



Memo

To: Interested Parties

Fr: Simon Rosenberg and Emma Buckhout

Dt: Tuesday, February 04, 2014

Re: The Administration's Border Strategy Has Yielded Very Strong Results

Summary

Over the past decade, more money, a better strategy, and enhanced cooperation with Mexico has made the US side of the border far safer, the flow of undocumented migrants over the border has plummeted, and spillover violence is rare. Despite this historic enforcement buildup, trade with Mexico has exploded, almost doubling in the past 5 years. Below please find some background data on the very real progress which has been made in recent years. A series of charts follow.

Key Data Points

A Border Build Up, A Big Decrease in Border Crime – US border [enforcement](#) spending has tripled over the last decade from \$6.2 billion in 2002 to \$18 billion in 2012. Boots on the ground – border patrol - have doubled from 10,650 in 2004 to 21,300 in 2012.

Despite increasing organized crime violence in Mexico, violent crime on the US side of the border has decreased in the last decade: in the 12 largest border cities, violent crime incidents have dropped by about 25% while population has increased. The two safest large cities in the entire US (population over 500,000), according to violent crime rates, are [El Paso and San Diego](#), the two largest cities on the US-Mexican border. Spillover crime from Mexico is rare, and not a significant factor in the border region.

Unauthorized Flow Has Plummeted, Effectiveness Way Up – In the five high-traffic corridors which experience most of the flow of unauthorized migrants, two already have achieved a 90% effectiveness rate (apprehensions plus turn backs per year divided by the estimated total number of illegal entries per year), and two are over 80%.

Because of the drop in flow and increase in effectiveness, the apprehension rate per border patrol agent has [dropped](#) from 327 in 1993 to just 19 in 2012.

The average annual [inflow](#) of unauthorized immigrants is now nearly half of what it was at its height, [declining](#) from 550,000 or [more](#) to 300,000 over the last decade.



Total migration from Mexico to the US has decreased by [80%](#) from 770,000 in 2000 to 140,000 in 2010. Net migration with Mexico has dropped to [zero or less](#).

Additionally, this year the US and Mexico just announced they would increase [binational security cooperation](#), including communications and intelligence sharing and, for the first time, joint border patrols of the US-Mexico border. Mexico has also committed to strengthening its [southern border](#) to stop the flow of Central and South American migrants through Mexico to the US.

