Diario de El Paso, a Spanish-language newspaper, that he was “practicing a sport” on the Mexican side while a group of migrants was crossing the border. Garcia, shot in the right leg, has been released from a Juarez hospital. The Mexican government and the Texas National Guard are investigating, but the he-said/he-said nature of the allegations is problematic. Mexican officials and U.S. human rights advocates are skeptical. The cynicism is understandable, considering the systematic assault against migrants in Texas. On Thursday, Congressman Joaquin Castro, Congresswoman Veronica Escobar and nine other Democrats from the Texas House delegation sent a letter to the Department of Justice asking for a comprehensive investigation into the shooting, criticizing Gov. Greg Abbott’s “continued interference with federal immigration enforcement and ongoing reports of inhuman treatment toward migrants and border communities as part of Operation Lone Star.” Operation Lone Star is not just cruel, it’s also ineffective. Migrant encounters along the Texas-Mexico border have jumped from 109,456 in March, 2021, to 116, 976 last month. This is not about a border invasion; it is about a culture war.
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/editorial/article/texasnationalguardsmenshotimmigrantjuarezmexico-18343028.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20\(Premium\)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email](https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/editorial/article/texasnationalguardsmenshotimmigrantjuarezmexico-18343028.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20(Premium)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email)

Commentary: Abbott's Operation Lone Star costs \$400,000 per arrest

By Geoff Burkhart, San Antonio Express-News, August 31, 2023

- ❖ On Sept. 30, 2021, Edgar Garces Robles, a Mexican citizen, was arrested in Val Verde County. Instead of asking federal officials to deport Garces Robles, the state of Texas handcuffed him, charged him with misdemeanor trespass and locked him in a Texas prison. Thousands of others like Garces Robles have been arrested under Gov. Greg Abbott’s Operation Lone Star — a nearly \$10 billion program aimed at addressing the rise in immigration. To put that number in context, Oklahoma’s entire annual budget is about \$10 billion. In addition to its jaw-dropping price tag, Operation Lone Star comes at the expense of civil liberties. That’s why our organization, the Texas Fair Defense Project, along with ACLU of Texas and the law firm Covington & Burling, have filed suit against state and county officials. The governor hasn’t disclosed how much Texas is spending for each Operation Lone Star arrest. But working with the numbers we have, the financial picture is grim. Texas has spent about \$5 billion so far, and Abbott has said about 33,000 migrants have been arrested. Taking Abbott at his word, Texas is spending roughly \$150,000 per misdemeanor arrest. But the governor’s numbers are inflated with tens of thousands of non-Operation Lone Star arrests. To determine the real cost, we should look to Operation Lone Star’s designated processing facilities in Val Verde and Jim Hogg counties. According to staff working on Operation Lone Star, these facilities have seen about 11,400 arrestees. Given that number, Texas is spending closer to \$400,000 for each Operation Lone Star misdemeanor arrest. Abbott might argue that his other border efforts — busing migrants to other states, launching the buoy barrier and building a wall — have taken a chunk out of the Operation Lone Star budget. But those efforts, harmful though they may be, have been cheap by comparison.
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/commentary/article/operation-lone-star-lawsuit-18329972.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20\(Premium\)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email](https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/commentary/article/operation-lone-star-lawsuit-18329972.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20(Premium)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email)

Lawmakers call for federal investigation into Texas Guard intel ring

By *Davis Winkie, Military Times, August 30, 2023*

- ❖ A member of Congress and a Texas state legislator have called for the Justice Department to investigate the Texas National Guard's intelligence work at the state's border with Mexico. U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-San Antonio, and state Sen. Roland Gutierrez, another San Antonio Democrat who is running for U.S. Senate, both issued statements via their official accounts on X, the social media site better known as Twitter. The lawmakers' remarks came after an investigation published by Military Times and The Texas Tribune revealed how Texas Guardsmen at the state's border with Mexico spied on migrants via WhatsApp and allegedly mishandled secret documents. At least three internal whistleblowers independently reported their peers' actions to watchdogs, sparking an investigation that ultimately led the state to disband the border mission's intelligence directorate in fall 2022. The Texas National Guard inspector general faulted at least two officers for the WhatsApp work, and at least four have faced interim administrative discipline. Two officers implicated in the operation told Military Times and the Tribune that the state failed to give them clear guidance on what intelligence work was allowed, and they also claimed their commanders — now-retired Col. Kevin Boates and Brig. Gen. Monie Ullis — disregarded concerns raised by oversight personnel. "[Gov. Greg] Abbott's officials pushed National Guard troops to misuse federal resources for a state-sponsored spy ring & punished officers who raised concerns," Castro, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, said. "We need a full federal investigation or this incident will set a dangerous precedent for domestic surveillance of U.S. citizens." Abbott's office did not immediately provide a comment for this story. Gutierrez, an immigration attorney outside of political life, argued the intelligence operation was "unconstitutional" and said "there must be a full [Justice Department] investigation...with swift action and accountability." One soldier said he welcomed the call for a federal investigation, adding that he hopes such scrutiny would help the government develop "clearer...instructions and guidelines" for intelligence operations under state authority.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/08/30/federal-investigation-texas-national-guard-spying/>

Governors Abbott, Noem, Pillen, Reynolds, Stitt Band Together To Secure Border

By *the Office of the Texas Governor, Press Release, August 21, 2023*

- ❖ On August 21, Governor Greg Abbott held a press conference in Eagle Pass with Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen, Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt, and South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem to provide an update on their joint efforts under Texas' Operation Lone Star to respond to President Joe Biden's reckless open border policies. "These Governors here with me today are deploying military and law enforcement officers to help Texas secure the border," said Governor Abbott. "We have 14 Governors who are deploying personnel to secure the border that President Biden has abandoned. President Biden is not doing his job, and he is responsible for the largest amount of illegal immigration in the history of the United States and has rolled out a deadly welcome mat with a record number of people dying attempting to cross the border. There is a reason the United Nations has named the border between the United States and Mexico the deadliest land border in the entire world. President Biden is responsible for that deadly border, and we're not going to stand idly by. We, as states, share an obligation and that's to step up and address this unparalleled catastrophe caused by President Biden." The Governor was also joined at the press conference by DPS Director Steve McCraw, Texas Adjutant General Major General Thomas Suelzer, and Texas Border Czar Mike Banks. As of today, 14 other states—including Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Idaho, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming—have stepped up to support Texas' efforts and deployed personnel and resources to secure the border in President Biden's absence.
- ❖ Press Release Source: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governors-abbott-noem-pillen-reynolds-stitt-band-together-to-secure-border>



Migrants stand in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, beside a razor-wire fence guarded by a member of the Texas National Guard on Monday. (Jose Luis Gonzalez/Reuters)

