



Introduction

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there are more than 65 million Latinos in the U.S., representing nearly one fifth (19.5%) of the total population.¹ As of 2022, Mexicans accounted for the majority of this group (59%), a share that has remained largely unchanged since 2000, followed by Puerto Ricans (9%), Salvadorans (4%), Cubans (4%), and Dominicans (4%).² Although migration from Mexico and Latin America has slowed in recent years, the U.S. Latino population has continued to grow, driven largely by U.S.-born Latinos.³ Between 2000 and 2020, Latino population growth outpaced overall population growth in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and accounted for the most growth of any racial or ethnic group in 26 states.⁴ Today, Latinos contribute more than \$4 trillion annually to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP),⁵ are achieving record levels of college enrollment,⁶ and have become an increasingly powerful social and political presence nationwide.⁵

Although Latinos are a driving force in U.S. population growth, economic power, and educational attainment, their growing presence has been met with intensified political backlash. President Donald Trump's 2016, 2020, and 2024 presidential campaigns refurbished existing anti-Latino and anti-immigrant narratives and stereotypes for a twenty-first-century audience.⁸ At the New York City launch of his 2016 presidential campaign, he portrayed the U.S. as a dumping ground for Mexico to send drugs, criminals, and rapists.⁹ Then-candidate Trump campaigned on criminalizing legal and unauthorized immigrants, characterizing them as a central threat to U.S. national security, economic growth, and overall national character. During his first administration, President Trump's leading immigration policies included a travel ban, southwest border wall, family separation of arriving migrants, and the termination of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS)—many of which disproportionately affected Latino immigrants and families.¹⁰

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During his 2020 reelection campaign, President Trump continued to employ rhetoric that framed Latino immigrants in xenophobic and disparaging terms, advancing a divisive narrative that positioned U.S.-born Latinos in opposition to immigrant communities.¹¹ Further, during the 2024 presidential campaign, he promised to deport millions of undocumented immigrants with a focus on those with criminal offenses or what he termed "the worst of the worst."¹² On inauguration day of his second term (January 20, 2025), President Trump issued an executive order, *Protecting the American People Against Invasion*, to implement his mass deportation policy.¹³

While immigration is not solely a Latino issue, this analysis of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) data during the first six months of President Trump's second administration finds that Latinos (individuals from Latin American countries) made up about nine in 10 ICE arrests. During President Trump's first 100 days in 2025, Latino arrests were nearly double that of the same dates in 2024. Arrests were heavily concentrated among a few Latin American countries of origin, including Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. Arrests within community settings surged, marking a notable departure from previous administrations that had focused on deporting individuals incarcerated at federal, state, and local levels. Additionally, ICE arrests were heavily concentrated in a few states, and evidence indicates that under this administration, arrest rates have not been tied to crime levels. Instead, as our previous research found, arrests have been influenced by political alignment and have disproportionately targeted states with larger Latino noncitizen populations, suggesting that implementation is shaped more by politics and ethnicity than by public safety or immigration status.¹⁴

Methodology

This analysis draws upon the UC Berkeley School of Law's Deportation Data Project dataset on ICE enforcement from September 1, 2023, through July 29, 2025.¹⁵ The dataset is a publicly available collection of record-level immigration enforcement data, compiled by researchers and lawyers through the use of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The data capture several variables including date and location of arrest; the nationality, gender, and age of each arrestee; and the method of apprehension. The method of apprehension describes how the arrest took place, with the most important distinction being between arrests in prisons and jails (i.e., "institutional arrests") and arrests in community settings (i.e., "community arrests").¹⁶ Community arrests is a category that combines two categories in the dataset: located arrests and non-custodial arrests, which are likely to indicate arrests in the community.¹⁷ Institutional arrests namely occurred through ICE's Criminal Alien Program (CAP).¹⁸

