

# JOINED TOGETHER, TORN APART

HOW U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICIES ARE SEPARATING FAMILIES



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## Why Families?

“  
What God has joined together in marriage, human institutions should not separate.  
”

In Genesis 2, the first institution that God establishes is not the government or even the church; it is the family. God makes his promises to individuals, yes, but works through the family, and it is family units that are held accountable for the sins or blessed for the righteousness of previous generations. In the New Testament, Jesus makes abundantly clear that what God has joined together in marriage, human institutions should not separate (Matthew 19:6, Mark 10:9). Both our Christian faith and decades of research are clear that, generally, the best environment for a child is an intact family, with a married mother and father, leading to “better physical, cognitive, and emotional outcomes, on average, than children who are raised in other circumstances.”

Sadly, through the brokenness of the world, families are sometimes torn apart by death or conflict. When that happens, God calls his people to care for the surviving members, and he does not draw a distinction between his chosen people and foreigners. Throughout the Old Testament, God continually refers to three groups — orphans, widows and foreigners — as having a special place in his heart (Deuteronomy 10:17-19, Psalm 146:9, Jeremiah 22:3, Zechariah 7:10, among others). He commands God’s people to defend these groups, to include them in the life of the community and not to oppress them.



Photo: A mother plays with her young child at a World Relief office.

Jesus elaborates on this pattern by welcoming these “little ones” (Matthew 10:42), lifting up the needs of widows (Mark 12:40), and showing that the King will truly know us by how we welcome the stranger (Matthew 25:35). James 1:27 says that looking after orphans and widows is the religion our Father considers pure and faultless. In his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul uses three metaphors to unpack the mystery of the gospel, from being orphaned to being adopted as the children of God (Ephesians 1:5), describing the church as the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:31-32), and how those who were once alienated from the people of God but have become fellow citizens (Ephesians 2:19).

In actively helping these vulnerable groups, we display the very nature of the gospel, just as Christ did when we were apart from God’s grace as orphans, widows and strangers.

For the Christian — especially those living under forms of government that allow for civic engagement — these principles carry over into the formation of policy. That’s why **nine out of 10 evangelical Christians** and **95 percent of evangelical pastors** tell Lifeway Research that immigration policies addressing illegal immigration should protect the unity of the immediate family.

This report is not saying that all deportations are unjust or unwarranted. However, when in the course of enforcing immigration or border security policies, husbands are separated from wives and wives from husbands, or children from their mother, father or both parents, not only is the family unit violated, but the remaining U.S. citizen members often end up in orphan- or widow-like situations — at least temporarily and sometimes permanently — creating the very objects of mercy to which Scripture repeatedly calls the church to minister.

“  
In actively helping these vulnerable groups, we display the very nature of the gospel, just as Christ did when we were apart from God’s grace as orphans, widows and strangers.  
”

## Setting the Stage

### refugee



An individual who has had to flee their country of origin and demonstrates a credible fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular group.

Once resettled through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, they are automatically legally present and work authorized. Refugees are allowed and required to apply for Lawful Permanent Resident status one year after arrival and generally are eligible to apply for naturalization five years after arrival.

### lawful permanent resident (green card)



Permission to remain permanently in the U.S.

Lawful Permanent Residents generally qualify to apply for naturalization after five years in that status, with some exceptions.

In the first year of President Trump's second administration, a conflict emerged between one of his signature campaign promises and a core priority for many of his supporters. From day one, the administration took steps to secure the border and restrict longstanding legal immigration processes, making it much harder for refugees and other immigrants to enter the country, whether legally or illegally. In parallel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) also began to carry out an indiscriminate "mass deportation" policy that went far beyond the announced intention to remove dangerous criminals.

While many of the Christians who voted for the president certainly desire secure borders and enforced immigration laws, many of the methods employed to enforce immigration policies run counter to protecting family unity. Various new policies, which have both actively separated families and prevented them from being reunited, are unnecessary and create avoidable harm. They violate the sanctity of relationships that have been established by God and which human authorities have no right to rend apart.

