



# Archived Content

In an effort to keep DHS.gov current, this document has been archived and contains outdated information that may not reflect current policy or programs.



# “Immigration: Perception versus Reality”

James A. Baker III  
Institute for Public Policy  
June 8, 2015



Homeland  
Security

# The Public Perception

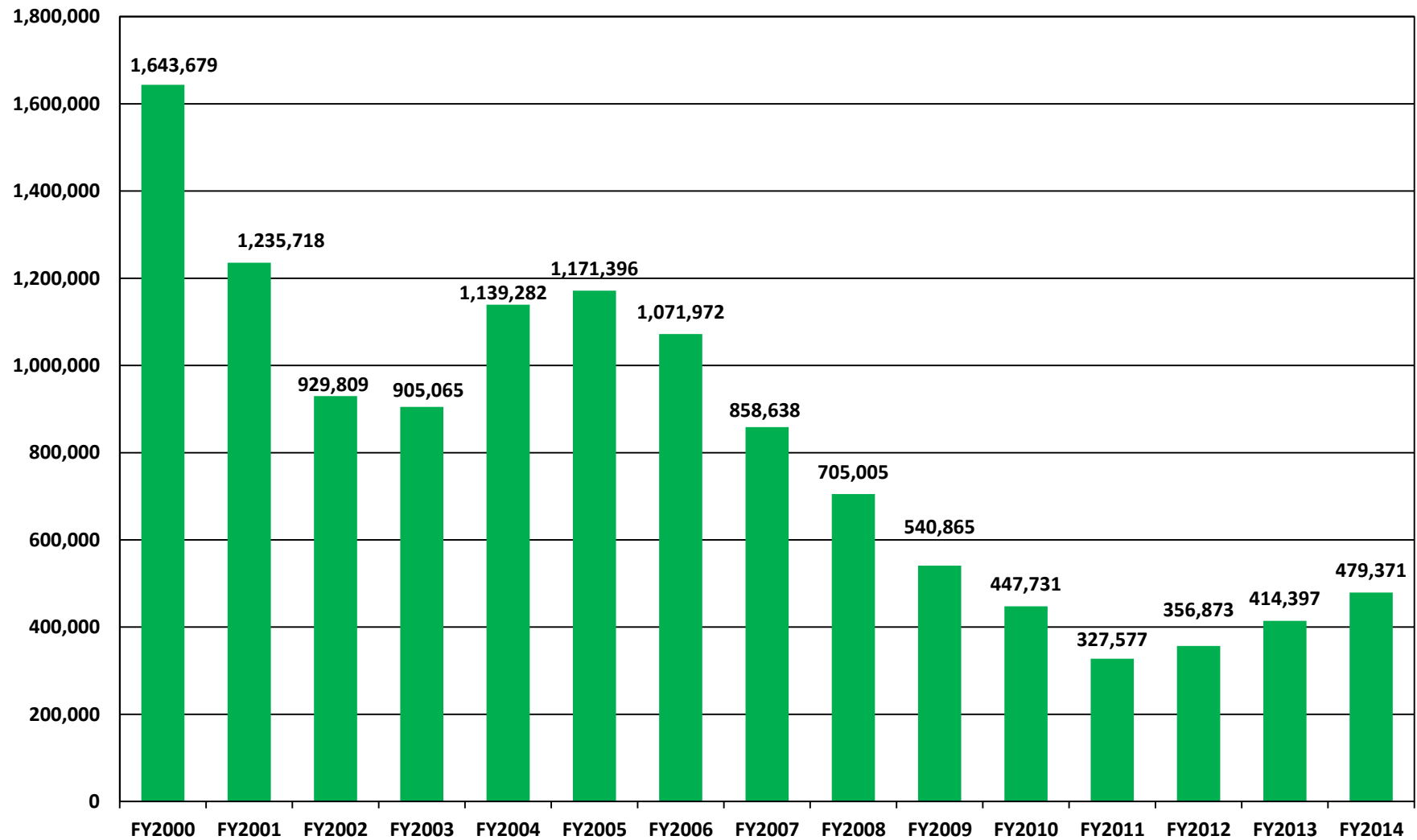
June 2013 Survey

*“Just your best guess—compared with ten years ago, do you think the number of immigrants entering the U.S. illegally today is higher, lower, or about the same?”*

55% ----- Higher  
15% ----- Lower  
27% ----- About the same  
3% ----- Unsure or refused to answer

