

Migration Barriers and Buffers

The U.S.-Mexico Border in a North American Context

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There is a North American system of migration control



Alien certificate.

No. —.

FORM 524.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
IMMIGRATION SERVICE,

.....,

This is to certify that....., a native of
....., who arrived at the port of.....
per steamship ".....," on the, 19...
has been duly inspected and registered, and will be admitted into
the United States upon proper identification and surrender of this
certificate to any immigration officer at the frontier.

The description of the holder is as follows: Age,; height,
.....; weight,; color of hair,; color of eyes,

Remarks: [Note destination, etc.].....
.....
.....

.....
U. S. Commissioner of Immigration.

Surrendered at, to Inspector

....., 19...

**San Diego is Canada's
de facto southern
border**





San Diego/ Tijuana is the busiest border crossing in the Western Hemisphere





SONORA

MOGELLES

ARIZONA

Border Patrol established 1924



Improper entry has been criminalized since 1929

(8 U.S. Code § 1325 – “Improper entry by alien”)

Misdemeanor punishable by up to 6 months in prison, **usually not enforced**

Unlawful presence is an administrative violation

2016: **overstaying** visas comprised 62% of new unauthorized immigration

Depending on duration, mode of entry, & other factors, unlawful presence can lead to 3-yr, 10-yr, or permanent **bar** from admissibility