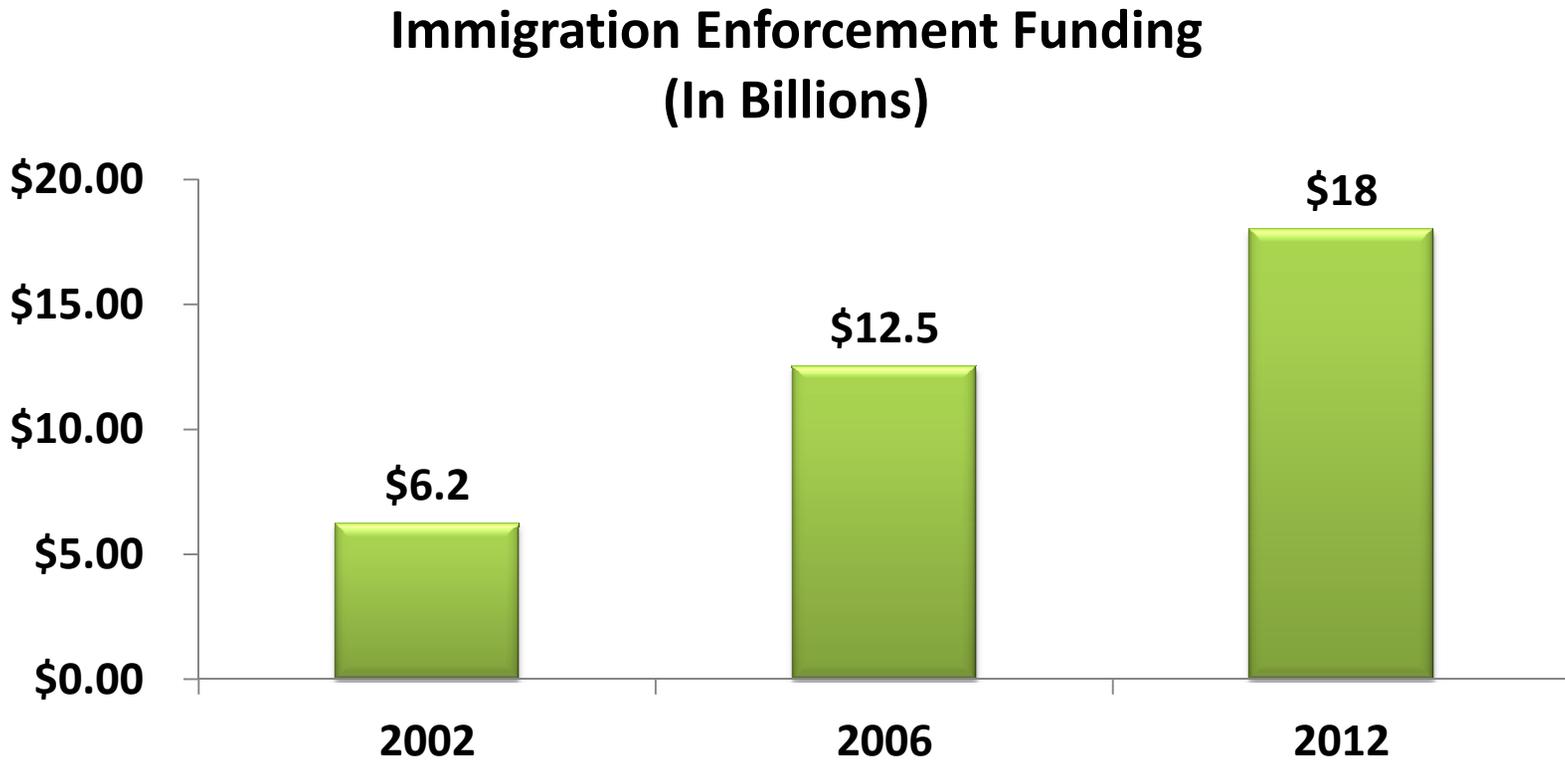
Trade With Mexico Has Exploded, More Infrastructure Needed To Support This Growth – Meanwhile, goods and services [trade with Mexico](#) across this very same fortified border has exploded, growing from \$300 billion in 2009 to \$536 billion in 2012. Mexico is now the US's third largest trading partner.

Mexico is the US's second largest export market, buying twice the value of US goods that China does, and outspending Japan, Germany, and the UK combined. 6 million US jobs depend on US-Mexico trade.

The FY 2014 budget bill acknowledges the need for more [infrastructure spending](#) at the border to facilitate this cross-border trade and tourism. It appropriated \$128 million in for California's [San Ysidro](#) crossing, the world's busiest land port of entry; funding for an additional [2,000 CBP officers](#); and it supports a [5-year public-private partnership program](#), an expansion of a current [PPP program](#), to allow CBP "to enter into partnerships with private sector and government entities at ports of entry," which could provide additional needed funding. These measures will allow for increased security, decreased wait lines, a greater flow of trade, and economic growth for the border region and the greater US economy.