# Southwest Border

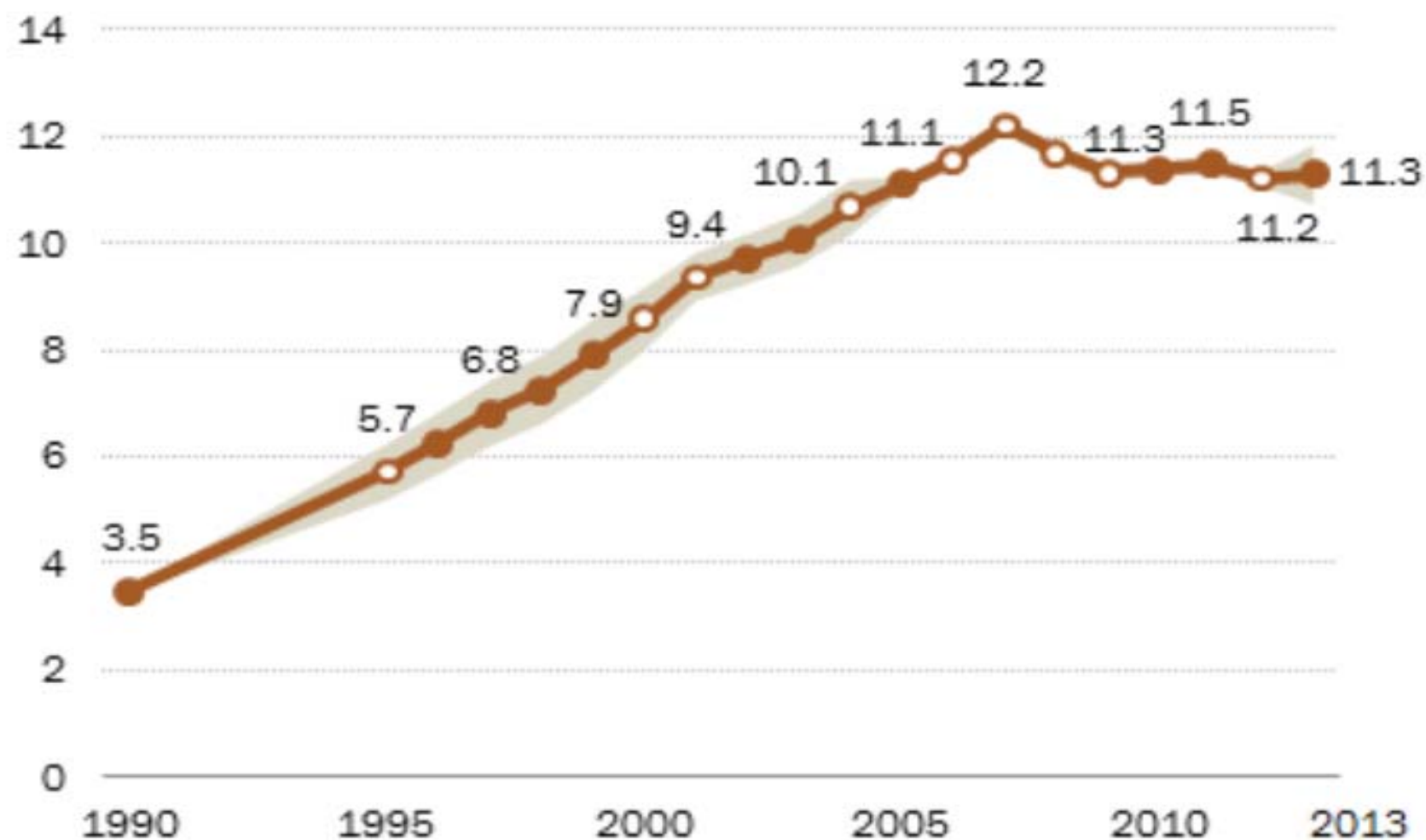
## USBP Apprehensions FY2000 – FY2014





## Growth in Unauthorized Immigration Has Levelled Off

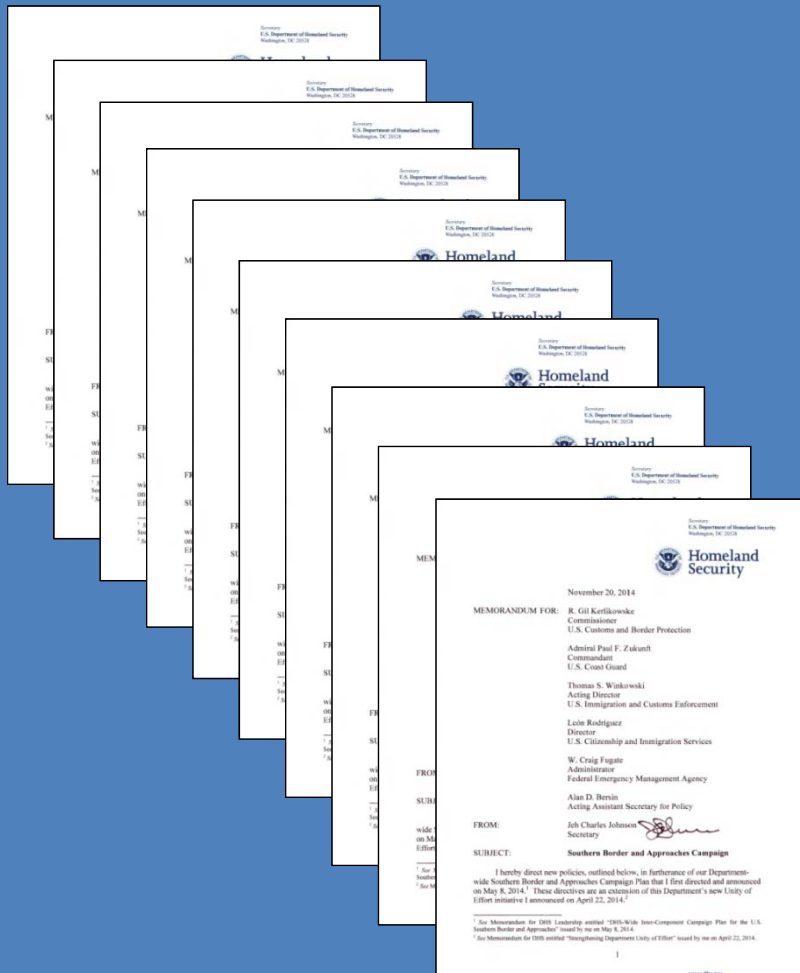
*In millions*



PEW RESEARCH CENTER

# Fixing Our Immigration System

- Immigrant accountability
- Prioritizing felons over families
- Prioritizing border security
- Southern Border Campaign Plan
- Ending Secure Communities
- Pay reform for ICE ERO personnel
- Helping military families
- Promoting access to citizenship
- Supporting high-skilled workers
- Consistency in legal guidance



