

Highlights:

This reporting period the Tucson Sector Border Patrol (BP) continued Community Safe Releases of Legally Processed Asylum Seekers (LPAS) in Tucson (referred to as Tucson Soft-Sided), Nogales, and Douglas throughout the day. CBP Nogales Port of Entry (POE) also processed and released. BP Tucson Soft-Sided releases were transported by BP directly to Casas Alitas Welcome Center (CAWC) Drexel. BP Nogales Station and CBP Nogales POE were transported to CAWC Drexel by transportation coordinated by Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) and Pima County transportation focused resources to support local needs. Due to the size of the BP Tucson Sector, this is a regional support operation covering three counties.

CAWC received from BP and CBP a daily average of 955 arrivals and 6,686 total arrivals for the week, a 688 LPAS decrease from previous period. There were over 850 more family members released than single adults. County, CAWC, and City are monitoring the situation daily and will surge support as needed. Federal (FEMA/CBP Shelter and Services Program) funding continues to cover cost of the response. Operations are optimized to reduce the potential of street releases and there were no street releases in Tucson. When federal funding runs out, operations will be drastically reduced. The additional funding of EFSP will support operations and partners are working with GMI (fiscal agent) to determine parameters.

- *BP Safe Community Release: Term used for BP released LPAS at a public location with access to transportation services (i.e. bus station, transportation hub) during daylight hours and BP communicates the release to stakeholders. For releases in border towns like Nogales and Douglas, Pima County and/or DEMA transport LPAS directly to a CAWC or other humanitarian partner to prevent overwhelming border communities with limited resources.*
- *BP Station: Nine Stations are located within the Tucson Sector and the Tucson and Nogales Stations currently process and release LPAS into the local community. In the past Douglas and Naco have processed and released. The vast majority of LPAS released daily are from BP Stations.*
- *CBP Port of Entry (POE): There are five POE in Arizona and four within Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise counties. CBP Nogales POE currently processes and releases approximately 100 LPAS per day. During normal operations there is a transition of the LPAS to the humanitarian network.*
- *Legally Processed Asylum Seeker (LPAS): A reference for those that BP have qualified and gained legal status into the United States. It has been stated that to gain that status, BP interviews, collects biometric and biographic information, and completes a background check before individual is released. During normal operations there is a transition of LPAS to the humanitarian network.*
- *Street Release: Term used when BP initiates a release other than to a humanitarian or other partner and LPAS are released into the local community with little to no support resources and LPAS will navigate their own way. Can occur when CAWC is at over-capacity with no shelter space available, when transportation support is not available to move LPAS to a humanitarian partner, federal funding no longer support operations, and BP can no longer detain. The release location has been coordinated between BP and the local government. When street release occurs Pima County will work with CAWC, the City of Tucson, Santa Cruz, and Cochise County to prioritize who will enter shelter as shelter space is available.*

Weekly Arrivals received by CAWC after release by BP and CBP:

CCS/CAWC received from BP and CBP a daily average of 955 arrivals and 6,686 total arrivals for the week.

Historical operational volumes (*The cumulative total of LPAS arrivals in Pima County and LPAS transported to Phoenix with Pima County support)

- **Record Day of Releases = 1,507 (11/26/23)**
- **Record Week of Releases = 10,187 (12/07/23-12/13/23)**
- **Record Month of Releases = 33,901 (11/23)**
- **Total Releases to Date = 402,022 (since 1/1/2019)**

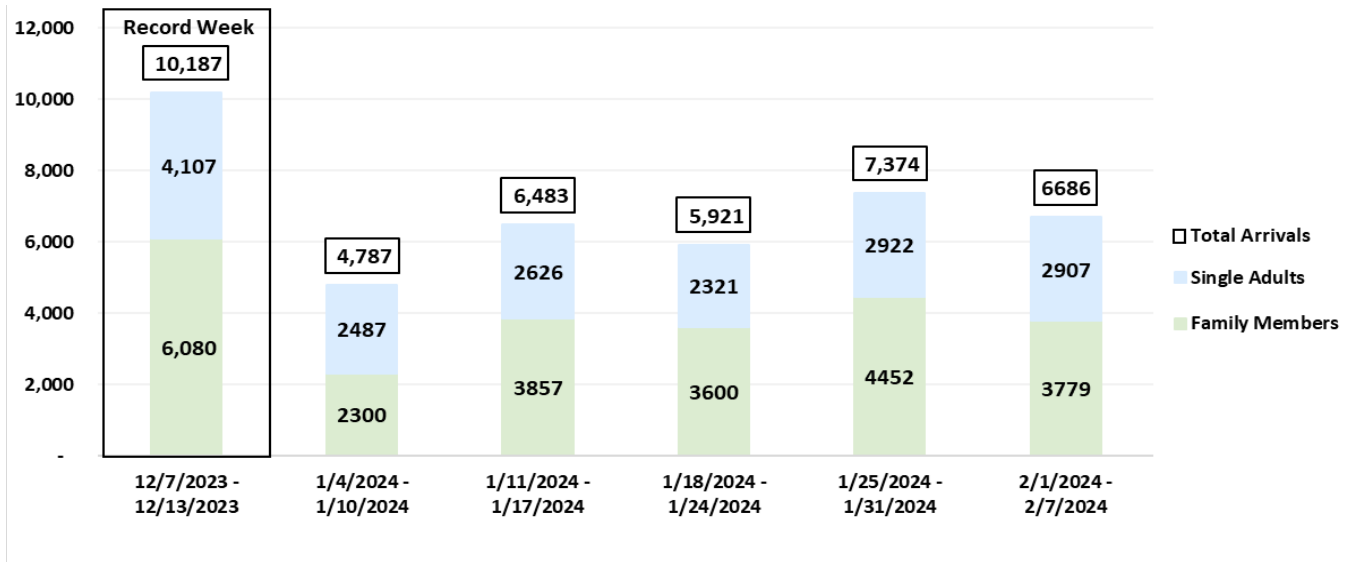
Weekly Arrivals	Total Arrivals	Single Adults	Family Members	Family Units
Current Week Total	6,686	2,907	3,779	1,340
Daily Average	955	415	540	191