Why Biden Can't Expedite Work Permits for Migrants

By Eileen Sullivan, *New York Times*, August 31, 2023

- ❖ Gov. Kathy Hochul of New York has blamed the White House for failing to respond to her call to expedite work permits for the influx of migrants arriving in the state. More than 100,000 migrants have traveled to New York City from the southern border over the past year, relying on the state and city government for food, shelter, medical care and education. Governor Hochul has been urging the Biden administration to get work permits to asylum seekers faster so that they can support themselves and their families as they wait out the years it takes for their cases to wind through the immigration system. Under federal law, migrants have to wait about six months after they file their asylum application before they can apply for permission to work in the United States legally.
- ❖ Here are the reasons the Biden administration can't make changes quickly.
 - The delay is enshrined in law: In 1996, Congress stipulated that asylum seekers had to wait nearly six months after they filed their asylum application before they could apply for permission to work in the United States. Lawmakers believed that forcing asylum seekers to wait six months before they could apply to work would discourage people from crossing the border illegally and making potentially fraudulent asylum claims so they could get jobs. As of July, there were 2.5 million cases pending in immigration court, with an average processing time of four years, according to data collected by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University.
 - Congress cannot agree on changes to the law: For the past 15 years, Congress has failed to agree on how to update the country's immigration system, even as the current laws date back to the 1980s and 1990s and were designed around a much different U.S. economy and demographic set of migrants. Immigration has become more and more politically divisive, and there is little sign lawmakers will find a compromise anytime soon. There are proposals in both the House and Senate to reduce the wait time to apply for work authorization for certain asylum seekers from six months to 30 days. But there is scant support for either bill.
 - The few options President Biden has face legal and logistical challenges: One of these options is to offer humanitarian relief to people from certain countries through a program called temporary protected status. This benefit, which typically lasts 18 months, comes with work authorization. The government can extend the relief as it sees fit. The other option the president has that does not require Congress is to issue humanitarian parole, which comes with work authorization, on a case-by-case basis if there is an urgent need.
- ❖ News Article Source: https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/31/us/politics/new-york-asylum-work-permits-migrants.html?unlocked_article_code=EB_P6Y33VtWF9S2TQPtWi9nbtDmfM4adMV4i_wpyNyBREa2x8arsyY9phgbbGXru7SWI5JVv_unmJNysUY3YKnIwHKzBYsTES5eyi5CbmMSTqYT6UMML1etP7rtn_Imnrr1QiBRULg3wC6Lgss2-Cx6leBZjhZwEx5vQnHtUjXJZSDoe0jnzEEqUImK7oDpFMfe-tUAQI9M8bntoOSr9JNk_BGMXE5UzTFpdZl68UoW2zrflwm_4edMZnk0Exo1SUouBnoXW0Vii46LmSQmAZcbqQ_t6iNAf9tAF33EW8sRbspW2En1UXUIBXIzTS_j3K7ijsWJ1gqsRLaajJUUSjsVHI7t2jNR0FeQWn1VMN_A24Uvl&smid=url-share

TEXAS BUOY AND RAZOR WIRE BARRIERS IN THE RIO GRANDE

Texas 'Floating Border Wall' Fails to Deter Migrants

By Santiago Pérez and Michelle Hackman, *Wall Street Journal*, September 5, 2023

- ❖ When it installed a chain of giant bright orange buoys on the Rio Grande earlier this summer, Texas hoped that its new "floating border wall" would slow the number of migrants using this shallow point of the river to wade into the U.S. Instead, asylum seekers have simply been skirting the 1,000-foot barrier. This stretch of the river, abutting Eagle Pass, Texas, has for the past few years been one of the most popular crossing spots for migrant families because Piedras Negras, the Mexican city across the border, is relatively safe. The water is also shallow enough to avoid the river's most deadly currents. Blocking it off hasn't deterred migrants, but it has redirected them to more dangerous points on the river. The chain of buoys installed in mid-July has sparked diplomatic complaints by Mexico that it violates water and boundary treaties. The Justice Department and Eagle Pass residents have sued Texas, saying the state has no jurisdiction over the river. Experts on waterways have warned of its significant environmental risks. Under what it calls Operation Lone Star, Texas has been arresting migrants crossing the Rio Grande on trespassing charges, subjecting them to weeks or months of jail time before turning them over to the Border Patrol. Despite stepped-up law enforcement at Eagle Pass, the area saw the largest increases in illegal crossings in the past two years, according to a review by *The Wall Street Journal*. The barrier is formed by tethered buoys about 4-feet high, filled with foam and made with materials to withstand seawater conditions. The chain has blades affixed between buoys and is anchored by concrete blocks on the river bed. It cost about \$1 million to install and can be easily moved and expanded, state officials have said.
- ❖ News Article Source: https://www.wsj.com/world/americas/texas-floating-border-wall-fails-to-deter-migrants-75ebfcae?st=jp3uhjepkq135mp&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink

Texas moves large floating barrier on US-Mexico border closer to American soil

By Valerie Gonzalez and Paul J. Weber, Associated Press, August 21, 2023

- ❖ Texas has moved a floating barrier on the U.S.-Mexico border closer to American soil as the Biden administration and Mexico protest the wrecking ball-sized buoys that Republican Gov. Greg Abbott authorized in the name of preventing migrants from entering the country. The repositioning comes ahead of a hearing that could decide whether the buoys remain. Texas began installing the bright-orange buoys on the Rio Grande in July and the state was quickly sued by the Justice Department, which argues the barrier could impact relations with Mexico and pose humanitarian and environmental risks. During a trip to the border city of Eagle Pass, where the buoys are located, Abbott said the barrier was moved “out of an abundance of caution” following what he described as allegations that they had drifted to Mexico’s side of the river.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://apnews.com/article/texas-border-buoys-immigration-mexico-67e4b66ad085ec07cdbcadc552745d3d>

Judge orders Texas to remove floating border barriers, granting Biden administration request

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, September 6, 2023

- ❖ A federal judge in Austin on Wednesday, September 6, ordered Texas to remove river barriers that the state assembled along a stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border to repel migrants, giving the Biden administration an early victory in its lawsuit against the buoys approved by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott. Senior U.S. District Court Judge David Ezra issued a preliminary injunction directing Texas officials to remove the floating border barriers from the middle of the Rio Grande by Sept. 15, at the state's own expense. He also prohibited the state from setting up similar structures in the middle of the Rio Grande, the international boundary between the U.S. and Mexico in Texas. The Biden administration filed its lawsuit against the floating barriers in late July, arguing that Texas needed permission from the federal government to set up the buoys, and that the state had failed to acquire it. The administration also said the structures impeded Border Patrol agents from patrolling the border, endangered migrants and hurt U.S.-Mexico relations. Last month, Texas repositioned the buoys closer to American soil after federal officials disclosed a joint U.S.-Mexico survey that concluded that roughly 80% of the barriers had been set up in Mexican territory. Mexico's government has vocally denounced the buoys, saying they violate the country's sovereignty. While Abbott and other Texas officials have said the river barriers are designed to discourage migrants from attempting to enter the U.S. unlawfully and unsafely, human rights activists, Democratic lawmakers and a Texas state medic have raised concerns about the structures forcing migrants to swim across deeper parts of the Rio Grande where the risk of drowning is greater.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/texas-border-barriers-buoys-removed-federal-judge-biden-administration/>

Order to remove Rio Grande buoy barrier put on hold by federal appeals court

By John Wayne Ferguson, San Antonio Express-News, September 8, 2023

- ❖ A federal appeals court on Thursday, September 7, stopped, at least temporarily, a lower court's order for Texas to remove the floating buoy barrier in the middle of the Rio Grande. The U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday night issued an administrative stay to the order made Wednesday [September 6] by Judge David A. Ezra. The stay was requested by Gov. Greg Abbott's office. A three-judge panel ruled unanimously for the stay. The ruling included no reasoning and didn't set any dates for hearings. On Wednesday, Ezra ruled the state didn't have the right to deploy the buoy barrier without getting permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and ordered the state to remove it by Sept. 15. Abbott said he disagreed with the ruling and said he was willing to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.expressnews.com/politics/article/buoy-barrier-order-stayed-fifth-circuit-18355628.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20\(Premium\)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email](https://www.expressnews.com/politics/article/buoy-barrier-order-stayed-fifth-circuit-18355628.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20(Premium)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email)



A man walks along the buoy system on the Rio Grande south of Eagle Pass, Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Editorial: Greg Abbott's buoy barrier has no place in the Rio Grande