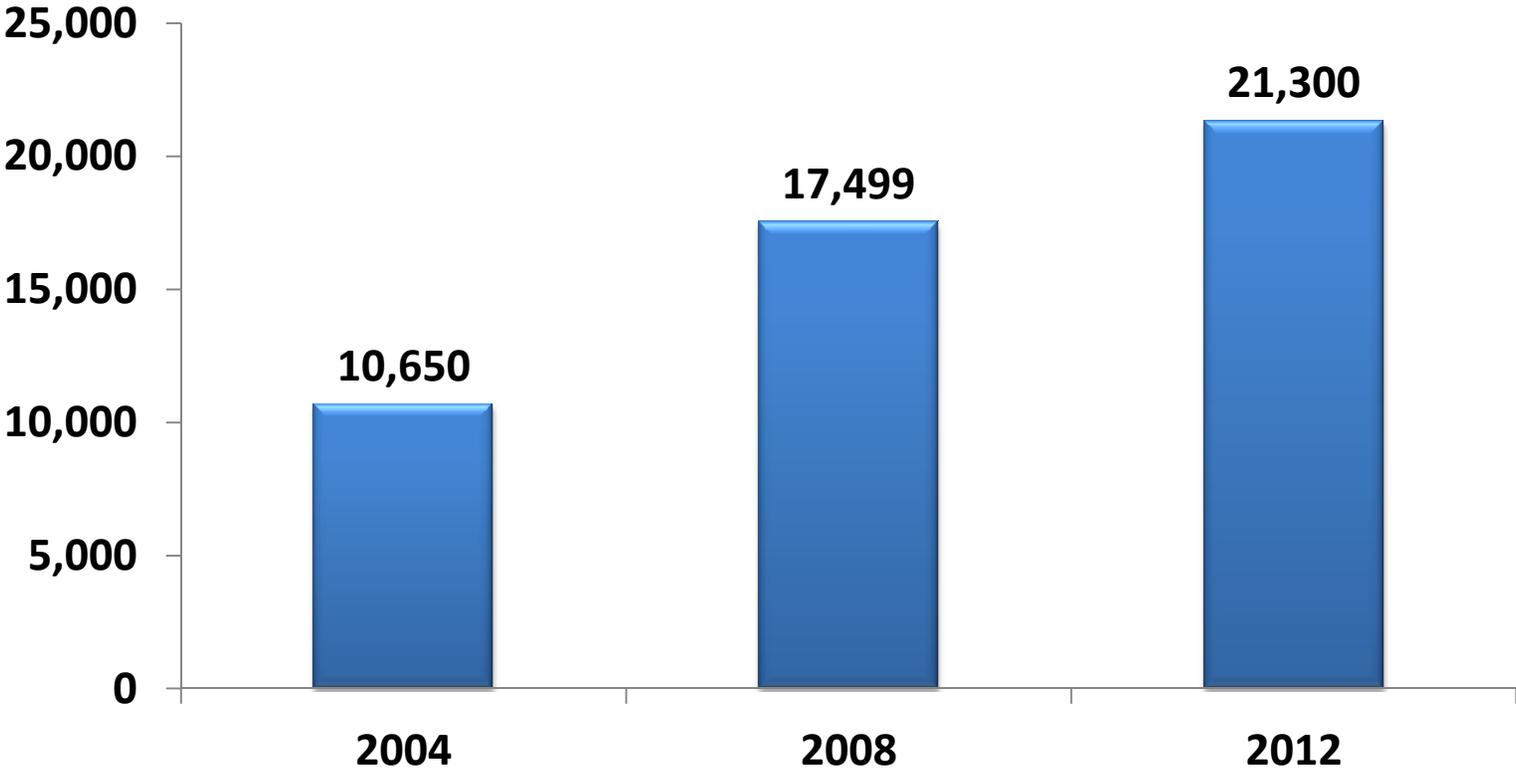
Mexico Is Growing, Modernizing – See this [fact sheet](#) on Mexico's economic progress over the past 20 years.

Since 2002, Enforcement Budget Has Tripled



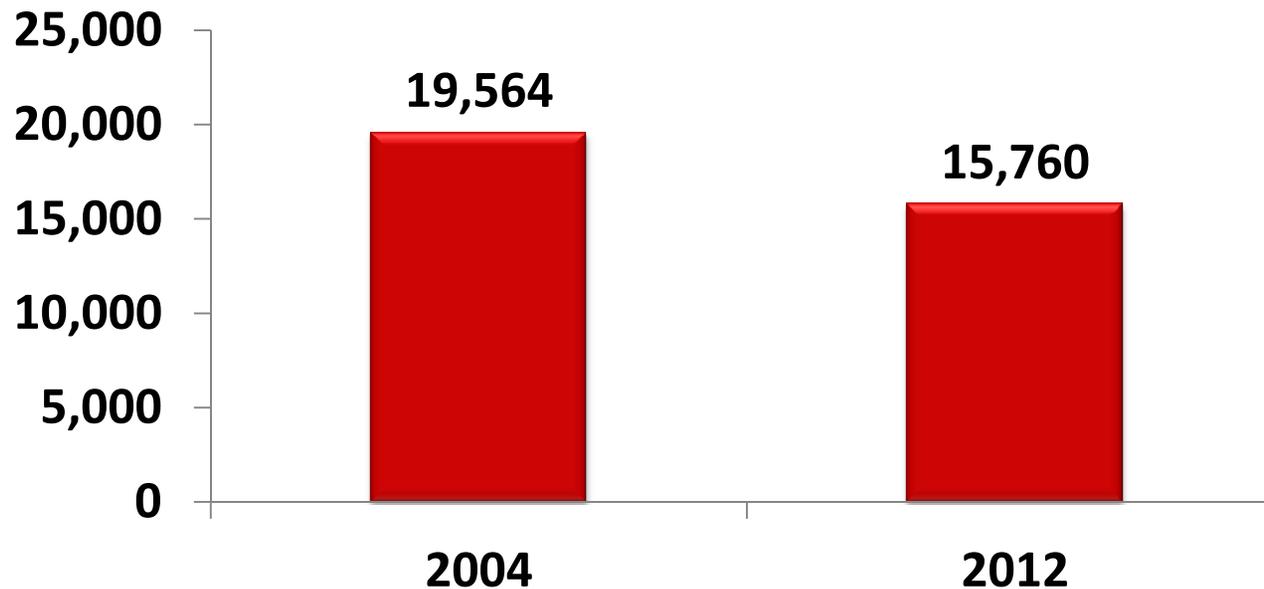
Number of “Boots on The Ground” Has Doubled