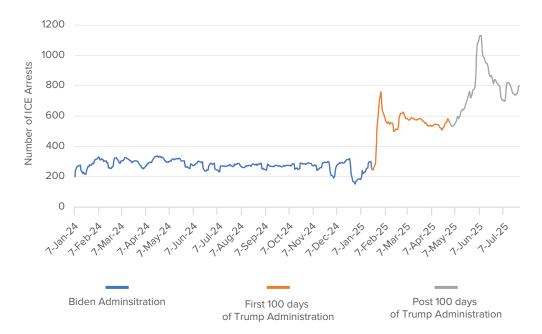
We used the Deportation Data Project's dataset to compare ICE arrests during the Biden and Trump administrations. Analyses include comparisons of arrest rates, the demographics of those arrested (i.e., country of origin), where arrests took place (i.e., top states), and types of arrests (institutional vs. community).

FINDING 1:

The Surge in ICE Arrests under President Trump Occurred in Two Stages

The surge in ICE arrests has occurred in two stages during the second Trump administration. The first stage took place during President Trump's first 100 days in office, which saw an average of 558 Latino arrests per day compared with 276 per day during the last year of the Biden administration (January 1, 2024 to January 19, 2025). Arrests jumped again in the second stage starting in late May 2025, roughly coinciding with a new ambitious target of 3,000 arrests per day set by Stephen Miller, a key presidential senior advisor. In order to increase arrests during this stage, ICE dramatically increased employer I-9 audits and workplace raids and began redeploying personnel from other mission areas, coordinating with other federal agencies, and expanding enforcement efforts into new industries and regions. The daily average number of arrests climbed to 785 during the second stage (see Figure 1).

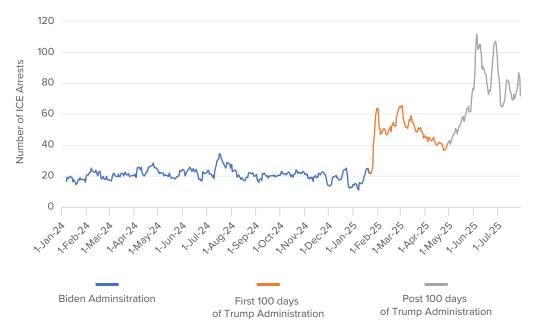
Figure 1: Daily Average Number of Latino Arrests by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, January 2024 through July 2025



Meanwhile, although non-Latinos accounted for less than 10% of ICE arrests, the data show similar temporal patterns with arrests occurring in two stages. During the last year of the Biden administration, ICE arrested 21 non-Latinos per day on average, compared to 49 per day during President Trump's first 100 days and 75 per day subsequently (see Figure 2). Two differences compared to Latino arrest rates were a noticeable dip around April 2025 and more spikes in arrests in the subsequent months.

Note: Daily arrest numbers are based on a seven-day moving average. For example, the data point for March 7, 2025 is the average for March 1 to March 7, 2025.

Figure 2: Daily Average Number of Non-Latino Arrests by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, January 2024 through July 2025

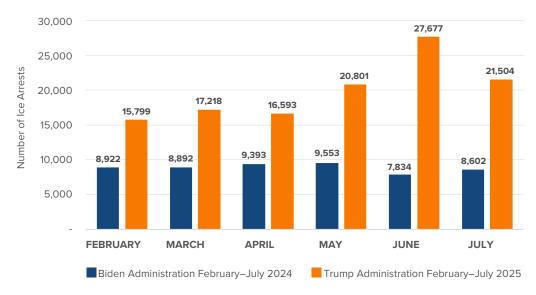


Note: Daily arrest numbers are based on a seven-day moving average. For example, the data point for March 7, 2025 is the average for March 1 to March 7, 2025.

Source: UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge analysis of ICE arrest data from UC Berkeley School of Law's Deportation Data Project.