By the Express-News Editorial Board, September 8, 2023

- ❖ Gov. Greg Abbott's orange buoy barrier has no place in the Rio Grande. That is the verdict from U.S. District Judge David A. Ezra, who found the state deployed the barrier in the Rio Grande without federal permission. Texas has appealed, and the barrier will remain for now, but Ezra's ruling provides legal clarity amid political fog. The Justice Department argued the state needed clearance from the Army Corps of Engineers, which has oversight over all navigable waters, to deploy the barrier in the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass. The state countered that the buoy barrier needed no such review and that the Rio Grande, at nearly 1,900 miles, was not a navigable waterway. The state's argument defies logic and reality. So, in this sense, it was perfect for Operation Lone Star, which will cost the obscene amount of nearly \$9 billion by the end of next year and should not be confused with meaningful immigration policy. "Once a water is found to be navigable by Congress, it remains so until Congress, not the courts, declares otherwise," Ezra wrote. But, Ezra noted, the buoy barrier is subject to the federal Rivers and Harbors Act because it "interferes with or diminishes the navigable capacity." In other words, Team Texas was wrong on this, not once but twice. Ezra ordered the barrier removed. Texas appealed to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, which granted a temporary stay, and Abbott has vowed to take the fight to the U.S. Supreme Court. No one should be surprised given the virtue-signaling politics of immigration. Abbott has long argued the state has a right to respond to an "invasion" of immigrants to protect Texas' sovereignty. In fact, he used this rhetoric last month. The buoy barrier is a \$1 million expense in a \$9 billion operation. It spans 1,000 feet of a river that stretches for nearly 1,900 miles. It represents political ambition, not meaningful border and immigration policy. It must go.
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/editorial/article/abbott-orange-buoy-ruling-18353370.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20\(Premium\)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email](https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/editorial/article/abbott-orange-buoy-ruling-18353370.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20(Premium)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email)

BORDER WALL

Congressional watchdog describes border wall harm, says agencies should work together to ease damage

By Anita Snow, Associated Press, September 7, 2023

- ❖ The construction of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border under former President Donald Trump toppled untold numbers of saguaro cactuses in Arizona, put endangered ocelots at risk in Texas and disturbed Native American burial grounds, the official congressional watchdog said Thursday, September 7. A report released by the Government Accountability Office offers the first independent assessment of damage caused by the building of more than 450 miles (724 km) of wall while in-depth environmental reviews were waived and the concerns of Native American tribes went largely ignored in the rush to finish the barrier. Now, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Interior Department should work together to ease the damage, the GAO said. It recommended that the agencies coordinate to decide how much repair work will cost, how to fund it, and how long it will take. The border stretches across nearly 2,000 miles (3,200 km) along California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Sections of what Trump called his "big, beautiful wall" were installed between January 2017 and January 2021 by contractors for U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Defense.
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://apnews.com/article/us-mexico-border-wall-environment-damage-d6b396abf31ecf063ec637964048a05e#:~:text=PHOENIX%20\(AP\)%20%E2%80%94%20The%20construction,official%20congressional%20watchdog%20said%20Thursday](https://apnews.com/article/us-mexico-border-wall-environment-damage-d6b396abf31ecf063ec637964048a05e#:~:text=PHOENIX%20(AP)%20%E2%80%94%20The%20construction,official%20congressional%20watchdog%20said%20Thursday).

MIGRANT SHELTERS

Migrants overcrowd Chicago's makeshift shelter at O'Hare Airport

By Emily Finn, NewsNation, September 5, 2023

- ❖ The city of Chicago has been sheltering large groups of migrants at O'Hare International Airport, where asylum seekers say the living conditions are inhumane. A Chicago police officer confirmed Tuesday morning [September 5] that there were 433 migrants currently sheltering at the airport. The migrants have been forced to sleep on the airport's floors behind large swaths of black curtains used to hide the growing humanitarian crisis. Many of these migrants told NewsNation they are concerned for their well-being. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, the groups of more than 400 migrants are well over the capacity limit set by the city, and a huge spike from the merely 31 migrants at the beginning of August.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.newsnationnow.com/us-news/immigration/migrants-overcrowd-chicago-makeshift-shelter-ohare-airport/>

New plan from City of Chicago would move some migrants to a hostel in Greektown

By Sharda Gray, CBS News, September 3, 2023

- ❖ A new plan in Chicago would move migrants into a hostel in the city's Greektown neighborhood. The city says it is trying to alleviate crowding in some police stations, some with people's belongings piled up, children's toys on the sidewalk and walls of suitcases. The migrants could move into the hostel, which is called the Parthenon Guest House, in less than a week. Ald. Bill Conway (34th) says he didn't ask for this, which is why he is holding a meeting in a couple of days. "Though this is not my choice, and I'm disappointed at the short notice of this plan, I understand our responsibility as a welcoming city to work together given the present situation," he said in a statement. Ald. Andre Vasquez (40th) is the chair of the city's Immigrant and Refugee Rights Committee, which is described on the city's website as having "jurisdiction over all matters relating to refugees living in Chicago." This isn't the first time migrants have been housed at this specific hostel. The Parthenon Guest House was previously used as a temporary migrant shelter from October 2022 through February 2023. Migrants have packed the 12th Police District and many other police stations. The city says currently, about 6,500 migrants are staying at 16 city-run shelters. The goal is to get migrants, who are continuing to arrive in Chicago, out of the police station lobbies. "We're talking about over 13,000 new arrivals, 6,500 of them in shelters, 1,800 of them being minors, another 1,700 that are sleeping at police stations and airports," Vasquez said.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/chicago-migrants-greektown-hostel/>

New York City's Lucrative No-Bid Migrant Services Contract Is Rejected

By Jay Root, New York Times, September 6, 2023

- ❖ A no-bid \$432 million contract that New York City officials gave to a medical services provider to house and care for migrants has been rejected by the New York City comptroller's office. The comptroller, Brad Lander, cited a slew of defects with the contract awarded to the provider, DocGo, questioning why the administration of Mayor Eric Adams chose a firm to care for migrants that had no experience doing so. Mr. Lander noted that the city had failed to provide any "meaningful detail" regarding how it concluded that DocGo should be authorized to bill the city for hundreds of millions of dollars. Mr. Lander said DocGo's lack of expertise in providing a range of services, including social work, housing and busing migrants to motels far north and west of the city, reflected a lack of basic vetting by the agency, which hired the company under emergency procedures that waive typical competitive bidding requirements. "It is a medical services company, not a logistics company, social services provider or legal service provider," Mr. Lander wrote of DocGo in a denial letter that was made public on Wednesday. He also pointed to "alarming" news articles that "further detail the inflation of the company's financial value, interference with law enforcement and workplace violations." The rejection will initially bar the city from paying DocGo for any work submitted as part of the contract, which is being handled by the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Mr. Lander said the city housing agency could withdraw the DocGo contract, resubmit a less expensive version of it or fix the flaws he highlighted and seek reapproval. Mayor Eric Adams has the power to override Mr. Lander and unilaterally approve the contract over the comptroller's objections, and at an unrelated news conference on Wednesday, he suggested he would do so.
- ❖ News Article Source: https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/06/nyregion/docgo-migrants-contract-adams.html?unlocked_article_code=9_3hvI5LhuGyqizcfzI5xhPLCIRMPCCIJKJbUgnKRuWpfygNrR9SLXSkzLjnZsCm2tm8kd3BrqxAlh0VVOAax5cWMLvq0w3nQ-UTg57qOGUmZsAvx2fTBr3Q-1xTF0xqaSr4jVf5eqzSK77cAX9XKRCEp7joUNf9BXzfq8sclj4vPt3tL94fL777aUtg_DYe7Z2liSDBcUI1MNcZAcMqAD-DOS1QKqA7BsgpqXN1oxfpfkkb-X_BjRW4hj1R1TxLIP8Gy2qr1sufuxb7EFHr_QQ9rO58ouAy3lqY8XIX4H_gDhaOfJrf6YK6qPMuO_ZZGTCiNIU1JBv1lyNBKczFx05QADshHO13&smid=url-share

