

## TOPICAL SEMINAR

Friday, June 7 at 1:30 pm in the Lewes Library

Marjorie and I had the notion that we needed to survey the Southwest border get a better idea of the migrant situation on their southern border. We were alarmed with the rhetoric by the Trump administration concerning migrants from the southern border. Presidential comments like: “When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best. They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with them. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.” Given what we know of the Mexican people who are presently in the United States and working many of the jobs American citizens are unwilling to take, and their overall pleasantness and family orientation, we found that statement, and many like those, hard to believe. Because of our concerns, we decided to take a look for ourselves by visiting as many border towns as we could between El Paso Texas and San Diego California. On our journey we met some migrants, volunteer and professional workers helping migrants survive in both United States and Mexico. We met Law enforcement officials in charge of border security, and border town residents. As part of our journey, we entered Mexico on foot at six different locations.

After our 10 days of travel we realize it was only a very superficial view of everything that was going on. However, we supplemented the travel experience with as many articles we could digest, related to the immigration issues we are facing today, after our return. This has helped us gain a better understanding of what is going on and what we can do as citizens to help. We hope this seminar helps us all to better understand the conditions and reasons for migration to the United States.

There are numerous activities going on at the borders at the same time. There is the normal daily activity of Mexican and American citizens going back and forth between the two countries for commerce and employment. There is a very large volume of vehicles going back and forth between the two nations daily, with an estimated \$1.2 billion daily of commerce. There is the growing activity of migrants and refugees seeking to enter the United States. And, there is the illegal shipment of drugs from the South and guns from the north.

One could look at this issue from different perspectives. There is a security perspective with its focus on assuring our country maintains control over its borders. There is a humanitarian perspective, which focuses on the health and well-being of the many thousands of people who have been uprooted from their homes in their travels north. There is the “America first” view that it is an issue for us only to the extent as it interferes with the normal flow of our society. There is the “internationalist” perspective that calls on the diminishing of traditional societal boundaries in favor of a free flow of migration between and among countries, such as is done in the European Union.

We are choosing to look at it primarily from a humanitarian perspective. Methods were informal but informed by our professional backgrounds. We went to the border towns to observe and to find out the perspectives of people living there. Given the limited time we were there, we realize

we have a small window into a tremendous problem. Nevertheless, we undertook the adventure to see for ourselves rather than to be influenced solely by what we see in the media.

It is important to understand that we have only a few ideas about how to address this problem. But we do have many questions that we all need to try to answer.

For this seminar, Marjorie and I will spend roughly 15 minutes giving you an overview of our trip. We also have identified videos and articles that are important to help in our conversation. We invite you to bring other materials you think are important for the conversation.

## Questions for Discussion

How many migrants and refugees are recently crossing the border and how does this compare with historic data? (see charts and tables below and search for other data.)

To what extent does this migration interfere with the day-to-day activities of people that live on both sides of the border?

What type and extent of resources are needed to deal with this new migration, which also includes so many families and unaccompanied minors?

What are the reasons people traveling from Honduras and Guatemala and El Salvador are leaving their countries to attempt to come to the United States and Mexico?

What immigration policies, consistent with our ethos as a nation and our commitments to the United Nations (see below), would make sense to deal with this migration?

What relationship does this recent migration have with illegal substances coming across the border from the South?

What are the issues with building a wall along the entire border?

What is a reasoned way to determine the appropriate policy for addressing unauthorized immigration?

## Short Videos that Tell the Story

History of immigration; (3:48 min) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fe79i1mu-mc>

RUIES FOR IMMIGRATION from the right.(4:43)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZHuZUQ0atA>

NYT (2:56) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qG9sw7xq8fQ>)

Recent history of immigration policy (3:20) : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBSZwde070c>

Illegal immigrants in Texas (7:54): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRVRb6yv0Eg>

Cnn about the wall in Nogales: (3:28) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YkqnOVcO2k>

\*PBS El Paso Wall: (6:46) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtZuTS2MWjo>

WSJ- Practical and financial issues with building a wall (1:39)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYt1bPt6FY4>

PBS short critique for building a wall (5:33) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1s9zndPQu04>

Opinion NJ.com Is the wall useful?(2:33) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6jHutAD\\_Iw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6jHutAD_Iw)

AlJazzier about asa Asylum Seekers (1:54)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69UhUk7GBWM>

The World Today – about asylum seekers (2:37):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7p\\_ml6fO0XU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7p_ml6fO0XU)

