MEMORANDUM

Date: May 8, 2023

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Lesher
County Administrator

Re: **Southwest Border Update**

The dynamic nature of the evolving implementation for the end of Title 42 continues to generate questions and concern. Attached please find a comprehensive report of the coordination of the current operation in collaboration with our humanitarian partners from Shane Clark, Director of Pima County Office of Emergency Management. (Attachment)

Our priority remains the public safety, health and welfare of Pima County. As such we continue to do everything in our power to prevent or minimize street releases by federal agencies into this community. We will continue to provide a timely update to the Board of Supervisors as needed.

JKL/dym

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Shane Clark, Director, Pima County Office of Emergency Management
Terry Cullen, Public Health Director, Health Department

PIMA COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Jan Lesher
County Administrator

Francisco Garcia
Deputy County Administrator

Date: May 8, 2023

From: Shane Clark
Director

Re: Update on Southwest Border: Current operation, Background of operations, and elimination of Title 42 and its potential impact to Pima County

The objective of this memo is to provide an update on the Southwest Border Humanitarian effort by providing 1) an update on current operations, 2) an overview how operations have expanded over the last two years and 3) the potential impact to operations of the elimination of Title 42 on May 11, 2023.

Those that enter the United States through the Arizona border with Mexico either attempt to cross between the ports and are apprehended by the Tucson Sector Border Patrol (BP) or present at a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) port of entry. Geographically the BP Tucson Sector encompasses Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise counties and strategically have nine BP Stations. Within this same area CBP manages five Ports of Entry. BP Yuma Sector serves the western portion of the Arizona-Sonora border.

In general, individual single adults and families that qualify are processed by federal partners and granted legal entry into the US, commonly referred to as Legally Processed Asylum Seekers. Once processed Asylum Seekers are released into the nearest community. Across the southwest border, humanitarian agencies and local government have created operations to reduce, or in the case of Pima County to date, eliminated a chance of non-sheltered or "street releases"; which is the last resort when humanitarian partners can no longer receive asylum seekers. Currently Asylum Seekers are processed at the BP Tucson Coordination Center and BP Tucson Soft-Sided facilities and subsequently transitioned to Casas Alitas Welcome Center (CAWC). CBP process at the DeConcini Port of Entry and release to the CAWC Nogales Reception Center. For those claiming asylum, CBP collects biometric and biographic information and runs a background check before any individual leaves CBP custody, and those who are found to pose a public safety risk continue to be detained. CBP and ICE make custody determinations on a case-by-case basis and have in place strict reporting requirements for any individual provisionally released from custody pending their removal proceedings. Those entering the country with malicious intent (drugs, trafficking, etc.) are handled through a separate process and are not asylum seekers.

1) Current Operation Flow

Overview: Upon Release by federal partners, Asylum Seekers are turned over to the care of CAWC until they leave Pima County to their final destination in the US. The operations are divided into four sections.

1. Release to the CAWC operation
2. Transportation (County controlled contract and coordinated) to support CAWC

3. Medical screening, COVID testing and isolation of individuals who are positive and quarantine of their immediate family contacts.
4. Non-Congregate and Congregate Sheltering

As a reference the information throughout the memo provides more detail to what is being reported on the weekly Southwest Border Executive Situation Report.

Releases to CAWC: The transition now occurs at the Drexel location due to the size of the facility. Federal transportation assets drop legally processed asylum seekers at the facility where they begin their intake, processing and receive supportive aid. Using a one-week snapshot as reported on the SWB Situational Report for 5/5/23, federal partners released to 2943 (average of 420/day) individual asylum seekers and included 1179 single adults and 1764 members of 682 family units.

At Drexel asylum seekers are provided access to basic support services including showers, bathrooms, food, donated clothing, as well as assistance with travel arrangements and coordination with sponsors. It is during intake that a determination is made if an asylum seeker can travel to their final destination in the US same day or if they need sheltering until their travel arrangements can be finalized.

While this system has been successful, there have been instances when the number of BP/CBP releases has exceeded the capacity of CAWC. When this occurs, BP has designated the Tucson Greyhound Bus station as the location for non-sheltered releases commonly referred to as street releases. This has been averted four times to date due to the action of the City of Tucson which has opened a temporary hotel operation staffed with City and County staff.

Transportation is a critical component throughout the operation from BP/CBP release through transportation to the airport or bus station.

Federal custody to CAWC: Transportation of asylum seekers to Drexel is coordinated on the federal and county side based on location. Federal partners coordinate resources to transport from the BP Tucson Coordination Center and county coordinates transportation with Long Distance vendors (charter companies that have shuttles and buses) from the BP Tucson Soft-Sided (or referred to as Los Reales) and from the CBP Port of Entry in Nogales.

CAWC to Humanitarian partners in Phoenix: County coordinated long distance vendors transport asylum seekers as needed from CAWC and Drexel to International Rescue Committee (IRC), Helping With All My Heart Church, and Monte Vista Cross Cultural Church to decompress local operational surge. This model has also been used to transport asylum seekers from the City Hotel when there was surge that could have resulted in street releases. There is a plan under development to provide transport to Phoenix Sky Harbor.

Short Distance Travel: Movement of asylum seekers coordinated through the CAWC network occurs between shelter locations and to transportation hubs including Tucson Greyhound Bus Station, and Tucson International Airport. This short distance transport typically uses County vendor cab company. Additionally, the City of Tucson provides Sun Tran vehicles for transportation to Tucson International Airport.

Medical Screening: A preliminary medical screening is completed at Drexel and when needed at the medical isolation hotel. This is accomplished through a county contracted vendor. Beginning next week, COVID testing will focus on symptomatic travelers as well as those with chronic medical illness, in an effort to make the process more efficient while still ensuring public health. Using a one-week snapshot on the SWB Situational Report for 5/5/23, the contracted vendor administered 2731 COVID Tests with 293 positives (10.7% rate). Those that test positive are transported to the County contracted "isolation hotel" for a period of isolation. Family contacts are quarantined with the individual who tested positive. Cases are offered anti-viral therapy and appropriate medical support.

In addition to testing, CAWC and Health Department coordinates basic medical screening as needed to facilitate timely and safe transfer to their final destination.

Sheltering: Most asylum seekers stay for 36 to 48 hours and there are multiple locations in the Shelter network. Providing shelter in this setting is not like a normal hotel operation. While asylum seekers usually arrive during normal hours, many need respite for a short period of time (day use) and most will leave after an overnight stay.

COVID has been extremely challenging to hotel partners as isolation requires extended stays of five-days. The Health Department provides hotel cleaning staff training in infection control, procedures for food safety, and vaccination for hotel/shelter staff and families who request it.

When there are high amounts of releases and COVID positivity is high, a number of rooms at the isolation hotel may remain vacant to accommodate increased intake numbers and eliminate the need to relocate occupants to another location.

- Drexel is a County facility and has a current capacity of 150 cots within one-half of the facility. The other half of the facility is scheduled to open the week of 5/8/23 doubling the capacity. This location is staffed by CAWC.
- CAWC is a County facility and has a capacity of up to 120 persons in 39 rooms focusing on "difficult cases". This can include language barriers, situations where family members have been separated, complications with sponsors, travel related complications (lack of airline or bus seats availability), and those that need time to recover from medical issues and cannot yet travel (e.g. recent childbirth and injuries that required prolonged medical care). This location is staffed by CAWC.
- Red Roof Inn is a County vendor hotel that has a capacity of 117 rooms, all of which are committed to the County. This location serves asylees impacted by infectious disease that precludes travel. Those in isolation stay until they are fit to travel. This location is staffed by CAWC and a Pima County contracted vendor providing supportive care.
- Comfort Inn Suites is a County vendor hotel and has a capacity of 82 rooms, with 42 rooms set aside to support the SWB operation and is staffed by humanitarian partner The Inn Project.
- The City of Tucson has contracts with multiple hotel locations for "rooms as needed". These include another Comfort Inn Suites, a Ramada Inn, Grand Luxe, and a Quality Inn. The latter has served as the emergency overflow hotel to avert non-sheltered or street releases. Reimbursement to the City and its vendors comes through Pima County.