Family Members: The total number of individuals who arrived as part of a family group.

Family Units: The overall count of separate families that arrived on a given day.

Please note: All data is a “snapshot” reported in real time and is subject to change because of new information, data is verified, changes in process requirements, and the availability of resources.

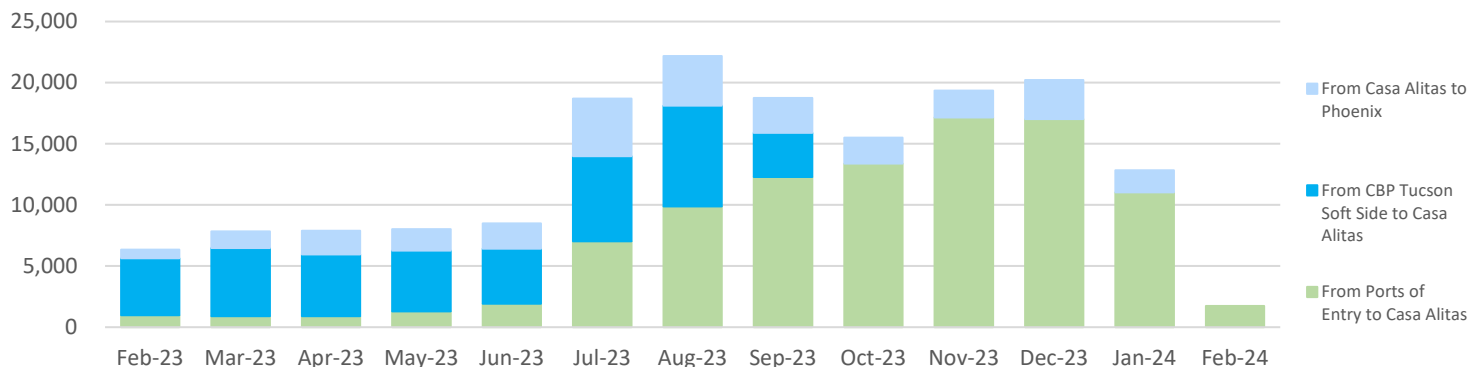
5-week Overview of Legally Processed Asylum Seeker Arrivals Compared to the Record Week of Arrivals



Transportation

BP can transport LPAS only as far as the closest safe community location. BP Tucson Soft-Sided transports directly to CAWC. BP Nogales Stations will transport to the Nogales Reception Center and BP Douglas Station to a local church when required. In Nogales and Douglas, BP works with Santa Cruz and Cochise OEM. Santa Cruz OEM reports that from 9/13/23 to 1/31/24 when BP shifted to current release pattern, 56,804 single adults and family members were released in Nogales. Cochise County OEM reports that 5927 LPAS were released in the same time-frame in Douglas and includes a short period in Naco. DEMA after receiving additional state level funds is back to support operations. DEMA and Pima County both have the ability to utilize buses to transport LPAS from Nogales and Douglas to CAWC and from CAWC to other humanitarian partners to decompress CAWC operations. Other transportation options are considered as needed. DEMA also has the ability to transport from Nogales and Douglas directly to Phoenix humanitarian partners and to humanitarian partners in New Mexico during critical need. The flexibility of transportation enables the shelter community to support each other and maximize available space. County utilizes vans and cabs to move LPAS between CAWC shelter network and to airport or bus station. The County has contracts with four long distance vendors and one short-distance vendor. The City utilizes SunTran for the local operation.

