



The Myth of Immigration 'Non-Enforcement'

The United States now spends nearly \$20 billion on immigration enforcement each year, and annually deports about 400,000 people. Though enforcement is at a peak—not only in deportations but many other areas—some critics insist that immigration enforcement is on the decline, or not happening at all. This fact sheet addresses this myth of non-enforcement. Moreover, the rapid expansion of immigration enforcement has resulted in a decline in the accountability and consistency of enforcement practices and has compromised core American principles such as fairness, equal treatment, and due process.

THE DRAMATIC INCREASE IN ENFORCEMENT

- In the first five years of the Obama administration, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has removed a record 2 million people at a time when net migration from Mexico to the United States is at or near zero and border crossings are near a 40-year low.
- Federal criminal prosecutions of immigration-related offenses are at the highest point in history—up 468 percent from FY2003.
- Immigration detention continues to rise and now totals about 430,000 individuals each year, at a cost of \$2 billion annually to American taxpayers.
- Since 2006, Congress has funded a near-doubling of Border Patrol agents at U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), from 12,185 to a peak of 21,444 in 2011.
- The number of civil immigration detainers issued by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) jumped from just 15,000 in FY2007 to over 250,000 in FY2012.
- Removals without due process—without any opportunity to see an immigration judge—have risen exponentially and now account for more than 70 percent of annual removals.

Questions? Contact AILA Advocacy Director **Greg Chen** at gchen@aila.org



DHS REMOVAL ORDERS

Total number of people removed from the country by year



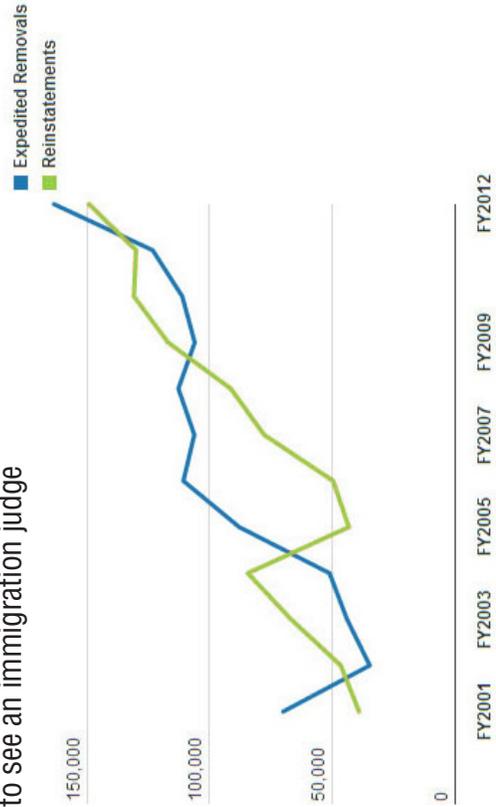
IMMIGRATION DETENTION

Number of people in immigration detention



'NO-PROCESS' REMOVALS

People removed without an opportunity to see an immigration judge



FEDERAL CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS

Prosecutions for unlawful entry and re-entry