These policies have similar effects to a policy that President Trump ultimately terminated in June 2018, that separated thousands of minor children from their parents along the U.S.-Mexico border as a part of a "zero tolerance" border policy. Evangelical [leaders](#), among many others, condemned the effects of this policy, which was [opposed](#) by the majority of white evangelical voters — and most were pleased when President Trump signed [an executive order](#) on June 20, 2018 modifying the policy. But family separation as a result of immigration policy shifts has re-emerged in the past year, in different ways but actually on a far larger scale than in 2018.

While the full extent of damage inflicted by these new policies is still unknown, story after story suggest that families are feeling the consequences. This report finds that if the planned immigration policies — mass deportation each year of **1 million immigrants** vulnerable to deportation and an indefinite pause on immigrant visas for **75 countries** — were carried out at the scope and scale that they're currently projected over the next several years, up to: **910,000 U.S. citizen children** would be separated from one or both of their parents; **272,000 U.S. citizen spouses** would be separated from their partner; and **150,000 spouses and children** would remain separat-

# 1.3 million individuals impacted

ed abroad from their U.S. citizen spouses and children, for a total of more than **1.3 million** by the end of the current administration in early 2029.

That's the equivalent of seeing the separation of every spouse from their partner, and every child from their parents, in a moderately-sized state like South Carolina or Kentucky.

To determine that sum, in the following pages of this report, we evaluate the scope and impact of these new immigration policies on the family, estimating the current and projected harm to children and spouses if these policies and approaches are not changed.

This report estimates the demographic and economic impact of current immigration policies on American families, including detention and deportation goals, travel bans, reunification delays and more. Then, we explore how the current approach to immigration policy and enforcement impacts the family unit. Finally, we address recommendations for changing these policies.



910,000

U.S. citizen children separated from one or both parents\*



272,000

U.S. citizen spouses separated from their partner\*



150,000

spouses and children remain separated abroad from their U.S. citizen spouses and children\*

\*by early 2029, according to current projections

## Immigration Policies Actively Separating Families



Photo: A family meets with an Immigration Legal Services counselor.

“ Under planned immigration policies, an estimated 910,000 U.S. citizen children will see one or both parents removed from the U.S. by 2029. ”

A core pillar of the administration’s immigration enforcement priorities includes removing vulnerable immigrants who are unlawfully present or who have had a temporary legal protection withdrawn. At the projected rate, the stated goal will have a catastrophic impact on family units, separate U.S. citizen children from caregivers, push households into poverty and dependence, and irrevocably harm the attachments that are so important to the development of children.

If the administration’s stated deportation goal of removing **1 million immigrants** vulnerable to deportation from the country each year is achieved, estimates show that by the end of the president’s term an estimated **910,000 U.S. citizen children** would see one or both parents removed from the United States and **272,000 U.S. citizens** would see their husbands or wives deported from the United States.

Just in the first seven months of the new administration, the detention of at least **11,000 parents of U.S. citizen minor children** [had already been verified](#). This is a bare minimum as many family situations of deported parents are unknown. While data collection and publication will lag behind actual detentions and deportations, it’s clear that overall detention rates [increased](#) in the latter half of the

first year of the new administration as Congress allocated [dramatic new resources](#) for that purpose.

There are rare cases when it is necessary, in the interest of public safety and child well-being, for the state to separate a child from his or her parents, such as when a parent has committed and been convicted of a serious criminal offense and must be incarcerated, or when there are well-founded allegations of harm.

But, in discussions about deporting vulnerable individuals based solely on their immigration status, the impact on families is something most Americans rarely consider. Those without deportation protections are largely immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for two or more decades, and so most have established families. For example, more than **1.2 million** have married U.S. citizen spouses, and many are ineligible to legalize their status under current policies without being separated for **10 years or longer**. In parallel, more than **4 million minor U.S. citizen children** have a parent vulnerable to deportation; contrary to a common misconception, having a U.S. citizen minor child does not qualify a parent for legal status under current law.