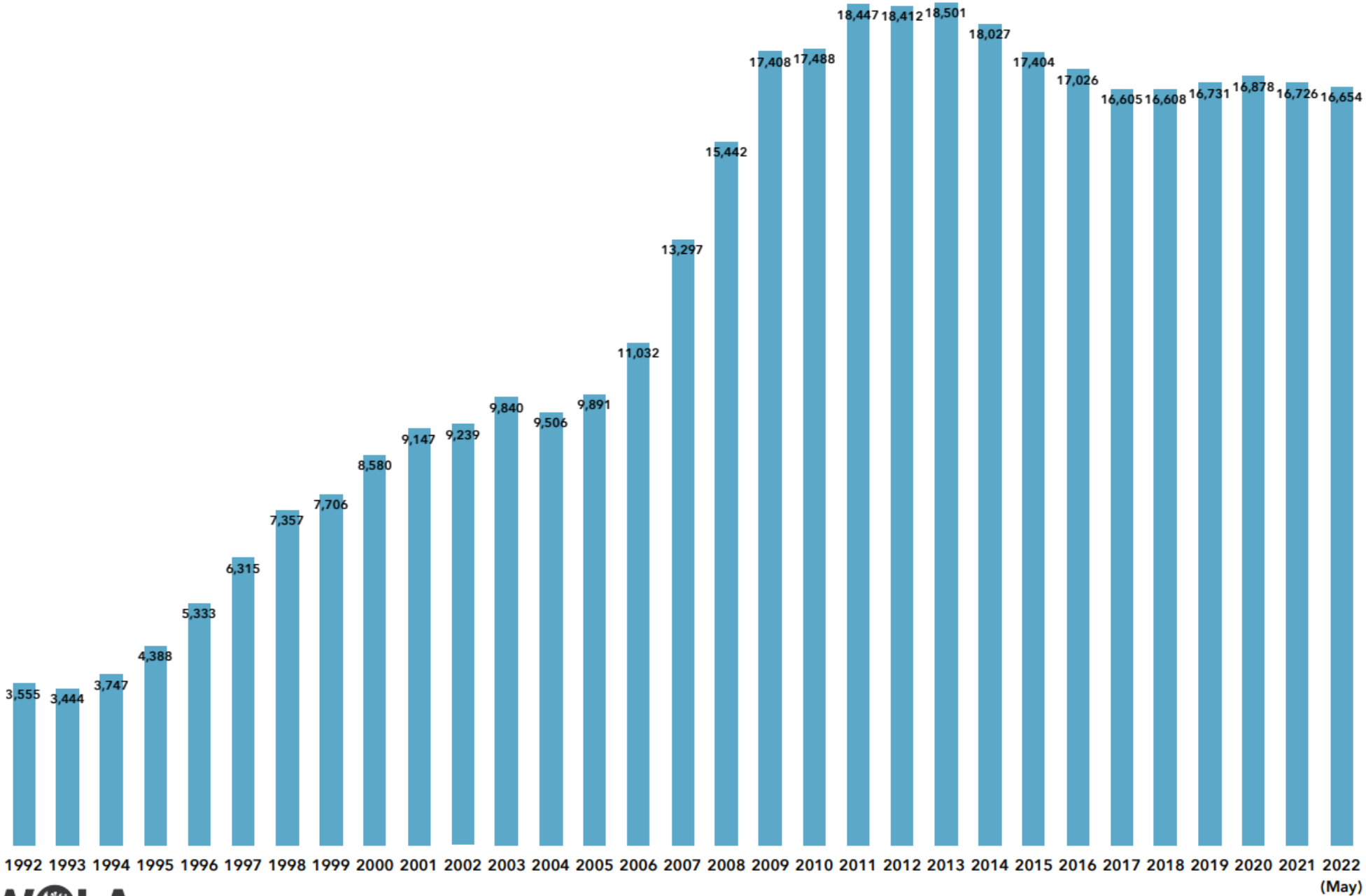




**U.S.
BORDER
PATROL**

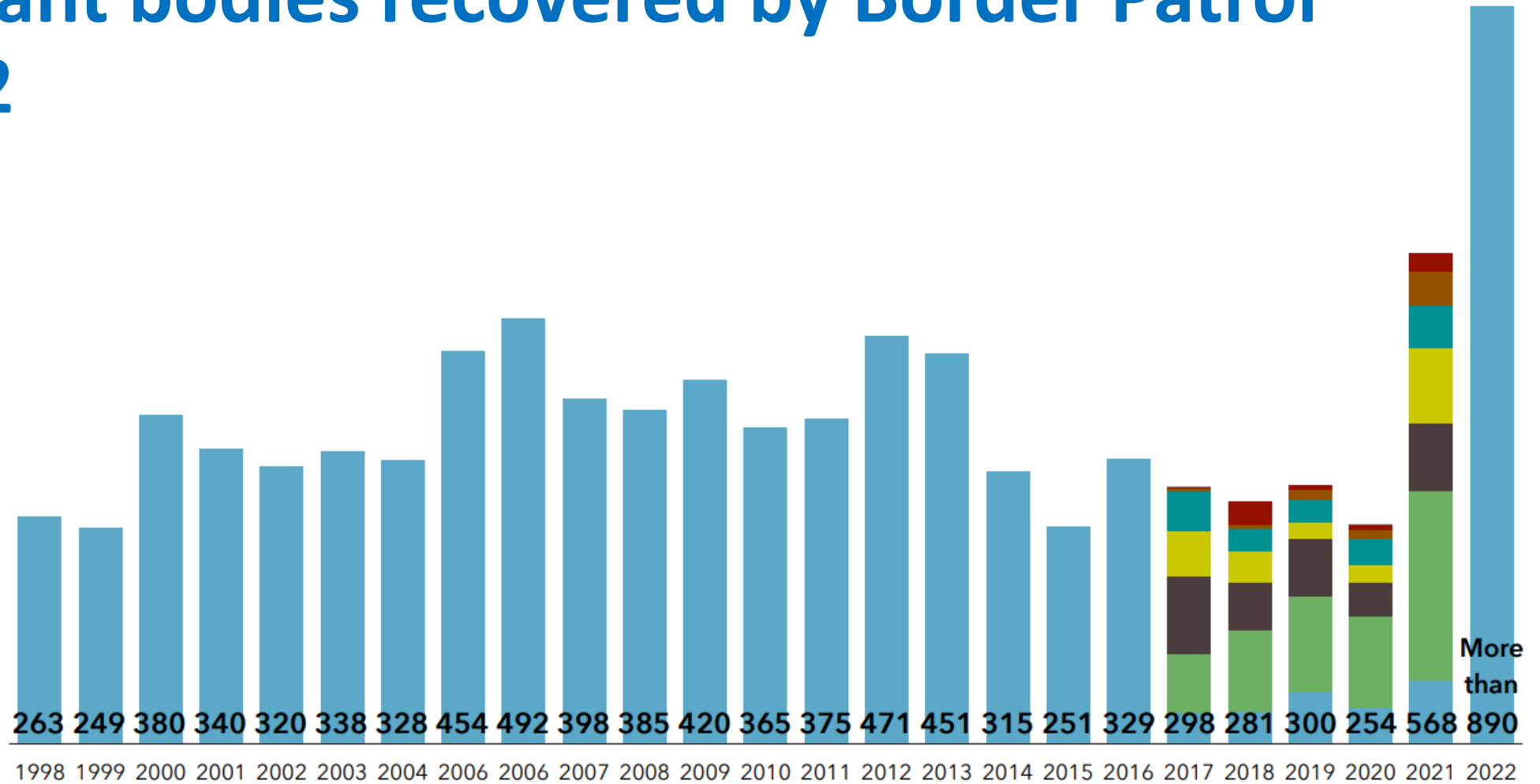






16,000+
Border
Patrol
agents on
the
Mexican
border

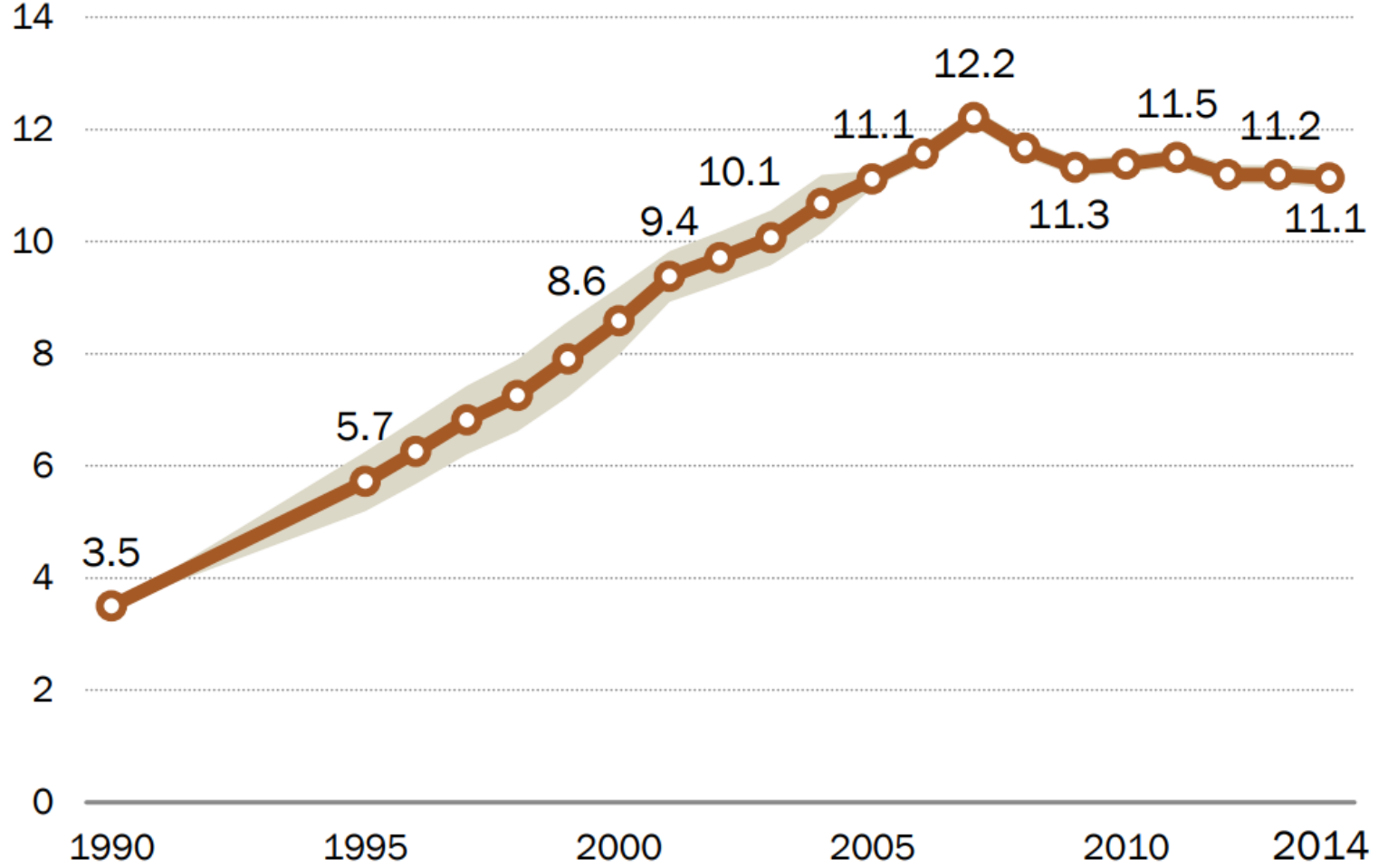
9515 migrant bodies recovered by Border Patrol 1998-2022



- Undetermined or Unreported
- Environmental Exposure-Heat
- Water-Related
- Other
- Skeletal Remains
- Motor-Vehicle-Related
- Environmental Exposure-Cold
- Train-Related

