

Detentions and Deportations

by Becky Kimble 4/1/2025

Since President Donald Trump resumed office in January 2025, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforcement and detention operations have become terrifyingly intense and publicized. As of March 23, 2025, ICE reported holding 47,892 individuals in detention—a notable, if less dramatic than expected, increase from the 39,703 detainees recorded on January 12, 2025, just before the administration change.

Arrests and Detentions

On March 12, 2025, the New York Post announced that in just the first 50 days of President Trump's new term, ICE arrested approximately 32,000 migrants. They noted in bold print that, of these, approximately 70% had pending charges or prior criminal convictions, while the remaining 30% had no criminal record. However, and importantly, put another way, only 14,111 of the 32,809 people in custody have ANY previous criminal record before their arrest, and 8,918 individuals are not even being charged with anything. TraclImmigration, a watch center affiliated with Syracuse University, reported that as of March 23, 2025, even fewer individuals apprehended by ICE had committed any wrongdoing. They note 47,892 individuals held in detention, and 23,014, or 48%, have no records— not even a traffic violation.

Detention Facilities and Conditions

The expansion of detention operations has raised concerns about overcrowding and conditions within facilities. For instance, the Krome North Processing Detention Center in Miami has been reported to house approximately 200 individuals in a space designed for 85, resulting in significant overcrowding. A reporter for Axios Miami spoke to a man at the facility, who stated that people were sleeping on the floors and by toilets. [Mobilize.us](#) organized a rally on March 29, 2025. NBC 6 South Florida reported that hundreds of people gathered in protest outside the detention center. Center officials acknowledged the overcrowding, but little more is known to have improved.

Additionally, the administration plans to expand the Guantanamo Migrant Operations Center to detain up to 30,000 migrants, a move that faces legal and humanitarian challenges. The center's history was described by the United Nations in 2022 as the site of 'unrelenting human rights violations.'

Legal and Humanitarian Concerns

While many argue that these policies violate fundamental rights, including due process and protection against forced return to dangerous conditions, supporters consider the actions essential to preserving national security. Upholding strict immigration laws in this manner is viewed as a key deterrent and a hallmark of a strong sovereign nation. Unfortunately, the data supporting this is minimal.



AP Photo/Alex Brandon. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem

The American Immigration Council notes that in 2023, undocumented immigrants paid nearly \$ 90 billion in state and federal taxes and maintains that immigrants are less likely to be criminals than natural-born Americans. Human Rights Watch reminds us that across the globe, harsh border policies cause more harm than they prevent, as they do nothing to address the underlying causes that put people in these situations in the first place. In 2023, the World Bank identified economic opportunity as the primary reason why people leave their homes. Expanding wealth inequality, climate change, conflict, and violence, including discrimination and lack of opportunities, all play a role in why people take the chance of extortion, injury, and potential eventual deportation, all in the hopes of getting somewhere better.

Conclusion

The current administration's immigration policies have led to a modest increase in ICE detainee numbers since January 2025, but given the scare tactics and media coverage — not as much as one might think. Furthermore, while officials claim that these measures enhance national security, the evidence suggests otherwise.

Read more about this:

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