Our churches are already feeling the effects. At the beginning of 2025, we and several partners estimated that [one in 12 Christians](#) residing in the U.S. was at risk of deportation or had a family member at risk of deportation. Now, we're seeing this risk become reality as families have been ripped apart, either forcibly or under duress. The impact of family separation through deportation is horrifying for families, especially since the removal of a parent or spouse often means the removal of a provider, leaving many families in extreme poverty.

“More than 1.2 million immigrants without deportation protections have married U.S. citizen spouses, and many are ineligible to legalize their status under current policies without being separated for 10 years or longer.”

“  
Further, in a government designed to be responsive to its citizens, Christians have an extra responsibility to exercise their influence.”

### What about Romans 13?

Some Christians read portions of Romans 13, where Paul instructs Christians to submit to governmental authorities (Romans 13:1), as a blanket affirmation of civil rulers' decisions, which must not be questioned or opposed. While this passage certainly affirms the right of secular governmental powers to govern, Paul also exhorts governments to be a terror to the wrong-doer, not to those who follow the law (Romans 13:3). Where immigration enforcement fails to honor due process and protect the dignity of each life it touches, it violates the principles at the heart of Paul's framework for the role of secular authorities.

Further, in a government designed to be responsive to its citizens, Christians have an extra responsibility to exercise their influence to implore lawmakers to fix policies and laws that harm families. Evangelical Christians affirm the rule of law — but the large majority also believe that a just penalty for overstaying a visa or for crossing the border unlawfully could be the payment of a significant fine, rather than a family-separating deportation.

According to Lifeway Research, more than [three-quarters of evangelical Christians](#) overall, and [82 percent of evangelical pastors](#), say they would support legislative reforms that include an earned legalization process for immigrants in the country unlawfully who pay a fine as a consequence for their violation of an immigration law. Such policy reforms would both honor the law and respect the unity of the immediate family, both of which are biblically-informed commitments for evangelical Christians.

# Understanding Mixed-status Families in the U.S.

An estimated **5.5 million households** in the U.S. have at least **one** immigrant vulnerable to deportation (meaning either that they have no legal status and are undocumented or that they have only a temporary legal status that the administration could revoke or, in many cases, already has revoked) and another family member not vulnerable to deportation (immigrants with lawful status or U.S. citizens). These **5.5 million families, representing 1 in 25 households in the United States**, are considered mixed-status families. In fact, as many as **12.5 million U.S. citizens**, mostly children and spouses, live with an individual vulnerable to deportation. An **estimated 8 percent of Christians in the U.S.**, including **6 percent of evangelical Christians**, live in a mixed-status family.

The presence of mixed-status families varies across the country with as many as **5 percent** or higher in Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Texas and Utah. Similarly, metropolitan areas within these states with 10 percent or higher rates of mixed-status families include Houston, (TX), McAllen (TX), Miami (FL) and Salinas (CA).

The incidence of completely undocumented families — parents, children and other household members — is much less common than mixed-status families. Since most individuals vulnerable to deportation came at younger ages a couple decades ago, they have since begun their own families, many marrying U.S. citizen spouses and many having children born in the U.S.

More than **4 million minor U.S. citizen** children live with at least one parent vulnerable to deportation. An additional **1.2 million adult U.S. citizen children** live with at least one parent vulnerable to deportation, while **hundreds of thousands** more live on their own apart from parents vulnerable to deportation. Similarly, some **1.2 million U.S. citizens** have spouses who are vulnerable to deportation.

## undocumented



Refers to people who are living in the U.S. without the legal papers or permission to stay, whether because their legal papers expired or they entered unlawfully and did not have any legal permission to be present to begin with.

## mixed-status family



A household that consists of at least one immigrant vulnerable to deportation (undocumented or temporarily protected member, including those with temporary protections such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals [DACA], Temporary Protected Status [TPS], paroled individuals, asylum seekers, among others) AND a household member not vulnerable to deportation (lawful permanent resident, U.S. citizen, or person with other lawful immigration status like a temporary worker and their family).