From February to April 2025, monthly arrests of Latinos nearly doubled relative to 2024, with an average increase of around 82% per month (see Figure 3). Arrests in May 2025 partially reflect the target set by Stephen Miller, with an increase of 118%. June 2025 experienced the full effect of that push, peaking with an increase of 253% year over year. Arrests declined in July 2025, due in part to increasing opposition from the public, court rulings against the administration, and overworked ICE staff.²¹

Figure 3: Monthly Latino Arrests by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, February through July 2024 and February through July 2025

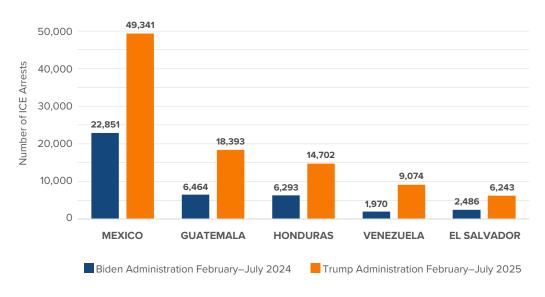


FINDING 2:

ICE Arrests of Mexicans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, Venezuelans, and Salvadorans More than Doubled During the Second Trump Administration

Although arrested Latinos came from 19 nations throughout Latin America, the arrests were highly concentrated among several nationalities (see Figure 4).²² Of the top five countries of citizenship, all but the fourth were the same during both time periods. Mexicans ranked first, with Mexican arrestees more than doubling over time (increased by 116%) to account for two-fifths (41%) of Trump administration arrests. Guatemalan arrests were second highest, nearly tripling over time (increased by 185%), and they accounted for 15% of Trump administration arrests. Hondurans followed with an increase of 134%, accounting for 12% of Trump arrests. Venezuelans were eighth in 2024 and climbed to fourth in 2025, with arrests increasing 361%, accounting for 8% of Trump arrests. Salvadorans remained the fifth-largest arrestee group, increasing 151% and accounting for 5% of Trump arrests.

Figure 4: Latino Arrests by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, by Top Five Nationalities under Trump Administration (February through July 2025) Compared to February through July 2024 (Biden Administration)



Source: UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge analysis of ICE arrest data from UC Berkeley School of Law's Deportation Data Project.

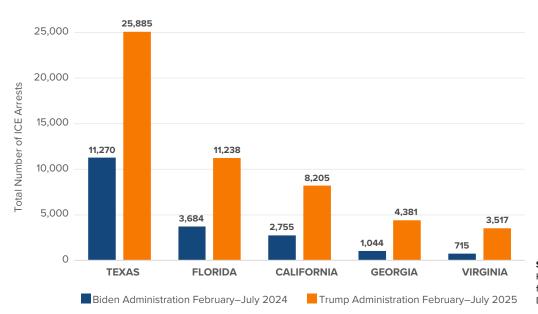
While Mexicans still account for the largest share of U.S. Latinos, the Latino population is diversifying. Over the last two decades the fastest population growth occurred among Latinos of Venezuelan, Paraguayan, Honduran, and Guatemalan descent,²³ countries largely reflected in the arrest data.

FINDING 3:

Latino ICE Arrests under Trump Increased Substantially in States such as Virginia, Georgia, Florida, California, and Texas

ICE arrests of Latinos increased substantially in some states during the Trump administration.²⁴ The top three states by arrests were the same during both the Biden and Trump periods. Texas ranked first, more than doubled over time (increased 130%), and accounted for a quarter (25%) of all Trump administration arrests. Florida was second, tripled (increased 205%), and accounted for over a tenth (11%) of all Trump administration arrests. California followed, nearly tripled (increased 198%), and accounted for 8% of all Trump administration arrests. The fourth and fifth positions experienced significant change. Georgia was eighth in 2024 and climbed to fourth in 2025, quadrupled in ICE arrests (increased 320%), and accounted for 4% of all Trump administration arrests. Virginia experienced a dramatic jump, from 14th to fifth position, and increased 392%. For arrest data for all 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, see the appendix.