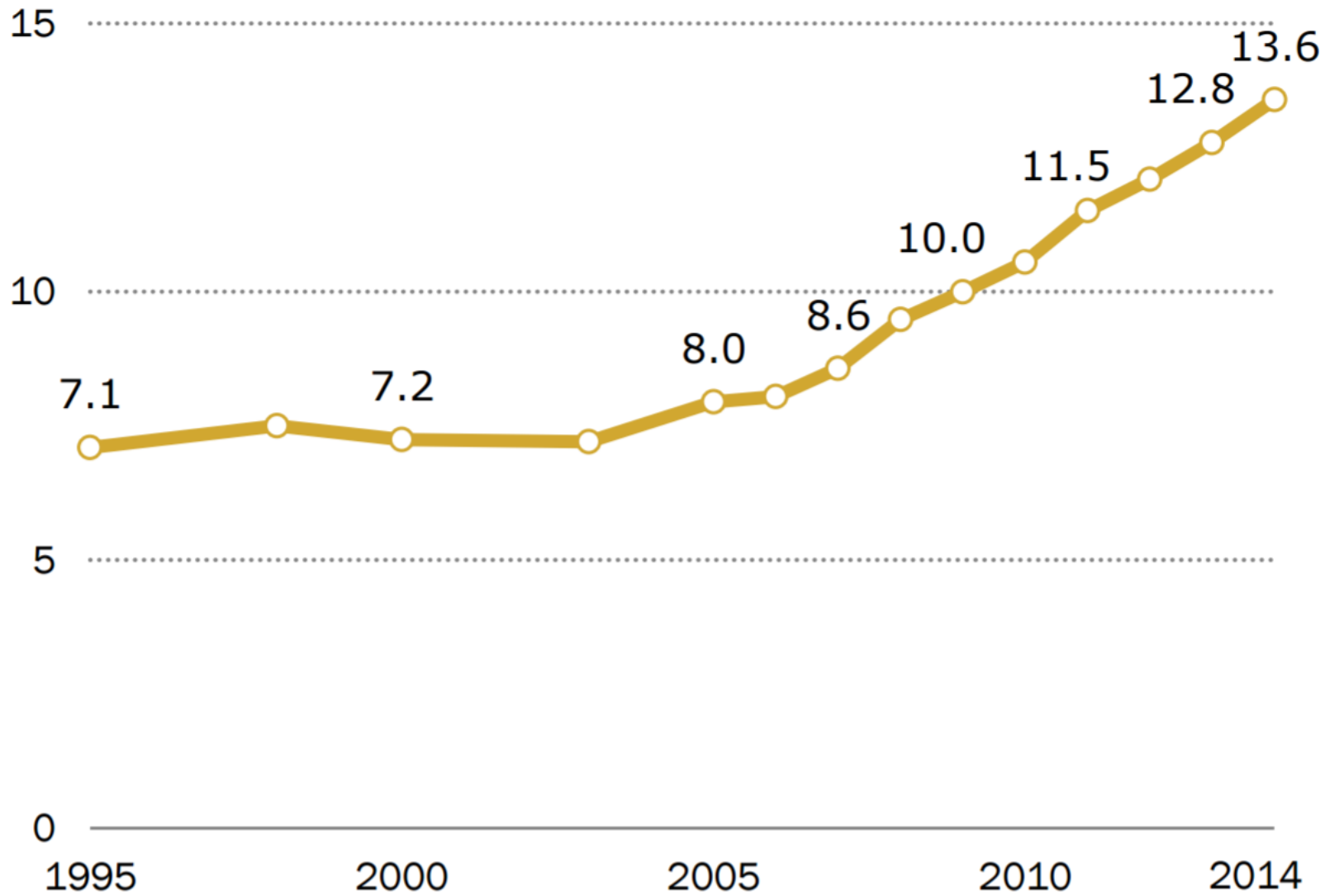
Border enforcement bottled up the unauthorized immigrant population

In millions

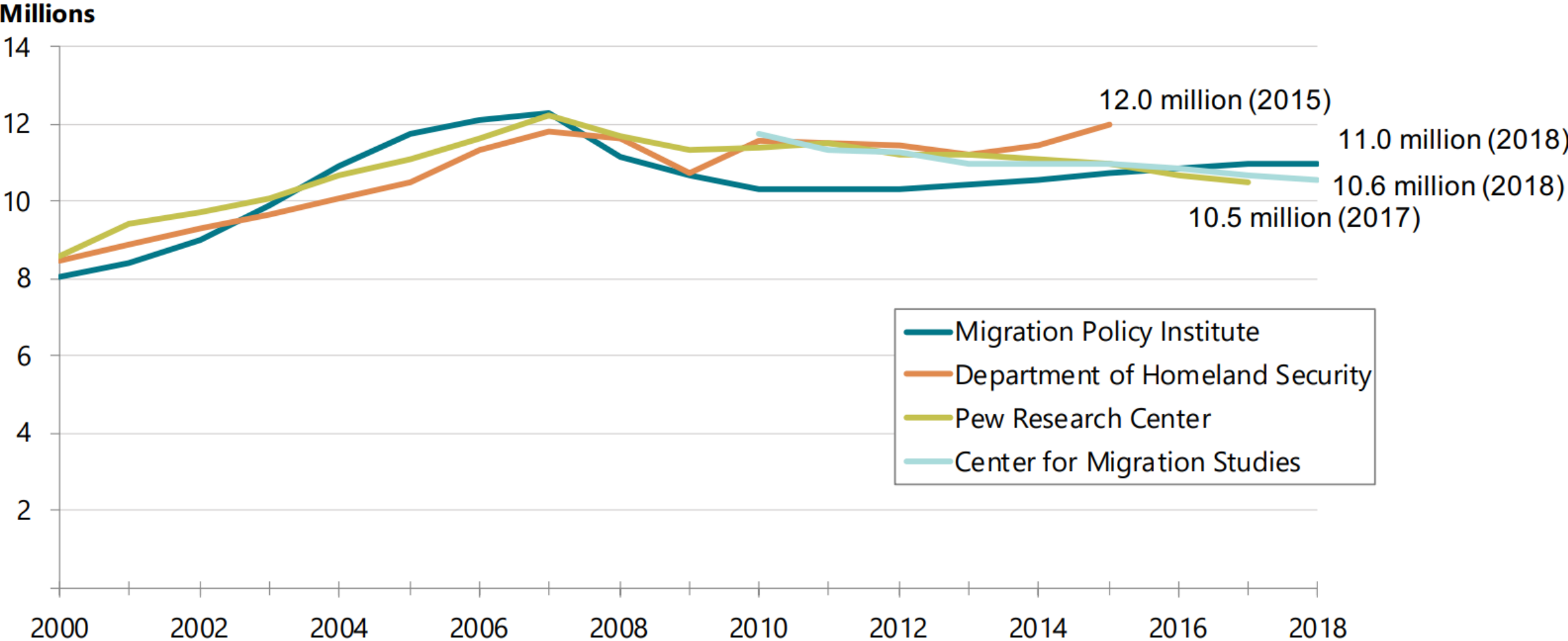


Unauthorized immigrants living in the U.S. longer

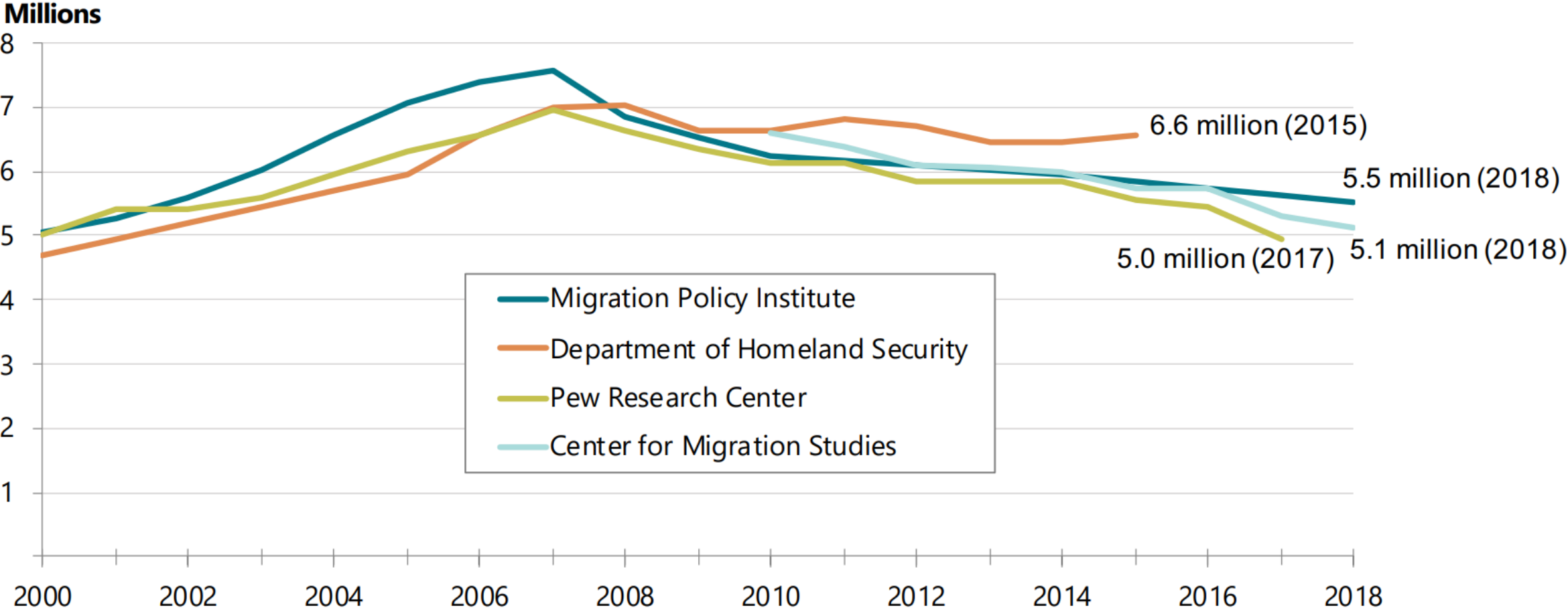
Median years of residence in U.S. for adult unauthorized immigrants