Homeland  
Security

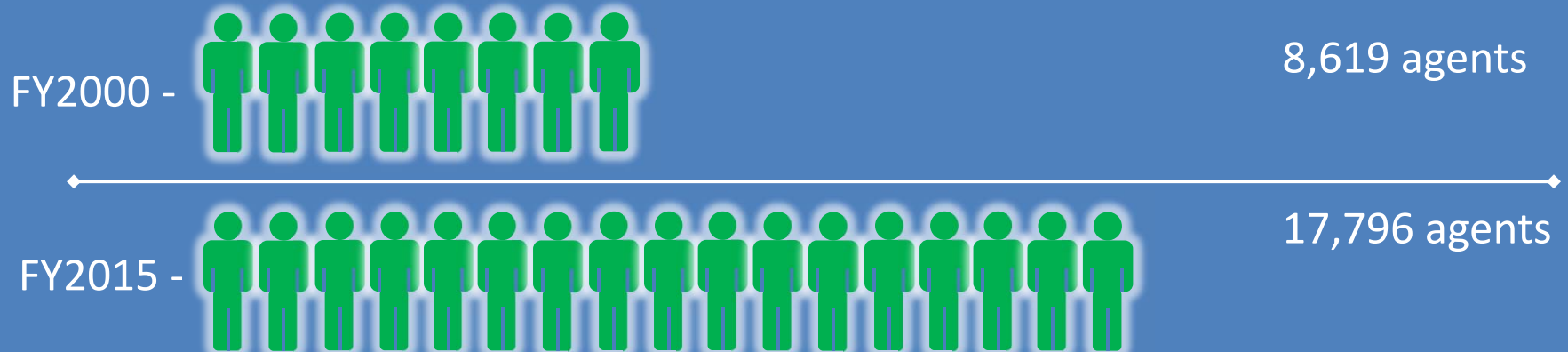
# Today's Border Patrol



\$3.5 billion budget/ 22,000 personnel/ 20,499 agents



# Border Patrol Agents on the Southern Border



# Total Fence on the Southern Border

FY2000 –  77 miles

Today –  700 miles



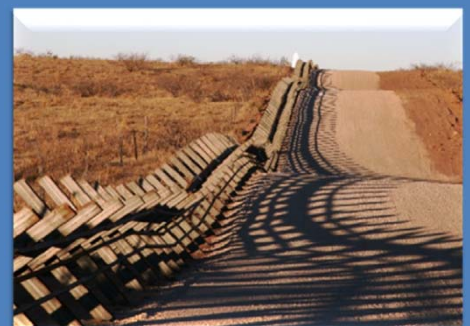
Primary Fence



Secondary Fence



Tertiary Fence



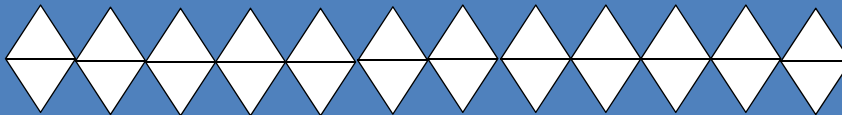


# Underground Sensors



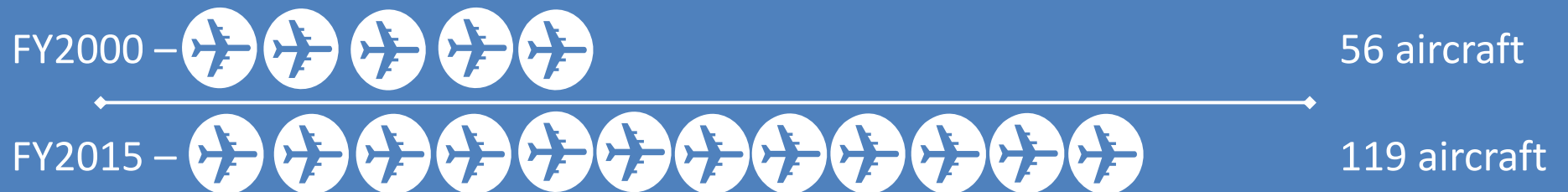
FY2000 – n/a

FY2015 –



11,863

# Aircraft



# Unmanned Aerial Systems



FY2000 –

0 systems

FY2015 –



6 systems

# Mobile Surveillance System



FY2000 – 

1 system

FY2015 –