Using a one-week snapshot on the SWB Situational Report for 5/5/23, the following table indicate shelter capacity.

CAWC	Drexel	Red Roof Inn	Comfort Inn/SWB	Comfort Inn/CWD	Other
163 room nights / 60% 2094 day rooms used	581 cot nights / 55% 884 day cots used	540 room nights / 66%	260 room nights / 88%	234 room nights / 88%	507

2) History of Operations

Tracking the current operation has occurred since 4/22/21. PCOEM serves as operational coordinator with CAWC and other humanitarian partners. In this capacity PCOEM also works with County and City departments to support operations and liaisons with federal partners.

- Grants Management Innovation serves as fiscal agent managing Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), provides analytic support, and coordinates meals through a vendor.
- Procurement coordinates contract development and oversight.
- Health Department coordinates medical screening, COVID testing and basic care using a contracted vendor, provides technical assistance and support for public health issues arising in the shelter and permits the current food operation.
- Fleet Services coordinates long and short distance transportation through a contracted vendor.
- Facility Management oversees maintenance of CAWC and Drexel and is responsible for the renovation of both.
- Community Workforce Development, Health Department, and Library have provided personnel to support CAWC and City Hotel during times of staffing shortage.
- Communications manages responds to media requests.
- Finance, Human Resources, and Economic Development have provided additional support as needed.

Release data: Pima County has supported Casa Alitas Welcome Center (CAWC) with services and at times manpower to ensure that Legally Processed Asylum Seekers have a safe haven and support while they transition to their final destination. The humanitarian mission has expanded when federal partners have encountered more border crossers or those present at a Port of Entry. In the first whole month of data, May 2021, CAWC received 1219 asylum seekers. In December 2021 over 3000 were released and May 2022 over 6000 were released. CAWC received a record 15,217 for the month of December 2022 and in April 2023 over 12,000 were released. The highest number of asylum seekers served in a single day was 770 and a single week was 3725. Information provided indicate how this mission has grown and can vary greatly from month to month making it difficult to align logistics and resources. (Attachment 1) From 4/22/21 to 5/5/23, CAWC has received 138,173 legally processed asylum seekers.

Transportation data: As of 5/3/23, the County has coordinated 1564 trips transporting 81,950 people using Long Distance vendors for service. This includes:

- 553 trips transporting 56,129 people from the BP Tucson Soft-Sided.
- 467 trips transporting 7719 people from CBP Nogales.
- 208 trips transporting 10,064 passengers to International Rescue Committee (IRC).
- 115 trips transporting 5464 people to Helping With All My Heart Church
- 1 trip moving 56 people to Monte Vista Cross Cultural Church.

During the same dates, County contracted Short Distance vendor has made 8893 trips transporting 31,036 people.

COVID Testing and Positives data. From 7/2/21 to 5/3/23, a County vendor administered 117,427 COVID Tests and there have been 6729 positives (6% rate). (Attachment 2)

Sheltering data: The CAWC shelter operation has expanded to meet the demands of increased releases. In addition to the CAWC and two County contracted hotels, the operation now includes Drexel Welcome Center. Sheltering can be expanded through City coordinated hotels on a rooms as needed basis. A graph is provided on average daily room use from April 2022 to March 2023. (Attachment 3)

Food data: As of 4/17/23, under the County coordinated food vendor contract, 21,310 breakfasts, 84,035 lunches, 298,881 dinners, and 305,110 snacks have been provided.

Contracts. The County administers contracts to support CAWC and the SWB mission. This includes staffing agency, Hotel Shelter Services, Food Service for Shelters, Short and Long Distance Transportation, and COVID Testing. (Attachment 4)

Funding. There have been multiple memos provided by the Director of Grants Management Innovation (GMI) that outline the financing of this humanitarian operation. The current burn rate is $1.8 million per month funded by federal resources provided via the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP).

EFSP funding is transitioning to CBP Shelter and Services Program (SSP) that will be managed by FEMA. The timing of this transition does not align with the operations and the increased impact of Title 42. The guidelines and eligibility of SSP funds are still under design and there has been little guidance. The ultimate impact of this federally directed programmatic change is yet to be fully understood.

3) Projected Impact of Title 42 on 5/11/23

Since April 2021, CAWC and County have been in regular communication with BP and CBP both locally and included in the BP/CBP Region 9 Area Command briefing in order to facilitate coordination and communication with federal and local partners regarding the dynamic asylum seeker flow.

Title 8 and Title 42 were described in a memorandum titled Asylum Seeker Process dated May 19, 2020 by Administrator Huckelberry (Attachment 5). In addition per CBP, "On March 21, 2020 the President, in accordance with Title 42 of the United States Code Section 265, determined that by reason of existence of COVID-19 in Mexico and Canada, there is a serious danger of the further introduction of COVID-19 into the United States; that prohibition on the introduction of persons or property, in whole or in part, from Mexico and Canada is required in the interest of public health." Under this order, CBP prohibited the

entry of persons who potentially pose a health risk. To help prevent the introduction of COVID-19 into border facilities and into the United States, persons subject to the order were not be held in congregate areas for processing and instead were immediately be expelled to their country of last transit.

The end of Title 42 will have a significant impact. U.S. Customs and Border Protection projects that daily releases will double current release rate. Ref: Southwest Land Border Encounters (By Component) | U.S. Customs and Border Protection (cbp.gov) During the six-month period from October 2022 to March 2023, BP Tucson Sector used Title 42 to expel 71,621 people. More recently in March 2023, Title 42 was used to expel expulse 17,794 individuals (Attachment 6). We project an estimated 1000/day or more on 5/11/23. Such unprecedented numbers present a tremendous challenge. For all the organizational achievements, these numbers will saturate the current operation and in all likelihood lead to street releases.

Throughout this mission, monthly numbers have varied month-to-month and even day-to-day which creates an enormous strain attempting to align staffing, sheltering, and resources. Shelters managed by CAWC and The Inn Project are staffed by employees and volunteers 24 hours a day and 7 days per week. Record releases in December 2022 provided valuable lessons when CAWC managed 490/day and in one day 770 asylum seekers were released.

There are many areas of uncertainty in planning for higher release volumes and a prolonged mission:

- What additional federal policy or procedures will emerge to reduce the impact of Title 42?
- How will the transition of EFSP to SSP impact the funding of the current operation and will funding be sufficient to cover the existing model?
- Will the numbers of encounters overwhelm BP and CBP operations accelerating releases and impacting their ability to laterally transport to other communities?
- Will federal partners be forced to process and release at multiple BP Stations within the Sector and across the CBP Ports of Entry. This could affect Ajo, Lukeville, Nogales, Sasabe, Douglas, and Naco.

As CAWC is working with other humanitarian partners to continue operational support, County vendor transportation assets will be used to transport and decompress CAWC. IRC has vendor transportation assets and are providing assistance and the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) state emergency division is ready to assist.

On 5/5 BP notified Santa Cruz, Cochise, and Pima OEM's that street releases will commence on 5/8/23 at the BP Nogales, Douglas, and Naco Stations, with releases up to 200/per Station/per day. DEMA and Pima has coordinated transportation resources to avert the release. Those counties at this time are working diligently on planning but are resource constrained. County and City leaders continue to communicate with state and federal leaders requesting additional support in sheltering, staffing and other resources to decompress Pima County when capacity is reached.