Border Patrol Agents



And It Has Worked - Crime on U.S. Side of the Border Has Dropped

Incidents of Violent Crime Along the Border*

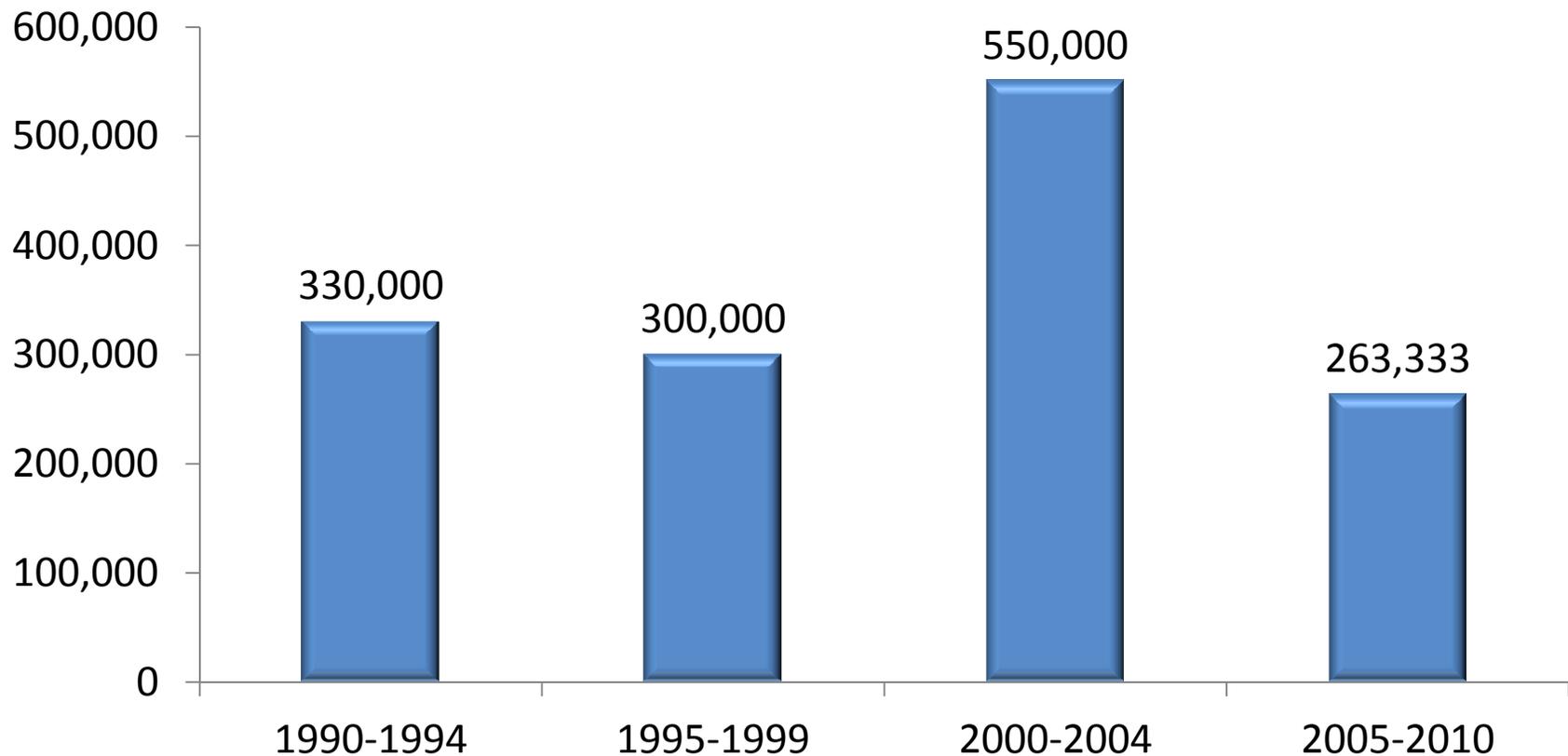


* Analysis comes from the 12 largest U.S. cities along the our southern border: Brownsville, TX; Carlsbad, CA; Chula Vista, CA; El Paso, TX; Eagle Pass, TX; Las Cruces, NM; Laredo, TX; McAllen, TX; Nogales, AZ; San Diego, CA; Tucson, AZ; Yuma, AZ