39 systems



# Mobile Video Surveillance System



FY2000 – n/a

FY2015 – 

179 systems

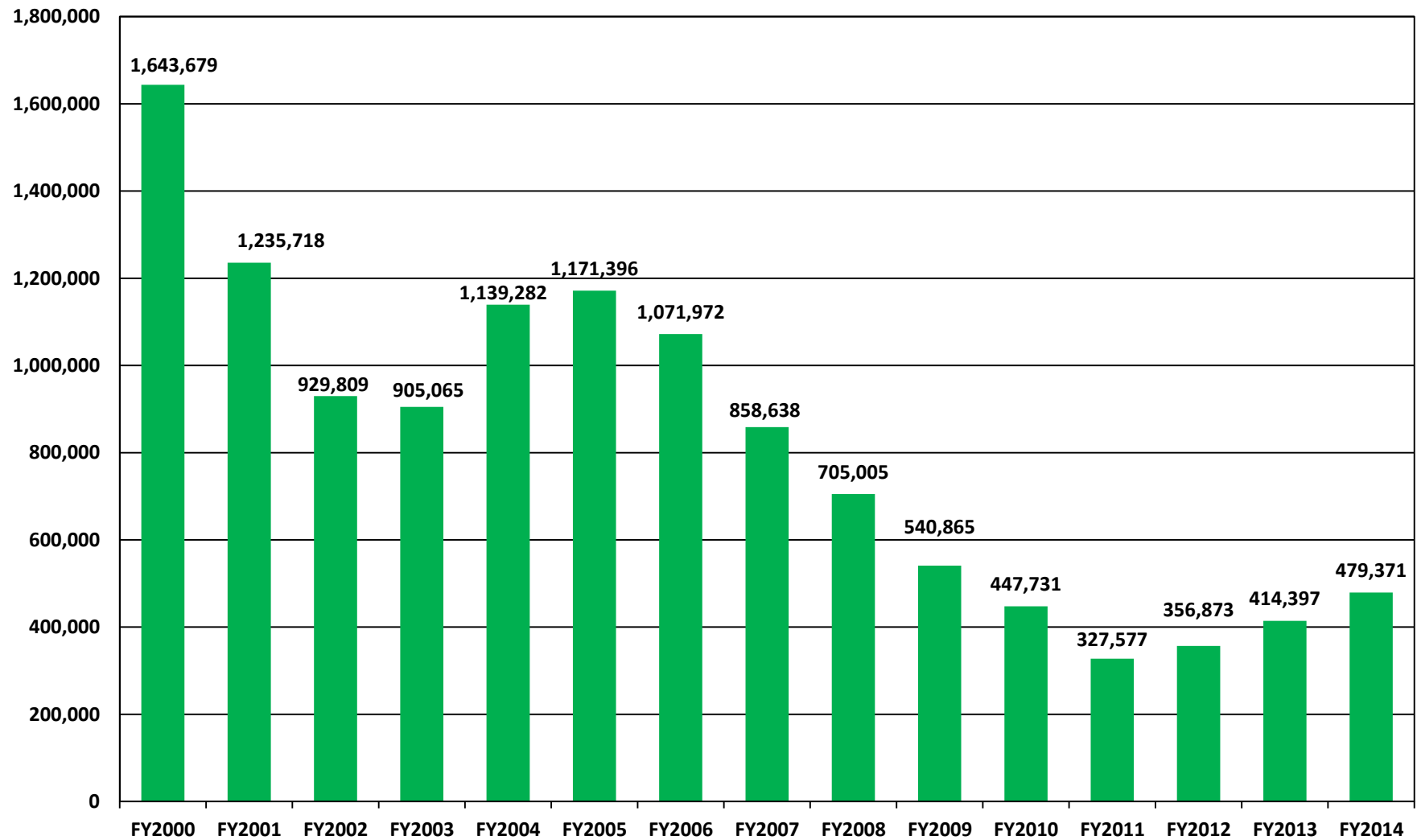


# Remote Video Surveillance Systems



# Southwest Border

## USBP Apprehensions FY2000 – FY2014



# The Response

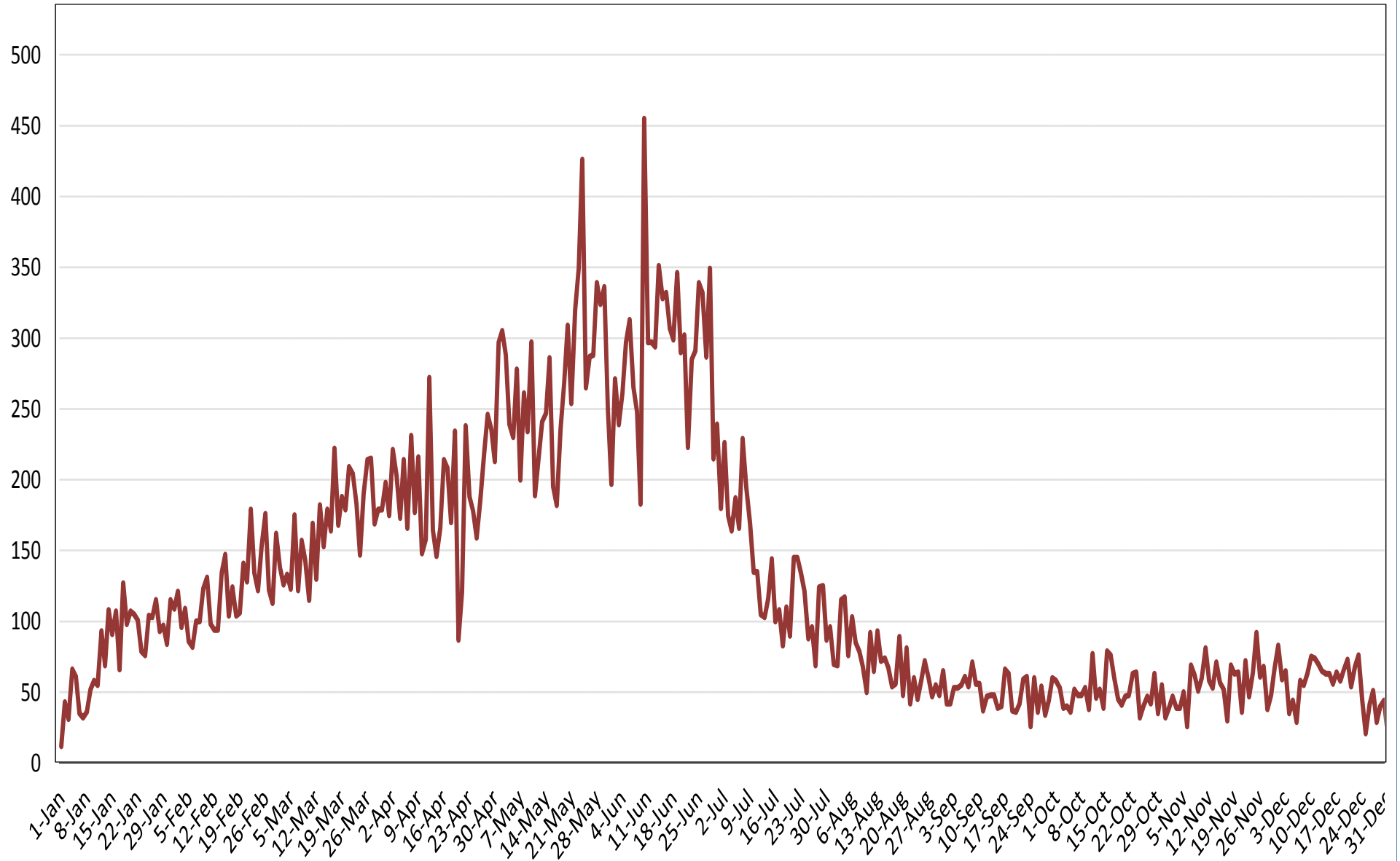
- More security and law enforcement resources into South Texas
- More processing centers
- More Border Patrol agents into RGV
- Reduced time to repatriate adults
- More prosecutions of criminal smuggling organizations
- Public messaging campaign
- Engagement of Mexican and Central American leaders
- Established in-country refugee processing centers
- More detention space