It is recommended that current resources remain in place until further notice to maintain current operations, allow for surge, and determine what the true impact of Title 42 will have on the community and humanitarian partners. Within the current structure and contracts there is opportunity to surge to meet increased demand yet it is not known if that will be sufficient. Planning discussions have included:

- **Staffing**. Supporting this operation requires an optimal staff-to-asylum seeker ratio that facilitates an efficient movement of people through the County and on to their final destination. CAWC is recruiting staff to handle more releases. OEM who oversees the contracted staffing agency has been asked to identify more supplemental staffing. If the situation turns dire County and City staff could again be deployed to assist.
  Sheltering. GMI modeled the system capacity based on December 2022 volumes, which was the record month of releases (491/day), length of stay and hotel utilization. With the Drexel Facility, CAWC, Red Roof Inn, Comfort Suites (half), and hotels through City of Tucson contracts, the sheltering enterprise is estimated to an estimated 1000 persons when fully operational. As a last resort to avert a street release, the City has opened a hotel operation staffed with City and County personnel. It is important to note this can only be accomplished if staffing is matched to shelter capacity and release volume.
- **Isolation Hotel**. It is anticipated that this section of the operation and funding will be impacted by the termination of the CDC public health order and could be impact the availability of testing kits. This could have consequences on how the Red Roof Inn is used. Other infectious diseases will still require isolation and funding. Infectious disease outbreaks are inevitable in congregate settings.
- **Medical Screening**. It has not been determined if or how medical and related services will be funded. Humanitarians continue to receive a number of asylum seekers that require medical screening and in certain cases supported services for stabilization prior to transport for further medical care.
- **Transportation**. Given enough notice, Fleet Services who oversees the Long and Short Distance vendors may have enough resources to handle the surge and more trips. There may be the need to deploy resources to more remote locations within Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise counties. State emergency management is exploring if their current transportation assets could support.

On April 27, 2023 Secretary Mayorkas provided a press release on "New Actions to Reduce Irregular Migration at Our Southern Border and Across the Hemisphere. (ref: Fact Sheet: U.S. Government Announces Sweeping New Actions to Manage Regional Migration | Homeland Security (dhs.gov). It is unclear what effect these measures will have on the next few weeks on daily releases into Pima County.

In summary, I hope this memo adequately addresses current mission, a history of operations, and impact of Title 42. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Attachments:
1. Asylum Seeker Response in Pima County, Overview Total Arrivals Monthly.
2. Asylum Seeker – COVID 19 Testing and Positivity Rate.
3. Average daily room nights by month.
4. Asylum Seeker contracts
5. C.H. Huckelberry memo titled Asylum Seeker Process
6. U.S. Customs and Border Protection Encounters / Title 42 Expulsions

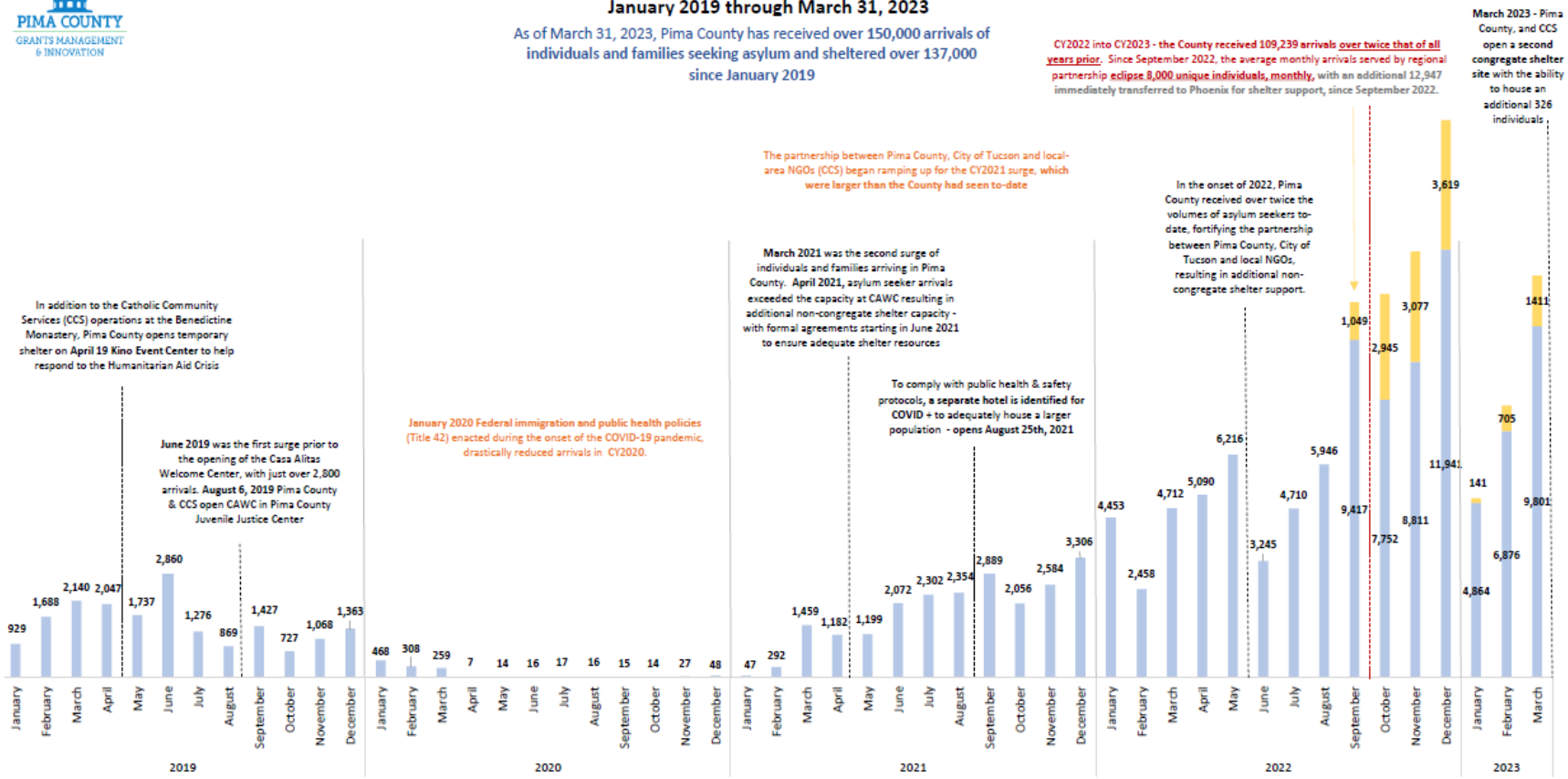
Cc: Director Terri Spencer, Procurement
Director Regina Kelly, Grants Management Innovation
Director Ray Ochotorena, Fleet Services
Director Dr. Theresa Cullen, Health Department
Director Mark Evans, Communications
Director Dan Sullivan, Community & Workforce Development
Director Amber Mathewson, Pima County Library