## reference



Appendix A:  
Mixed-status Families, by State

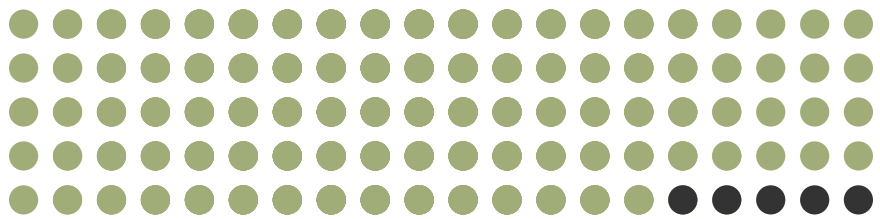
Appendix B:  
Mixed-status Families, by Metro

### asylum seeker



A person who has left their country and is asking for protection in another country, because they are afraid of returning home due to threats of harm or persecution from which their government cannot or will not protect them. In the U.S., if an individual passes a credible fear interview after requesting asylum, they may be released in the U.S. until they have a hearing to determine if their claim is granted. Until that time, they are normally allowed to apply for work authorization and live in the U.S.

The current administration has described their deportation efforts as removing violent criminals from our country's streets. However, the overwhelming majority of those detained — **95 percent** as of fall 2025 — have not been convicted of a violent crime.



Data from Fall, 2025

**95%** of those detained have never been convicted of a violent crime.

Statistics from Texas, the only state to consistently track the immigration legal status of felony convictions, show that undocumented immigrants have lower crime rates per capita — generally and in terms of specific heinous violent offenses such as homicide — than the U.S.-born. Nonetheless, in order to responsibly address this stated policy of the administration, additional estimates were calculated to see whether the number of remaining children and spouses nationwide apart from the removal of a violent criminal parent or spouse would be drastically different. Using violent crime rates by race, ethnicity and state and applying them randomly to the number of parents and spouses vulnerable to deportation of U.S. citizens, the effects are marginal. If the administration focused only on deporting individuals with a violent criminal conviction — and worked with Congress to allow others to earn permanent legal status — the number of family separations would be reduced dramatically, to only an estimated **13,000 children and 3,000 spouses** separated from a violent offending parent or spouse, hundreds of thousands fewer than following the administration's current commitments.

## How we calculated our family separation estimates

The Trump administration's stated goal in the 2024 election campaign and now as a policy goal is to deport **1 million undocumented individuals** each year, or **4 million total** during the president's second term. This study takes that goal and randomly selects the removal of undocumented individuals, with no selection bias on the number of years they've lived in the U.S., their industry of work or occupation, their country of birth, or their state or city of residence within the U.S.

The removal of these individuals through detention and eventual deportation includes those who might have once had some kind of temporary protections, including parole or Temporary Protected Status (TPS), statuses that have been terminated for many holders. Under this study's assumptions, however, the population eligible for removal does not include those who have an asylum claim, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) status applicant or an ongoing application for a U (victim of crime) or T (victim of trafficking) visa, all as of the end of 2024, the year for the most recent data available.

### Administratively “undocumented”

At the beginning of 2025, an estimated **6.1 million immigrants** had temporary protections, whether through Temporary Protected Status (TPS), humanitarian parole, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), U or T visa application backlog protections, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) application deferral or an active asylum claim. **Nearly 1 million** have lost their temporary protection due to changes in policy, putting them at risk of detention or deportation. This includes more than **150,000 children and some 800,000 adults**.

#### parole



Temporary permission for individuals who are otherwise ineligible for a visa to lawfully enter and stay in a country, often granted for humanitarian or national interest reasons. Parole doesn't ensure permanent residency.

#### temporary protected status



A temporary immigration status provided to foreign nationals from a country experiencing a disaster or conflict. The Department of Homeland Security may rescind TPS if they determine that the country is no longer experiencing the conditions that warranted the initial designation.

#### deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA)



A program in the U.S. that provides temporary protection from deportation and work permits to some young people who were brought to the country as children but are unlawfully present. Renewable every two years. DACA was created by the executive branch, not by Congress, and could potentially be revoked by the executive or judicial branches.

## Family Separation's Impact on Children

“By 2029, 665,000 U.S. citizen children would be left without any parents in the United States due to deportation of one or both parents. The average age of the impacted child is 8 years old.”

