



LATINO DEPORTATIONS

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Introduction

The Trump administration is radically restricting immigration to the U.S., a strategy evident not only in its mass deportation campaign but also in its legal attacks on foundational rights, including birthright citizenship. The Supreme Court case challenging birthright citizenship is occurring at a pivotal moment for the Latino experience, forcing a judicial reckoning over who belongs in America.¹ The case examines arguments that aim to reinterpret the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment so that children born in the U.S. to noncitizen parents no longer automatically receive citizenship.² These arguments directly challenge more than a century of established jurisprudence, most notably the landmark ruling in *U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark*, which affirmed a geographic interpretation granting citizenship to children born on U.S. soil regardless of parental immigration status.³ For Latino communities, who are likely to have children born to recent migrants, the Trump administration's executive orders invalidating birthright citizenship threaten to render a new generation of children stateless.⁴ The case over birthright citizenship is a determination of personhood that mirrors an aggressive federal immigration enforcement climate that is actively targeting Latinos for removal. Mass deportation further stigmatizes Latinos as not belonging despite their numerous contributions to the nation.

President Donald Trump has promised to execute the largest domestic deportation operation in U.S. history.⁵ Despite presidential promises to target the “worst of the worst,” meaning violent convicted criminals,⁶ data reveal that noncriminals are being arrested and deported at record rates,⁷ exposing a sharp disconnect between public-safety rhetoric and reality. Enforcement efforts are disproportionately targeting Latino individuals, with arrests fueled by court-sanctioned racial profiling. On September 8, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an emergency order stating that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) can conduct immigration stops based on “reasonable suspicion” determined by a person's apparent Latino ethnicity, spoken language, and perceived employment status.⁸

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Enforcement has become increasingly aggressive, leading to a rise in unlawful arrests and state sanctioned violence.⁹ In 2026, two U.S. citizens, Renee Good and Alex Pretti, were both fatally shot by federal immigration agents in Minneapolis during enforcement operations and protests, sparking national discussions over the use of force and accountability. Notably, the Department of Justice (DOJ) declined to open a civil rights investigation into the shooting, a decision that signals a lack of oversight and accountability. In response, calls for reform of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have grown, with political pressure mounting through leadership changes and budget negotiations aimed at curbing controversial enforcement tactics.¹⁰

Beyond the large number of arrests, the administration's detention and deportation tactics have drawn significant scrutiny. The expanded use of large-scale detention is characterized by widespread reports of poor conditions, inadequate medical care, and a systematic erosion of due process.¹¹ In 2025, 32 people died in ICE custody, making it the agency's deadliest year in over two decades.¹² Many facilities also make it difficult for detainees to communicate with family, lawyers, and others that may advocate on their behalf.¹³ The erosion of rights has been formalized through administrative roadblocks designed to restrict the appeals process.¹⁴

In tandem with administrative barriers, the administration has overhauled the enforcement landscape to prioritize speed over legal protections. Central to this is President Trump's executive order, "Protecting the American People Against Invasion,"¹⁵ along with the subsequent notice, "Designating Aliens for Expedited Removal,"¹⁶ which together authorize the rapid deportation of any noncitizen unable to demonstrate two years of continuous physical presence in the U.S. The administration has also attempted to bypass civil courts entirely by invoking the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 to treat suspected gang affiliates as national security threats, seeking to remove the court's role in determining the validity of such accusations.^{17, 18} Additionally, the unilateral termination of humanitarian parole programs has stripped the legal status of thousands, making them immediately eligible for fast-tracked removal.¹⁹ Ultimately, these combined tactics wear down immigrant communities and intensify the pressure for self-deportation.