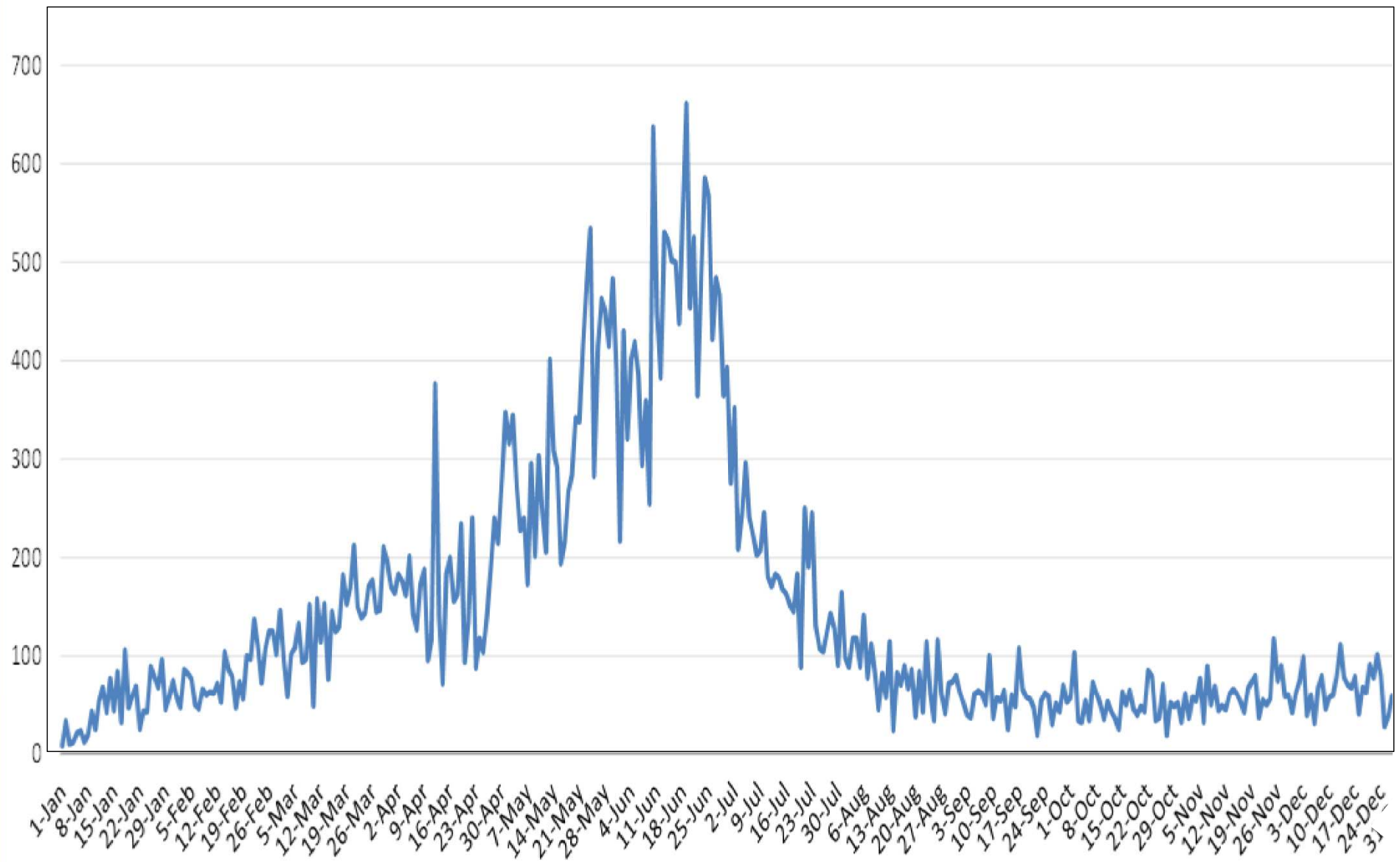
Homeland  
Security

## CBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector Unaccompanied Children Apprehensions

2021