Healey says Massachusetts National Guard will deploy "soon" to help with migrant housing crisis

By Louisa Moller, CBS News, September 5, 2023

- ❖ Governor Maura Healey is promising that 250 members of the Massachusetts National Guard will soon deploy to emergency shelter sites and hotels in 80 different communities that are currently housing migrant and other homeless families. The Commonwealth has more than 6,000 families in emergency shelters, including pregnant mothers and children. Many have come to Massachusetts in recent months as migrants from countries such as Haiti. Healey said a lot of the migrants are coming by flight to Boston after they are greeted by advocates in states like Texas.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/boston/news/national-guard-massachusetts-migrants-hotels-maura-healey/>

Mexican border city struggles to find space for migrants even with a new shelter

By Valerie Gonzalez, Associated Press, August 23, 2023

- ❖ At a massive encampment near an international bridge along the U.S.-Mexico border, migrants from Honduras, Haiti, Venezuela and elsewhere have turned scraps of plastic, poster board and rope into makeshift homes. Mexico's immigration agency and a Catholic aid group are offering what may be at least a partial solution to conditions in this and other camps just south of Brownsville, Texas, where thousands of people wait with the hope of eventually entering the U.S. Last week, they opened a temporary outdoor shelter in Matamoros for up to 850 people. On the first day, 500 Haitians who were living at an old gas station and about 150 people who camped by the river moved in. The outdoor shelter appears woefully inadequate to accommodate the thousands of migrants living in the city and the others who arrive each day, Mexican authorities say it may expand. The U.S. government's attempt to create a more orderly system for people to seek asylum by creating a new mobile app has not eased the situation at the camps in Matamoros, though other cities in Mexico have reported improvements. Tijuana, the largest Mexican border city, reported less crowded migrant shelters after the app, CBP One, expanded to 1,450 appointments a day in May and made other changes. People with appointments line up three times a day at a Tijuana border crossing to San Diego, the same spot where authorities forcibly evicted migrants from a squalid camp in 2021. Mexican authorities in Chihuahua state, which includes Ciudad Juarez, reported that migrant shelters fell to 60% occupancy after the changes in May. But in Matamoros, a city of about 500,000 people known for drug-fueled violence, those who have coveted CBP One appointments become kidnapping targets. Filth is everywhere. "We bathe in the Rio Bravo, which we were told is polluted," said Edith Waldan, a 29-year-old Honduran who is now in the U.S. but kept her CBP One appointment a secret while in Matamoros because she feared being kidnapped. "We go hungry. We're in the heat. We suffer, but there's no other way." U.S. authorities say it generally takes six to eight weeks of daily attempts to get an appointment on CBP One. Many migrants interviewed by The Associated Press said they have been trying around three months, though some said they have gotten lucky after only a few days of trying.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/mexican-border-city-struggles-to-find-space-for-migrants-even-with-a-new-shelter>

San Antonio gets \$24.5M in FEMA funding to continue aiding migrants through 2025

By Raquel Torres, San Antonio Report, August 18, 2023

- ❖ The City of San Antonio on Thursday, August 17, accepted its portion of \$24.5 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for its work with local nonprofits to continue aiding migrants traveling to and through San Antonio until September 2025. The funding comes at the same time the city's migrant resource center is working to manage the largest increase in migrant arrivals since January. Of the funding, the City of San Antonio will accept \$13,051,737; Catholic Charities will get \$5,688,925; and the United Way of San Antonio, which administers the FEMA emergency and shelter funding to local nonprofits, gets \$5,795,360. The federal allocation reimburses salaries, transportation costs and the lease to operate San Antonio's migrant resource center along San Pedro Avenue, and will also fund other forms of migrant aid like meals, hotels and toiletries until Sept. 30, 2025. This round of FEMA reimbursements is less than previous rounds, said Catholic Charities CEO Antonio Fernandez. The \$5.6 million for Catholic Charities will go toward continuing operations at the MRC, he said, but it's going to limit what they can do, including paying migrants' onward travel as the number of arrivals rises. Catholic Charities experienced its busiest week since January at the migrant resource center during the week of August 7, according to the nonprofit, with more than 4,600 migrants passing through the center in seven days. When setting up the shelter, the city spent \$10.7 million in funds they requested to be reimbursed for in June 2022. The city, Catholic Charities and United Way have received multiple disbursements since then to aid migrants in San Antonio and manage the shelter. In May, San Antonio received a total of \$38 million from FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program to assist San Antonio's humanitarian response to Title 42 ending. At the time, Catholic Charities got \$31,955,232, the City of San Antonio got \$4,692,492, and the United Way of San Antonio got \$1,584,931.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://sanantonioreport.org/migrant-resource-center-san-antonio-fema-funding/>



A selection of fruits, vegetables and beverages are offered at the cafeteria inside the Centro de Bienvenida, or migrant resource center, managed by Catholic Charities.

(Bria Woods / San Antonio Report)

DEVELOPING STORIES

Ron DeSantis' big immigration mistake | Commentary

By Linda Chavez, *Orlando Sentinel*, July 30, 2023

- ❖ Florida's draconian new immigration restrictions, signed into law by DeSantis two months ago, are now taking effect. They will have a devastating impact on at least two of the state's major industries: agriculture and construction. The new law imposes tough penalties on both undocumented employees and the employers who hire them. A job applicant who presents a false Social Security number or other documentation during the hiring process will be subject to a third-degree felony and could serve five years in jail. The statute also requires employers with more than 25 workers to use the federal E-Verify system, which has a documented history of both rejecting legitimate workers and clearing those who aren't authorized. If employers hire unauthorized workers, they could end up losing their business licenses. Workers are apparently fleeing the state in response — and not just those who are in the country illegally. Many immigrant families have mixed status: an undocumented parent or spouse and legal immigrants or U.S. citizens in the same household. One 2017 study estimated that more than 900,000 Floridians lived in mixed-status households, and when a family member faces the risk of becoming a felon, they may decide that staying in Florida isn't worth the risk. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that in Miami's booming construction industry, between 25% and 50% of local construction workers have already disappeared from job sites. The owner of a large farming and packaging company told the WSJ that he'd lost half of his employees because of the law. Construction and agriculture depend heavily on unauthorized workers nationally and in Florida. A recent Kaiser Family Foundation analysis estimates that almost 40% of agricultural workers in the state are noncitizen immigrants (most of whom are also undocumented), as are 23% percent of its construction workers. These employees are not easily replaceable — and certainly not with American workers. A whopping 21% of Florida's population is foreign-born, including about 775,000 who are undocumented. Immigrants are well represented across various occupations in the state, including 32% of service occupations and 23% of management, business and science occupations.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.orlandosentinel.com/2023/07/30/linda-chavez-immigration/>

Exclusive: Smuggler with ties to ISIS helped migrants enter US from Mexico, raising alarm bells across government

By Katie Bo Lillis, Evan Perez, Priscilla Alvarez and Natasha Bertrand, *CNN*, August 30, 2023