Given the current debates about ICE, this brief is a timely examination of administrative records documenting who is being deported and how they are being removed from the country. It is the third in a three-part series analyzing ICE activities during the first months of President Trump's second term. The first brief documented ICE arrests through mid-July 2025, revealing that Latino arrests by ICE had surged dramatically under Trump's second administration.²⁰ The research found that Latino arrests doubled during Trump's first 100 days in office and later climbed to record highs after new daily arrest quotas were introduced. Arrests carried out in community settings increased dramatically, reflecting a major shift toward more visible and punitive enforcement. The second brief analyzed the detention of noncriminal Latinos during the eight months after Trump's 2025 inauguration.²¹ The analysis found that detentions increasingly targeted noncriminal, largely law-abiding Latinos, with sharp increases in detention length, transfers between facilities, and out-of-state confinement. The findings raise serious concerns about due process, family separation, and the broader social and economic impacts of expanded detention policies. Both briefs indicate that the administration has deviated from the original policy, instead increasingly targeting law-abiding and economically productive noncriminals.

In this third brief, our findings show that ICE actions are disproportionately impacting Latinos. Removal of the "worst of the worst" is not the focus of this administration's deportations, with this population rapidly becoming a smaller share of all deportations as the removal of noncriminals grew dramatically. These trends demonstrate that ICE's primary focus is not on making America safer. Our findings demonstrate that the Trump administration has successfully expedited deportation by curtailing due process and creating a high-pressure environment designed to

coerce detainees into self-deporting. ICE is targeting those who are not a threat to the country, many of whom are economically productive residents. These immigrants are the ones that a majority of Americans believe should have an opportunity to remain in the U.S.²²

Data And Methodology

Our analysis utilizes data provided by the UC Berkeley School of Law's Deportation Data Project documenting ICE arrests and deportations from January 19, 2025 to October 11, 2025.²³ The dataset is a publicly available collection of record-level immigration enforcement actions, compiled by researchers and lawyers through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). We utilized the deportation information from the ICE arrest file and details on the severity of past crimes from the ICE removal file. We deleted duplicate records and merged arrest and removal records using a unique identifier. We focused on individuals arrested after the start of the Trump administration and their deportation experiences. The analysis does not include those arrested under Biden but subsequently removed during the Trump administration.

Key variables of interest include the following: week of arrest and deportation; number of weeks²⁴ between arrest and deportation; country of citizenship of deportees; designation of the "worst of the worst" deportees²⁵; designation of noncriminals arrested in the community at large; and designation of those who self-deported. The sample is composed of Latinos, who are citizens of Mexico or a country in Central America, South America, or the Hispanic Caribbean. This classification reasonably captures the group that Trump has stated to be of the highest priority for deportation. We identify noncriminals arrested in the community at large using values from two variables. The first includes those classified as "Other Immigration Violators," which excludes convicted criminals and those facing pending charges. This group's only violation is being in the country without documentation, which is a civil misdemeanor. We then include only those who were arrested in public spaces, homes, and workplaces. This is defined as those classified as "located arrests" and "non-custodial arrests."²⁶ We also define two distinct periods, before and after White House aide Stephen Miller's announcement of a new ambitious target of 3,000 arrests per day,²⁷ which appears to have dramatically shifted ICE tactics. Operationally, the post-Miller period starts with the week of June 1-7, 2025.

Due to data limitations, statistical results may not be precise and could be biased. The data limitations include, but are not limited to, duplicate and inconsistent records with no clear determination of which is more accurate, recording and transcription errors, missing information for key variables, questionable selection of what data were redacted, and limited documentation of coding. Potential biases, however, are likely to be minimal because incomplete information is relatively rare and errors do not appear to be systematic. Consequently, the reported results are reasonable and based on the best available statistics.

FINDING 1:

Latinos Are Overrepresented In Ice Arrests And Deportations

Latinos are disproportionately impacted by ICE activities, as evidenced by comparing their share of the at-risk population with their share of ICE arrests and deportations. Available estimates indicate that Latinos comprise 76% to 80% of undocumented immigrants.²⁸ However, the Latino share of noncitizens arrested from January to October 2025 was 91%, 11 to 15 percentage points higher than their share of the undocumented population. The gap is even larger for those deported, with Latinos accounting for 96% of Trump-era ICE arrestees who were subsequently deported.

