



Biden's Border Crisis

BY THE NUMBERS

Under President Joe Biden's tenure, illegal border crossings have risen to levels not seen in over 21 years.

In May 2021, 180,034 migrants were encountered along the southwest border, including 121,082 single adults; 44,639 family units; 14,158 unaccompanied minors. This is a 675% increase compared to May 2020.

Since January 2021, there have been 711,784 illegal crossings along the southwest border – up 380% from the same time frame last year.

Since President Biden took office, at least 61,000 migrants who illegally crossed the border have been released into the interior of the United States.

Biden's Border Crisis Timeline

*Actions taken to erode immigration enforcement and border security and Oversight
Republicans' response*

January 20, 2021

On his first day in office, President Biden issues an executive order, "[Revision of Civil Immigration Enforcement Policies and Priorities](#)," ("priorities memorandum") revoking an executive order President Trump signed to protect Americans from dangerous criminal aliens, "[Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States](#)." President Trump's order called for the faithful execution of the immigration laws against all removable illegal immigrants and instructed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to prioritize the removal of those who have committed crimes, pose a national security risk, engaged in fraud or willful misrepresentation before the government, abused welfare programs, and are subject to a final order of removal. It also instructed the Attorney General to ensure sanctuary jurisdictions are not eligible to receive federal grants.

President Biden issues a [proclamation](#) terminating the national emergency declaration at the Southern border declared by President Trump and halting construction of the border wall.

DHS issues a [memorandum](#) freezing all immigration removal actions for 100 days unless the removal concerns an alien who was suspected of terrorism or espionage or otherwise posed a national security threat, the alien was not physically present in the United States before November 1, 2020, the alien agreed to waive any right to remain in the United States, or Immigrations and Custom Enforcement (ICE) made an individualized determination that the removal is required by law.

President Biden issues a presidential memorandum, "[Preserving and Fortifying Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\)](#)," instructing the Secretary of Homeland Security and Attorney General to take actions that "preserve and fortify" DACA.

President Biden's [first legislative proposal](#) would grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants in the U.S. This is widely reported in the news media.

DHS issues a [press release](#) announcing it is suspending new enrollments in the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) and will no longer add individuals into the program. MPP required many aliens encountered by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to wait in Mexico during their U.S. immigration court proceedings instead of being released into the interior of the U.S.

February 2, 2021

President Biden issues an [executive order](#) instructing the Secretary of Homeland Security to rescind MPP. In addition, the order directs the Attorney General and Secretary of Homeland Security to rescind a series of rules issued by the Trump Administration that implemented asylum agreements with Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. Finally, the order rescinds President Trump's [memorandum](#) seeking to end "catch and release."

President Biden issues another [executive order](#) directing the Attorney General and DHS Secretary to identify and rescind barriers impeding access to immigration benefits or the naturalization process. This review specifically considers President Trump's public charge rule, which sought to prevent aliens who are likely to receive one or more public benefits from obtaining green cards.

DHS releases a statement, "[Equal Access to COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccine Distribution Sites](#)," which calls for equal access to the COVID vaccine for illegal immigrants, and encourages all individuals, regardless of immigration status, to receive the COVID vaccine.

February 4, 2021

President Biden issues an [executive order](#) rescinding Trump Administration reforms to the Refugee Admissions Program. The order rescinds multiple directives signed by President Trump providing for enhanced vetting of refugees and giving state and local governments a say in the refugee resettlement process. In addition, the order directs the DHS Secretary, Secretary of State, and the Attorney General to expand refugee adjudication capacity.

House Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans [send a letter to DHS Secretary Mayorkas](#) requesting all documents and communications related to President Joe Biden's unilateral decision to halt construction of the southern border wall. DHS has not responded.

February 11, 2021

DHS [announces](#) beginning on February 19, it will begin processing approximately 25,000 individuals who were enrolled in MPP for entry into the United States.

February 17, 2021

House Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans [send a letter to Acting ICE Director Johnson](#) requesting any final guidance relating to the implementation of the January 20th priorities memorandum; all documents related to how ICE plans to prevent recidivism by removable aliens in the U.S. who have been arrested, but are not considered deportation priorities; and all statistics regarding the number of aliens deemed removable from the U.S. encountered by ICE since 2017 who have gang tattoos or who have been identified as a member of or an affiliate of a criminal gang. ICE has not responded.

February 18, 2021

ICE issues a [memorandum](#) reiterating the January 20th DHS priorities memorandum that limited the ability of ICE to enforce the law. Under the memorandum, unless an illegal immigrant is a national security threat, was not physically present in the United States before November 1, 2020, or has been convicted of an aggravated felony and released after January 20, 2021, an ICE officer must stand down or must seek pre-approval of any enforcement action before it can be carried out.

This policy greatly curtails interior immigration enforcement capabilities, including for aliens who have committed serious criminal offenses. ICE interior enforcement book-ins to custody [fell 62 percent](#) from January to February.

February 19, 2021

DHS announces 25 individuals previously enrolled in MPP were processed at the San Ysidro Port of Entry and released into the United States. This group is the first of thousands of MPP-enrolled individuals who will be permitted to enter the United States instead of waiting in Mexico for adjudication of their claims.

House Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans [send a letter to DHS Secretary Mayorkas](#) on the impending health crisis at the border and the administration's plan to mitigate President Biden's border crisis. The Republicans request the Biden Administration's plan to: reduce illegal border crossings by unaccompanied alien children (UAC) and family units, prevent the spread of COVID-19 in facilities along the southern border, increase bedspace capacity at Family Residential Centers to ensure family units are held in custody, expedite immigration proceedings for UAC and family units that cross the border illegally, and address the crisis with the Mexican government. DHS has not responded.

February 22, 2021

President Biden's administration [reopens](#) a temporary influx shelter for UAC in Carrizo Springs, Texas to permit Health and Human Services (HHS) to accommodate increasing numbers of arrivals. The soft-sided facility had been closed since July 2019.

March 4, 2021

House Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans [send a letter to Chairwoman Maloney](#) requesting the Committee hold a hearing to examine the current crisis occurring on the southern border. Chairwoman Maloney has not responded.

March 9, 2021

DHS [announces](#) the government will no longer defend the public charge rule issued under President Trump. The Supreme Court granted the Biden Administration's request to dismiss a case challenging the legality of the rule instead of defending it. The public charge rule sought to prevent aliens who were likely to receive one or more public benefits from getting green cards.

March 10, 2021

House Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans [send a letter to DHS Secretary Mayorkas](#) renewing their request for the administration's plan to mitigate President Biden's border crisis. DHS has not responded.

CBP issues its February 2021 operational update, showing it encountered over 100,000 illegal immigrants attempting to enter at the Southwest border, a 28% increase over January 2021. Over 9,400 UAC were encountered in February by CBP, a 61% increase over January.

March 13, 2021

DHS [announces](#) it will deploy FEMA to the Southwest border to help care for the surge of UAC arriving at the border.

March 14, 2021

A CBP facility in Donna, Texas holding UAC is at [729% capacity](#).

March 15, 2021

HHS [announces](#) it has opened an emergency influx shelter in Midland, Texas to accommodate increasing numbers of UACs arriving on the border and to begin to reduce the numbers of UAC backed up into CBP custody. More than 4,000 children are currently in CBP custody awaiting transfer into HHS facilities.

March 16, 2021

HHS announces it will open an emergency influx shelter at the Dallas Convention Center to accommodate approximately 2,000 UAC.

DHS Secretary Mayorkas [announces](#), “we are on pace to encounter more individuals on the southwest border than we have in the last 20 years.”

March 20, 2021

HHS announces it will open an Influx Care Facility in Pecos, Texas with a potential capacity of 2,000 beds for UACs.

March 22, 2021

ICE [announces](#) an \$86.9 million contract with an NGO to provide an additional 1,239 beds in hotel rooms along the border for family units being transferred from CBP custody to speed up the ability to quickly process and release those family units into the interior of the U.S.

March 23, 2021

HHS announces it will add a second Influx Care Facility in Carrizo Springs, Texas to house up to 500 UACs.

March 24, 2021

The White House [announces](#) that Vice President Kamala Harris will oversee the Administration’s efforts to “address the root causes” of the border crisis with officials from Mexico and Northern Triangle countries.

HHS announces that it will open an Emergency Intake Site at the San Diego Convention Center with capacity of 1,400 beds for UACs.

March 25, 2021

HHS announces that it will open an Emergency Intake Site at the Freeman Expo Center in San Antonio, Texas for up to 2,400 children.

HHS also announces that it will open an Emergency Intake Site at Fort Bliss near El Paso, Texas for up to 5,000 children, and will open a facility at Joint Base San Antonio Lackland with capacity for up to 350 children.

House Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans [renew their request to Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney \(D-N.Y.\) for a hearing on the crisis at the border](#). The Republican lawmakers called out the Democrats' hypocrisy on this issue, noting they held several hearings and conducted site visits at border facilities during the previous administration, and urged Chairwoman Maloney to conduct oversight of the Biden Administration's response to the escalating crisis.

March 26, 2021

HHS [announces](#) that although staff and volunteers caring for UACs must pass public record criminal background checks, they would be waiving fingerprint-based FBI background checks to more quickly staff emergency intake facilities for UACs.

DHS Secretary Mayorkas [dismisses](#) all 32 members of the Homeland Security Advisory Council except for the Chair and Vice Chair. These members had been appointed to that role by both Democratic and Republican administrations, and had advised the Secretary on issues including care of families and children in CBP custody.

March 31, 2021

HHS announces that it is opening an Emergency Intake Site for UACs at the National Association of Christian Churches site in Houston, Texas.

DHS Secretary Mayorkas [acknowledges](#) that smugglers are abusing and exploiting the children who are travelling.

April 2, 2021

CBP [announces](#) the opening of a 90,000 square foot soft-sided facility in Eagle Pass, Texas to more quickly process individuals apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol in the Del Rio Sector.