- ❖ The FBI is investigating more than a dozen migrants from Uzbekistan and other countries allowed into the US after they sought asylum at the southern border with Mexico earlier this year, a scramble set off when US intelligence officials found that the migrants traveled with the help of a smuggler with ties to ISIS, according to multiple US officials. While the FBI says no specific ISIS plot has been identified, officials are still working to "identify and assess" all of the individuals who gained entry to the United States, according to a statement from National Security Council spokesman Adrienne Watson. And they are closely scrutinizing a number of the migrants as possible criminal threats, according to two US officials. Though there is no evidence at this point to justify detaining anyone, the episode was so alarming that an urgent classified intelligence report was circulated to President Joe Biden's top Cabinet officials in their morning briefing book. For some counterterrorism officials, it shows that the US is deeply vulnerable to the possibility that terrorists could sneak across the southern border by hiding amid the surge of migrants entering the country in search of asylum. The incident kicked off a flurry of urgent meetings among top national security and administration officials at a time when Republicans have hammered Biden on the security of the southern border heading into the 2024 campaign. Staff on key congressional committees have been informed of the incident, according to two sources familiar with the matter. Earlier this year, a cohort of migrants from Uzbekistan requested asylum and were screened by the Department of Homeland Security, part of a rising number of asylum seekers who have traveled to the US from Central Asia in recent years. There was no information in any of the intelligence community's databases that raised any red flags and the people were all released into the US pending a court date. It was only later, when the FBI learned about the existence of a human smuggling network helping foreign nationals travel to the US — and that this network included at least one individual with connections to ISIS — that national security officials put the pieces together. FBI agents around the country immediately rushed to try to locate the migrants and investigate their backgrounds. The bureau also worked with Turkish authorities, who arrested the smuggler and other members of his network at the behest of the US, and has subsequently obtained information from him to aid its investigation, US officials said. "There was no indication—and remains no indication—that any of the individuals facilitated by this network have a connection to a foreign terrorist organization or are engaged in plotting a terrorist attack in the United States," Watson said in a statement to CNN.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/29/politics/migrants-us-southern-border-smuggler-isis-ties/index.html>

U.S. reminds migrants to apply for work permits following pressure from city officials

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, August 31, 2023

- ❖ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) started sending emails and texts to migrants who are eligible to apply for work authorization with the agency, including asylum-seekers and those who arrived in the U.S. under programs the Biden administration created to discourage adults and families from crossing the southern border without authorization. "You are receiving this message because you were paroled into the U.S. You can apply for a work permit online," reads the notification. The notifications are being sent to migrants who entered the U.S. under a process that allows Americans to sponsor the entry of Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans, as well as those processed at ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border after securing an appointment through a government phone app [CBP One App]. Migrants who've filed asylum cases will also receive a version of the notification if their cases have been pending for at least 150 days. U.S. law only allows asylum-seekers to receive work permits 180 days after they submit their applications. More than 200,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans have arrived in the U.S. since October 2022 under the sponsorship policy, according to internal DHS data obtained by CBS News. Moreover, 180,000 migrants were processed at ports of entry after securing appointments through the CBP One government app between January and the end of July, DHS figures show.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/u-s-reminds-migrants-to-apply-for-work-permits-following-pressure-from-new-york-other-cities/>

Vigil for Migrants: Eagle Pass Remembers the Border Dead

By Patti Hernandez and Amerika Garcia-Grewal, Border Vigil Eagle Pass, September 5, 2023

- ❖ On Monday, September 4, 2023, Eagle Pass residents and allies held a vigil on the banks of the Rio Grande River to mark the unnecessary loss of life on the Texas-Mexico border. The Rio Grande Memorial Vigil was organized by Iglesia Luterana San Lucas, First United Methodist Church of Eagle Pass, Mission Border Hope, Sul Ross University and CC Winn High School students, and local Eagle Pass residents. The evening's activities began at the Maverick County Lake, where the Eagle Pass Car and Bike Community showed off their cars before they started their cruise. Before their Main Street Cruise they shared stories of being turned away from favorite routes along the river. Due to the train, they chose an alternate route around town. Upon arrival at the Shelby Park Boat Ramp, Pastor Julio Vasquez of Iglesia Luterana San Lucas delivered a blessing to the cars and their drivers. The multigenerational group then congregated at the boat ramp, where the vigil began with an invocation from Pastor Julio. He was followed by impassioned words from Carlos Longoria, a senior from CC Winn High School; Valeria Wheeler, executive director of Mission Border Hope; and Karen Gonzalez, an organizer with The Border Organization. They spoke about the humanitarian crisis at the border and called for more compassion and action to protect and support migrants and refugees. Flowers were distributed to the attendees, which Pastor Julio blessed. The flowers were then laid on the river as a symbol of respect and remembrance for those who have perished. Rodrigo Lozano, Jr., one of the student leaders volunteering at the vigil, said: "These vigils started as a way for our community to get together to mourn the loss of the people who have died in the river. It's awful to think about the lives that could have been lived. All the potential these individuals had just washed away with the river. We hope our community will use these vigils to not only mourn, but heal from these losses. The citizens of Eagle Pass are here and we won't stand to the side while people are dying at our border." The vigil also attracted some visitors who came to show their support. Ari Sawyer, a U.S. border researcher for Human Rights Watch, said: "I was moved to tears by the people of Eagle Pass, who came to honor the migrant people who have lost their lives in search of a better one. While the river serves as a national boundary, it is also home to the vigil attendees who came saddened by death but also hopeful for the possibility of a more humane and welcoming future." LULAC State Director of Women, Claudia Azua of Mineral Wells, said: "I attended the vigil in solidarity with the community of Eagle Pass. We came together to remember all of the individuals who have lost their lives on the Rio Grande. It saddened me that some of those who have died are never named because their remains cannot be identified. Tonight's ceremony was a meaningful way to remember so many individuals who have passed looking for better opportunities." The next Border Vigil is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 2, 2023, although it is the fervent prayer of the organizers that there will be no deaths along the border in the month of September.



Image Credit: Border Vigil Eagle Pass

- ❖ Article Source: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dZydeR65R91nemwYtIHtK5ChBg_WXY1N/view?usp=sharing
https://apple.news/AQE_Vaw0xQEempZ8Mf68bhXA

Texas can keep border buoys 3 more weeks until appeals court hearing

By Todd J. Gillman and Aarón Torres, *Dallas Morning News*, September 13, 2023

- ❖ A federal appeals court on Wednesday, September 13, set an October 5 hearing on Texas's migrant-blocking buoys, ensuring the controversial Rio Grande barrier remains in place for at least three more weeks. The court has allowed the state to keep its 1,000-foot long floating barrier in place near Eagle Pass temporarily, blocking an order issued last week by a lower court in Austin that would have required the state to remove the buoys by Friday, September 15. The New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals halted that ruling a day later pending further review, and extended that stay on Monday, telling the Justice Department and the state it will schedule oral arguments as soon as possible.
- ❖ News Article Source: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PTwSg_2rdf89IMv0LQly11w4vPov2tY/view?usp=sharing

Arizona group converting shipping containers from makeshift border wall into homes: 'The need is huge'

By Sarah Lapidus and Minnah Arshad, *USA TODAY*, September 11, 2023

- ❖ Some shipping containers that once stood on Arizona's border to keep people out are now being converted into tiny homes that welcome people in. Wholistic Transformation, a Tucson, Arizona, faith-based nonprofit organization, is using shipping containers from former Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey's makeshift border wall to build tiny homes for young people transitioning out of the foster care system. Ducey, who stacked thousands of shipping containers last year to create a barrier along the Arizona-Mexico border, came under pressure from a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Department of Justice against Arizona, Ducey and agreed to dismantle the wall in December 2022. The federal government contended the wall was illegal, dangerous and interfered with federal duties. Now, more than 2,000 containers removed from the border are available to government entities and nonprofits that can find uses for them, the state has said. The Arizona Department of Administration said any left by October will be available for public sale. Bryan Benz, the founder and CEO of Wholistic Transformation, said he plans to build a community of seven tiny homes out of shipping containers that include a resident justice navigator on two adjoining lots belonging to the church next door. Benz said he is looking to raise \$12,000 to complete the first shipping container, and each following unit will cost \$40,000 to complete. The entire project is projected to cost from \$400,000 to \$450,000, which includes one year's salary for the resident navigator. Once they are completed and residents move into their new tiny homes, their rent will pay for ongoing expenses.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/09/11/makeshift-border-united-states-arizona-border/70827811007/>

DHS has lost track of 177,000 migrants inside the U.S.