ATTACHMENT 1

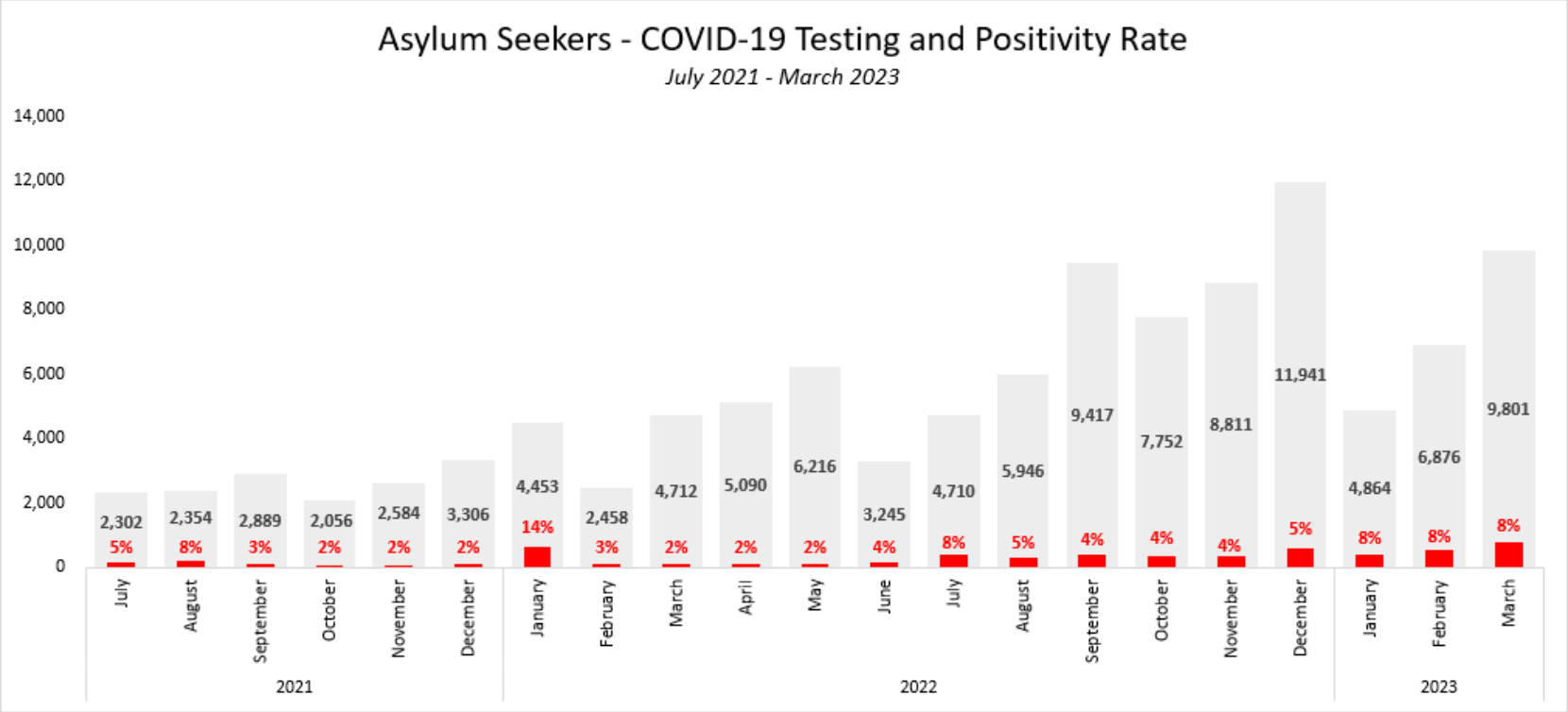
PIMA COUNTY
GRANTS MANAGEMENT & INNOVATION

Asylum Seeker Response in Pima County Overview – Total Arrivals, Monthly
January 2019 through March 31, 2023

As of March 31, 2023, Pima County has received over 150,000 arrivals of individuals and families seeking asylum and sheltered over 137,000 since January 2019



ATTACHMENT 2


Asylum Seekers - COVID-19 Testing and Positivity Rate
July 2021 - March 2023
14,000
12,000
10,000
8,000
6,000
4,000
2,000
0
2,302
5%
2,354
8%
2,889
3%
2,056
2%
2,584
2%
3,306
2%
4,453
14%
2,458
3%
4,712
2%
5,090
2%
6,216
2%
3,245
4%
4,710
8%
5,946
5%
9,417
4%
7,752
4%
8,811
4%
11,941
5%
4,864
8%
6,876
8%
9,801
8%
July
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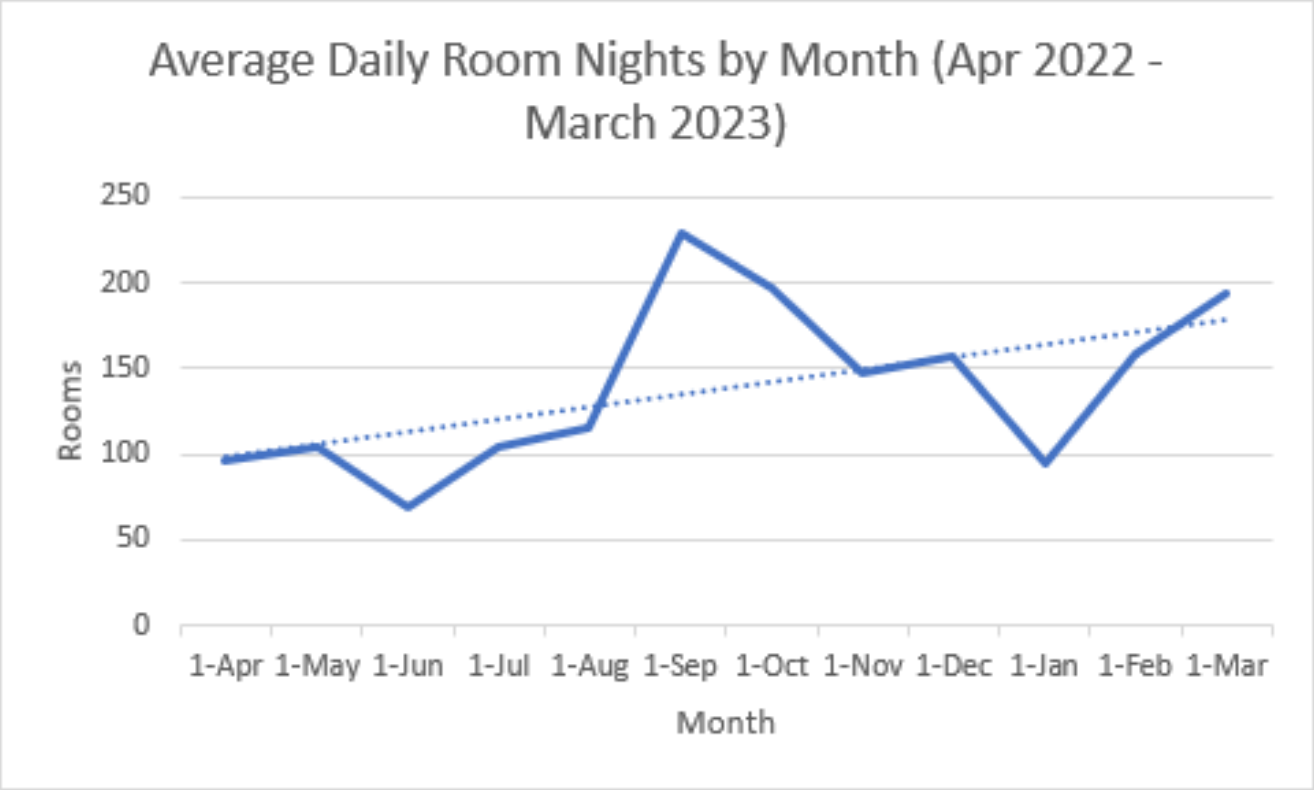
ATTACHMENT 3


Average Daily Room Nights by Month (Apr 2022 - March 2023)
250
200
150
100
50
0
Rooms
1-Apr
1-May
1-Jun
1-Jul
1-Aug
1-Sep
1-Oct
1-Nov
1-Dec
1-Jan
1-Feb
1-Mar
Month

ATTACHMENT 4

ASYLUM SEEKER CONTRACTS

Hotel Shelter Services – MA 22*030 – Jot Properties – PRCUID 424000
Terms 6/18/23
1 six-month renewal option remains

Food Service Shelters – MA 22*084 – World Dining, LLC – PRCUID: 436172
Terms 1/20/24
3 one-year renewal options remain

Short Distance Transportation – MA 22*026 – AAA Cab – PRCUID: 420762
Terms 8/15/23
1 six-month renewal option remains

Long Distance Transportation – MA 21*171 – PRCUID: 409917
Diamond Transportation, Mountain View Tours, Gray Line Tour, Bee Line Buss
Terms 10/11/23
BOS approval required to add more 6-month renewal options
Intrastate Transport: Diamond Transportation, Mountain View Tours, Citizen Tours, Bee Line
Interstate transport: Diamond Transportation, Mountain View Tours

COVID-19 Medical Support for Refugee Populations – CT 22*003 – SJM Premier Medical Group
Health Department RFP per BOS Policy D29.7
Terms 7/1/23
No renewal options remain

ATTACHMENT 5

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 20, 2019

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Re: **Asylum Seeker Process**

The recent increase in asylum seekers being released in Pima County has contemporaneously increased the discussion within the community about issues of migration. The current surge is from the release of asylum seekers, which are from time to time confused with those who might have crossed the border illegally. An explanation of asylum seekers and the process through which they gain legal access to the United States is attached.