CBS asylum seekers (2:37) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L96jbY6A3WY>

\*Pbs asylum seekers (7:54) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWml2Alyyi4>

\*Nyt A great NYT article succinctly identifying border fencing (24:53)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxF0t-SMEXA>

<https://www.usatoday.com/border-wall/us-mexico-interactive-border-map/>

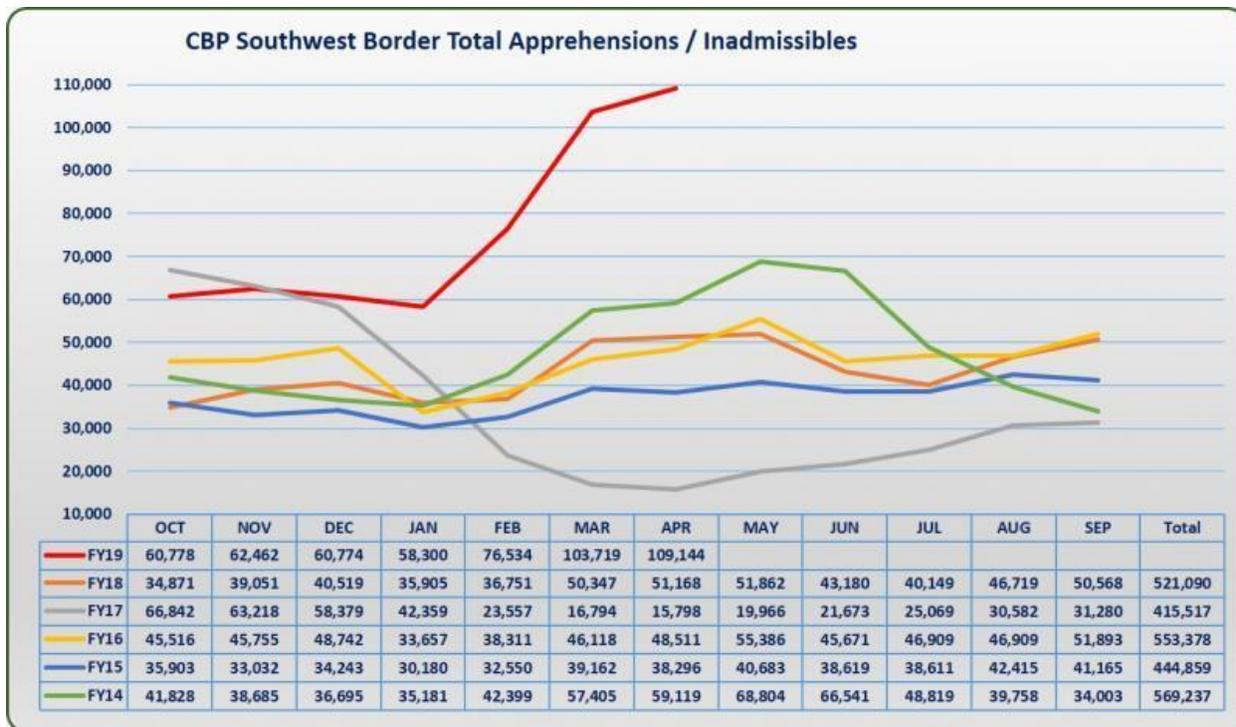
## Articles to Read

A great overview of all the issues: David Frum: how much immigration is too much

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2019/04/david-frum-how-much-immigration-is-too-much/583252/>

Article about employment of undocumented workers pointing out the hypocrisy of our employment rules: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/31/us/illegal-immigration-employers-prosecutions.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share>

## Data on Immigration



**U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Apprehensions FY 2019**

USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
<b>Southwest Border</b>	Unaccompanied Alien Child	4,968	5,259	4,754	5,107	6,821	8,973	8,897	
	Family Units*	23,116	25,164	27,507	24,200	36,531	53,205	58,474	
	Single Adult	22,924	21,433	18,487	18,684	23,531	30,653	31,606	
<b>Southwest Border Total Apprehensions</b>		<b>51,008</b>	<b>51,856</b>	<b>50,748</b>	<b>47,991</b>	<b>66,883</b>	<b>92,831</b>	<b>98,977</b>	

\*Family Unit represents the number of individuals (either a child under 18 years old, parent, or legal guardian) apprehended with a family member by the U.S. Border Patrol.