By Julia Ainsley, *NBC News*, September 11, 2023

- ❖ The internal watchdog for the Department of Homeland Security found the agency has a limited ability to track migrants once they are released inside the United States, noting that during a 17-month period 177,000 address records for new arrivals were either blank or contained nonexistent or nonresidential locations. More than 1 million migrants were released inside the U.S. pending their immigration hearings from March 2021 to August 2022, according to a new report from the DHS Office of Inspector General. Of those migrants' records, more than 54,000 were blank, while the rest were either invalid or not legitimate residential locations. Some of the locations that were used more than 50 times during a six-month period included a restaurant in Maryland, a bus station in Georgia, a car dealership in New Jersey and a church in Illinois. Without a real address, DHS had no way to track the whereabouts of migrants or to send them notifications about their pending asylum claims and court dates. If they don't file an asylum claim with immigration courts within a year of arrival, they could miss the opportunity to seek legal residency and work authorization.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/dhs-lost-track-177000-migrants-us-rcna104464>

Biden admin. considering migrant remain-in-Texas plan: report

By Craig Huber, *Spectrum News*, September 8, 2023

- ❖ According to a report published by the Los Angeles Times, the Biden administration is considering a plan that involves limiting the movement of migrants in the U.S. The Los Angeles Times, citing unnamed U.S. officials, said some migrant families would be made to remain near the Texas-Mexico border while awaiting asylum screenings. The idea, the paper reported, is to discourage migrants from entering the country without authorization and to help the administration quickly deport migrants who fail initial screenings.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/tx/south-texas-el-paso/news/2023/09/08/biden-admin--considering-migrant-remain-in-texas-plan--report->

A new court ruling deems DACA illegal, but the program hasn't ended. Here are 4 things to know.

By Nicole Acevedo, NBC News, September 14, 2023

- ❖ U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen ruled Wednesday night [September 13] that recent efforts by the Biden administration to turn the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program into a federal regulation were unlawful. Here are four important things to know about who is affected and what's at stake.
 - **Does this actually mean DACA is illegal?** Technically, yes. But that doesn't mean DACA has ended. While the roughly 580,000 current recipients can continue to renew their DACA status every two years, the program is closed for new applicants.
 - **Will DACA recipients lose their status?** They won't lose their status as long as they continue to renew their DACA in a timely manner. Current recipients or those whose DACA status expired less than a year ago can continue to renew it every two years. Those who miss the window to renew would be able to reapply only as new applicants — but that isn't currently allowed.
 - **Who's left out?** An estimated 400,000 people who would have been eligible to apply for the first time haven't had access to DACA since 2021, according to an analysis by FWD.us, a bipartisan group supporting immigration reform. Among the 400,000 people shut out of the DACA program are nearly 93,000 first-time applicants who have been left in limbo for the past two years. They had submitted the necessary paperwork and paid the required \$495 fee to apply for the program shortly before Hanen closed it for new applicants. Since DACA started in 2012, recipients have contributed \$108 billion to the economy, as well as \$33 billion in combined taxes, according to FWD.us.
 - **What happens next?** Hanen's ruling is likely to be appealed to the Supreme Court, sending DACA before the court for a third time. In the meantime, DACA recipients and immigrant rights advocates have continued to push for a pathway to citizenship.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/court-ruling-daca-illegal-program-hasnt-ended-4-things-know-rcna105085>

Mexico on track to break asylum application record

By Edgar H. Clemente, Associated Press, September 14, 2023

- ❖ Mexico is on track to receive more asylum applications this year than ever before as the flow of migrants threatens to overwhelm governments of several Latin American countries along the migratory route. Andrés Ramírez Silva, the director of Mexico's refugee agency, said Thursday, September 14, that the number of asylum applications his agency receives this year could reach 150,000, well above the 129,000 record set in 2021. Last Friday, Panamanian authorities announced they would increase deportations and build new facilities near the border with Colombia to hold migrants separate from the small communities that receive them. Panama has said that more than 350,000 migrants have already crossed the Darien Gap along their shared border with Colombia this year, a number that already shattered last year's record of fewer than 250,000.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://apnews.com/article/mexico-migration-asylum-guatemala-6dcbe91b2fd53b91e06e3a022b2e2f8a>

Migrant Teens Worked in Risky Jobs in New Bedford Seafood Processing Plants

By Nadine Sebai, Nina Sparling and Bruce Gil, PBS, September 18, 2023

- ❖ Kill. Clean. Repeat. Nathanael quickly learned the routine. Rip the legs off a crab. Clean them with giant spinning wire brushes. Toss them down a chute. Repeat. "Sometimes when you kill a crab, the brain splatters," he said. "When you remove the shell, everything splatters." Nathanael said he began working at The Atlantic Red Crab Co., in New Bedford, Massachusetts, last fall, when he was 14. He said he worked alongside his cousin, Joel, who was then 16. Three workers told The Public's Radio they witnessed the teens killing, cleaning, and weighing crabs at the plant. The Guatemalan teenagers had recently arrived in the United States after swimming across the border from Mexico. A family member said the cousins applied to a staffing agency using fake IDs, and that the agency – Workforce Unlimited, Inc. – sent them to work at the plant. The teens said they routinely worked 12-hour days, sometimes seven days a week, making \$16.50 an hour. Nathanael and Joel's experiences are not unique. The Public's Radio interviewed more than two dozen migrant teens who described working long hours cutting heads off salmon, picking bones out of cod, and cleaning lobsters in New Bedford seafood processing plants. The smell of fish, they said, clung to their clothes and skin, even after they showered. The teens described working in the industry as far back as 2016. Several said they worked overnight shifts, barely sleeping before waking up to go to school the next day, where they struggled to stay awake in class. The U.S. Department of Labor is investigating Atlantic Red Crab and Workforce Unlimited for possible violations of child labor, overtime pay, and anti-retaliation laws, according to documents obtained by The Public's Radio. The Labor Department is also investigating Sea Watch International, a Maryland-based clam processor that has a plant in New Bedford.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/migrant-teens-worked-in-risky-jobs-in-new-bedford-seafood-processing-plants/>

U.S. reopens troubled facility for migrant children in Texas amid spike in border arrivals

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, September 13, 2023

- ❖ The Biden administration this week reopened a housing facility for unaccompanied migrant children previously at the center of reports of poor living conditions in response to a marked increase in crossings along the southern border, two U.S. officials familiar with the move told CBS News. The U.S. Department of Health of Human Services facility, a former camp for oil workers in Pecos, Texas, officially stopped housing migrant children in federal custody this spring. But HHS reopened the site, which it calls an "influx care facility," after bed capacity at its traditional shelters dwindled, the U.S. officials said, requesting anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press. The Pecos facility, which is currently able to house up to 500 migrant teenagers, welcomed a group of unaccompanied minors on Tuesday, one of the officials disclosed. In a statement to CBS News, HHS confirmed it had reactivated the site, and that it was working to open another influx housing facility at a former boarding school in Greensboro, North Carolina. While the Greensboro site was set to open last month, it has no current activation date, officials said. In August alone, HHS received more than 13,000 unaccompanied migrant children — an average of 431 a day — from U.S. border officials, according to internal government data obtained by CBS News. In July, for contrast, HHS received an average of 304 migrant children per day. Due to the increase in border crossings, the department's traditional shelters recently reached 85% capacity, one of the U.S. officials said. Under federal law, U.S. border officials must transfer unaccompanied migrant children who are not from Mexico to HHS, which houses them until they turn 18 or can be placed with a U.S.-based sponsor, who is typically a relative. The law also prevents their quick deportation and allows them to seek asylum or other immigration benefits, such as visas for at-risk youth. As of Wednesday morning, HHS was housing more than 10,600 migrant children, a 75% increase from the start of July, when the agency had 6,000 unaccompanied minors in its custody, federal data shows.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/migrant-children-housing-facility-reopens-pecos-texas-spike-border-arrivals/>

