

Rural Migration News

Blog 306

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Record Border Encounters and Polls

A record 2.2 million unauthorized foreigners were encountered by Border Patrol agents just inside the US border with Mexico in FY22. Another 172,500 were detected at ports of entry, bringing total encounters to 2.4 million, up 37 percent from 1.7 million encounters in FY21.

Mexicans and Central Americans were 57 percent of those encountered. The number of Venezuelans, Cubans, and Nicaraguans who were encountered, over 571,000, exceeded the number encountered from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Countries

The number of Venezuelans, Cubans, and Nicaraguans encountered rose in part because citizens of these countries cannot be deported to their countries of origin. Over 175,000 Cubans were encountered in FY22, more than the 125,000 who arrived during the Mariel boatlift of 1980.

Over 187,000 Venezuelans were apprehended in FY22, including 33,000 in September 2022,

prompting the Biden Administration to change policies toward Venezuelans who seek asylum in the US by returning them to Mexico under Title 42. In exchange, the US offered to admit 24,000 Venezuelans who have US sponsors with two-year humanitarian parole visas.

The return-to-Mexico policy led to a sharp drop in the number of Venezuelans encountered at the

Mexico-US border in October 2022. Almost seven million Venezuelans have left their country since 2015, and over 150,000 entered the US in 2022.

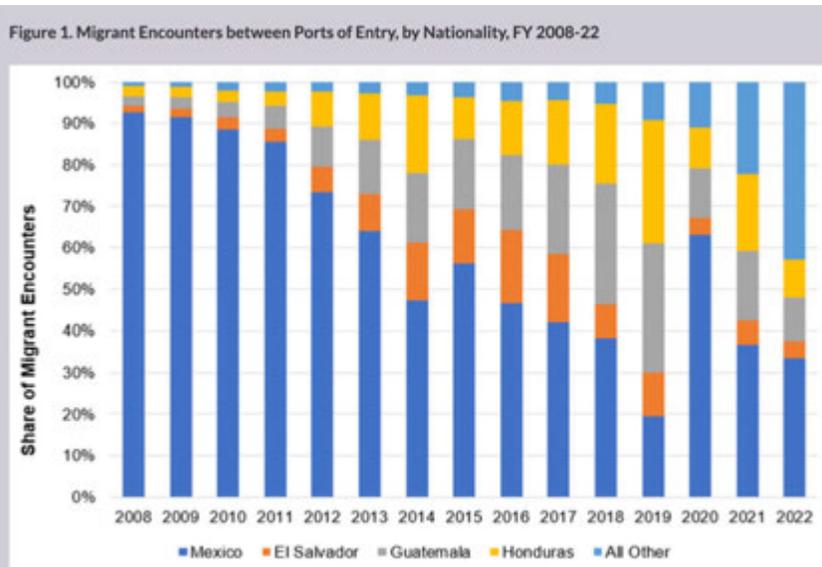
Over 60 percent of the migrant encounters with Border Patrol agents were in four of the nine CBP sectors, including three in Texas, Del Rio, Rio Grande Valley, and El Paso.

Title 42

Over a million of the foreigners who were encountered in FY22 just inside US borders were returned to Mexico under Title 42, a public health measure invoked in March 2020 to prevent foreigners from spreading covid. Many of the other foreigners encountered were allowed into the US to pursue asylum claims that can last several years because of the backlog of two million cases in immigration courts.

Title 42 removals often result in re-entries because there is no penalty for unauthorized re-entry. Between 2014 and 2019, Border Patrol agents reported an aver-

A Record 2.4 Million Foreigners were Encountered in FY22



Note: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) uses the term "encounters" to account for apprehensions under Title 8 and expulsions under the Title 42 public-health order that was implemented in March 2020 shortly after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

age recidivism rate of 14 percent, meaning that a seventh of those encountered had been arrested at least once before during the previous 12 months. As more migrants were returned to Mexico under Title 42, the recidivism rate rose to 19

percent in September 2022, when 228,000 foreigners were encountered.