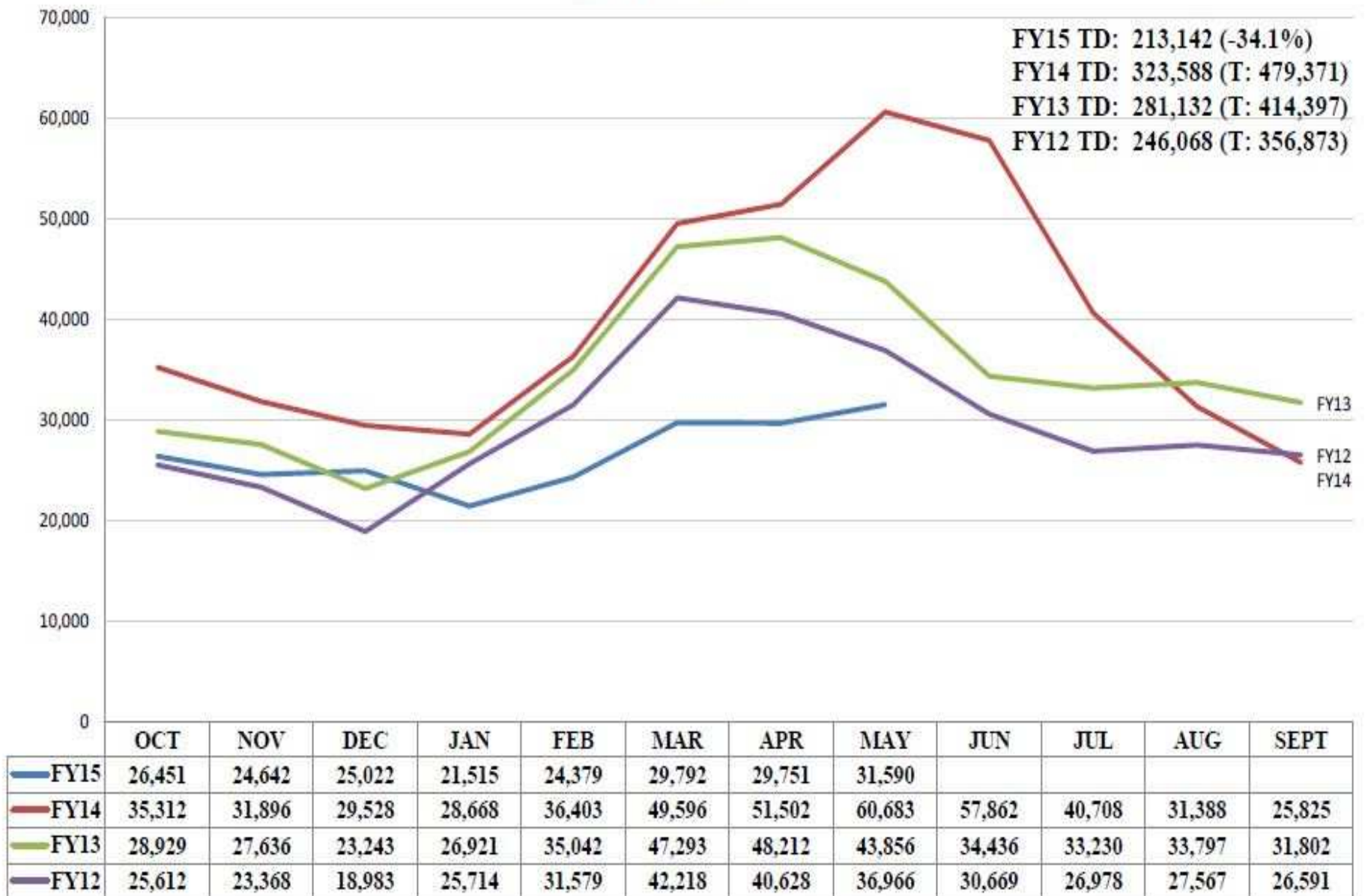
## CBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector Family Unit Apprehensions 2014