CHH/ mp

c: Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator

Asylum Seeker Process

What Is Asylum?
Asylum is a protection granted to foreign nationals already in the United States or at the border who meet the international law definition of a "refugee." The United Nations 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol define a refugee as a person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country, and cannot obtain protection in that country, due to past persecution or a well-founded fear of being persecuted in the future "on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion."

The Federal Players
There are three federal agencies, all of which are components of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). When DHS was created in 2002, it replaced the Immigration and Naturalization Service, with three components within the DHS:

- Customs and Border Protections (CBP), which provides inspection functions at all Ports of Entry and the U.S. Border Patrol;
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which is responsible for immigration law enforcement including detention and removal, intelligence and investigations; and
- U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS), which reviews and adjudicates citizenship processes.

What Is the Asylum Application Process?
There are two primary ways in which a person may apply for asylum in the United States: the affirmative process and the defensive process. Asylum seekers who arrive at a U.S. port of entry or enter the United States without inspection generally must apply through the defensive asylum process. Both processes require the asylum seeker to be physically present in the United States.

Affirmative Asylum: A person who is not in removal proceedings may affirmatively apply for asylum through USCIS. If the USCIS asylum officer does not grant the asylum application and the applicant does not have a lawful immigration status, he or she is referred to the immigration court for removal proceedings, where he or she may renew the request for asylum through the defensive process and appear before an immigration judge.
Defensive Asylum: A person who is in removal proceedings may apply for asylum defensively by filing the application with an immigration judge at the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) in the Department of Justice. In other words, asylum is applied for "as a defense against removal from the U.S." Unlike the criminal court system, EOIR does not provide appointed counsel for individuals in immigration court, even if they are unable to retain an attorney on their own.

With or without counsel, an asylum seeker has the burden of proving that he or she meets the definition of a refugee. Asylum seekers often provide substantial evidence throughout the affirmative and defensive processes demonstrating either past persecution or that they have a "well-founded fear" of future persecution in their home country. However, the individual's own testimony is usually critical to his or her asylum determination.

Certain factors bar individuals from asylum. With limited exceptions, individuals who fail to apply for asylum within one year of entering the United States will be barred from receiving asylum. Similarly, applicants who are found to pose a danger to the United States are barred from asylum.

What happens when an Asylum Seeker enters the United States?
An individual who indicates a "well-rounded" or credible fear of persecution in their home countries surrenders to a CBP officer, generally at a Point of Entry (POE). The Immigration Reform and Immigrant Rasponsibility Act requires that all individuals seeking asylum at POEs be detained.

When an asylum seeker surrenders, he or she is initially detained in a holding facility by CBP. An individual expressing fear of return is transferred from CBP custody to ICE. Due to capacity issues that have resulted from the recent surge in asylum seekers, ICE releases individuals in the local community. The asylum seekers who have been released in Tucson have been assessed for potential release on parole and, part of that assessment process, identification has been verified, it has been determined that the individual does not pose a flight risk or danger to the community and has an identified sponsor in the United States, which is the final destination of the asylum seeker.

What happens in Pima County?
Once asylum seekers are processed, they are released into the community in hopes of reconnecting with their families and/or friends (also know as "sponsors"). It appears that the process for release entails ICE/Border Patrol contacting Catholic Community Services (CCS) to notify of the release (mostly with only an hour in advance). CCS than arranges transportation for pickup of asylum seekers usually at the parking lot of the Greyhound station. ICE/Border Patrol insists on using this location for drop off due to security of their border patrol agents.

Once CCS picks up asylum seekers, they are transported to the Monastery for registration and /or to transport to another shelter location, as needed or available. Asylum seekers also go through an intake process and sponsors (family/friends) are contacted via phone call to update them of the asylum seekers current location and to request travel confirmation.

Monastery/shelter offers food, shower, cots and other basic items as available. Once the travel tickets are purchased by sponsors they will notify the shelters. The shelters will make the necessary transportation arrangements to make sure all asylum seekers are at the Greyhound station or airport with enough time in advance to get in their bus or airplane to their sponsors destination.

When, Why and How are other Facilities Activated in Pima County?
A surge in individuals seeking asylum in the United States is occurring. February alone saw 76,103 at southern border, more than double same month a year ago. The majority of these asylum seekers are parents with children from Central America. As CBP holding facilities reach capacity, individuals are transported to the Tucson Sector at the discretion of CBP.

The best estimate of the number of asylum seekers transiting through Pima County between January and May 13 2019 is that 7,621 individuals released by ICE to community

partners. CBP releases are not typically scheduled and coordinated with community partners nor are they reported to the County. Our estimate is that during this period another 600 to 700 individuals were turned over by CBP into the community. The daily number of individuals arriving in the community jumped dramatically and surged beginning on April 9 as Easter approached. Shelter capacity by community partners was exceeded bed capacity for Catholic Community Services and the Monastery in particular. Concurrently the Tucson Sector CBP provided notice of the imminent street release of migrants in transit further exacerbated an already challenging situation. The City of Tucson activated a temporary shelter at the El Pueblo Neighborhood Center and Pima County housed asylum seekers at the Kino Events Center.

Pima County staff were enlisted to staff the "pop-up-shelter" facility on April 19. Health Department were responsible for shelter intake, feeding, local ground transportation, providing acute health needs, and coordination of travel logistics to get migrants to their final destination. The Juvenile Detention Center Kitchen provided meals for shelter guests. The Stadium District provided security staff, Parks & Natural Resources provided vans for ground transportation. OEM provided overall coordination of the response. In total 213 individuals were served they the facility during the 6 days it was operational.

What ultimately happens to the individuals seeking asylum?
USCIS is charged with processing immigrant visa petitions, naturalization applications, asylum applications, applications for adjustment of status (green cards), and refugee applications. It also makes adjudicative decisions performed at the service centers, and manages all other immigration benefits functions (i.e., not immigration enforcement) performed by the former INS. Other responsibilities of the USCIS include:

- Administration of immigration services and benefits
- Issuing employment authorization documents (EAD)
- Adjudicating petitions for non-immigrant temporary workers (H-1B, O-1, etc.)

Individuals seeking asylum submit Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal, within one year of arriving in the US. The individuals then go through fingerprinting, background and security checks, and are interviewed. Asylum Officers, Supervisory Asylum Officers and then USCIS personnel determine if asylum should be granted. Individuals are assigned to one of ten Asylum Offices or Sub-Offices throughout the U.S., depending on where they are residing with their sponsor. These are:

- Arlington
- Boston
- Chicago
- Houston
- Los Angeles
- Miami
- New Orleans
- New York
- Newark
- San Francisco

How long does the Asylum Process Take?
The length can vary, but typically it takes between six months and several years.

Where do Asylum Seekers come from?
In 2016 the top ten countries whose citizens were granted asylum in the US are:

1. China (36% of all asylum grants in 2016)
2. El Salvador
3. Guatemala
4. Honduras
5. Mexico
6. India
7. Nepal
8. Ethiopia
9. Somalia
10. Eritera

In early 2018, Venezuela moved into the #1 spot.

1. Venezuela
2. China
3. Guatemala
4. El Salvador
5. Mexico
6. Honduras
7. India
8. Nigeria
9. Haiti
10. Columbia

In the first months of 2019 approximately 90% of those seeking asylum are from Guatemala.