Unauthorized foreigners can also be removed from the US under Title 8. A foreigner who enters the US

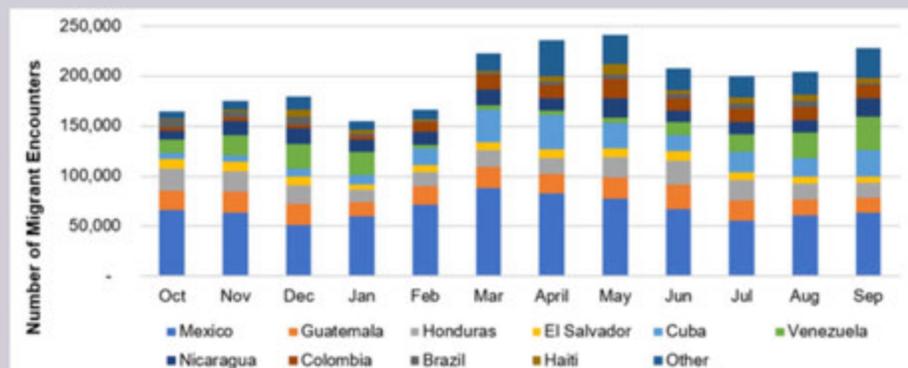
illegally after a Title 8 removal can face criminal prosecution for illegal re-entry or be barred from returning legally. Most Mexicans and Central Americans are processed under Title 42, while most over nationalities are processed under Title 8.

Many Migrants Cross the Mexico-U.S. Border, Turn Themselves in to Border Patrol Agents, and Apply for Asylum



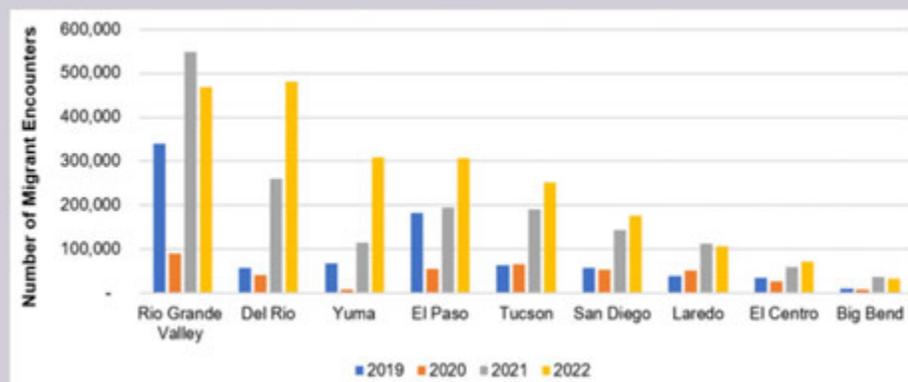
The Number of Venezuelans, Cubans, and Nicaraguans Rose Steadily Throughout FY22

Figure 2. Monthly Migrant Encounters at U.S.-Mexico Border, by Nationality, FY 2022



Almost 60 Percent of FY22 Encounters were in Texas

Figure 3. Migrant Encounters between Ports of Entry, by Border Sector, FY 2019-22



Polls

The Pew Research Center released the results of an August 2022 poll that found 44 percent of Americans though it was very important to increase security on the Mexico-US border. Combining those who said border security was very and somewhat important means that 73 percent of respondents want more border security, 73 percent support accepting refugees who are fleeing violence and war, and 72 percent support giving unauthorized foreigners brought to the US as children the opportunity to settle in the US.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA program, created by President Obama in 2012, provides renewable work and residence visas to unauthorized foreigners who arrived in the US before age 16, graduated from high school, and were under the age of 31 in 2021. These unauthorized youth arrivals are sometimes called Dreamers.

Between 60 percent and 70 percent of poll respondents support increasing deportations of unauthorized foreigners, creating a path for unauthorized foreigners to remain in the US legally, and making it easier to sponsor family members for immigrant visas.

There were significant differences between Democrats and Republicans on immigration. Over 80 percent of Democrats support DACA, a path to legal status for other unauthorized foreigners, and accepting more refugees, while 80 percent

of Republicans support increased border security and more deportations.