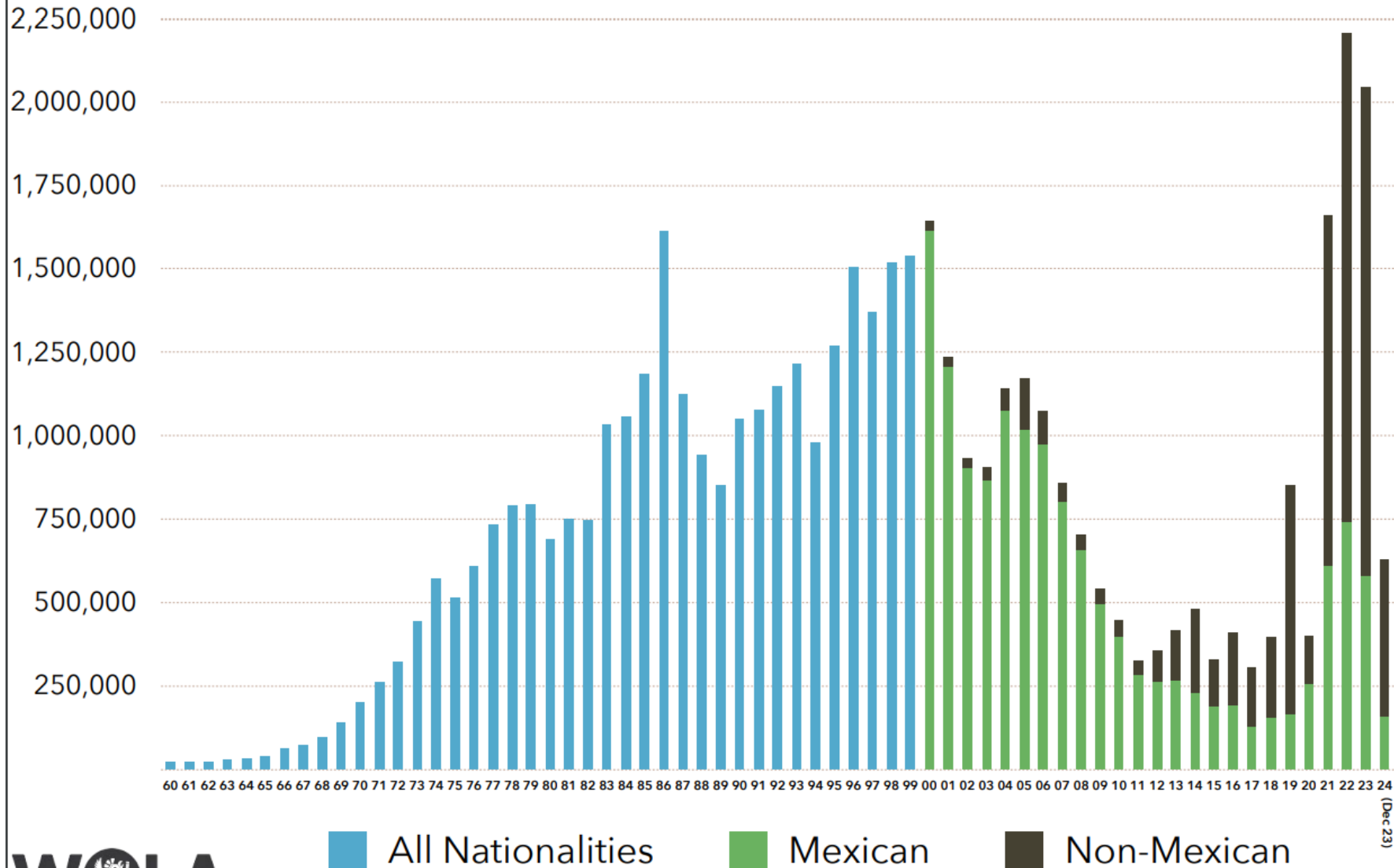
Estimates of the unauthorized immigrant population, 2000–2018



Population of unauthorized immigrants from Mexico is declining



U.S.-Mexico Border Patrol Migrant Encounters



Encounters at the southern border are at historic highs

Be careful interpreting enforcement statistics

Events (“encounters” includes Border Patrol apprehensions, Office of Field Operations inadmissible designations, Title 42 expulsions)

Unique individuals (much less common in official statistics)

Border Patrol:

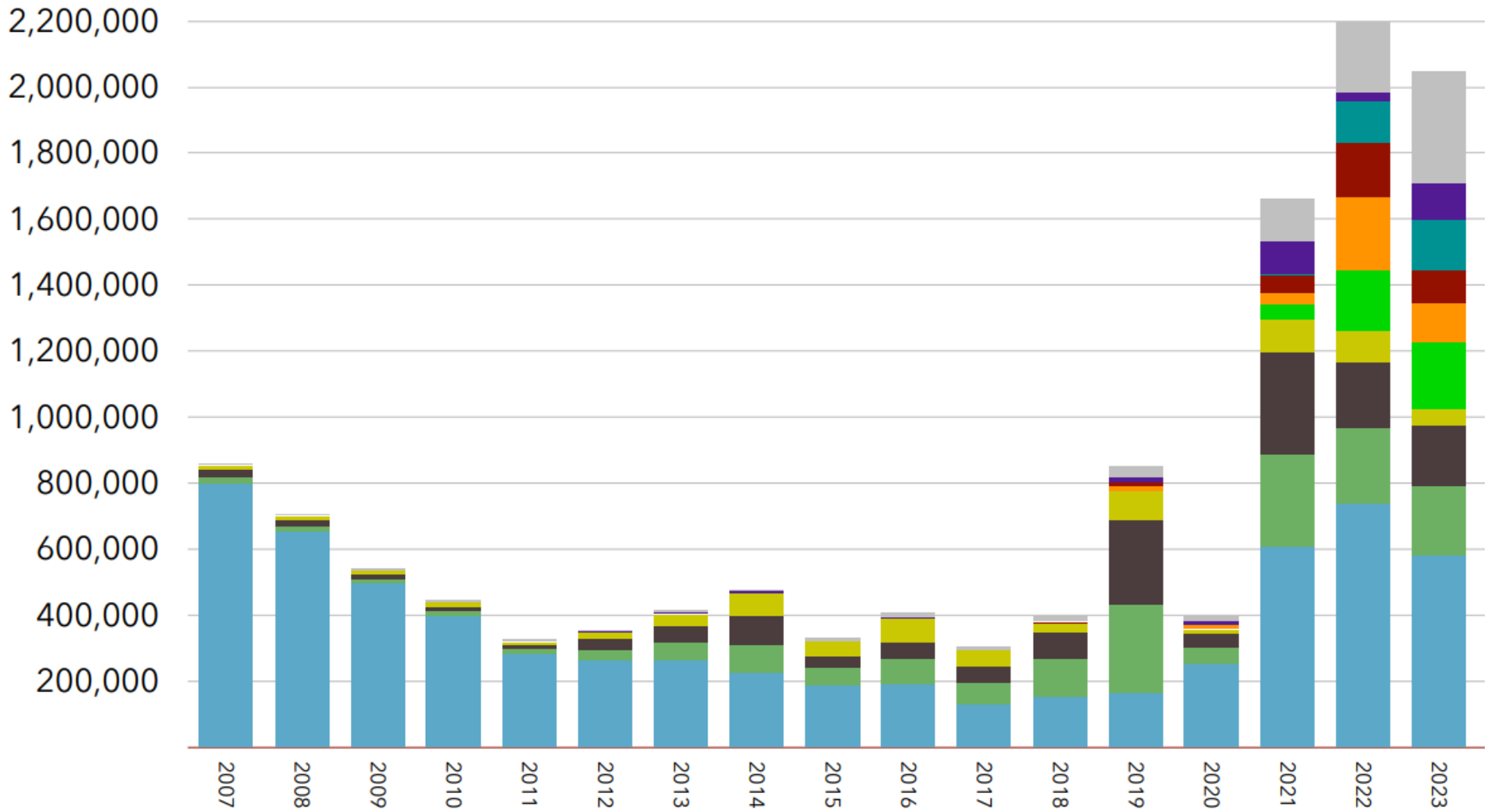
Percent of migrants apprehended who were **repeat crossers** rose from 10% in FY 2017 to 27% in FY 2021