Sources:
Asylum in the United States (May 14, 2018):
https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/asylum-united-states

Obtaining Asylum in the United States: https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-asylum/asylum/obtaining-asylum-united-states

Related articles:
For thousands of asylum seekers, all they can do is wait (May 9, 2019):
https://apnews.com/ed788f5b4269407381d79e588b6c1dc2?fbclid=IwAR2ORYT-GcOKjK9i5hs4LiknTZPmOiJ1E0eaJ7rP_PMNyMlXhvHWY5mRS5Q

ATTACHMENT 6

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Encounters / Title 42 Expulsions
From October 2022 through March 2023, followed by each month.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

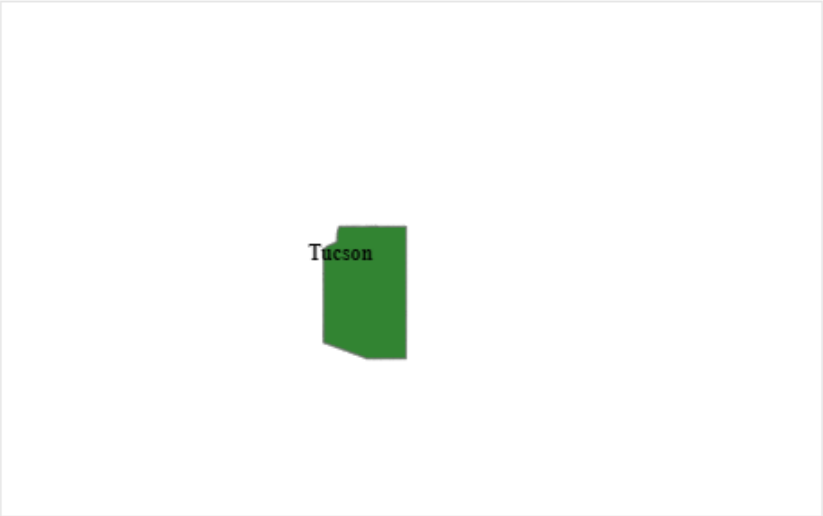
U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Encounters
U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Title 8 Apprehensions, Office of Field Operations (OFO) Title 8 Inadmissible Volumes, and Title 42 Expulsions by Fiscal Year to Date (FYTD) 2023

Select a component: (•) USBP ( ) OFO

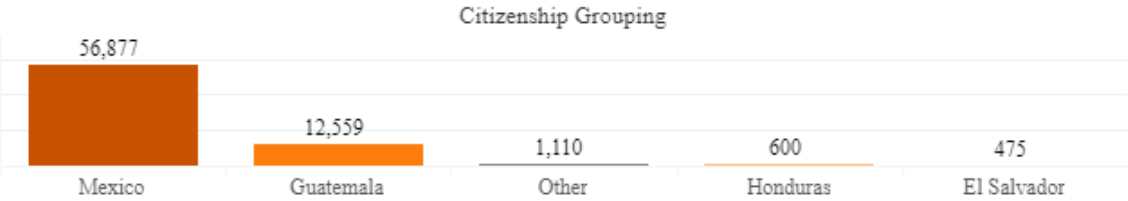
FY2023 YTD USBP Southwest Land Border Encounters

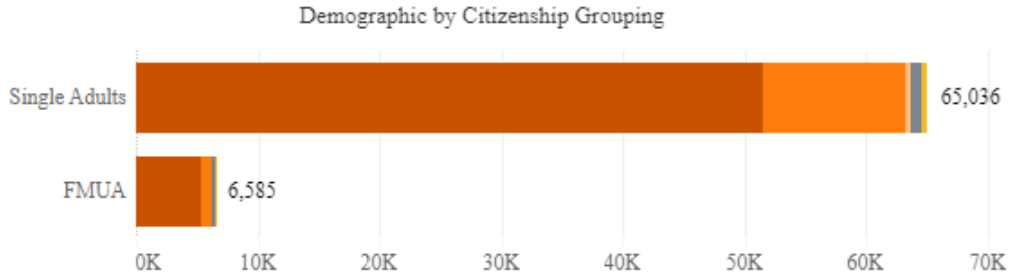
FYTD	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR

All	Title 8	Title 42
146,301	74,680	71,621



San Diego	45,952
El Centro	9,427
Yuma	8,330
Tucson	71,621
El Paso	120,374
Big Bend	5,145
Del Rio	87,407
Laredo	19,961
Rio Grande Valley	50,930





Source: USBP and OFO month end reporting for FY23TD. Data is current as of 4/4/2023.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Encounters

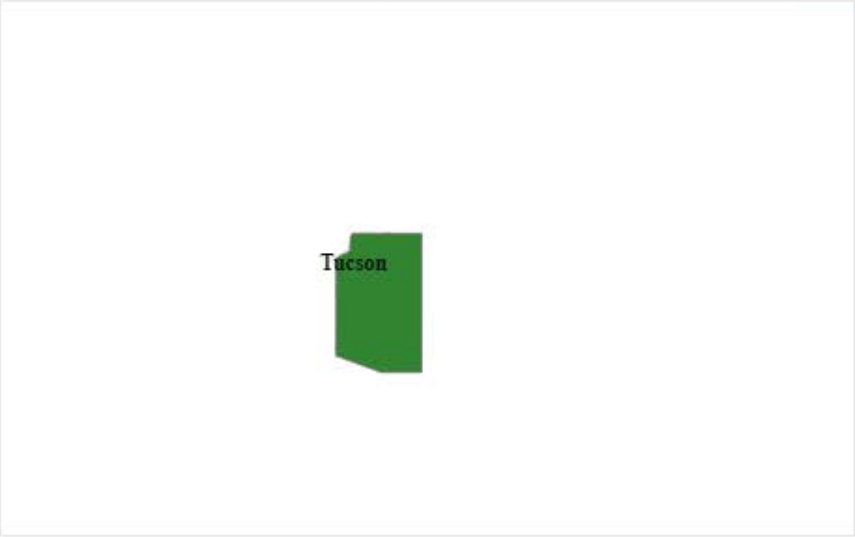
U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Title 8 Apprehensions, Office of Field Operations (OFO) Title 8 Inadmissible Volumes, and Title 42 Expulsions by Fiscal Year to Date (FYTD) 2023

Select a component: (•) USBP ( ) OFO

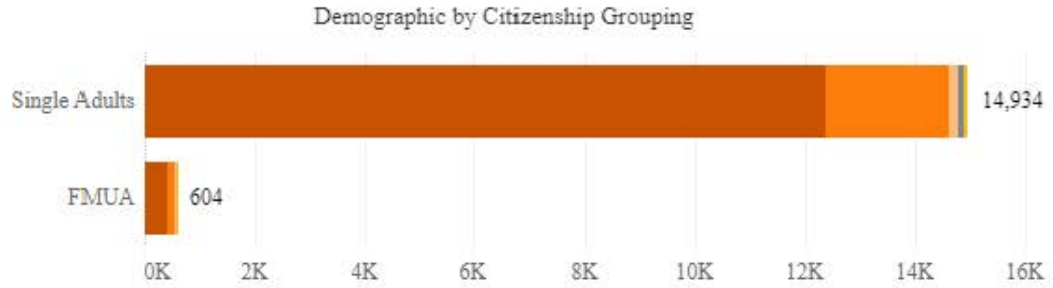
FY2023 YTD USBP Southwest Land Border Encounters

FYTD | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR

All	Title 8	Title 42
22,937	7,399	15,538



San Diego	9,241
El Centro	2,110
Yuma	1,536
Tucson	15,538
El Paso	17,847
Big Bend	954
Del Rio	14,130
Laredo	5,451
Rio Grande Valley	11,187



Source: USBP and OFO month end reporting for FY23TD. Data is current as of 4/4/2023.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Encounters