When asked whether they were conservative or liberal Democrats or Republicans, liberal Democrats were most likely to support a path to legalization for unauthorized foreigners, while fewer than a third of conservative Republicans supported legalization. Similarly, only a quarter of liberal Democrats support more deportations, compared with 85 percent of conservative Republicans. Majorities of Democrats and Republicans support more border security.

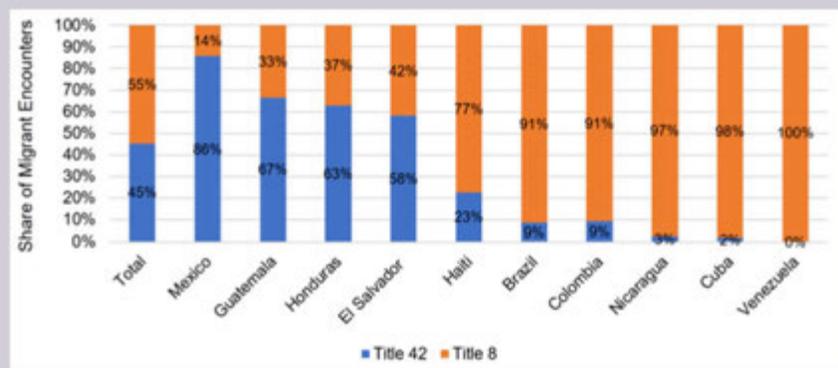
The Chicago Council on Global Affairs has been asking Americans for over two decades whether a large number of immigrants and refugees is a critical threat to the US. The share of all Americans who see large-scale immigration as a threat dropped from over half in the early 2000s to a third today. However, partisan differences widened, so that two-thirds of Republicans consider large-scale immigration a critical threat to the US, compared with a fifth of Democrats.

When asked whether legal immigration should be kept at present levels, increased, or decreased, over 40 percent of Americans over the past decade prefer to keep legal immigration at present levels, compared with almost 30 percent who want to increase immigration and 30 percent who want to decrease legal immigration.

There are wide partisan differences on how to deal with unauthorized foreigners in the US. About 40 percent of respondents would allow them to apply for US citizenship, a quarter would support a path to citizenship after more time in the US and the payment of penalties, and almost a quarter favor deporting unauthorized foreigners. The parti-

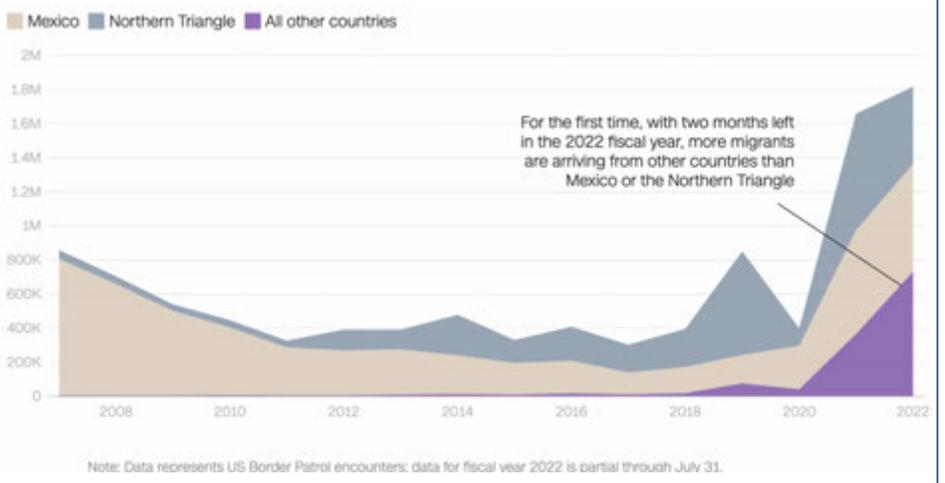
Mexicans and Northern Triangle Nationals were Usually Returned Under Title 42