April 8, 2021

[CBP issues its March 2021 operational update](#), showing it encountered over 172,000 illegal immigrants attempting to enter at the Southwest border, a 71% increase over February 2021. Nearly 18,900 UAC were encountered in March by CBP, a 100% increase over February. Over 53,600 family units were encountered in March by CBP, an increase of nearly 180% over February.

April 11, 2021

HHS opened an Emergency Intake Site for Unaccompanied Children at the Starr Commonwealth campus in Albion, Michigan, with the potential capacity of 240 beds.

April 12, 2021

House Committee on Oversight and Reform Ranking Member James Comer (R-Ky.) and Rep. Yvette Herrell (R-N.M.) [lead a delegation](#) of Republican lawmakers to El Paso, Texas and New Mexico to witness firsthand the humanitarian and national security crisis unfolding at the U.S.-Mexico border as a result of President Biden's open borders policies.

President Biden nominates Chris Magnus to head CBP, even though he opposes deterrence-focused immigration policies.

April 14, 2021

The media [reports](#) the Biden Administration has awarded a massive, sole source contract to Family Endeavors, Inc to help manage the surge of UACs. The questionable contract was awarded to the nonprofit after a member of the Biden-Harris Transition team started working there, and it amounts to more than 12 times the annual budget of the nonprofit.

April 17, 2021

HHS [closes](#) a facility housing female children at the National Association of Christian Churches, Houston, TX Emergency Intake Site due to poor conditions.

April 19, 2021

ICE and CBP issue [memos](#) instructing immigration enforcement officials to use new terminology to describe immigrants, including by prohibiting use of the term "alien", a term used throughout the immigration laws.

Oversight Republicans [renew](#) their request to DHS Secretary Mayorkas for information regarding the pause in construction of the border wall and the Administration's plan to address the escalating crisis on the southwest border. To date, the Administration has not provided the requested information.

April 21, 2021

Ranking Member James Comer and House Committee on Homeland Security Ranking Member John Katko, along with Republicans on the House Oversight and Reform and House Homeland Security Committees, [write](#) to HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra regarding a "massive, sole source contract" DHS awarded to Family Endeavors, Inc. to help manage the surge of unaccompanied minors at the border.

Subcommittee on Government Operations Ranking Member Jody Hice [writes](#) to U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Acting Director Kathleen McGettigan regarding the deployment of volunteer federal employees to assist the DHS and HHS in caring for UACs coming to the southern border as a result of the Biden Border Crisis and requests information about it is having on the federal workforce.

April 23, 2021

ICE rescinds guidance on collecting statutory civil financial penalties from aliens who fail to comply with lawful removal orders.

April 26, 2021

Kamala Harris [announces](#) \$310 million in additional humanitarian aid to Northern Triangle countries to address “root causes” of migration without any consideration of how Biden’s policies are driving the current crisis.

Subcommittee on Government Operations Ranking Member Jody Hice [writes](#) CBP Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner, Troy Miller, regarding the negative impact the Biden Border Crisis is having on Border Patrol agents.

April 27, 2021

DHS announces new guidance to limit ICE and CBP civil enforcement actions in or near courthouses. The Biden Administration is taking away a tool that ICE used to apprehend criminal aliens in sanctuary jurisdictions.

Biden nominates Sheriff Ed Gonzalez to serve as ICE director, who opposes deterrence policies and supports sanctuary policies.

May 1, 2021

HHS opened an Emergency Intake Site for Unaccompanied Children at the Pomona Fairplex Emergency Intake Site in Pomona, California, with the potential capacity of 2,500 beds.

May 11, 2021

U.S. Customs and Border Protection [releases](#) operational statistics for April 2021. CBP encountered 178,622 immigrants, 17,171 unaccompanied children, and 50,016 family units attempting entry along the Southwest Border.

May 12, 2021

DHS [announces](#) that it will exempt certain individuals from Title 42 expulsion if they “warrant humanitarian exceptions” but does not identify what those exceptions are.

May 13, 2021

Ranking Member James Comer, Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Jim Jordan, and Rep. Tom McClintock send letters to [ICE](#), [HHS](#), and [Endeavors](#) regarding no-bid contracts awarded to a nonprofit linked to the Biden-Harris Transition Team.

May 24, 2021

Ranking Member Comer applauds the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General for [launching](#) an investigation into a \$87 million no-bid contract awarded to Endeavors Inc. to house migrant families.

May 25, 2021

Ranking Member James Comer, Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Jim Jordan, and Homeland Security Committee Ranking Member John Katko [write to](#) DHS Secretary Mayorkas calling on the Department to disclose its criteria for granting exemptions under Title 42 authority.

June 1, 2021

Secretary Mayorkas [issues a](#) memo formally terminating the Migrant Protection Protocols (Remain in Mexico) program, asserting despite evidence to the contrary that the MPP program did not “adequately or sustainably enhance border management”.

June 2, 2021

Oversight Republicans call on Chairwoman Maloney for a [third time](#) to hold a hearing on the Biden border crisis.

June 9, 2021

CBP issues its May 2021 [operational update](#), showing the highest number of southwest border encounters in 21 years.