

Border Apprehensions: 2005

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Statistics on apprehensions represent one of the few indicators available regarding illegal entry or presence in the United States. This Office of Immigration Statistics Fact Sheet provides information on recent trends in apprehensions and the gender, age, and geographic location of persons apprehended during 2005¹.

Data for 2005 were obtained from the Enforcement Case Tracking System of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Data for prior years were obtained from the Performance Analysis System (PAS) of DHS.

DEFINING APPREHENSIONS

Apprehension statistics measure the number of foreign nationals who are caught and placed in custody for being in the United States illegally. Persons apprehended are subject to removal from the United States for violating the Immigration and Nationality Act. The relationship between apprehensions to either the number of attempted illegal entries or the number of successful illegal entries is unclear.

The vast majority of apprehensions occur near U.S. borders shortly after an illegal entry. These apprehensions are made by the Border Patrol of CBP. A much smaller number of apprehensions involve other foreign nationals illegally present in the United States. They may have entered without inspection (EWI) or entered legally but lost their legal status, for example, by overstaying the terms of their entry permit or visa. Most apprehensions made beyond U.S. borders are handled by the Investigations Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of DHS.

Apprehensions data represent events, not individuals. The total number of apprehensions during a specific time period will be greater than the total number of unique individuals apprehended since some individuals will have been apprehended more than once.

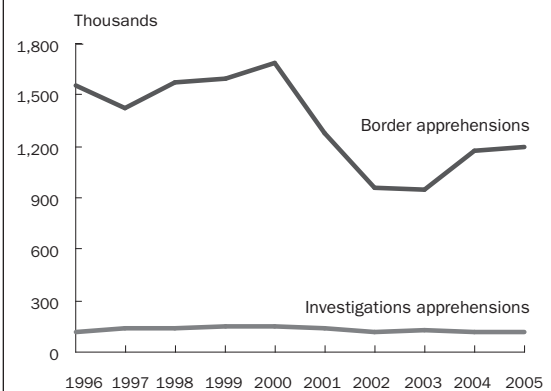
TRENDS

There were 1.3 million apprehensions in 2005. During the 10 year period 1996-2005, the annual number of apprehensions reached a high of 1.8 million in

¹ Refers to fiscal year October 2004 through September 2005.

Figure 1.

Border Apprehensions and Investigations Apprehensions: 1996 to 2005



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Enforcement Case Tracking System (ENFORCE), Fiscal Year 2005, and the Performance Analysis System (PAS), Fiscal Years 1996 to 2004.

2000 and a low of 1.0 million in 2003 (see Figure 1). Apprehensions made by the Border Patrol along U.S. borders represented 89 to 94 percent of all apprehensions during 1996-2005.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF BORDER PATROL APPREHENSIONS

Demographic information on the characteristics of persons apprehended is presented for those apprehensions by the Border Patrol along the 8,000 miles of American international borders. The southern border with Mexico is approximately 2,000 miles. The northern border with Canada is approximately 4,000 miles. The coastal borders consist of 2,000 miles surrounding Florida and Puerto Rico.

Table 1 displays the age and country of origin of persons apprehended at the three borders during 2005. Almost all



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Table 1.

Apprehensions by Border: 2005

Characteristic	Border							
	Total		Southern		Northern		Coastal	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Gender								
Total	1,189,108	100.0	1,171,428	100.0	7,343	100.0	10,337	100.0
Male	969,955	81.6	955,037	81.5	6,319	86.1	8,599	83.2
Female	219,124	18.4	216,370	18.5	1,016	13.8	1,738	16.8
Unknown	29	-	21	-	8	0.1	-	-
Age								
Total	1,189,108	100.0	1,171,428	100.0	7,343	100.0	10,337	100.0
Adult (18 over)	1,074,462	90.4	1,057,665	90.3	6,992	95.2	9,805	94.9
Juvenile (17 and under)	114,569	9.6	113,701	9.7	347	4.7	521	5.0
Unknown	77	-	62	-	4	0.1	11	0.1
Country of nationality								
Total	1,189,108	100.0	1,171,428	100.0	7,343	100.0	10,337	100.0
Mexico	1,023,930	86.1	1,016,434	86.8	4,080	55.6	3,416	33.0
Honduras	52,760	4.4	51,889	4.4	202	2.8	669	6.5
EL Salvador	39,308	3.3	39,004	3.3	100	1.4	204	2.0
Brazil	31,072	2.6	30,843	2.6	134	1.8	95	0.9
Guatemala	22,593	1.9	21,807	1.9	233	3.2	553	5.3
Nicaragua	3,922	0.3	3,826	0.3	13	0.2	83	0.8
Cuba	3,262	0.3	129	-	20	0.3	3,113	30.1
China	2,200	0.2	1,987	0.2	179	2.4	34	0.3
Canada	1,020	0.1	33	-	983	13.4	4	-
Other	9,041	0.8	5,476	0.5	1,399	19.1	2,166	21.0

- Figure rounds to 0.0.

Note: Data reported as of April 13, 2006.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Enforcement Case Tracking System (ENFORCE), Fiscal Year 2005.

apprehensions occur at the southern border. In 2005, the southern border accounted for 98.5 percent of apprehensions. The majority (86.1 percent) of these apprehensions were Mexican nationals. More than four-fifths (81.5 percent) of persons apprehended at the southern border were male. Ninety percent were ages 18 and over. Eighty-seven percent were from Mexico. Other leading countries of origin included Honduras (4.4 percent), El Salvador (3.3 percent), Brazil (2.6 percent), and Guatemala (1.9 percent).

Persons apprehended at the northern and coastal borders were similar to those at the southern border with respect to gender and age.

Mexico was the leading country of origin for apprehensions at the northern border (55.6 percent) and coastal borders (33.0 percent). Cuba was the next leading country (30.1 percent) for coastal border apprehensions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about immigration and immigration statistics, visit the Department of Homeland Security web site at <http://www.dhs.gov/immigrationstatistics>.