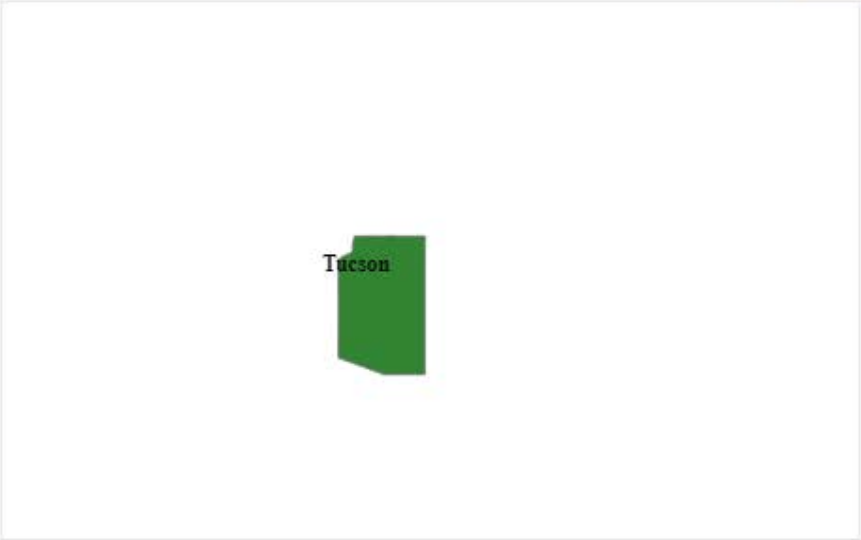
U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Title 8 Apprehensions, Office of Field Operations (OFO) Title 8 Inadmissible Volumes, and Title 42 Expulsions by Fiscal Year to Date (FYTD) 2023

Select a component: (•) USBP ( ) OFO

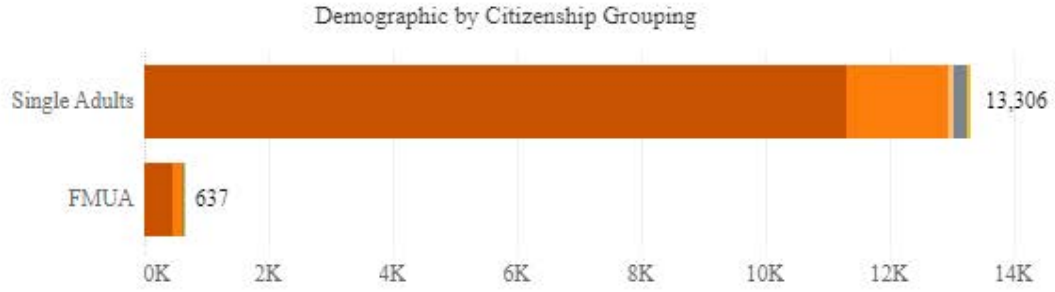
FY2023 YTD USBP Southwest Land Border Encounters

FYTD	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR

All	Title 8	Title 42
23,419	9,476	13,943



San Diego	7,556
El Centro	1,744
Yuma	948
Tucson	13,943
El Paso	16,358
Big Bend	1,126
Del Rio	13,438
Laredo	3,723
Rio Grande Valley	8,526



Source: USBP and OFO month end reporting for FY23TD. Data is current as of 4/4/2023.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Encounters

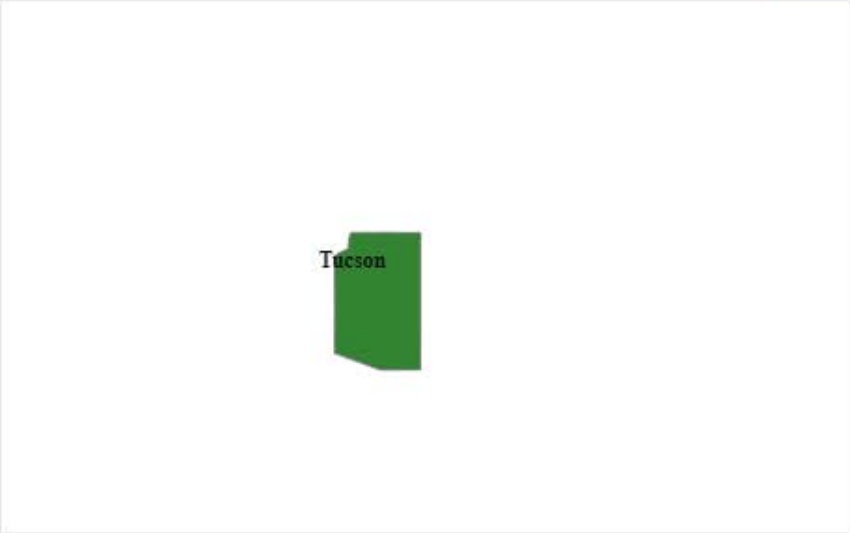
U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Title 8 Apprehensions, Office of Field Operations (OFO) Title 8 Inadmissible Volumes, and Title 42 Expulsions by Fiscal Year to Date (FYTD) 2023

Select a component: (•) USBP ( ) OFO

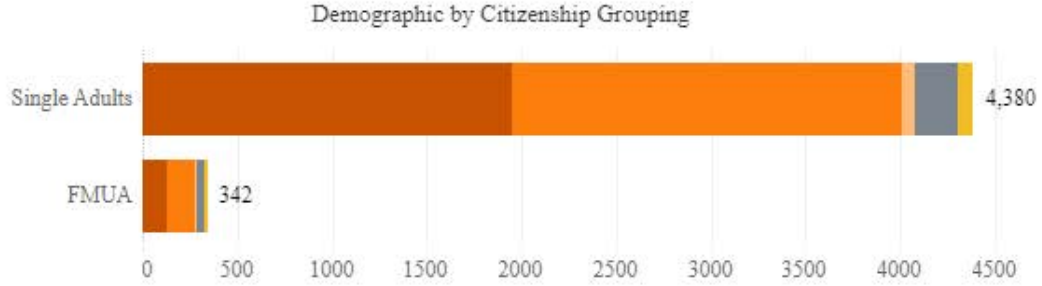
FY2023 YTD USBP Southwest Land Border Encounters

FYTD	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR

All	Title 8	Title 42
22,136	17,414	4,722



San Diego	6,877
El Centro	1,424
Yuma	613
Tucson	4,722
El Paso	15,047
Big Bend	816
Del Rio	9,740
Laredo	2,421
Rio Grande Valley	8,270



Source: USBP and OFO month end reporting for FY23TD. Data is current as of 4/4/2023.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Encounters

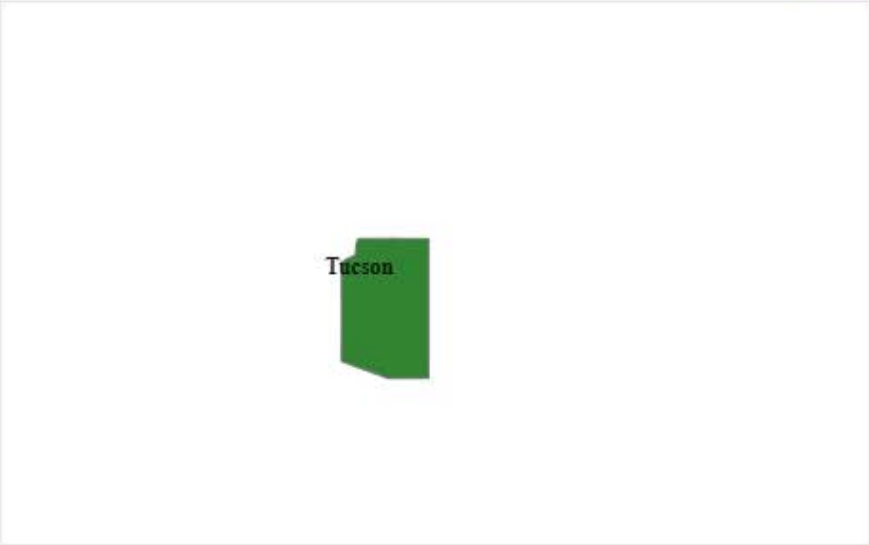
U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Title 8 Apprehensions, Office of Field Operations (OFO) Title 8 Inadmissible Volumes, and Title 42 Expulsions by Fiscal Year to Date (FYTD) 2023