Figure 4. Share of Migrant Encounters Subject to Title 42 and Title 8 Proceedings, by Country of Nationality, FY 2022



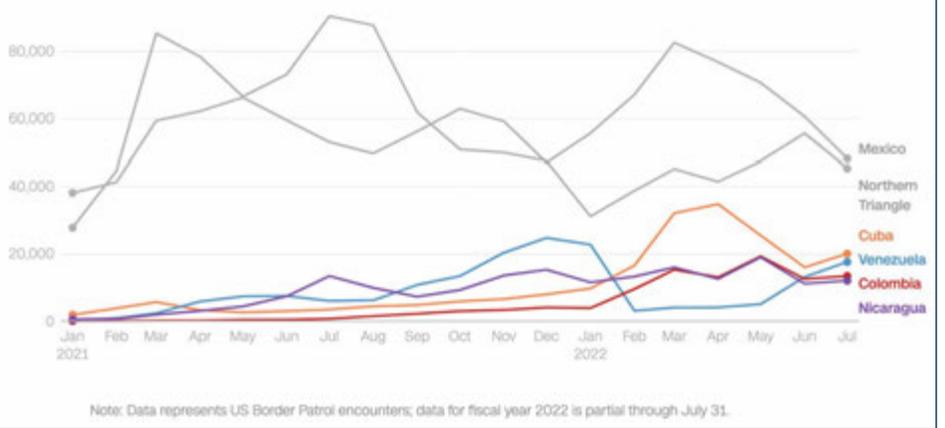
Notes: Migrants who are placed into Title 8 proceedings can be removed under expedited removal, taken into detention and subsequently removed, or be released temporarily into the United States while their removal cases (along with possible asylum claims) are adjudicated. Those who are placed under Title 42 are processed for immediate or delayed expulsion, often within the same day that they are encountered. Migrants who are removed under Title 8 are temporarily or permanently prohibited from entering the United States and can face criminal sanctions for attempted re-entry, while those subject to Title 42 are not.

40% of FY22 Border Encounters Involved Non-Mexicans and Non-Central Americans



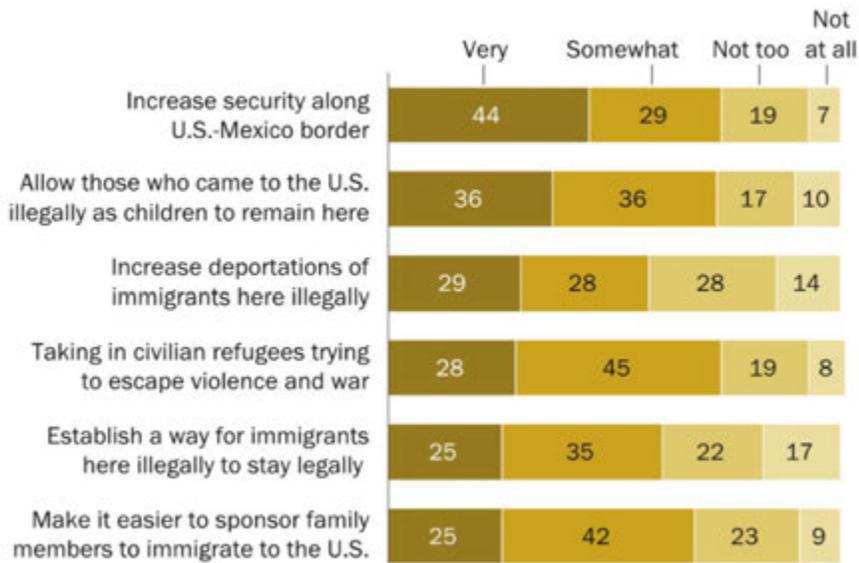
The Four Leading Non-Traditional Countries in FY22 were Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia and Nicaragua

The number of migrants arriving from Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia and Nicaragua has increased significantly since January 2021. These four nations represent the majority of encounters between ports of entry along the southwest border from countries other than Mexico and the Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras).