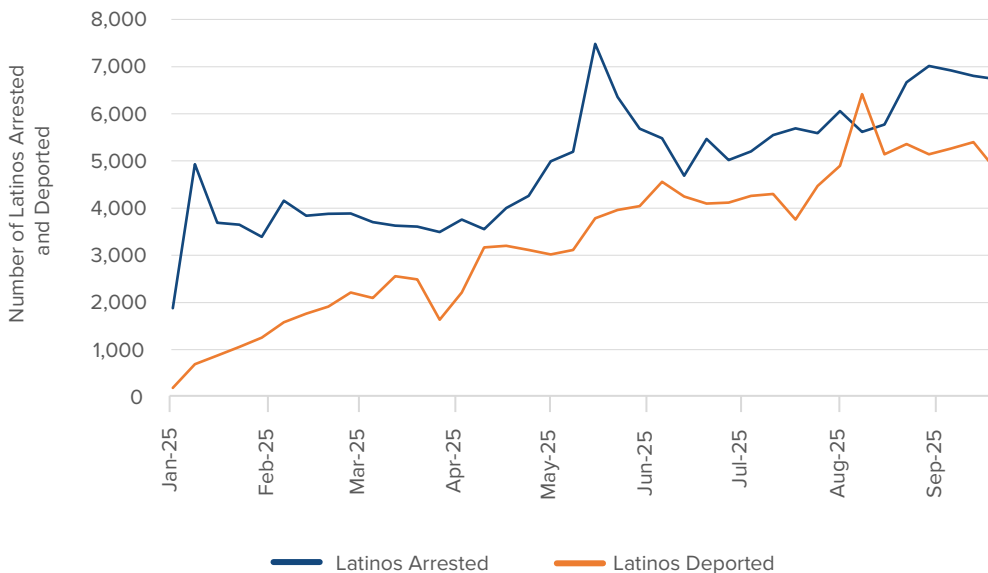
Another way to illustrate these enormous disparities is by comparing the share for non-Latinos. Non-Latinos comprise about 20% to 25% of undocumented immigrants, less than 10% of those arrested, and less than 5% of those deported. The inequality in outcomes may not be accidental given the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling allowing ICE to continue using racial profiling.²⁹ Latinos suffered the brunt of this discriminatory practice,³⁰ a likely consequence of President Trump's demonizing Mexican and other Latino immigrants.³¹

FINDING 2:

The Weekly Number Of Latinos Detained And Deported More Than Doubled Over Nine Months Of Trump’s Second Term

ICE made over 187,000 arrests of Latinos between January 19 and October 11, 2025. The weekly number of arrests fluctuated but the average increased from under 3,900 in the pre-Miller period to nearly 6,000 in the post-Miller period. Of those arrested since January 19, 2025, over 126,000 were deported. The number of deportees increased over time, from a weekly average of about 2,000 to over 4,600. The increase over the entire study period demonstrates the administration’s effort to deliver on its mass-deportation agenda. Removals lagged slightly behind arrests because of the time required for due process, which can include interviews with agents, administrative hearings, and rulings from the immigration courts.³² However, the administration has increasingly sought to curtail immigrants’ procedural rights. Figure 1 shows the weekly trend in the number of Latinos arrested (blue line) and deported (orange line) over this period.³³

Figure 1: Weekly Number of Latinos Arrested and Deported, January through October 2025