'More and more on the move'. Record number of migrant children in Latin America and Caribbean, UN warns

By Michael Rios and Heather Chen, CNN, September 7, 2023

- ❖ Children are migrating through Latin America and the Caribbean in record numbers, driven by gang violence, poverty, instability and climate change, the United Nations reported Wednesday, September 6. In the first seven months of 2023, more than 60,000 children crossed the Darien Gap, a major migration route and treacherous stretch of jungle that connects South and Central America, more than any other year on record, said the UN's Children Fund, UNICEF. Younger children were making these dangerous journeys at an increasing rate, UNICEF added, with those under 11 years old now accounting for up to 91% of all children moving through key transit points in the region. "More and more children are on the move, at an increasingly young age, often alone and from diverse countries of origin, including from as far away as Africa and Asia," said Garry Conille, director of UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean. Globally, children make up around 13 per cent of the migrant population, but they account for 25 per cent of people on the move in Latin America and the Caribbean – the highest proportion in the world. The trek across the Darién Gap, a stretch of remote, roadless, mountainous rainforest connecting South and Central America, is one of the most popular and perilous walks on earth. The 66-mile (106-kilometer) hike brings migrants from Colombia to Panama and is a crucial passage for those hoping to reach the United States and Canada. Almost 250,000 people made the crossing in 2022, fueled by economic and humanitarian disasters – nearly double the figures from the year before, and 20 times the annual average from 2010 to 2020.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/07/americas/unicef-report-latin-america-caribbean-migrant-children-intl-hnk/index.html>

Chicago's newest migrant shelter opens in Greektown; 200 single men capacity

By Sarah Schulte, ABC News Chicago, September 15, 2023

- ❖ Busloads of migrants rolled up Friday morning [September 15] at Chicago's newest migrant shelter. The Parthenon Guest House in Greektown is the city's 19th migrant shelter to open. Close to 200 single men who have been living at police stations will be housed at the shelter. The 11-acre property sits along the river in Nugent's ward. Nearby residents have mixed feelings about a big shelter in their neighborhood. The city said the building needs minimal repairs and could be ready for migrants in about three weeks. According to a city map, the site would add to a number of shelters already on the North Side.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://abc7chicago.com/chicago-migrants-shelter-greektown-north-park/13788146/>

U.S. border agents are separating migrant children from their parents to avoid overcrowding, inspector finds

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, September 16, 2023

- ❖ U.S. Border Patrol agents separated migrant children as young as 8 from their parents for several days this summer to avoid overcrowding in a short-term holding facility, an independent federal court monitor said Friday, September 15, raising concerns about the physiological impact of such separations. Dr. Paul Wise, the federal court monitor, said he learned during two visits to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection tent facility in Donna, Texas, last month that migrant boys and girls had been separated from their parents and held away from their families, in a different part of the site, for as many as four days. Wise, a pediatrician, said Border Patrol officials told him the children and parents were separated for operational reasons, namely to prevent overcrowding in pods housing families. The separated children, Wise added, were kept in pods typically reserved for unaccompanied minors that had more space. Most of the migrant children interviewed by Wise and his colleague indicated not knowing of "any protocols that would allow them to request a visit with their parents," he wrote in a 71-page report filed in the federal district court in Los Angeles. Wise's visits to the Donna facility occurred on Aug. 11 and Aug. 30. "Separated children included girls separated from mothers and boys separated from their fathers," Wise wrote. "None of the interviewed children had visited with their parents since they were separated, including children who had been separated for 4 days." Wise noted the separations could adversely affect children's mental health. The interviews with separated children at the Donna site, he wrote, "revealed significant emotional distress related to separation, including sustained crying and disorientation" stemming from their inability to communicate with their parents. "Separating a child from a parent can be profoundly traumatic for children and can have lasting, harmful effects," he wrote. "While the risk of these effects is elevated among tender aged children and can vary based on a variety of factors, the potential that separating a child and parent while in CBP custody will have serious, deleterious effects remains substantial for all children." The report's findings illustrate the operational and humanitarian challenges faced by Border Patrol due to a recent spike in migrant crossings along the U.S.-Mexico border. While illegal border crossings there dropped to a two-year low in June, they have increased sharply in recent weeks, driven in part by record arrivals of families traveling with minor children.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/migrant-children-separated-parents-u-s-border-agents-overcrowding/>

US-Mexico border is world's deadliest land migration route, IOM finds

By Reuters, September 12, 2023

- ❖ The U.S.-Mexico border is the world's deadliest land migration route, according to U.N. migration agency figures published on Tuesday, September 12, with hundreds losing their lives attempting to make perilous desert crossings. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) documented 686 deaths and disappearances among migrants on the frontier last year, but the actual figure is likely higher due missing data, including from the Texas border county coroner's offices and the Mexican search and rescue agency. In a landscape of sweeping desert, canyons and cactus-studded hills, migrants fall prey to heat stroke in summer and hypothermia in winter, U.S. border officials have said. Some bodies are never found. Paul Dillon, spokesperson for IOM, said that the figures recorded "represent the lowest estimates available." IOM said that nearly half of the deaths recorded last year were linked to the crossing of the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts. The number of deaths and disappearances documented by IOM along the border represents nearly half of the 1,457 cases recorded throughout the Americas last year. "One of the most concerning trends that IOM has seen in the Americas was the increase in deaths on migration routes in the Caribbean," Dillon said. He said that 350 deaths had been documented in 2022, compared with 245 in 2021 and less than 170 recorded in prior years. Most of the victims on Caribbean migration routes were people from the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba. The Darien Gap, a jungle border crossing between Panama and Colombia, saw 141 documented migrant deaths last year, according to IOM. "The remote and dangerous nature of this area and the presence of criminal gangs along the route means that this figure likely does not represent the actual number of lives lost," Dillon said. Panama announced new measures last week to curb rising migrant crossings through the Darien Gap, which reached an all time high this year.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-mexico-border-is-worlds-deadliest-land-migration-route-iom-finds-2023-09-12/>

Illegal border crossings are on the rise: 7,500 migrants were stopped on Sunday alone

By Julia Ainsley, NBC News, September 18, 2023

- ❖ The number of migrants illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border has risen steadily since the start of September, according to two Department of Homeland Security officials, with Border Patrol apprehending more than 7,500 migrants on Sunday alone. In July, the latest month for which official data is available, the number of daily apprehensions of illegal border crossers averaged just over 4,300. The rise in migrants may indicate that new policies put in place by the Biden administration in May, which initially kept numbers low, may now be having less of an impact. The new policies make it harder for migrants to seek asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border and easier for them to seek lawful entry to the U.S. from their home countries, a new strategy the Biden administration enacted after Covid-19 border policies expired in mid-May. Before the policy change, daily apprehensions of illegally border crossers had reached a record high of more than 10,000. On Sunday, September 17, the busiest sector was the Rio Grande Valley, Texas, with more than 1,800 apprehensions; followed by Del Rio, Texas, with more than 1,600 apprehensions; Tucson, Arizona, with more than 1,500; and El Paso, Texas, with more than 1,000, according to data obtained by NBC News. Fox News reported 2,200 migrants crossed in the Del Rio Border Patrol sector into Eagle Pass Texas between midnight and 10 a.m. Monday, September 18. NBC News has not independently confirmed that account.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/illegal-border-crossings-are-rise-7500-migrants-stopped-sunday-alone-rcna105616>