Over 70% of Americans Support More Border Security and DACA

% who say each is a ___ important goal for U.S. immigration policy



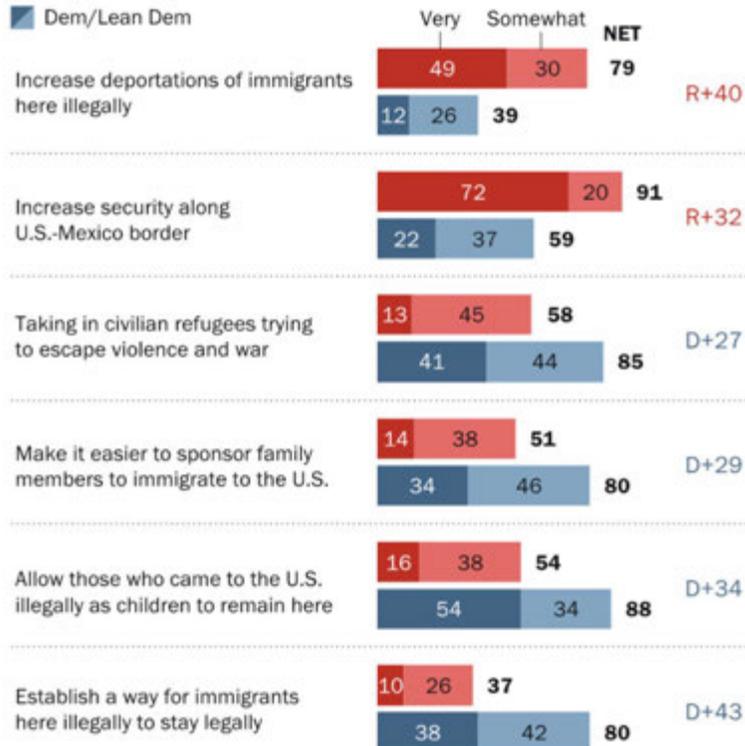
Notes: See topline for full question wording. No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 1-14, 2022.

san differences are stark, with most Democrats supporting immediate citizenship or a path to citizenship, while half of Republicans would not allow unauthorized foreigners to become US citizens.

Democrats and Republicans Differ on How to Deal with Unauthorized Migration

% who say each is a **very/somewhat** important goal for U.S. immigration policy

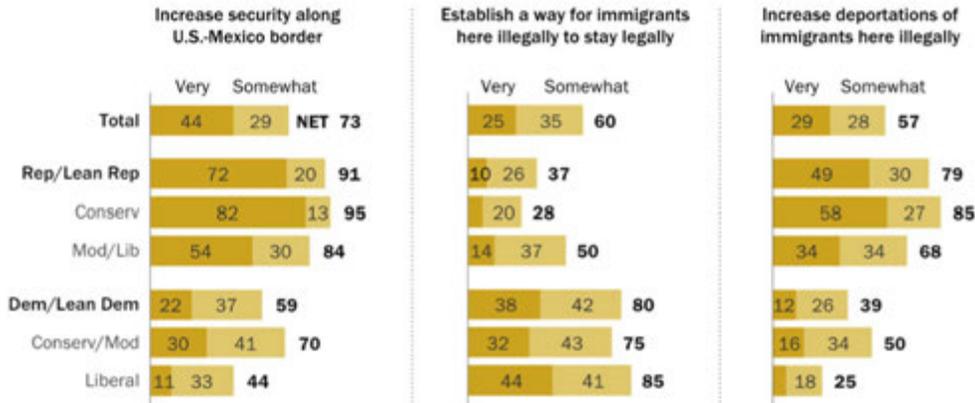
Rep/Lean Rep
Dem/Lean Dem



Note: See topline for full question wording.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 1-14, 2022.