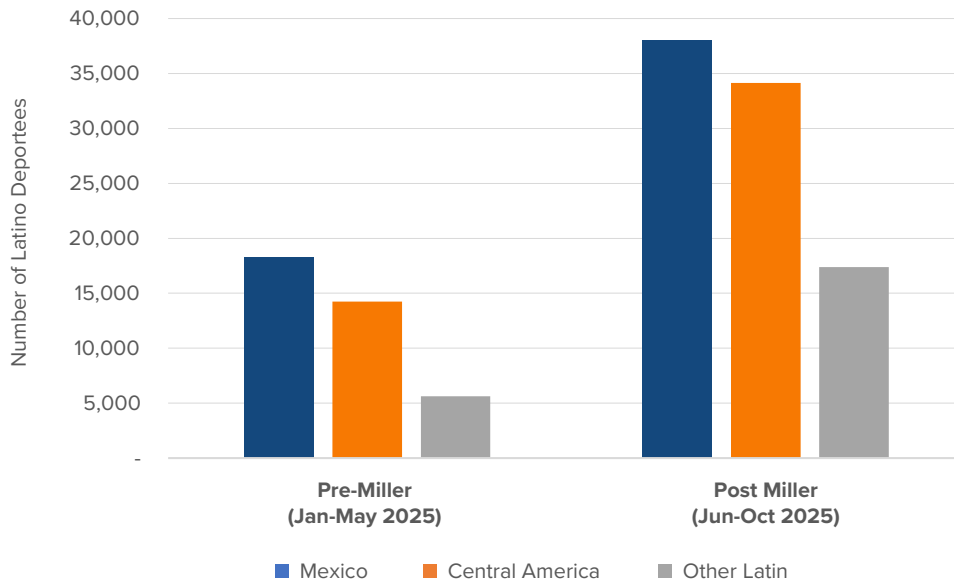
Source: UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge analysis of ICE arrest data from UC Berkeley School of Law’s Deportation Data Project.

FINDING 3:

Although Mexicans Make Up The Largest Share Of Deportees, Other Latin American Groups Are Increasing At A Faster Rate

The administration filled its quotas with immigrants from throughout Latin America. Those from Mexico accounted for 44% of Latino deportees, 38% were from Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama), and the remaining 18% came from the rest of Latin America. As Figure 2 shows, the number of deportations increased over time. Those with Mexican citizenship increased from nearly 1,000 per week in the pre-Miller period to nearly 2,000 per week post-Miller. The number of other Latinos increased even faster, from about 1,000 to nearly 2,700 per week.

Figure 2: Latino Deportees by Country of Citizenship, January to October 2025 (Pre- and Post-Miller Announcement)



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

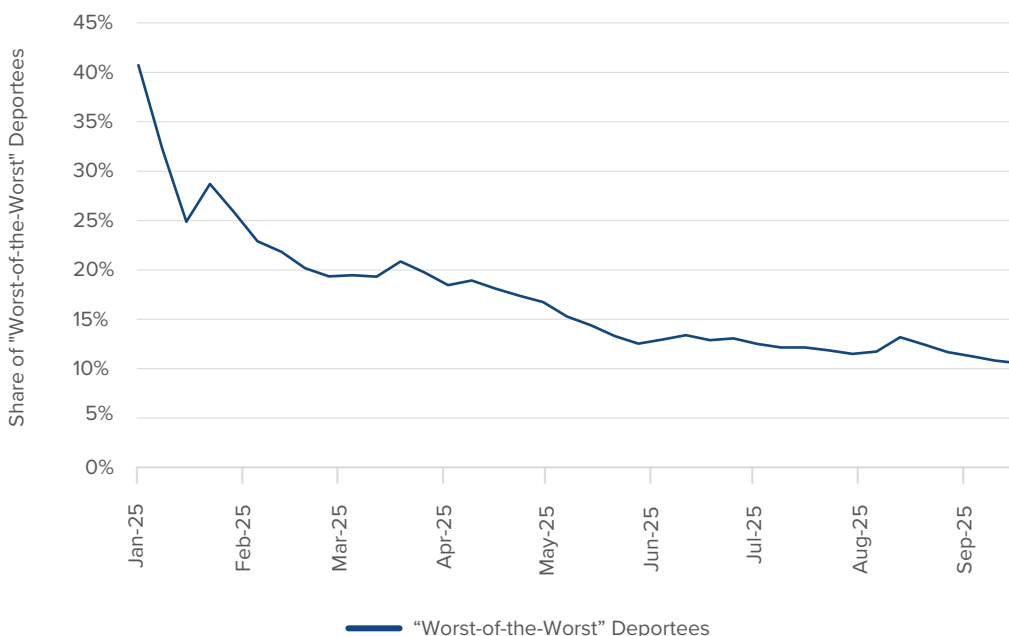
FINDING 4:

Deportations Under Trump Shifted Away From Targeting The “Worst Of The Worst,” Going From 1-In-3 To 1-In-8 Deportees