Figure 5: Latino Arrests by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, by Top Five States under Trump Administration (February through July 2025), Compared to February through July 2024 (Biden Administration)



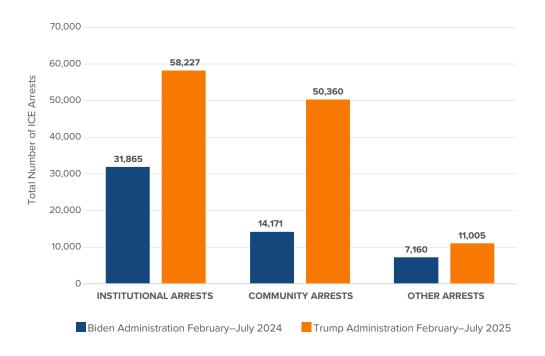
FINDING 4:

Community Arrests of Latinos Grew by 255% Under Trump in 2025 and Surged in June 2025

One significant shift was a surge in arrests by ICE in the community in addition to those made in jails and prisons (i.e., institutional arrests). The latter are tied to ICE's Criminal Alien Program (CAP), which focuses on the identification, arrest, and removal of individuals incarcerated at federal, state, and local levels.²⁵ As Figure 6 shows, institutional arrests grew by 83% under the Trump administration in 2025. The second major category consisted mostly of community arrests, in which ICE agents located and arrested individuals in their everyday environments, such as worksites, schools, and public spaces. This arrest type surged during the Trump period, growing by 255% compared to the Biden period in 2024. Community arrests accounted for 42% of all Trump arrests in 2025, up from Biden's 27% in 2024 (see Figure 6). Moreover, these arrests surged following Stephen Miller's new daily target, increasing by nearly eightfold in June 2025 compared to June 2024 (see Figure 7). Arrests in community spaces have been flash points in the protests against ICE in Los Angeles, Chicago, and elsewhere.²⁶

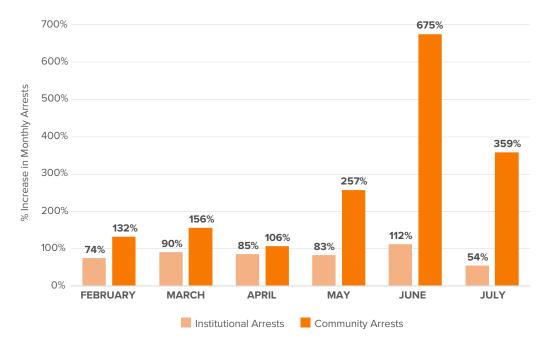
The "other" category included a range of apprehension methods including those conducted during inspections at transportation checkpoints, worksites, and at the border. While the number of arrests in this category also increased during the Trump administration, it was notably lower compared to the other two categories.

Figure 6: Latino Arrests by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, by Arrest Category, February through July 2024 (Biden Administration) and February through July 2025 (Trump Administration)



Note: Institutional arrests are those made through ICE's Criminal Alien Program, in which ICE identifies and arrests individuals incarcerated at federal, state, and local levels. Community arrests are those in which ICE agents locate and arrest individuals in their everyday environments, such as worksites, schools, and public spaces. Other arrests include a range of apprehension methods such as those conducted during inspections at transportation checkpoints, worksites, and at the border.

Figure 7: Percent Increase in Monthly Latino Arrests by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, by Arrest Category, from 2024 to 2025



Note: Institutional arrests are those made through ICE's Criminal Alien Program, in which ICE identifies and arrests individuals incarcerated at federal, state, and local levels. Community arrests are those in which ICE agents locate and arrest individuals in their everyday environments, such as worksites, schools, and public spaces.

Source: UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge analysis of ICE arrest data from UC Berkeley School of Law's Deportation Data Project.

