

## Record deportations announced by federal immigration authorities and new guidance on immigration holds



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**Update at 6:17 p.m. December 21:** About 15,000 of the nation's record deportations came from the North Texas and Oklahoma regions.

**Original at 6:03 p.m. December 21:** Immigration and Customs Enforcement says it set a record in deportations—410,000 in the last fiscal year, compared with 397,000 in the prior year.

The release this Friday afternoon, highlighting get-tough measures, comes as Congress is expected to tackle an overhaul of the nation's immigration laws in 2013. During the last four fiscal years, a record 1.59 million persons were deported.

Key debate points on Capitol Hill are likely to be increased enforcement and a legalization program with a citizenship pathway for a portion of the 11 million illegal immigrants in the U.S.

ICE, a Dept. of Homeland Security agency, also said 55 percent of those removed were convicted of felonies or misdemeanors and that's double the removal of those with criminal convictions in 2008, at the start of the Obama years.

The ACLU, however, noted "almost half" of those deported had no criminal records. Fractured families have been at the center of many arguments as the deportation crackdown deepened during the Obama presidency.

No breakdown was given yet for those who faced misdemeanor criminal charges for entry into the U.S. without inspection, or felony charges for reentry into the U.S. within inspection. Leveling such charges were part of a crackdown started during the Bush years at the Texas border, and it resulted in immigration cases filling the federal criminal court system.

ICE did detail crimes involving violence or drugs. It said about 40,000 persons were convicted for crimes involving drugs, followed by 36,000 convicted for driving under the influence, 5,500 convicted of sexual offenses and 1,200 convicted of homicide.

ICE also said it would scrap certain 287 (g) programs that deal with task forces. The city of Carrollton has a 287 (g) program that deals with jails so it will not be impacted, said Police Chief Rex Redden in an email tonight. On the ICE website, ICE says it has a task force agreement with the city of Farmers Branch.

ICE said its Secure Communities program, which checks federal databases on criminal activity and immigration issues, is a "more efficient use of resources for focusing on priority cases."

ICE also announced new guidance on detainers—a controversial practice among Latino and Asian-American communities. The ACLU called it a "step in the right direction."

Source: <http://thescoopblog.dallasnews.com/2012/12/record-deportations-announced-by-federal-immigration-authorities-and-new-guidance-on-immigration-holds.html/>