Despite President Trump’s campaign emphasis on deporting the most dangerous criminals, the data show otherwise. We define the “worst of the worst” criminals as those classified with the greatest threat level as determined by ICE, which includes any person convicted of a violent crime (i.e., murder, manslaughter, rape, kidnapping, robbery, or major drug offense) or convicted of two or more felonies. The absolute number of the worst-of-the-worst (WOW) Latino immigrants arrested and deported during the Trump administration initially increased during the first few weeks, then leveled off.³⁴ The weekly average was nearly 400 during the pre-Miller period, increasing to about 570 in the subsequent period. The lower number during the first part of the Trump administration was due in part to the time needed to process arrestees and then remove them. An alternative measure compares the deportations of Latino WOW arrested under the current administration with the deportations of non-WOW Latinos. The number for the former increased between the two periods, but that growth was far smaller than for the latter (43% and 152%, respectively).

As shown in Figure 3, WOW’s share of all Latino deportees declined dramatically, from about one third during the first weeks to about one eighth in the last weeks.

Figure 3: Share of “Worst of the Worst” Deported, January to October 2025



Note: “Worst of the worst” refers to criminals classified with the greatest threat level as determined by ICE, which includes any person convicted of a violent crime (i.e., murder, manslaughter, rape, kidnapping, robbery, or major drug offense) or convicted of two or more felonies.

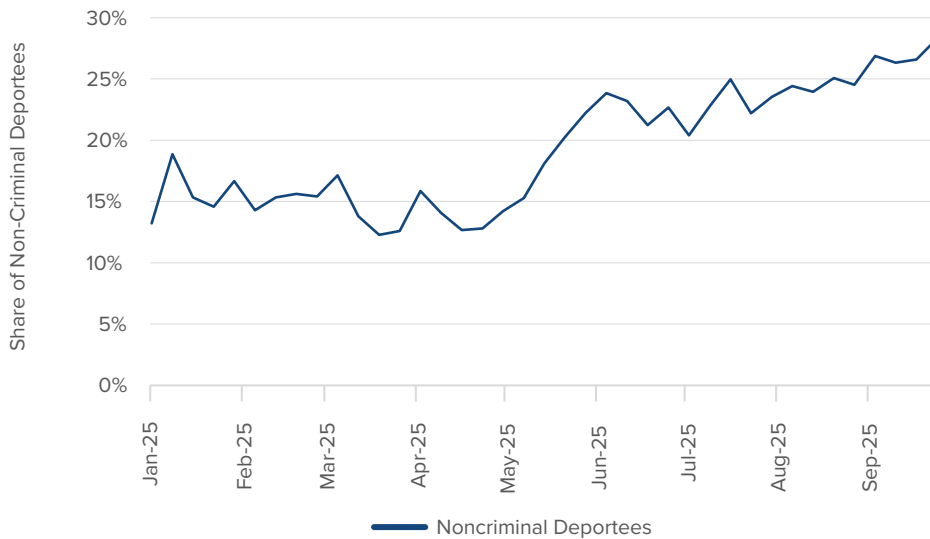
Source: UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge analysis of ICE arrest data from UC Berkeley School of Law’s Deportation Data Project.

FINDING 5:

The Deportation Of Noncriminals Increased Under Trump, Going From 1-In-5 To 1-In-3 Deportees

While WOW deportations became relatively fewer, there was a significant increase in deportations of noncriminals, whose only infraction was being in the country illegally—a civil misdemeanor.³⁵ This group’s share increased from about one fifth during the first few weeks of the study period to over one third during the last few weeks. Many of the noncriminals were arrested in the community at large, often apprehended using violent and legally questionable tactics.³⁶ Figure 4 traces the share of all deportations for noncriminals arrested in the community. The percentage increased over time, with a noticeable jump from less than one quarter to about one third after Miller’s announcement.

