

EXPOSE MYTHS ABOUT MIGRATION

President Trump and members of his administration have repeatedly spread misinformation about migration. These myths stigmatize migrant communities in the United States and should not be used as a justification for enacting draconian immigration policies.

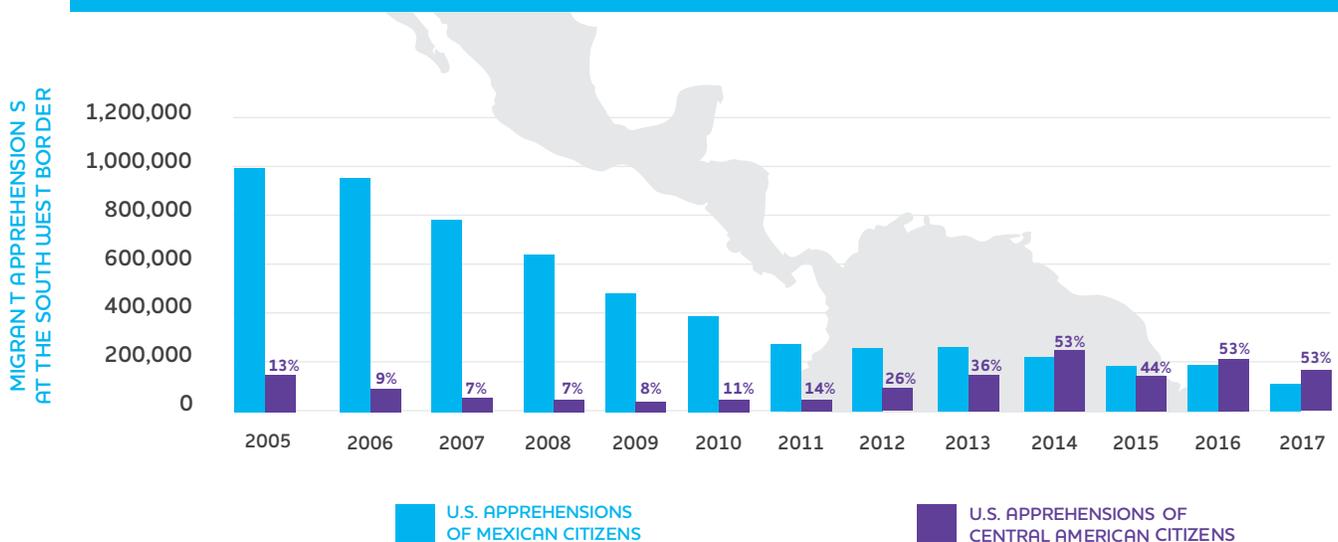
6 FACTS ABOUT MIGRANTS AND MIGRATION:

1.

Migration across the U.S.-Mexico border is at a 46-year low, although migration from Central American countries is on the rise.

Some 53 percent of the migrants apprehended by Border Patrol at the U.S.-Mexico border in FY2017 were from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Some 42 percent were from Mexico, the smallest annual total since 1969.

MIGRANT APPREHENSIONS AT THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER



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

2. Families and unaccompanied children are turning themselves in to U.S. authorities.

Of the migrants apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border in FY2017, 39 percent were either families or unaccompanied children, primarily from Central America. For the most part, these children and families are not trying to evade capture: they are seeking out U.S. border security authorities and asking for protection.

3. Violence and insecurity in Central America continue to force people to flee their homes.

There was a 25 percent increase in Central Americans seeking asylum between 2016 and 2017, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) reported that more individuals from the Northern Triangle region sought affirmative asylum in the United States between 2013 to 2015 than in the previous 15 years combined.

4. People feeling violence have the right to seek protection under U.S. law.

U.S. asylum law applies to those who have a well-founded fear of persecution “on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.” According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees’ (UNHCR) analysis of the screenings conducted by U.S. asylum officers, over 80 percent of women from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico who were screened on arrival at the U.S. border “were found to have a significant possibility of establishing eligibility for asylum or protection under the Convention against Torture.”

5. Unaccompanied minors are not “wolves in sheeps clothing” for Central American gangs.

According to U.S. Border Patrol, of all the unaccompanied minors apprehended at the southwest border since 2011, 0.02 percent were either suspected or confirmed to have ties to gangs in their home country. Many of these young people are fleeing violence caused by MS-13 and other gangs in the region; they are not gang members themselves.

6. Migrants are not more likely to commit crimes than native-born U.S. citizens.

A March 2017 study by the Cato Institute found that illegal immigrants are 44 percent less likely to be incarcerated than native-born U.S. citizens, and legal immigrants are 69 percent less likely to be incarcerated. Statistics from the Department of Justice show that only 5 percent of inmates in state and federal prisons are non-citizens.