GAO:

Repeat crosser rate is **twice** as high as Border Patrol estimates

Nationalities of unauthorized border crossers and asylum seekers are increasingly diverse





Annual Border Patrol encounters by country at Mexican border, 2007-2023



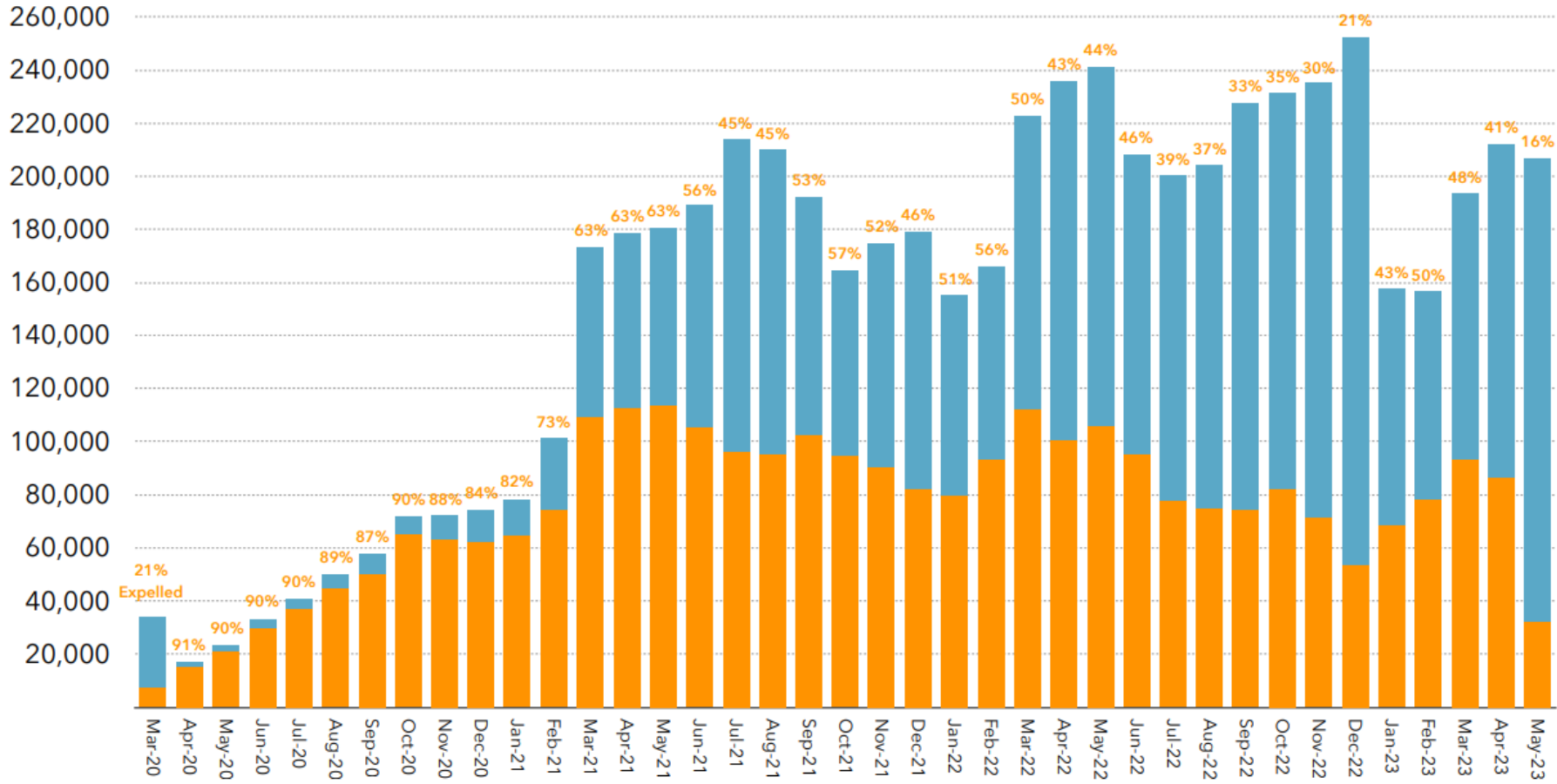
- Mexico
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- El Salvador
- Venezuela
- Cuba
- Nicaragua
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Other Countries

Title 42



Title 42 Expulsions and Regular Apprehensions of All Migrants at the U.S.-Mexico Border

2,912,279
expulsions
March 2020-
May 2023



■ Expulsions (Title 42)
 ■ Regular Apprehensions (Title 8)

Stephen Miller says Title 42 will be reinstated and expanded if Trump is reelected



Asylum

Apply at U.S. border or inside USA

Affirmative (applicant approaches government)

Defensive (applicant already in deportation proceedings)

Search and Detention of
Persons, Merchandise,
and Conveyances

NO
NO
NO

POR FAVOR TENGA LISTOS
DOCUMENTOS DE ENTRADA Y
PRESENTELOS AL OFICIAL AL
ENTRAR AL EDIFICIO

detectors
frontera, CBP utilizará sensores de
con el único propósito de identificar armas de
contrabando. Si tiene alguna inquietud, notifique a un
oficial de CBP.

No Photography
U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) secure area.
U.S. bring or attempt to bring business and/or fines. Any person who
is subject to criminal imprisonment and/or fines. Any vehicle or other conveyance
is subject to criminal imprisonment and/or fines. Any vehicle or other conveyance
used in the commission of such acts is subject to seizure and forfeiture.