Figure 4: Share of Noncriminals Deported, January to October 2025



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

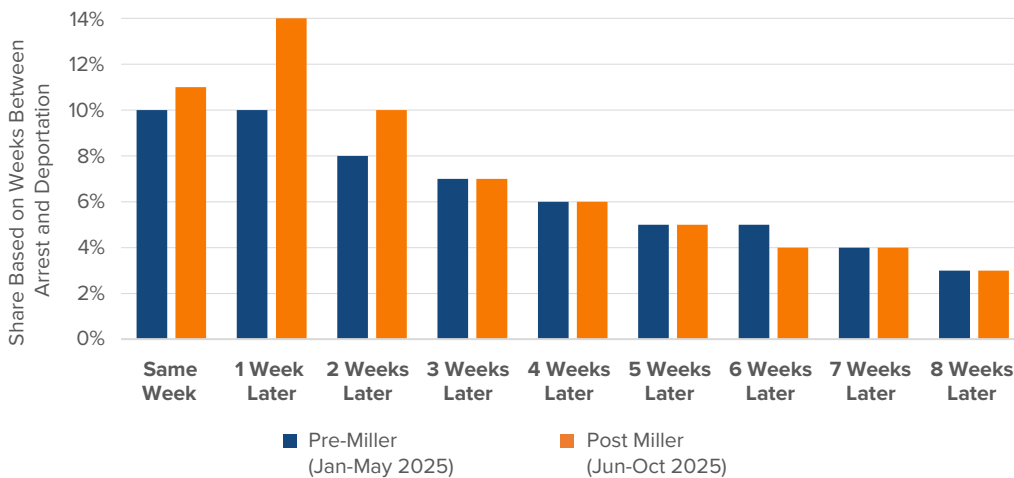
FINDING 6:

The Trump Administration Has Decreased Time To Deportation, While Eroding Due Process Protections

For the typical (median) arrestee, time to deportation decreased by between one and two weeks from before to after the Miller announcement. Figure 5 tracks the outcomes of individuals arrested prior to mid-August 2025, enabling us to observe if they were deported within the following eight weeks. This subsample is divided into two parts: those arrested before and after the Miller announcement. During the pre-Miller period (blue bars), one fifth of those arrested were deported within a week (the week of arrest or the subsequent week). Post-Miller (orange bars), one quarter of those arrested were deported within a week. These findings clearly demonstrate that ICE shortened the time required to process an immigrant.

Accelerating the speed of deportation is consistent with reports from the media and immigrant groups regarding changes in the administration procedures.³⁷ ICE abandoned previous practices that had provided undocumented immigrants with opportunities to appeal their case, eroding due-process protections.

Figure 5: Number of Weeks between Arrest and Deportation, January to August 2025 (Arrests Pre- and Post-Miller Announcement)



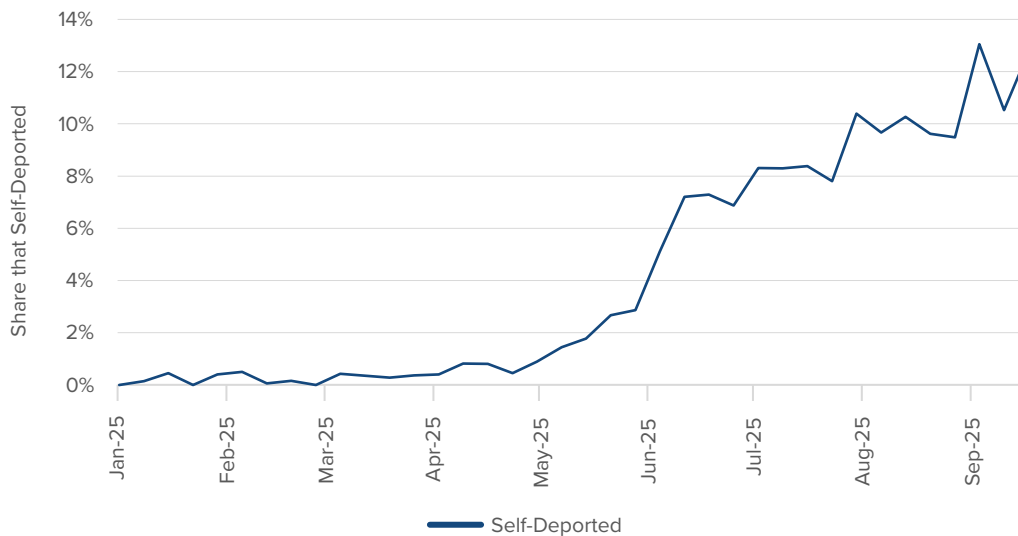
Source: UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge analysis of ICE arrest data from UC Berkeley School of Law's Deportation Data Project.