**There was a decrease in the individual incidents of violent crime despite an increase in population of 400,000 people

Unauthorized Immigration Flow Is Half of What It Was

Average Annual Inflow of Unauthorized Immigrants



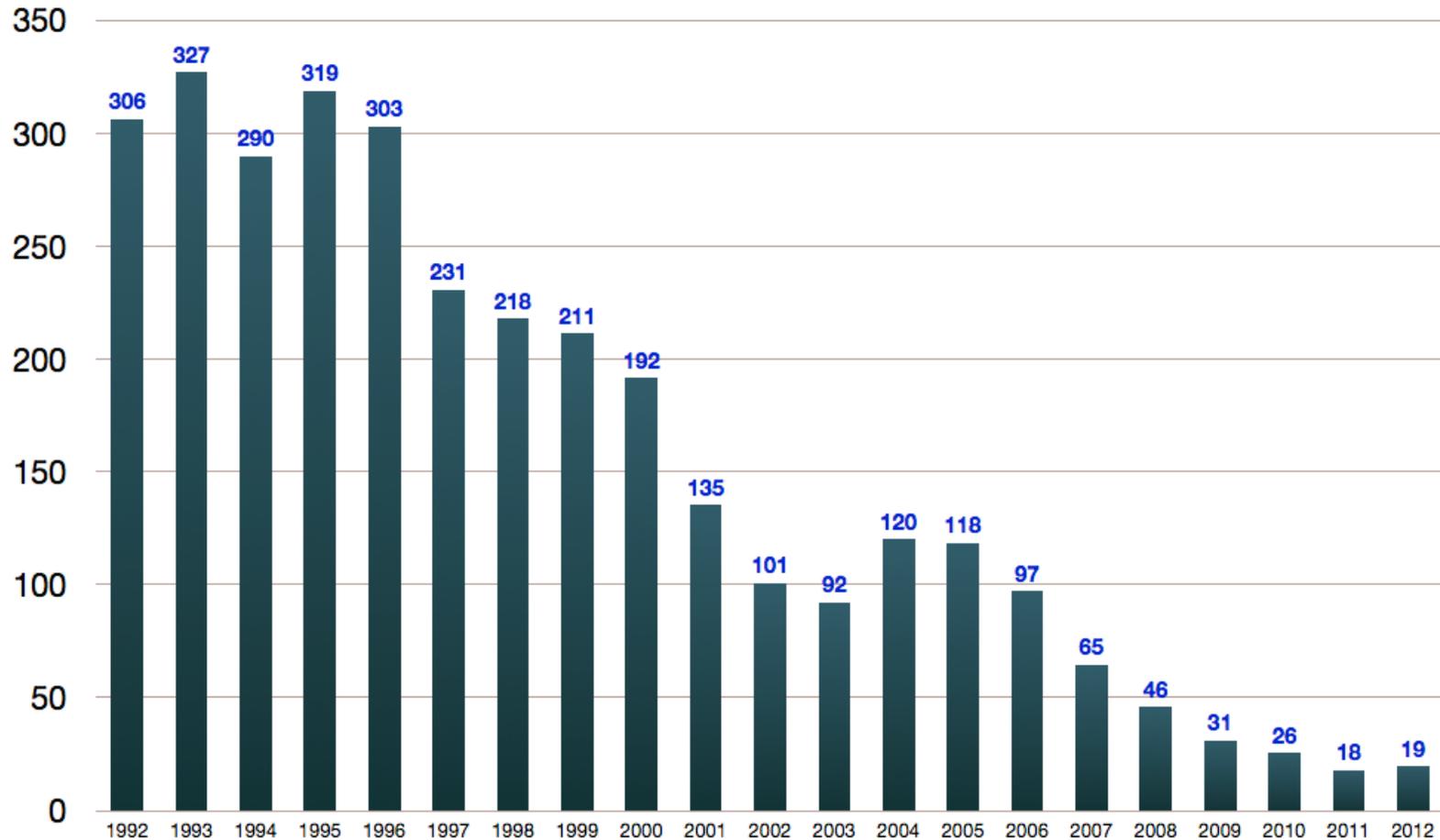
By 2011, Effectiveness Rate Already Over 90% in 4 of 9 Border Sectors