**United States Border Patrol  
Southwest Border Apprehensions  
Total (FY12 - 15)**

FY15 TD: 213,142 (-34.1%)  
 FY14 TD: 323,588 (T: 479,371)  
 FY13 TD: 281,132 (T: 414,397)  
 FY12 TD: 246,068 (T: 356,873)



\*Fiscal year 2015 apprehensions are 34.1% lower than fiscal year 2014.

# The Future

- Implementing a Risk Based Strategy
- Better Technology
- More Equipment
- Enhanced Detection Capability
- More Resources
- More Aid to Central America



Homeland  
Security

# Fixing Our Immigration System

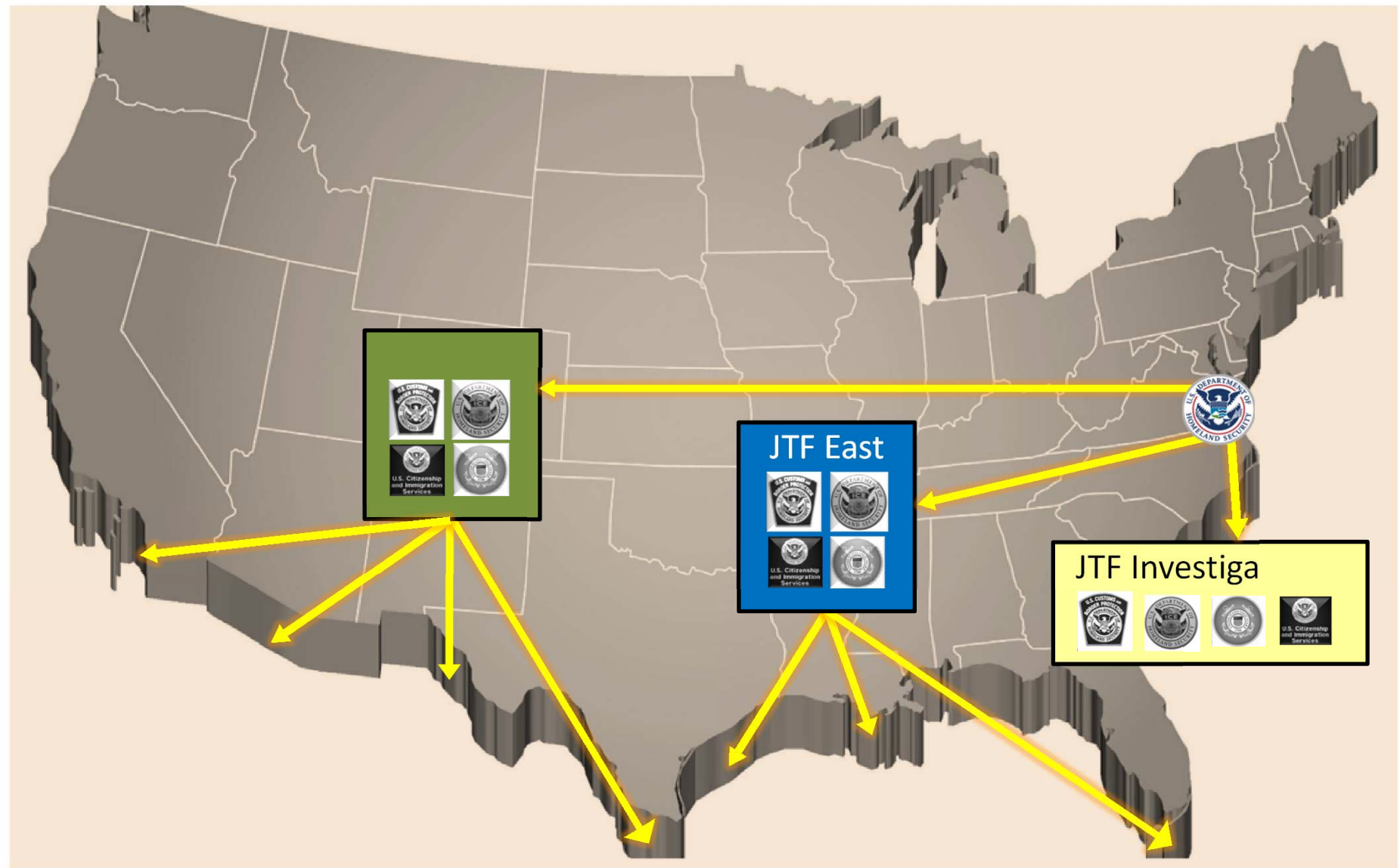


- Immigrant accountability
- Prioritizing felons over families
- Prioritizing border security
- Southern Border Campaign Plan
- Ending Secure Communities
- Pay reform for ICE ERO personnel
- Helping military families
- Promoting access to citizenship
- Supporting high-skilled workers
- Consistency in legal guidance