EXPLOSIVES (41 CFR 101-20.313)
WEAPONS (TITLE 18, UNITED
STATES CODES, SECTION 930)
EXPLOSIVES, FIRE-ARMS AND
OTHER DANGEROUS AND
DEADLY WEAPONS ARE PROHIBITED

EXPLOSIVOS (41 CFR 101-20.313)
ARMAS (TITULO 18, CODIGO DE LOS
ESTADOS UNIDOS, SECCION 930)
EXPLOSIVOS, ARMAS Y OBJETOS
QUE SON PELIGROSOS Y QUE
CAUSEN DAÑO SON PROHIBIDOS

NO
• SKAT
• BICYC
• ROLL
• SCOO
• PASEAR
• PASEAR
• PASEAR
SDMC SECTION 84.12

Asylum transit ban

May 2023 “Circumvention of Lawful Pathways” rule

Rebuttable presumption that individuals who unlawfully enter the US at southwest land border are ineligible for asylum

Unaccompanied children exempt from transit ban

CBP One

1,450 appointments per day; must be in Mexico City or near US border



Apprehended and sent to processing center

Children and parents with children

Single adults

All lone children and most families are released.

Many may get lucky, especially when detention space and staff run out.

More likely for Mexicans, Guatemalans and others who can easily be deported.

Released into U.S. for court proceedings

Resolving court and asylum cases can take months or years.

Sent to expedited removal

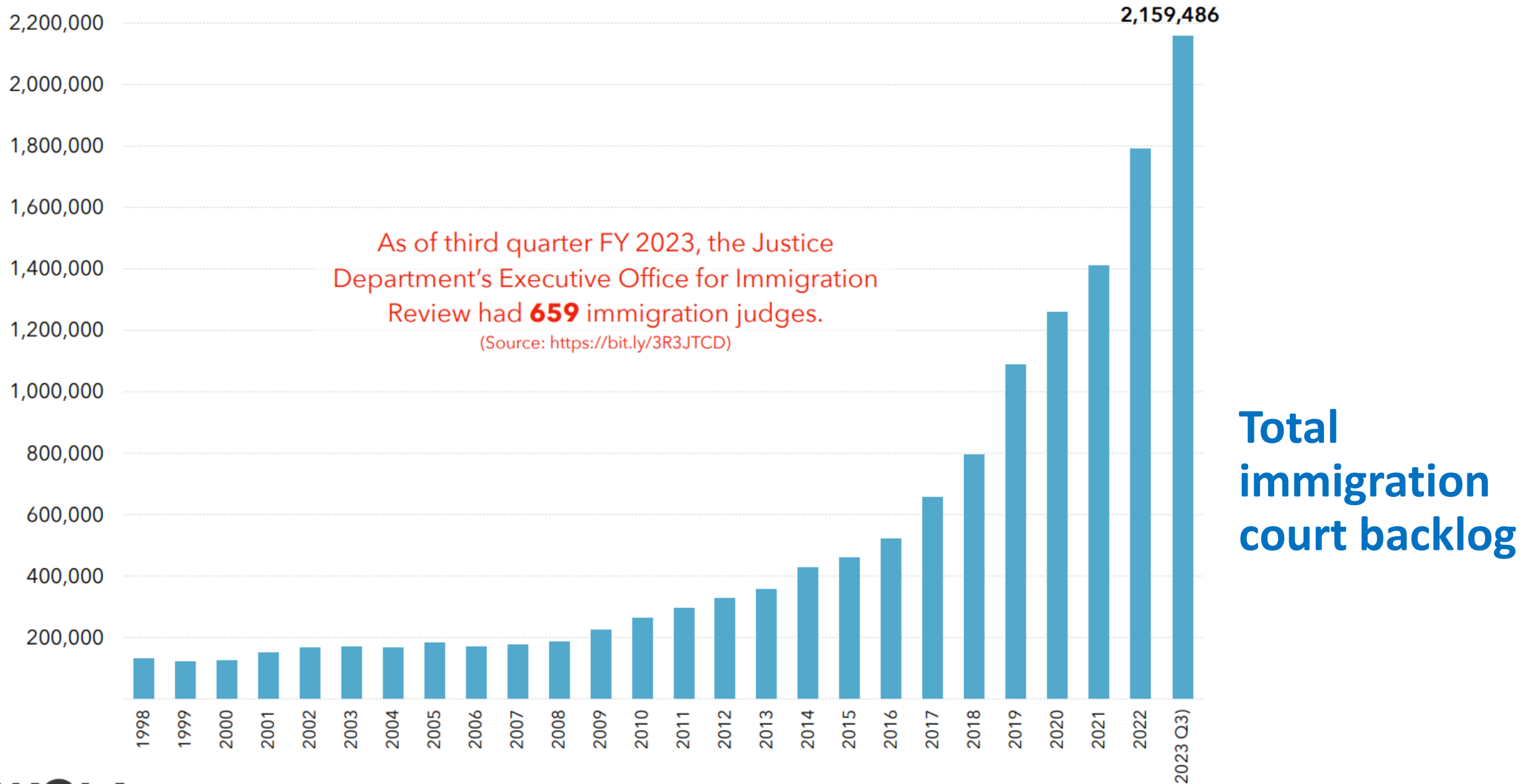
Expedited removal

Summary removal without a hearing (unless express fear of repatriation or ask for asylum).

Applies to noncitizens who arrive at a port of entry without documents or who entered without inspection and are arrested within 2 weeks of their arrival and within 100 miles of the border.

Credible fear interview

A USCIS officer interviews the person to determine whether there is a “significant possibility” they could establish an asylum claim



Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans

Authorized travel for up to 30,000 individuals each month.

Requires sponsor in the US

2-year “parole”



Afghan parole program



Ukraine parole program



Central American Minors program

For children who are nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, as well as certain family members of those children.

Only parents or legal guardians who are lawfully present in the USA may request access to the program for qualifying children.

Safe Mobility Offices

Partnership with UNHCR, IOM, Canada, Spain

Screening for refugee resettlement, humanitarian parole, family reunification, labor programs

Guatemala SMO: Guatemalans

Costa Rica SMO: Nicaraguans and Venezuelans

Colombia SMO: Venezuelans, Haitians, and Cubans who have regularized status in Colombia or are in process

Ecuador SMO: Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, Venezuelans, and Colombians who have initiated regularization or seeking asylum