In April, 98,977 people were apprehended between ports of entry on the Southwest Border, compared with 92,831 in the month of March and 66,883 in February. In FY18, a total of 396,579 individuals were apprehended between ports of entry on our Southwest Border.

For breakdown by Sector, visit [USBP Southwest Border Apprehensions by Sector](#)

**Office of Field Operations Southwest Border Inadmissibles FY 2019**

Field Operations	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
<b>Southwest Border</b>	Unaccompanied Alien Child	453	404	350	408	426	423	386	
	Family Units*	4,178	4,986	4,382	4,211	4,210	4,196	3,443	
	Single Adults	5,053	5,146	5,213	5,619	4,939	6,168	6,144	
	Accompanied Minor Child**	86	70	81	71	76	101	194	
<b>Southwest Border Total Inadmissibles</b>		<b>9,770</b>	<b>10,606</b>	<b>10,026</b>	<b>10,309</b>	<b>9,651</b>	<b>10,888</b>	<b>10,167</b>	

\*Family Unit represents the number of individuals (either a child under 18 years old, parent, or legal guardian) deemed inadmissible with a family member by the Office of Field Operations.

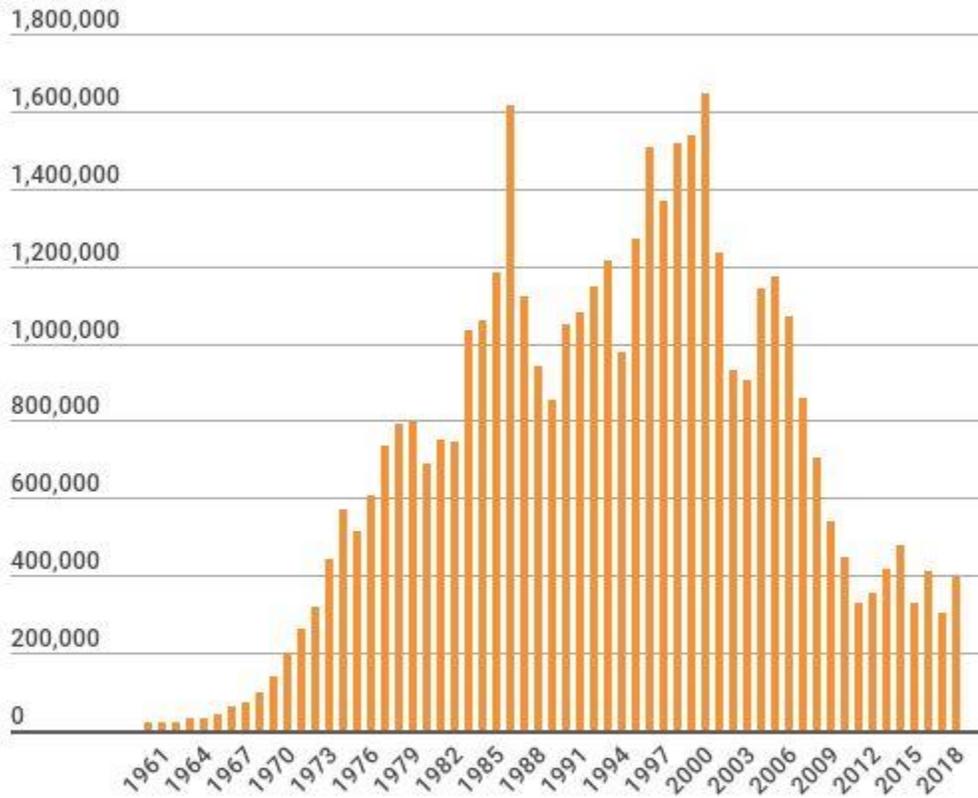
\*\*Accompanied Minor Child represents a child accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and the parent or legal guardian is either a U.S. Citizen, Lawful Permanent Resident, or admissible alien, and the child is determined to be inadmissible.

In April, 10,167 people presenting themselves at ports of entry on the Southwest Border were deemed inadmissible, compared with 10,888 in the month of March and 9,651 in February. In FY18, 124,511 people presenting themselves at ports of entry on the Southwest Border were deemed inadmissible.

OFO inadmissibility metrics include: individuals encountered at ports of entry who are seeking lawful admission into the United States but are determined to be inadmissible, individuals presenting themselves to seek humanitarian protection under our laws, and individuals who withdraw an application for admission and return to their countries of origin within a short timeframe.

For breakdown by Field Office, visit [Southwest Border Inadmissibles by Field Office](#).