Homeland  
Security

# The Southern Border Campaign Plan



# Fixing Our Immigration System



- Immigrant accountability
- Prioritizing felons over families
- Prioritizing border security
- Southern Border Campaign Plan
- Ending Secure Communities
- Pay reform for ICE ERO personnel
- Helping military families
- Promoting access to citizenship
- Supporting high-skilled workers
- Consistency in legal guidance

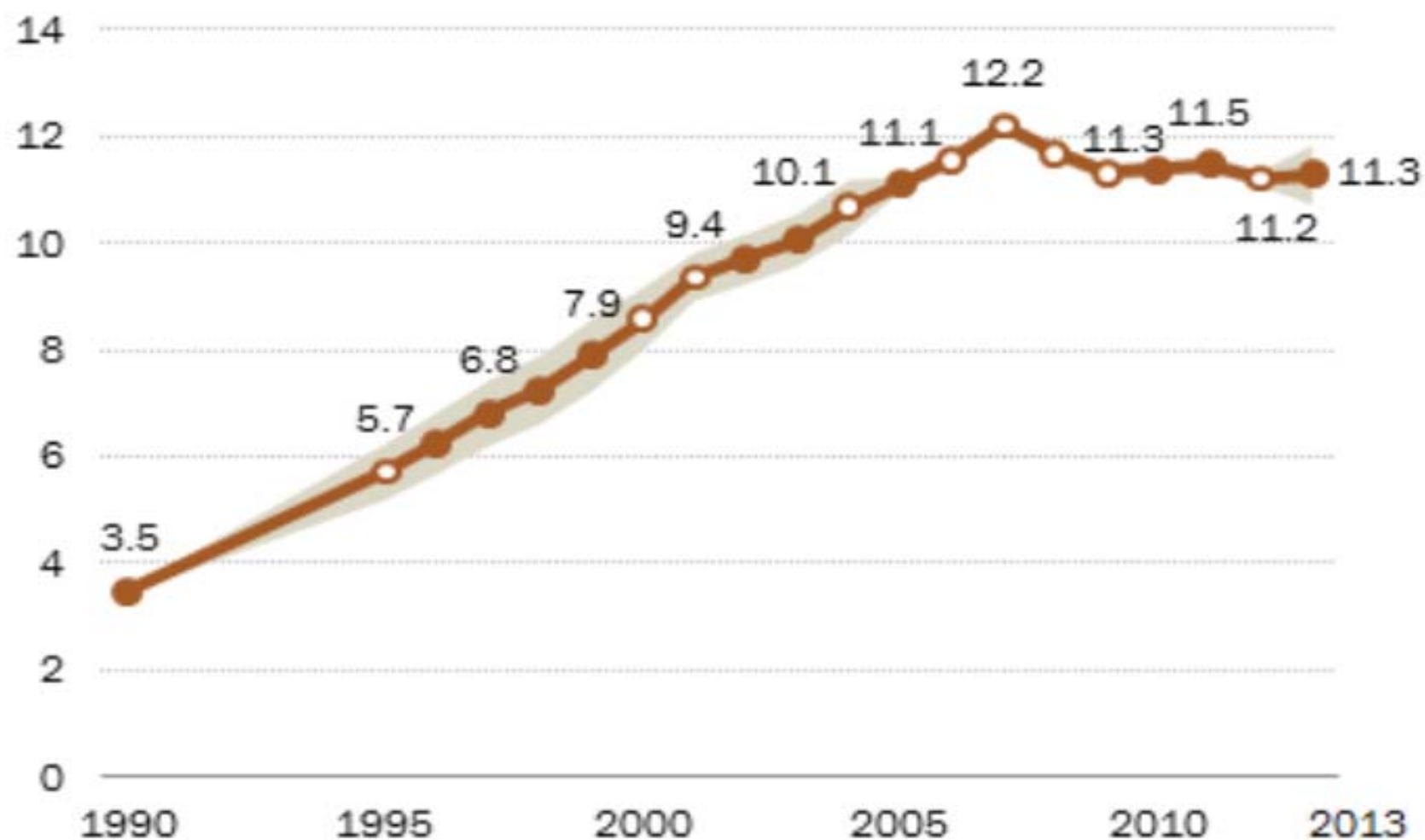


Homeland  
Security



## Growth in Unauthorized Immigration Has Levelled Off

*In millions*



PEW RESEARCH CENTER

# Conclusion