FINDING 7:

Detainees Are Increasingly Pressured To Self Deport

One tactic the Trump administration has used to accelerate deportation is to monetarily incentivize arrestees to voluntary leave,³⁸ with the additional pressure of facing harsh detention and possible removal to a third country.³⁹ The data indicates that self-deportation among arrestees increased over time. The absolute number of those who voluntarily departed jumped from 200 Latinos in the pre-Miller period to over 7,500 subsequently (within our study period). Figure 6 traces the relative number of Latinos per week. While fewer than one in 100 voluntarily left during the first weeks of the time period, over one in 10 did in the last weeks. The pressure to self deport was also aimed at undocumented immigrants not swept up by ICE.⁴⁰ There are anecdotal accounts of this type of self-deportation⁴¹; however, there is little rigorous data documenting the magnitude of self-deportation among this population.⁴² By one account, this group comprised a minority of an estimated 72,000 who participated in DHS's voluntary programs as of January 2026.⁴³ The majority of those who participated were already in ICE custody.

Figure 6: Share of Detainees that Voluntarily Self-Deported, January to October 2025



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

Conclusion:

Our research finds that Latinos are disproportionately targeted by ICE enforcement, comprising a greater share of arrests and deportations than their proportion of the undocumented population. Enforcement intensified over the course of 2025, with arrests and deportations rising sharply. Despite stated Trump administration priorities to focus on serious criminals, much of the growth in deportations involved noncriminal individuals. Additionally, time from arrest to deportation has shortened significantly, pointing to efforts to limit due process. At the same time, the administration has expanded pressure to leave voluntarily, contributing to a significant increase in self-deportation alongside formal removals.

While there is broad support for border control,⁴⁴ immigration enforcement within the country has been controversial for three reasons. First, public opinion is divided, with wide support for deporting violent criminals⁴⁵ but also support for giving others the opportunity to stay legally, particularly those who have lived in the U.S. for a long time and are economically vital.⁴⁶ In other words, the majority expects that the administration should target the “worst of the worst” for public safety rather than casting a wide, indiscriminate net entrapping those who are seen as deserving an opportunity to remain in the country. The second issue concerns the use of militarized and frequently violent tactics to search for and arrest noncriminals in public spaces, homes, and workplaces based on racial profiling.⁴⁷ This approach is opposed by a majority of the public⁴⁸ and has led to the unjustified killing of multiple immigrants and U.S. citizens.⁴⁹ A majority of the public opposes these tactics.⁵⁰ The third controversy is the effort to limit due process to expedite deportation. Due process is meant to ensure that immigrants receive a fair hearing, can present and challenge evidence, and have an opportunity to defend themselves before decisions about their status or deportation are made.

Our findings suggest that the Trump administration’s enforcement strategy has transformed the immigration system into one that disproportionately targets Latino communities while systematically eroding legal safeguards. The result has been a deportation machine that is expediting removals by curtailing due process and creating a high-pressure environment designed to coerce detainees into self-deporting. This shift is driven by a systematic dismantling of the legal pathways immigrants use to challenge removal. By intensifying existing procedural barriers such as the difficulty of securing counsel and gathering evidence, using new aggressive practices, the administration has prioritized speed and diminished substantive review.

The current escalation of mass deportations is unfolding at a critical political moment. A lingering question remains: What constitutes American identity, and what is the rightful place of Latinos within that narrative? As one of the fastest-growing racial and ethnic demographics in the country—already the largest demographic group in several key states and projected to drive the vast majority of the nation’s future population growth—Latinos are inextricably linked to the survival and prosperity of the United States.

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.

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