## Total Southwest Border Apprehensions

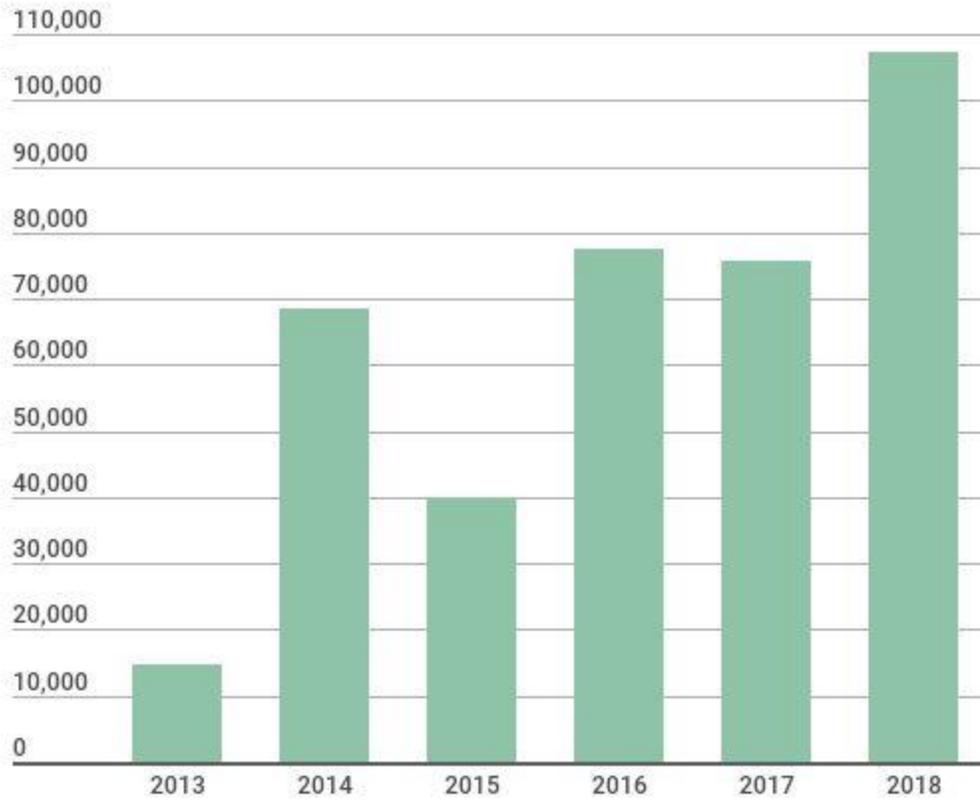


Data by fiscal year.

Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection



## Family Unit Apprehensions Southwest Border



Data by fiscal year.

Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

## **How many unaccompanied children, including children separated from their parents, are being held in shelters in the U.S.?**

[Unaccompanied children](#) are referred to the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement. HHS [said](#) during a conference call on June 26 that there were 11,800 children in ORR shelters, with 2,047 of those being children who had been separated from their parents. The rest — about 83 percent — had crossed the border without a parent or legal guardian.

By early July, HHS Secretary Alex Azar [said](#) his agency would reunite nearly 3,000 children who had been separated from their parents.

According to a [Dec. 12 court filing](#) in a case brought by the American Civil Liberties Union, there were 131 children still in custody separated from their parents; however, in more than 90 percent of those cases either the parents have indicated they won't reunify with their children or officials have found the parents are unfit.

DHS and HHS have not provided any figures on how many children were separated from their parents in prior years.

The ORR program houses the children in about [100 shelters in 14 states](#). In May, an HHS official [told Congress](#) that children had spent an average of 57 days in such shelters in fiscal 2018 before being placed with a sponsor, who could be a parent, another relative or a non-family member.

About 80 percent or more of the unaccompanied children referred to HHS over the last several years have been age 13 and older, according to [HHS statistics](#), and *about 90 percent or more have been from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.*

## **Is there recidivism?**

Yes. Customs and Border Patrol [says](#) 10 percent of those apprehended in fiscal year 2017 were caught more than once that year. In 2016, the figure was 12 percent.

## **How many border patrol agents are there?**

In fiscal year 2017, there were [19,437 border patrol agents](#). The number peaked in fiscal year 2011 at 21,444, so it has declined a bit since then. But the number of agents is still much larger than it was about two decades ago.