Safe Mobility Office applications

115,000 individuals applied April 2023-January 2024

10% referred for refugee resettlement in the US

REFUGE BEYOND REACH

How Rich Democracies Repel Asylum Seekers



David Scott FitzGerald



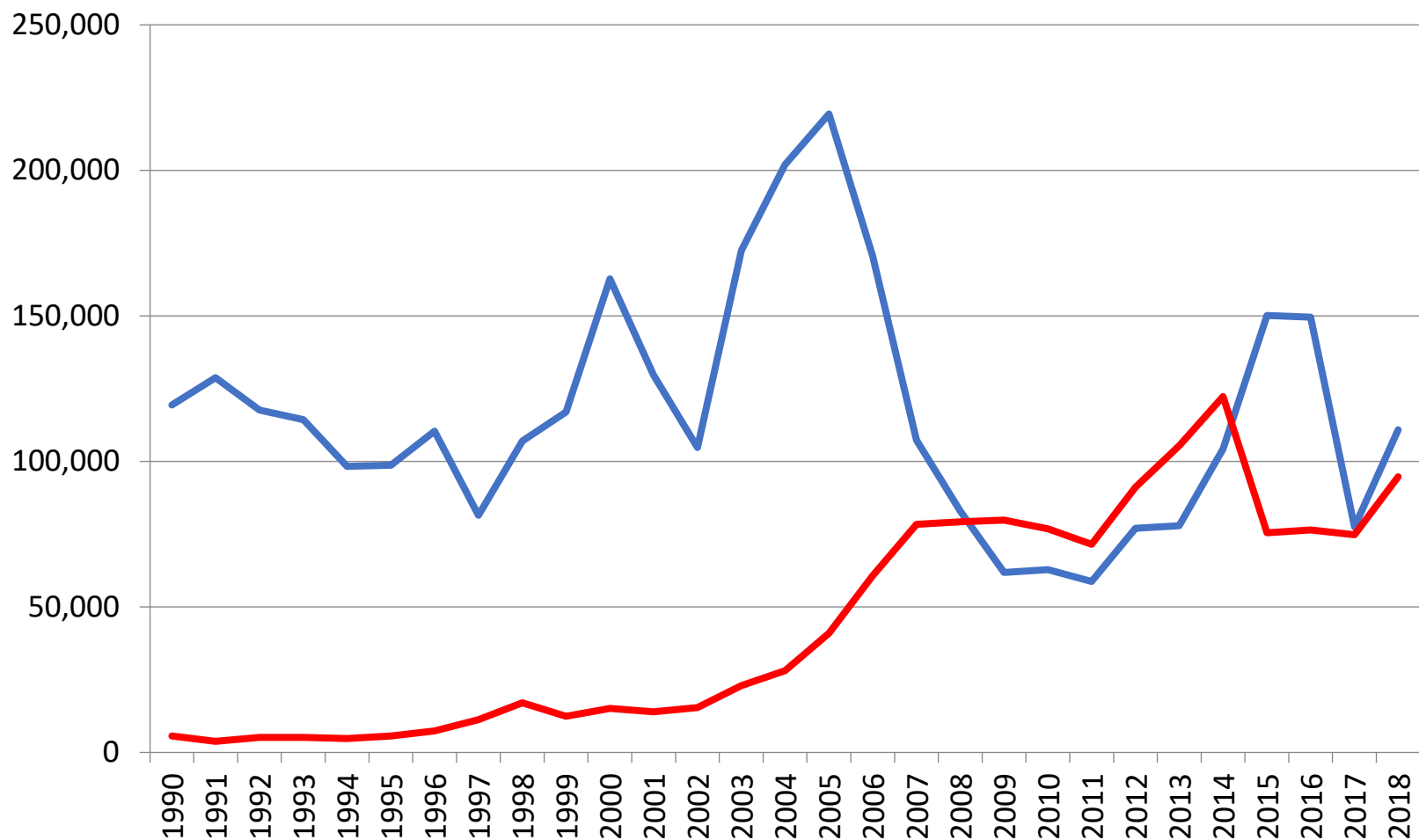
“The Guatemalan border with Chiapas is now our southern border.”

– Alan Bersin, DHS Assistant Secretary for Policy, 2012

“The vertical frontier”



Deportations of Guatemalans, Salvadorans, and Hondurans by Mexico and U.S, 1990-2018



México no hará el trabajo sucio a EU contra migrantes: AMLO



Mexico's "neighbors in the north want us to continue doing the dirty work and to detain Central Americans who flee because of violence and misery"

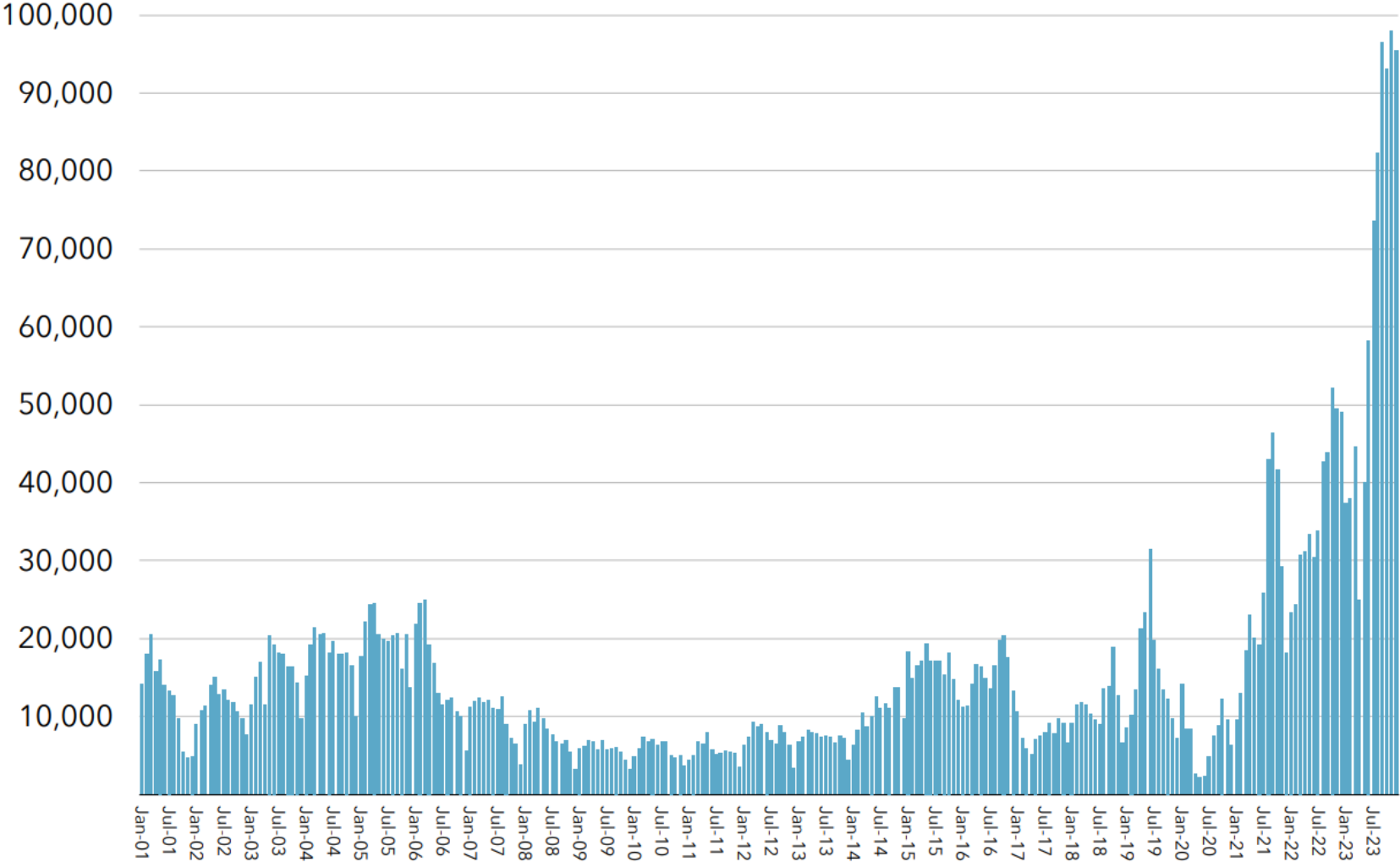
- presidential candidate
Andrés Manuel López Obrador,
May 2018



