Unaccompanied Children and Families at the Southwest Border

October 2016
Poverty and Crime in Central America

Unemployment and Poverty Rates in 2014

- **United States**: 6%
- **El Salvador**: 7%
- **Guatemala**: 3%
- **Honduras**: 8%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
<th>Poverty Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
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Homicide Rate Per 100,000 People

- **United States**: 4.9
- **Guatemala**: 30
- **Honduras**: 57
- **El Salvador**: 103

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Honduras</td>
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<td>103</td>
</tr>
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<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>103</td>
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This map shows the number of migrants from Central America and Mexico apprehended within Border Patrol sectors between October 2014 and September 2016

- Unaccompanied Children
- Mothers and Children
- Total number of migrants
In FY15, Mexico apprehended 165,000 Central American migrants at their southern border.
In FY13, the total number of families crossing the border was 14,855. During FY14 the number of Central Americans crossing was so high they began breaking out by nationality.
1. Central American families (mostly mothers with their children) and Unaccompanied Children are apprehended at border and detained by Customs and Border Protection; Unaccompanied Children must be released within 72 hours.

2. Unaccompanied Children are sent to Office of Refugee Resettlement shelters around the U.S.; there are 22 main organizations in TX where children stay an average of 30 days. Mothers and their families are sent to Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention Centers.

3. Unaccompanied Children and families are sent to a relative or sponsor to wait for their immigration hearing; courts are in Dallas, El Paso, Harlingen, Houston, Pearsall, Port Isabel or San Antonio.
Top 5 Counties with Children Released to Sponsors

- Harris Co. (Houston): 9,204
- Los Angeles Co.: 8,064
- Suffolk Co. (NYC): 3,709
- Miami-Dade Co.: 3,483
- Prince George's Co. (D.C.): 3,412
Texas Immigration Court Outcomes

22,768 children without representation

- 25% Removal Order: child barred from returning for a period of years or permanently
- 3% Voluntary Departure: child required to leave but not barred from returning
- 5% Terminate Proceedings: finds that DHS has not established the child is removable; child can remain
- 7% Grant Relief: law entitles child to relief from removal, i.e. asylum; child can remain
- 7% Other Closure: judge decides not to deport child, includes temporary protected status
- 66% Pending

18,378 children with representation

- 27% Removal Order: child barred from returning for a period of years or permanently
- 22% Voluntary Departure: child required to leave but not barred from returning
- 19% Terminate Proceedings: finds that DHS has not established the child is removable; child can remain
- 18% Grant Relief: law entitles child to relief from removal, i.e. asylum; child can remain
- 7% Other Closure: judge decides not to deport child, includes temporary protected status
- 1% Pending

22,378 children without representation

22,768 children with representation
References

InSight Crime: Investigation and Analysis of Organized Crime; InDepth Homicides
http://www.insightcrime.org/indepth/homicides

Office of Refugee Resettlement’s Administration for Children and Families; Children Released to Sponsors by State

Syracuse University’s Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse; Juveniles in Immigration Court
http://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/juvenile/

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; CEPALSTAT Databases and Statistical Publications
http://estadisticas.cepal.org/cepalstat/WEB_CEPALSTAT/perfilesNacionales.asp?idioma=i

U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Southwest Border Unaccompanied Children

The Washington Office on Latin America; Increases in Child and Family Migration from Central America