



Biden's Border Crisis Timeline

BY THE NUMBERS

In February 2021, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) encounters 100,441 illegal immigrants at the Southwest border.

- 28% increase since January 2021 (78,442)
- 174% increase since February 2020 (36,687)

In February 2021, CBP encounters 9,457 unaccompanied alien children (UAC) at the Southwest border.

- 61% increase since January 2021 (5,858)
- 208% increase since February 2020 (3,070)

In February 2021, CBP encounters 19,246 family units at the Southwest border.

- 164% increase since January 2021 (7,294)
- 317% increase since February 2020 (4,610)

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests plummet by 62% in February 2021, from 5,119 in January 2021 to 1,970 in February 2021.

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Actions taken to erode immigration enforcement and border security and Oversight Republicans' response

January 20, 2021

On his first day in office, President Biden issues an executive order, "[Revision of Civil Immigration Enforcement Policies and Priorities](#)," (hereinafter the "priorities memorandum") revoking an executive order President Trump signed to protect Americans from dangerous criminal aliens, "[Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States](#)." President Trump's order called for the faithful execution of the immigration laws against all removable illegal immigrants and instructed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to prioritize the removal of those who have committed crimes, pose a national security risk, engaged in fraud or willful misrepresentation before the government, abused welfare programs, and are subject to a final order of removal. It also instructed the Attorney General to ensure sanctuary jurisdictions are not eligible to receive federal grants.

President Biden issues a [proclamation](#) terminating the national emergency declaration at the Southern border declared by President Trump and halting construction of the border wall.

DHS issues a [memorandum](#) freezing all immigration removal actions for 100 days unless the removal concerns an alien who was suspected of terrorism or espionage or otherwise posed a national security threat, the alien was not physically present in the United States before November 1, 2020, the alien agreed to waive any right to remain in the United States, or Immigrations and Custom Enforcement (ICE) made an individualized determination that the removal is required by law.

President Biden issues a presidential memorandum, "[Preserving and Fortifying Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\)](#)," instructing the Secretary of Homeland Security and Attorney General to take actions that "preserve and fortify" DACA.

President Biden's [first legislative proposal](#) would grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants in the U.S. This is widely reported in the news media.

DHS issues a [press release](#) announcing it is suspending new enrollments in the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) and will no longer add individuals into the program. MPP required many aliens encountered by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to wait in Mexico during their U.S. immigration court proceedings instead of being released into the interior of the U.S.

February 2, 2021

President Biden issues an [executive order](#) instructing the Secretary of Homeland Security to rescind MPP. In addition, the order directs the Attorney General and Secretary of Homeland Security to rescind a series of rules issued by the Trump Administration that implemented asylum agreements with Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. Finally, the order rescinds President Trump's [memorandum](#) seeking to end "catch and release."

President Biden issues another [executive order](#) directing the Attorney General and DHS Secretary to identify and rescind barriers impeding access to immigration benefits or the naturalization process. This review specifically considers President Trump's public charge rule, which sought to prevent aliens who are likely to receive one or more public benefits from obtaining green cards.

DHS releases a statement, "[Equal Access to COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccine Distribution Sites](#)," which calls for equal access to the COVID vaccine for illegal immigrants, and encourages all individuals, regardless of immigration status, to receive the COVID vaccine.

February 4, 2021

President Biden issues an [executive order](#) rescinding Trump Administration reforms to the Refugee Admissions Program. The order rescinds multiple directives signed by President Trump providing for enhanced vetting of refugees and giving state and local governments a say in the refugee resettlement process. In addition, the order directs the DHS Secretary, Secretary of State, and the Attorney General to expand refugee adjudication capacity.

House Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans [send a letter to DHS Secretary Mayorkas](#) requesting all documents and communications related to President Joe Biden's unilateral decision to halt construction of the southern border wall. DHS has not responded.