Most Democrats and Republicans Support More Border Security

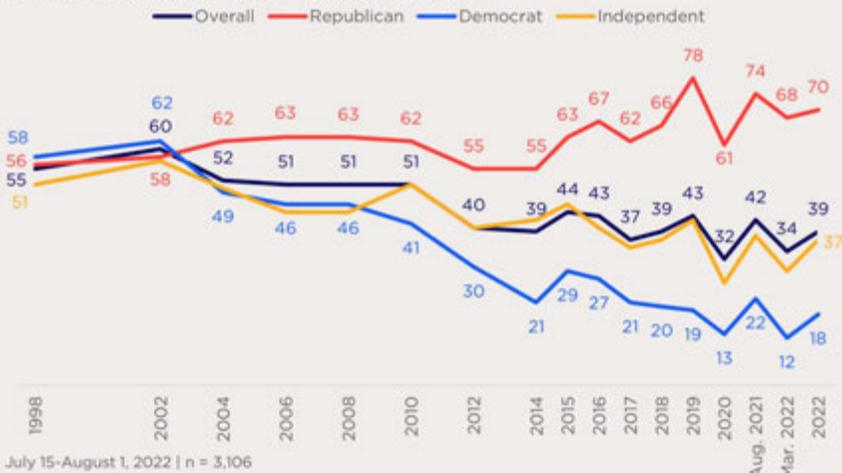
% who say each is a *very/somewhat important goal for U.S. immigration policy*



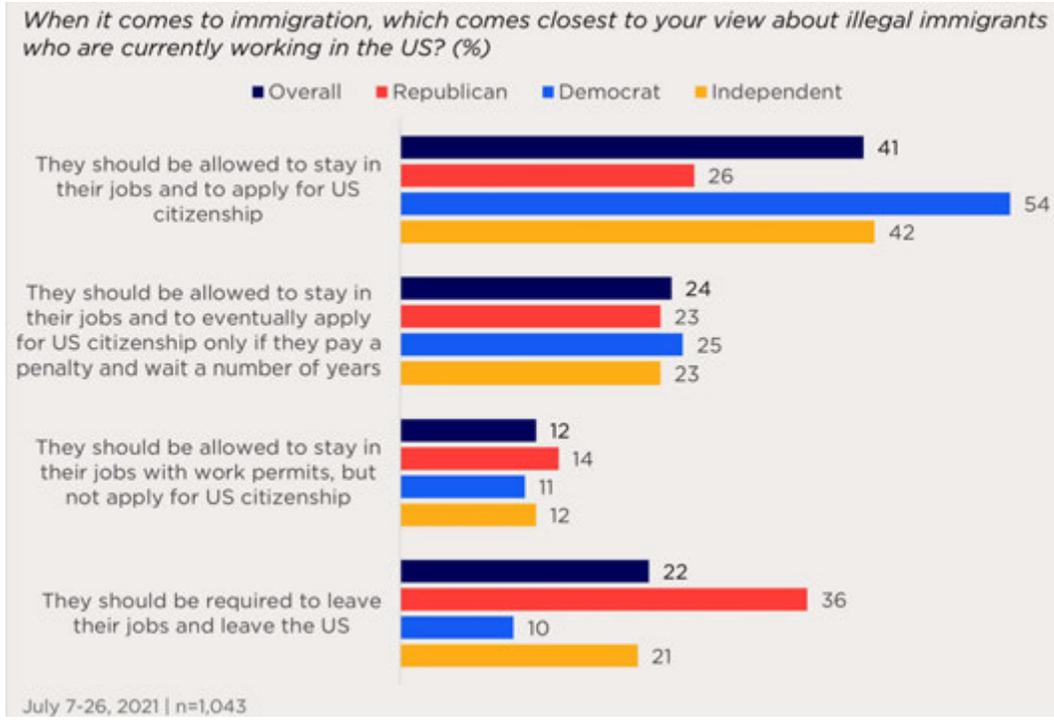
Note: See topline for full question wording.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 1-14, 2022.

Differences Between Democrats and Republicans on Immigration Have Widened

Below is a list of possible threats to the vital interest of the United States in the next 10 years. For each one, please select whether you see this as a critical threat, an important but not critical threat, or not an important threat at all: Large numbers of immigrants and refugees coming into the US (% critical threat)



Democrats and Republicans Differ on How to Deal with Unauthorized Foreigners



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