

STOP THE BORDER BUILDUP

In 2017, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reported that the U.S.-Mexico border was more secure than ever. The Trump administration's recent border security proposals—including building a border wall and hiring 5,000 new Border Patrol agents—are unnecessary and wasteful.

8 FACTS ABOUT THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER:

1. Migrant apprehensions at the U.S.-Mexico border are at a 40-year low.

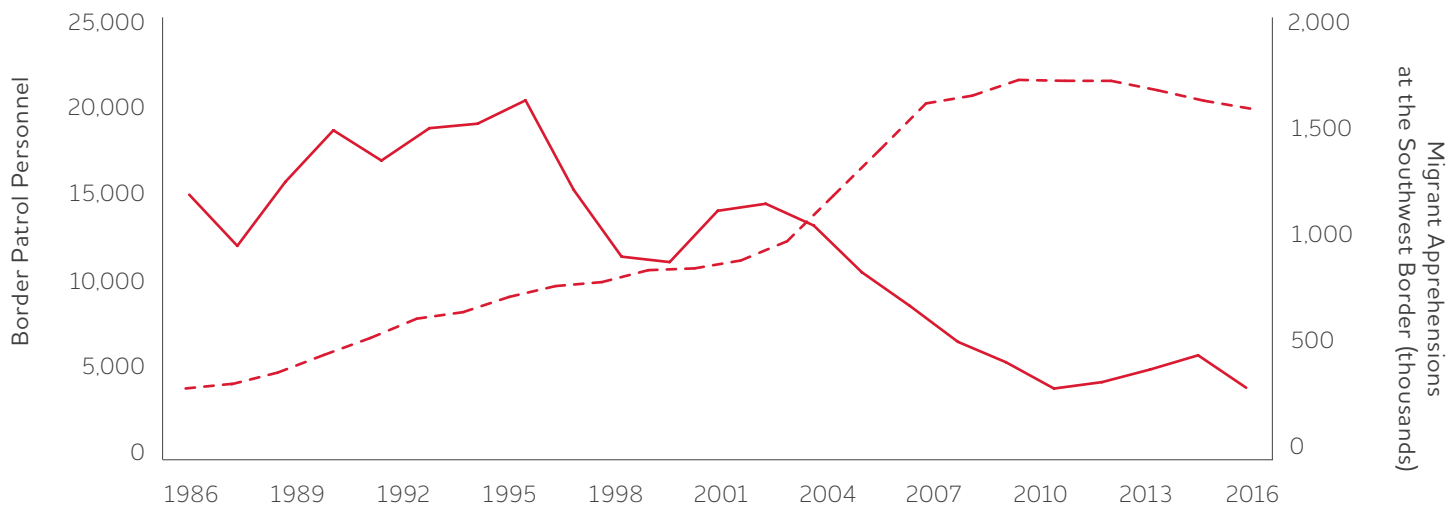
A 2017 DHS report showed fewer migrant arrests in 2017, as well as lower rates of repeated attempts to cross.

2. Border Patrol already doubled in size between 2005 and 2011, and quintupled in size between 1993 and 2011.

Hiring 5,000 new agents would expand the force by an additional 25 percent, at a time when the average agent apprehends one migrant every 20 days. That is less than one-tenth of what it was in the 1990s.

BORDER PATROL HIRING HAS REACHED A POINT OF DIMINISHING RETURNS

The number of migrants crossing the border is at a 40-year low, but Border Patrol hiring has grown fivefold since the 1990s



Source: U.S. Border Patrol, <http://bit.ly/1YIk7t0>

- 3. There is not an overall shortage of Border Patrol agents.**
Border Patrol divides the U.S.-Mexico border into nine sectors. Illegal activity along the border shifts quickly, but Border Patrol personnel have not been able to adjust effectively. The force doesn't need more agents, it just needs to be more agile.
- 4. Hiring 5,000 more Border Patrol agents would be a lengthy and challenging process.**
The DHS estimates that Border Patrol would need to attract about 750,000 applicants to increase by 5,000. That's more than one percent of the entire U.S. population between 21 and 35 years old.
- 5. Rapidly increasing the number of Border Patrol agents, without proper vetting or training, risks making the force more abusive and less accountable.**
Between 2006 and 2011, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents at the border (of whom Border Patrol agents are a majority) faced 19,905 allegations of misconduct or corruption. A Center for Investigative Reporting report documented 153 serious corruption cases between 2005 and 2011. If proper training and vetting lapse in the rush to hire 5,000 new agents, the force risks becoming less accountable.
- 6. Ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border urgently need repairs and upgrades.**
This infrastructure is dilapidated: the DHS has identified about \$5 billion in construction and renovation needs. Seeing as the majority of drugs are transported through ports of entry, this would be the wisest investment to effectively combat drug trafficking.
- 7. Communities along the U.S.-Mexico border are safer than many towns in the interior of the U.S.**
There are 23 cities of over 100,000 people within 100 miles of the Mexico border. According to 2015 FBI statistics, 18 of those 23 cities' violent crime rates are below the national average. The city with the worst rate, Tucson, does not even rank in the top 80 most crime-ridden cities in the U.S.
- 8. There have been almost no recorded cases of international terrorists seeking to cross the border illegally to do harm on U.S. soil.**

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