February 11, 2021

DHS [announces](#) beginning on February 19, it will begin processing approximately 25,000 individuals who were enrolled in MPP for entry into the United States.

February 17, 2021

House Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans [send a letter to Acting ICE Director Johnson](#) requesting any final guidance relating to the implementation of the January 20th priorities memorandum; all documents related to how ICE plans to prevent recidivism by removable aliens in the U.S. who have been arrested, but are not considered deportation priorities; and all statistics regarding the number of aliens deemed removable from the U.S. encountered by ICE since 2017 who have gang tattoos or who have been identified as a member of or an affiliate of a criminal gang. ICE has not responded.

February 18, 2021

ICE issues a [memorandum](#) reiterating the January 20th DHS priorities memorandum that limited the ability of ICE to enforce the law. Under the memorandum, unless an illegal immigrant is a national security threat, was not physically present in the United States before November 1, 2020, or has been convicted of an aggravated felony and released after January 20, 2021, an ICE officer must stand down or must seek pre-approval of any enforcement action before it can be carried out.

This policy greatly curtails interior immigration enforcement capabilities, including for aliens who have committed serious criminal offenses. ICE interior enforcement book-ins to custody [fell 62 percent](#) from January to February.

February 19, 2021

DHS [announces](#) 25 individuals previously enrolled in MPP were processed at the San Ysidro Port of Entry and released into the United States. This group is the first of thousands of MPP-enrolled individuals who will be permitted to enter the United States instead of waiting in Mexico for adjudication of their claims.

House Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans [send a letter to DHS Secretary Mayorkas](#) on the impending health crisis at the border and the administration's plan to mitigate President Biden's border crisis. The Republicans request the Biden Administration's plan to: reduce illegal border crossings by unaccompanied alien children (UAC) and family units, prevent the spread of COVID-19 in facilities along the southern border, increase bedspace capacity at Family Residential Centers to ensure family units are held in custody, expedite immigration proceedings for UAC and family units that cross the border illegally, and address the crisis with the Mexican government. DHS has not responded.

February 22, 2021

President Biden's administration [reopens](#) a temporary influx shelter for UAC in Carrizo Springs, Texas to permit Health and Human Services (HHS) to accommodate increasing numbers of arrivals. The soft-sided facility had been closed since July 2019.

March 4, 2021

House Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans [send a letter to Chairwoman Maloney](#) requesting the Committee hold a hearing to examine the current crisis occurring on the southern border. Chairwoman Maloney has not responded.

March 9, 2021

DHS [announces](#) the government will no longer defend the public charge rule issued under President Trump. The Supreme Court granted the Biden Administration's request to dismiss a case challenging the legality of the rule instead of defending it. The public charge rule sought to prevent aliens who were likely to receive one or more public benefits from getting green cards.

March 10, 2021

House Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans [send a letter to DHS Secretary Mayorkas](#) renewing their request for the administration's plan to mitigate President Biden's border crisis. DHS has not responded.

CBP issues its February 2021 operational update, showing it encountered over 100,000 illegal immigrants attempting to enter at the Southwest border, a 28% increase over January 2021. Over 9,400 UAC were encountered in February by CBP, a 61% increase over January.

March 13, 2021

DHS [announces](#) it will deploy FEMA to the Southwest border to help care for the surge of UAC arriving at the border.

March 14, 2021

A CBP facility in Donna, Texas holding UAC is at [729% capacity](#).

March 15, 2021

HHS [announces](#) it has opened an emergency influx shelter in Midland, Texas to accommodate increasing numbers of UACs arriving on the border and to begin to reduce the numbers of UAC backed up into CBP custody. More than 4,000 children are currently in CBP custody awaiting transfer into HHS facilities.

March 16, 2021

HHS announces it will open an emergency influx shelter at the Dallas Convention Center to accommodate approximately 2,000 UAC.

DHS Secretary Mayorkas [announces](#), “we are on pace to encounter more individuals on the southwest border than we have in the last 20 years.”