Select a component: (•) USBP ( ) OFO

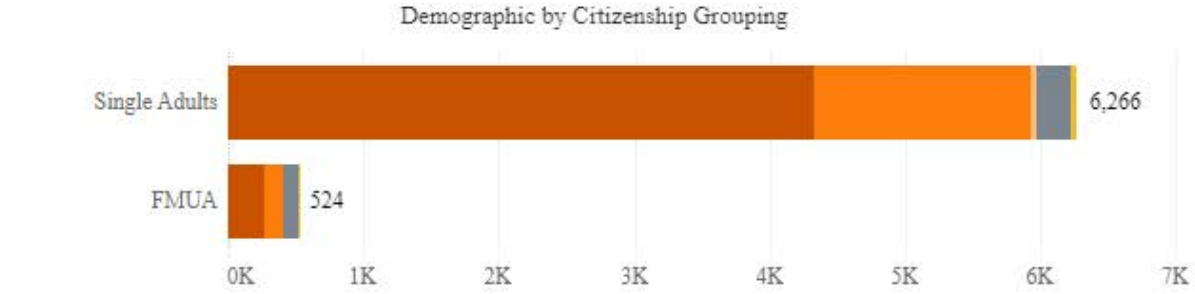
FY2023 YTD USBP Southwest Land Border Encounters

FYTD	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR

All	Title 8	Title 42
20,262	13,472	6,790



San Diego	7,050
El Centro	1,200
Yuma	1,720
Tucson	6,790
El Paso	20,598
Big Bend	742
Del Rio	16,989
Laredo	1,920
Rio Grande Valley	7,465



Source: USBP and OFO month end reporting for FY23TD. Data is current as of 4/4/2023.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Encounters

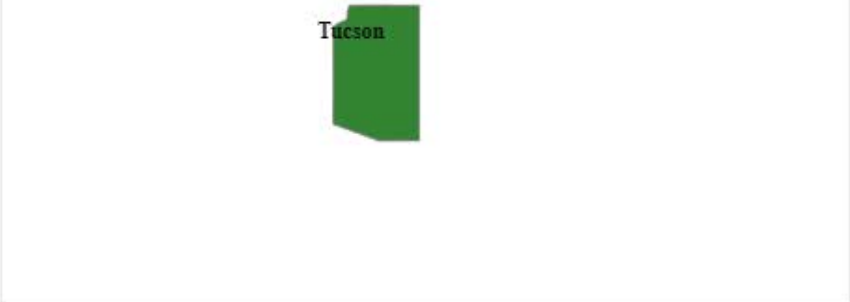
U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Title 8 Apprehensions, Office of Field Operations (OFO) Title 8 Inadmissible Volumes, and Title 42 Expulsions by Fiscal Year to Date (FYTD) 2023

Select a component: (•) USBP ( ) OFO

FY2023 YTD USBP Southwest Land Border Encounters

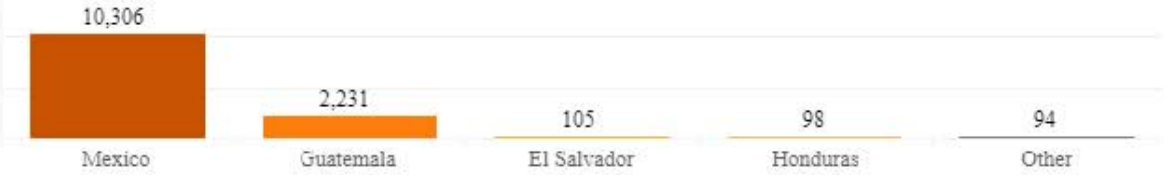
FYTD	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR

All	Title 8	Title 42
23,598	10,764	12,834

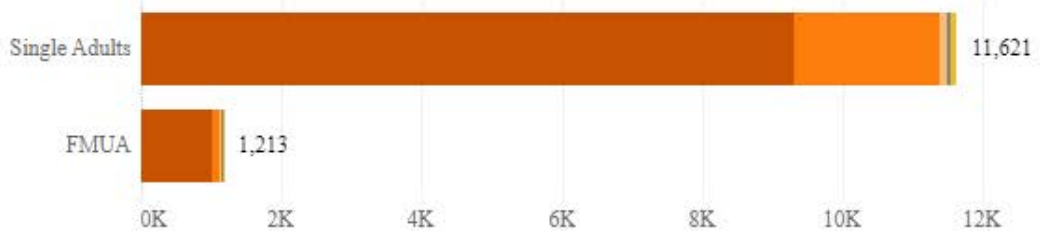


San Diego	7,600
El Centro	1,269
Yuma	1,632
Tucson	12,834
El Paso	24,123
Big Bend	686
Del Rio	16,318
Laredo	2,262
Rio Grande Valley	7,397

Citizenship Grouping



Demographic by Citizenship Grouping



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U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Encounters

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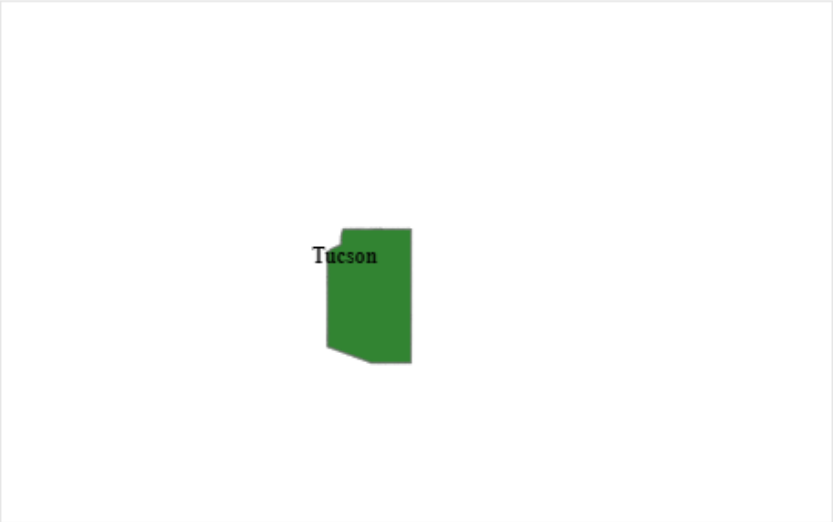
Select a component: (•) USBP ( ) OFO

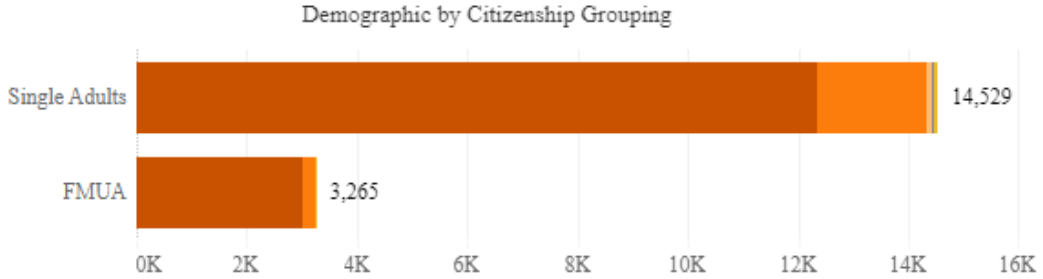
FY2023 YTD USBP Southwest Land Border Encounters

FYTD	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR

All	Title 8	Title 42
33,949	16,155	17,794



San Diego	7,628
El Centro	1,680
Yuma	1,881
Tucson	17,794
El Paso	26,401
Big Bend	821
Del Rio	16,792
Laredo	4,184
Rio Grande Valley	8,285



Source: USBP and OFO month end reporting for FY23TD. Data is current as of 4/4/2023.