Conclusions

Under President Trump, immigration enforcement tactics have intensified and expanded. ICE launched large-scale operations targeting undocumented immigrants²⁷ and deployed military and heavily armed tactical units to urban areas, sparking public protests and legal challenges.²⁸ Enforcement authority has expanded through 287(g) agreements,²⁹ which allow state and local law enforcement to carry out federal immigration laws during routine policing, raising concerns about civil rights and sanctuary policies. In January 2025, the Trump administration also revoked an Obama-era policy, which was expanded under Biden, that limited ICE enforcement in sensitive locations such as schools, hospitals, and places of worship.³⁰

These shifts in enforcement set the stage for the most recent legal developments. The latest U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo*, has raised significant concerns about the potential for racial profiling in immigration enforcement. In a 6–3 ruling, the Court lifted a lower court's injunction that had prohibited ICE from conducting "roving patrols" based solely on factors such as appearance, language, occupation, or location. Civil rights advocates argue that this ruling will disproportionately impact Latino communities.³¹ Together, these measures mark a shift toward more expansive, militarized, and punitive immigration enforcement.

The data reinforce this picture of escalation. Our analyses demonstrate that immigration enforcement under President Trump experienced a dramatic escalation, notably targeting Latino populations. During Trump's first 100 days, Latino arrests by ICE averaged 558 per day—more than double the same period in the Biden Administration. Latino arrests surged further after Stephen Miller directed immigration officers to make 3,000 arrests per day, peaking at a 253%

year-over-year increase in June 2025. Latino arrests by ICE were highly concentrated among a few nationalities, with Mexicans, Guatemalans, and Hondurans accounting for the highest number of these arrests and doubling and in some cases tripling in number under the Trump Administration compared to the Biden Administration. The data also show state variation and change in the number and share of Latino arrests by ICE between 2024 and 2025, with Texas, Florida, California, Georgia, and Virginia experiencing the largest increases in arrests under the Trump Administration. Notably, the enforcement strategy shifted toward community-based arrests—occurring in public spaces—rising 255% and comprising 42% of all Trump-era arrests. This highlights the intensification of direct, visible enforcement outside traditional jail and prison transfers. These patterns underscore the accelerated, targeted, and highly public nature of immigration enforcement during this period, with clear implications for Latino communities and the broader social and political landscape.

Disclaimer: This research project is a collaborative effort of the UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge and Unseen. The analysis and views expressed in this brief are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of UCLA as an institution.

APPENDIX: Latino Arrests by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement by State, February through July 2024 and February through July 2025

State	2024 Biden Administration	2025 Trump Administration
Alabama	705	2,036
Alaska	7	25
Arizona	915	3,205
Arkansas	501	1,565
California	2,755	8,205
Colorado	432	1,850
Connecticut	101	315
Delaware	102	313
District Of Columbia	5	73
Florida	3,684	11.238
Georgia	1,044	4,381
Hawaii	12	59
Idaho	41	422
Illinois	800	1,180
Indiana	836	1,517
lowa	134	597
Kansas	334	956
Kentucky	832	1,169
Louisiana	1,164	2,160
Maine	36	53
Maryland	584	1,744
Massachusetts	658	2,398
	419	2,396 1,214
Michigan		
Minnesota	456	898
Mississippi	682	1,103
Missouri	588	1,051
Montana	10	35
Nebraska	160	740
Nevada	349	1,314
New Hampshire	26	131
New Jersey	1,347	2,708
New Mexico	73	484
New York	2,050	3,451
North Carolina	772	1,998
North Dakota	50	68
Ohio	416	1,245
Oklahoma	754	1,666
Oregon	53	244
Pennsylvania	562	2,208
Puerto Rico	162	342
Rhode Island	115	280
South Carolina	634	1,894
South Dakota	8	119
Tennessee	1,215	3,172
Texas	11,270	25,885
Utah	550	1,693
Vermont	5	14
Virginia	715	3,517
Washington	430	800
West Virginia	86	323
Wisconsin	408	536
Wyoming	73	216
		49,727

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