Year	Type	Big Bend	Del Rio	El Centro	El Paso	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	San Diego	Tucson	Yuma	Total
FY 2006	Apprehensions	83.42%	58.02%	58.40%	33.99%	62.60%	48.59%	52.54%	62.05%	56.99%	53.45%
	Turn backs	2.66%	4.94%	24.36%	38.95%	7.64%	6.84%	27.93%	4.88%	6.82%	15.66%
	Got aways	13.93%	37.03%	17.24%	27.07%	29.76%	44.56%	19.53%	33.07%	36.19%	30.89%
	Effectiveness	86.07%	62.97%	82.76%	72.93%	70.24%	55.44%	80.47%	66.93%	63.81%	69.11%
FY 2007	Apprehensions	86.24%	55.54%	59.00%	38.54%	50.58%	42.36%	57.16%	58.10%	67.81%	53.74%
	Turn backs	1.34%	13.10%	25.76%	48.26%	13.89%	10.24%	20.28%	5.81%	10.88%	15.99%
	Got aways	12.42%	31.36%	15.24%	13.20%	35.53%	47.40%	22.55%	36.09%	21.31%	30.27%
	Effectiveness	87.58%	68.64%	84.76%	86.80%	64.47%	52.60%	77.45%	63.91%	78.69%	69.73%
FY 2008	Apprehensions	79.51%	60.66%	66.45%	33.31%	53.84%	44.74%	64.26%	58.93%	64.12%	56.49%
	Turn backs	1.83%	11.59%	17.07%	59.37%	23.88%	12.47%	17.72%	9.00%	23.48%	16.42%
	Got aways	18.66%	27.74%	16.48%	7.32%	22.28%	42.79%	18.02%	32.08%	12.40%	27.09%
	Effectiveness	81.34%	72.26%	83.52%	92.68%	77.72%	57.21%	81.98%	67.92%	87.60%	72.91%
FY 2009	Apprehensions	71.44%	69.56%	68.63%	29.88%	48.70%	44.65%	69.19%	58.86%	65.71%	57.23%
	Turn backs	2.00%	12.23%	19.06%	64.51%	35.12%	15.94%	17.58%	12.44%	26.04%	18.96%
	Got aways	26.55%	18.21%	12.31%	5.62%	16.18%	39.41%	13.23%	28.70%	8.25%	23.81%
	Effectiveness	73.45%	81.79%	87.69%	94.38%	83.82%	60.59%	86.77%	71.30%	91.75%	76.19%
FY 2010	Apprehensions	69.45%	69.16%	73.42%	33.07%	53.71%	45.02%	71.66%	62.41%	74.40%	59.37%
	Turn backs	3.56%	16.77%	15.32%	62.64%	33.04%	18.11%	18.06%	15.38%	20.41%	19.95%
	Got aways	26.99%	14.08%	11.25%	4.28%	13.24%	36.87%	10.28%	22.21%	5.19%	20.69%
	Effectiveness	73.01%	85.92%	88.75%	95.72%	86.76%	63.13%	89.72%	77.79%	94.81%	79.31%
FY 2011	Apprehensions	62.28%	69.90%	79.01%	35.92%	59.78%	48.48%	75.78%	64.34%	74.36%	61.31%
	Turn backs	5.69%	16.56%	11.53%	60.45%	24.17%	22.36%	16.08%	22.53%	19.38%	22.67%
	Got aways	32.03%	13.54%	9.46%	3.63%	16.05%	29.16%	8.14%	13.13%	6.26%	16.02%
	Effectiveness	67.97%	86.46%	90.54%	96.37%	83.95%	70.84%	91.86%	86.87%	93.74%	83.98%



“Border Security Is the Key to Immigration Reform. So How Do We Measure It?,” *WonkBlog*, June 21, 2013;
 “Border Patrol: Key Elements of New Strategic Plan Not Yet in Place to Inform Border Security Status and Resource Needs,” GAO, Dec. 2012

Apprehensions per Border Patrol Agent, 1992-2012



NEW
POLICY
INSTITUTE

Washington Office on Latin America - Border Fact Check