Mass migrant influx in Eagle Pass prompts potential state of emergency declaration

By Yami Virgin, News 4 San Antonio, September 18, 2023

- ❖ In the last two days big numbers of migrants have come across Eagle Pass, some of them through Shelby Park. But why now? According to sources in Panama where the majority are crossing, into North America, rumor has it that Colombia and Panama are closing their border which has prompted this mass exodus. On Monday afternoon [September 18] migrants kept arriving and were told by State Representative Eddie Morales that the majority of them had arrived just across the border in Piedras Negras aboard trains. On Monday morning between 2,200 and 2,500 were turned over to border patrol. Now the small city of Eagle Pass is concerned about what they will do if the numbers keep going up. For some reason, they've taken over the Union Pacific railroad depot on the Mexican side which is Ferromex and now they are jumping on the trains," said Morales. Many of the asylum seekers that are arriving come from Venezuela, Ecuador, and Haiti according to border patrol sources. But what is most alarming are reports from Panamanian media outlets showing migrants heading to the U.S. crossing the dangerous Darien Gap jungle between Colombia and Panama by the thousands. Immigration sources with Panama tell me that on September 15th 5,444 migrants entered Panama through the jungle and that has been a daily occurrence during the last few weeks.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://news4sanantonio.com/news/local/mass-migrant-influx-in-eagle-pass-prompts-potential-state-of-emergency-declaration-local-san-antonio-texas-crisis-in-the-border>

Eagle Pass mayor signs emergency declaration amid migrant surge, awaits numbers from federal government

By Yamilet Virgin, News 4 San Antonio, September 19, 2023

- ❖ On September 19, Mayor Rolando Salinas of Eagle Pass signed an Emergency Declaration after the new surge of migrants started arriving this weekend. The mayor says he is still waiting to get official numbers from the federal government as to how many have actually crossed. In the meantime, Salinas says if Eagle Pass gets the disaster funding through this declaration it will go towards reimbursing fire and police resources that had to be used so far. Salinas also stated the city of Eagle Pass would not be opening a shelter. "We don't have the funds or resources to do that," said Salinas. The city says Mission Border will continue providing help to migrants dropped off at the shelter by Border Patrol after being processed. Valeria Wheeler is the Executive Director of the non-profit shelter. She tells us on Thursday they will open their new shelter, going from about 8,000 square feet to nearly 25,000 sq.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://news4sanantonio.com/news/local/eagle-pass-mayor-signs-emergency-declaration-amid-migrant-surge-awaits-numbers-from-federal-government>

Panama to increase deportations in face of record migration through the Darien Gap

By *The Associated Press*, September 8, 2023

- ❖ Panama will increase infrastructure in the jungle area along its shared border with Colombia known as the Darien Gap — as well as ramp up deportations — to contain a record-breaking flow of migrants passing through there this year, Panama's immigration chief said. National Immigration Authority Director Samira Gozaine said President Laurentino Cortizo had authorized hiring charter flights to increase deportations. Some 350,000 migrants have crossed the dangerous Darien Gap so far this year, shattering last year's record of fewer than 250,000, which was also a record. Panama will also tighten requirements for some foreigners arriving by air. The country will reduce the maximum tourist stay to 15 days from 90 and require visitors to show they have at least \$1,000 available to them, rather than the current \$500. Gozaine said it will not apply to all nationalities. Venezuelans have made up more than half of the migrants entering Panama through the Darien Gap this year.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/panama-increase-deportations-face-record-migration-darien-gap-rcna104147>

Migrants burst into southern Mexico asylum office demanding papers

By *Edgar H. Clemente*, Associated Press, September 18, 2023

- ❖ On September 18, migrants, mostly from Haiti, burst into an asylum office in southern Mexico demanding papers. The tension comes as asylum claims in Mexico have skyrocketed, reaching over 100,000 so far this year. Crowds of frustrated migrants, including many from Cuba and Honduras, say they have had to wait for weeks in some cases for an appointment at the office in Tapachula, near the border with Guatemala. At the office, run by the Mexican Commission for Refugee Aid, migrants can file claims for asylum in Mexico. Most, however, intend to use the papers to travel more safely and easily to the U.S. border. The office has been getting about 2,000 appointment requests per day recently. Andrés Ramírez Silva, the director of Mexico's refugee agency, said last week that the number of asylum applications his agency receives this year could reach 150,000.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://apnews.com/article/mexico-migrants-cuban-haitian-honduran-protest-asylum-c70b0812f0f3a647d9af9729da6ff0d3>

Mexican firm stops sending freight trains north to U.S. border as 'unprecedented' number of migrants hitch rides

By *Didi Martinez*, NBC News, September 19, 2023

- ❖ After recent deaths and injuries as more migrants hitch rides on its freight trains, Mexican transport firm Ferromex said that for the first time ever it will temporarily halt service on 60 different trains that travel toward the U.S. border. Ferromex is the largest freight train company in Mexico, operating more than 6,200 miles of track, and its trains service such cities on the U.S. border as Ciudad Juárez, Mexicali, Nogales and Piedras Negras. In recent days, according to Ferromex, as many as 1,500 migrants have been trying to hitch rides on trains in Mexican cities like Toluca. On one route that ends at Ciudad Juárez, which is right across from El Paso, Texas, Ferromex said a single train may be carrying 1,000 hitchhikers. NBC News reported that on Sunday, September 17, the U.S. Border Patrol apprehended more than 7,500 migrants along the southern border.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/ferromex-stops-sending-freight-trains-us-border-migrant-surge-rcna105929>

Unlawful Border Crossings Are Rising Fast After a Brief Decline

By *Eileen Sullivan and Miriam Jordan*, New York Times, September 19, 2023

- ❖ There were more than 8,000 arrests on Monday, according to Brandon Judd, the head of the union that represents Border Patrol agents. Such high numbers haven't been seen since a surge in early May brought the daily number to nearly 10,000, and they are far higher than in mid-April, when there were about 4,900 illegal crossings a day. Officials had expected a spike in illegal crossings after the termination of Title 42, but the increase came days before, reaching about 9,500 a day in the week before Title 42 ended. On September 18, agents in the El Paso sector encountered 1,609 migrants, according to official data obtained by The Times, up from 1,158 on September 7 and 761 on June 9.
- ❖ News Article Source: https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/19/us/politics/border-crossings-migrants.html?unlocked_article_code=9I_mjgoSIQ3euJmeMQFWmP404jE0ox9EtVLkSSRBkqDbumaAirX7gD4M3WlHb7ezLpSj6G_4jdYB_Sgjb9BxL2Q03AuWHPawblC_vWv4sAnn6E6RctPOXw2GUeCje2b9R-1x8zLnBUtuUrO5ZmRA2cBK30CwWZ00kWMj5Cnll0Pd-ZTTMi32z-qJjHSAHw_H6dLI0tgaEEdYu4JkgPNI37h4EJeSn024FDfylyOfzmWuxSwNEBO3Dt0J4s1jNPDEyF8qX29USW_VV907Pu_PAUcfa6pslHbny-vCeTyrHaJ8tuX5jo1dnaF1_1EhUih5EHCv94UbZ0VTXQFw2hL9k3j-DkoZY&smid=url-share