The vast majority of agents are assigned to the Southwest border. Back in fiscal year 2000, when apprehensions peaked at 1.64 million, there were 8,580 agents assigned to the border with Mexico. In 2017, when apprehensions were 303,916, there were 16,605 Southwest border agents.

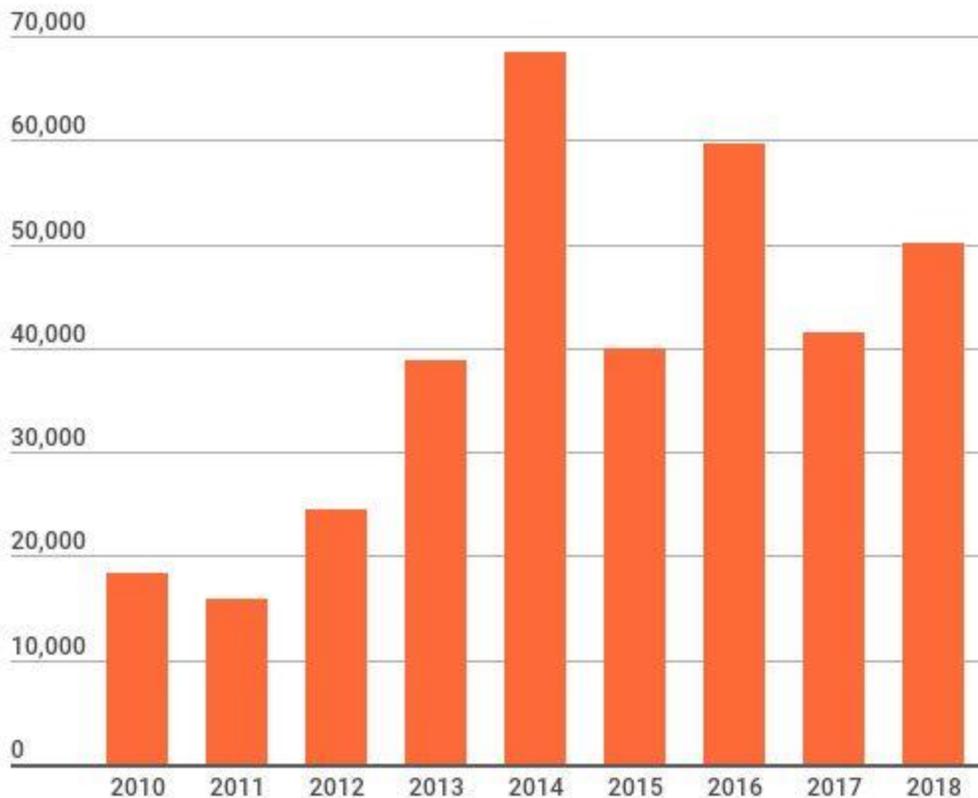
**How many people are deported each year?**

The Department of Homeland Security says 340,056 people were removed from the U.S. in fiscal 2016. A “removal” is “the compulsory and confirmed movement of an inadmissible or deportable alien out of the United States based on an order of removal.” (See Table 39 of the [2016 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics](#).)

There are also “returns,” which are “inadmissible or deportable” immigrants who leave voluntarily before a formal removal order is issued. Returns totaled 106,167 that year.

The peak for combined removals and returns was 1.86 million in fiscal 2000 — the same year that apprehensions on the Southwest border also peaked. In fact, the bar graph of these statistics mirrors the graph on apprehensions (see above) — generally, when apprehensions were higher, so, too, were removals and returns.

## Unaccompanied Children Apprehensions Southwest Border



Data by fiscal year.

Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection



## United Nations Convention on Refugees

### Article 1

definition of the term “refugee”

A. For the purposes of the present Convention, the term “refugee” shall

apply to any person who:

(1) Has been considered a refugee under the Arrangements of 12 May 1926 and 30 June 1928 or under the Conventions of 28 October 1933 and 10 February 1938, the Protocol of 14 September 1939 or the Constitution of the International Refugee Organization;

Decisions of non-eligibility taken by the International Refugee Organization during the period of its activities shall not prevent the status

of refugee being accorded to persons who fulfil the conditions of paragraph 2 of this section;

(2) As a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951 and owing to wellfounded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.

In the case of a person who has more than one nationality, the term “the country of his nationality” shall mean each of the countries of which he is a national, and a person shall not be deemed to be lacking the protection of the country of his nationality if, without any valid reason based on well-founded fear, he has not availed himself of the protection of one of the countries of which he is a national.