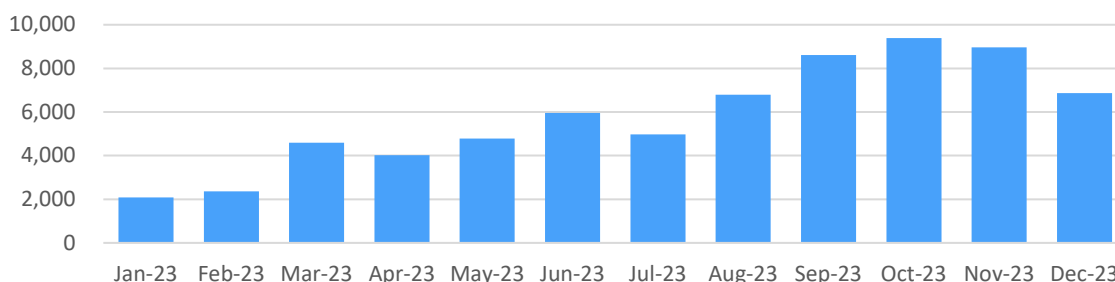
Number of Legally Processed Asylum Seekers Transported by Long Distance Transportation.



- A total of **225,918** Legally Processed Asylum Seekers have been transported by Long Distance Transportation from May 2021 – February 2024.
- Forty-five (45%)** percent of long-distance trips are from BP Stations and Ports of Entry to Casa Alitas.

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Number of Legally Processed Asylum Seekers Transported by Short Distance Transportation



- A total of **90,519** Legally Processed Asylum Seekers have been transported by Short Distance Transportation from August 2021 – December 2023.

Congregate and Non-Congregate Shelters

Congregate Shelters are CAWC Ajo and CAWC Drexel. CAWC Ajo provides support and shelter to LPAS that require specialized assistance and include vulnerable families. CAWC Ajo is uniquely suited with individual rooms and common spaces. CAWC Drexel is a large communal facility where one demographic of LPAS can be served and currently family units are sheltered at Drexel. This facility can transition easily to serve single adults depending on release demographics or operational changes. CAWC Drexel serves as the Intake Center when LPAS are released by BP and CBP. During Intake, LPAS are processed, and it is determined if LPAS can travel immediately or require respite, shelter, and supportive assistance. Non-Congregate locations are the hotels needed to support surge beyond the congregate locations and reduce the chance of a street release. These locations provide “rooms as needed” and are flexible because they can support both family units and single adults. It is at the shelter location where staff provide quality of life support like showers, acquire a change of clothes, diapers, care kits, etc. and work with LPAS family or sponsor on their forward travel arrangements. LPAS stay on average 1-3 days. County manages contracts with two hotel properties (Comfort Inn Suites and Red Roof Inn) and City with four hotel properties (La Palma formally known as Ramada, two Quality Inns, and a Best Western). Comfort Inn Suites is under contract for the whole hotel to provide medical isolation plus additional rooms for CAWC. Humanitarian partners that provide additional Shelter support when available include Phoenix based International Rescue Committee (IRC), Helping With All My Heart, Monte Vista Cultural Church, and Tongan United Methodist. Those shelters are now reporting decreased to no capacity due to lack of federal funding. A shelter in New Mexico and a church in Douglas have also provided critical support when available.

Pima County and NGO partner (CCS) Shelter Summary

Shelter	Total LPAS Served	Total LPAS Sheltered	Total Overnight Rooms Used	Available
Drexel	7,866	1,439	1,439	400
CAWC	815	815	60	39
Red Roof	0	0	0	As Needed
Comfort Suites Airport	2,057	705	149	84
Additional Non-Congregate Shelter	4,262	3,118	756	As Needed
Total	15,000	6,077	2,404	523

- Total LPAS Served:** The cumulative total of LPAS who have received services at a shelter, encompassing both daytime and nighttime use.
- Total LPAS Sheltered:** The cumulative total of LPAS who stayed one or more nights.
- Total Overnight Rooms Used:** The cumulative total of rooms that were used for an overnight stay.
- Available:** The number of cots (Drexel) and rooms (CAWC, Comfort Inn Suites Airport) allocated for use.

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Public Health / Infectious Disease Prevention

All LPAS undergo medical screening by federal paramedical staff prior to release. LPAS are assessed again when they arrive at CAWC during the Intake process. Trained staff ask all single adults and heads of family a series of medical questions and the staff visually assess all individuals for signs of sickness. If there is a positive response to the screening questions or if there is suspicion based on the assessment, the individual is tested for COVID and undergoes a clinical evaluation. Individuals (and their contacts) testing positive for COVID or suspected of other communicable illness are provided isolation and medical care in a hotel room setting until cleared for travel. Additional medical evaluation and care may be provided as needed by El Rio and coordinated by Southeast Arizona Health Education Center.

From 1/1/23 to the 1/12/24 almost all LPAS underwent medical screening; 66,217 LPAS were identified as at risk for COVID and subsequently tested for COVID. 7316 tested positive and followed the PCHD COVID positive LPAS protocol including isolation until medically cleared for travel. Public Health identified 74 cases of Varicella (Chicken Pox) and <10 cases each of Malaria, Tuberculosis, and Scabies infestation.

In general, LPAS are healthy and have low levels of disease.