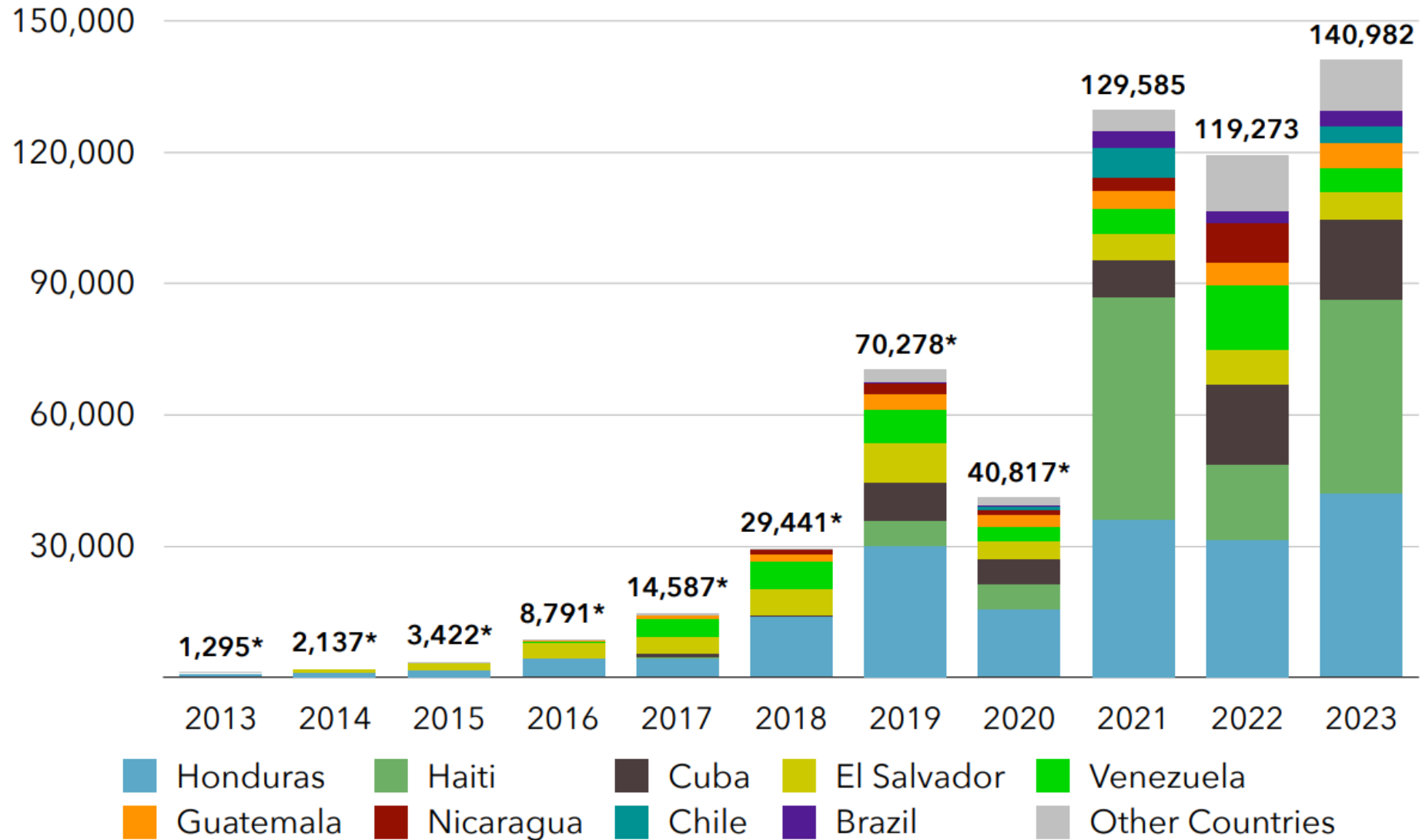
Border externalization

Mexican police block U.S.-bound migrants on the Mexico/
Guatemala border

Apprehensions of migrants in Mexico, Jan. 2001-July 2023



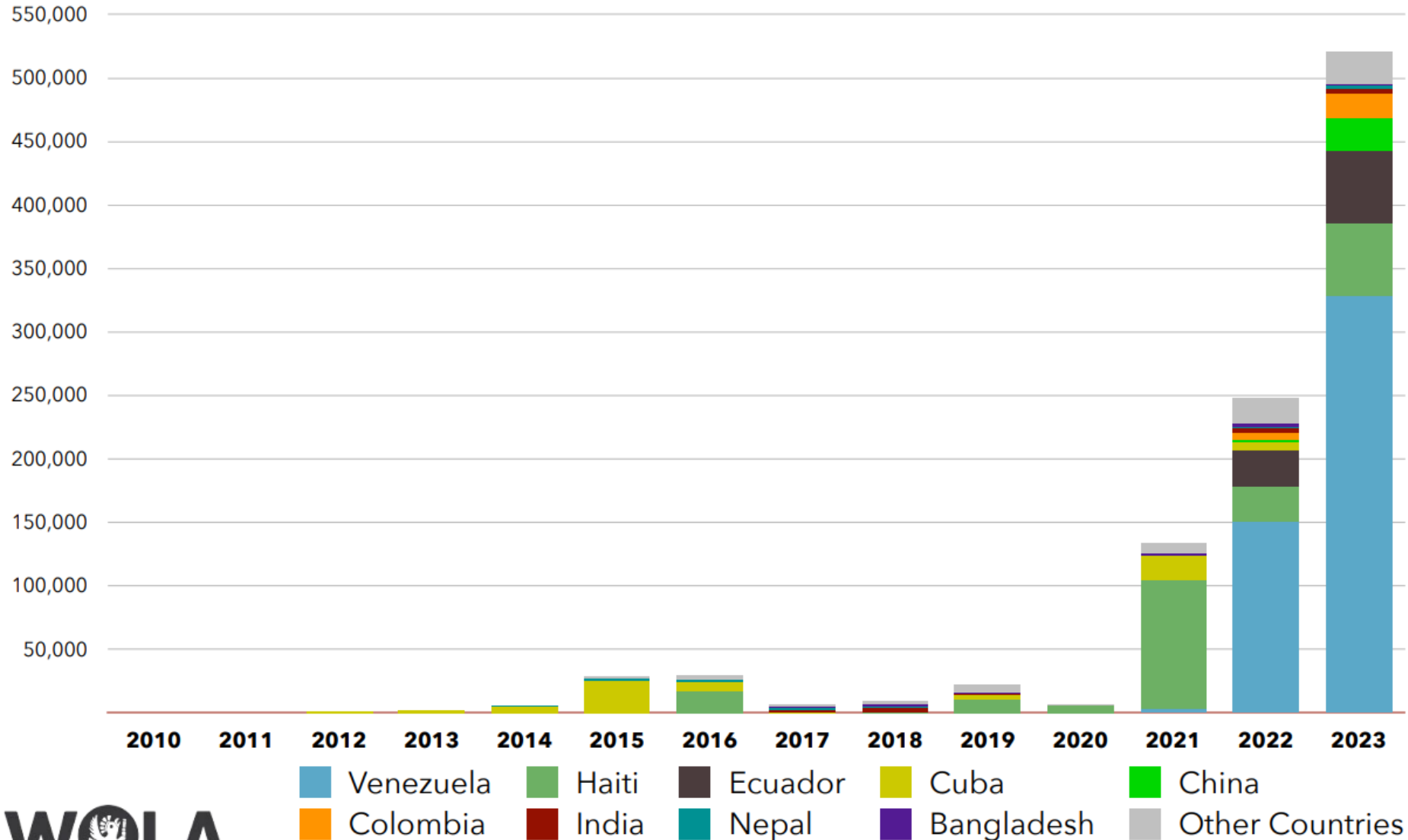
Mexico now has the world's 4th largest number of asylum seekers







Annual migration through Darién Gap, 2010-2023



Comments welcome

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