



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Southwest Land Border Encounters

The goal of this data dictionary is to provide insight into how users should read and analyze the raw data available for download.

I. Tips when working with Encounter data:

1. Statistical information is subject to change due to corrections, systems changes, change in data definition, additional information, or encounters pending final review.
2. The data represents encounters at the Southwest Land Border (e.g., U.S. Border Patrol [USBP] Sector, Office of Field Operations [OFO] Field Office); it is not available at the level of individual areas of responsibility (AOR), ports of entry (POE), stations, etc.

II. Data Dictionary

1. Data Source: Secure Government Integrated Mainframe Access (SIGMA), Unified Secondary (USEC); Enforcement Integrated Database (EID)
2. Data Elements:

Data Variable	Description	Examples
Fiscal Year	The fiscal year the encounter took place	2018 2019 2020 2021 (FYTD)
Month Grouping	Allows for comparisons between completed FY months vs. those remaining	FYTD Remaining
Month (abv)	The month the encounter took place (abbreviated)	JAN FEB MAR
Component	Who in CBP was involved in the encounter	Office of Field Operations (OFO) U.S. Border Patrol (USBP)
Demographic	Categories under which individuals were encountered based on factors such as age, admissibility, and relationship	Accompanied Minors ¹ Single Adults Unaccompanied Children / Single Minors (UC / Single Minors) Individuals in a Family Unit ² (FMUA)
Citizenship Grouping	Citizenship of the individual encountered	El Salvador Guatemala Honduras Mexico Other

¹ Accompanied Minor represents a child accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and the parent or legal guardian is either a U.S. Citizen, Lawful Permanent Resident, or admissible noncitizen, and the child is determined to be inadmissible. Accompanied minors is a demographic used only by OFO.

² FMUA represents the number of encountered individuals within the family unit, not the number of units. A Family Unit is defined as a least one noncitizen minor child and at least one noncitizen adult parent or legal guardian. For example, a family unit consisting of two or more individuals is encountered. The data would show two or more individuals, not one family unit. Beginning in March 2020, FMUA data also includes Title 42 Expulsions of a family group of at least one child and one related adult (regardless of whether the adult and child met the definition of a family unit).



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Title of Authority	The authority under which the noncitizen was processed ³	Title 8 Title 42
Encounter Type	The category of encounter based on Title of Authority and component <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Title 8 for USBP = Apprehensions;• Title 8 for OFO = Inadmissibles;• Title 42 = Expulsions	Apprehensions Expulsions Inadmissibles
Encounter Count	The number of individuals encountered	(Discrete variable)

³ CBP has been assisting in enforcing the CDC Order, pursuant to Title 42, by USBP and OFO starting 3/21/2020 and 3/27/2020, respectively.