An estimated **910,000 minor U.S. citizen children** nationwide would lose one or both parents under the current administration's detention and deportation policies by 2029. Of this group, **665,000** would be left without any parents due to the deportation of a single parent vulnerable to deportation or the removal of two parents vulnerable to deportation in the same household. The remaining group — an estimated **244,000** — would be left with one U.S. citizen parent. The average age of the impacted child is **8 years old**. Their potentially-deported parents have, on average, lived in the U.S. for **15 years**.



Photo: An child holds a stuffed toy after she and her family are released from detention.

### reference

Appendix C: Separated U.S. Citizen Children by 2029, by State

Appendix D: Separated U.S. Citizen Children by 2029, by Metro Area

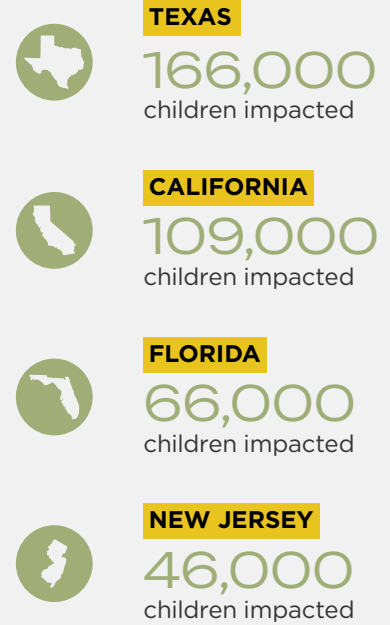


Although the data do not provide information on extended family members outside of the household that may care for these children, other U.S. citizen adult household members such as adult siblings could care for them, at least temporarily. But, nationwide, as many as **519,000 separated U.S. citizen children** have no adult U.S. citizen family member in their household. In these cases, parents face an excruciating dilemma: ask to bring their U.S. citizen children with them, even to situations where they would be likely to face mistreatment, violence, extreme poverty, restrictions on religious freedom and other conditions that caused them to flee their countries; or allow their children to be raised by friends, relatives or state-operated foster care systems. Either choice introduces the U.S. citizen children to new kinds of hardship and trauma. Even in cases when they elect to pursue reunification abroad, it may take time to obtain the documents necessary for a child or spouse to be allowed to enter the deported loved one's country of origin.

The economic situation of U.S. citizen children with at least one parent vulnerable to deportation is already challenging: Currently, one in five U.S. citizen children living with at least one parent vulnerable to deportation lives below the poverty line in their communities. But, with the removal of one or more providers, nearly **three-quarters (71 percent) of impacted U.S. citizen children** would live in poverty by 2029 after experiencing the financial loss of at least one parent vulnerable to deportation. This means some **509,000 U.S. citizen children** would be pushed into poverty through the administration's deportation policies.

The impacts of deportation policies on children vary across the nation by 2029, but the state-wide impact would be the highest in Texas, California, Florida, and New Jersey, while metro-specific impact would hit New York, Houston, Dallas, and Washington, D.C. most acutely.

Highest projected *state-wide* impact of deportation policies on children:



Highest projected *metropolitan* impact of deportation policies on children:





## STORY

### TX Pastors Protecting & Reuniting Venezuelan Children with Deported Parents

A network of pastors in Midland, Texas, has become a lifeline for deported parents seeking to be reunited with their children. The work began organically; evangelical pastor [Elias Rodriguez](#) has been pastoring a network of evangelical churches on both sides of the border for some time when felt called in 2022 to create a shelter for migrants in Juarez. Since then, he and others in his community have become a resource to families seeking respite.

At the beginning of 2026, the network of pastors was aware of **more than 70 families** that have become estranged from their children after a parent or parents were deported, in contradiction of DHS's stated policy of deporting children with their parents. This includes a mother deported one month after a C-section, leaving her newborn and 10-year-old behind, and another mother seeking care for her nonverbal, autistic son after she was deported to Mexico.

In November 2025, Elias accompanied three children to be reunited with their mother after she was deported without them to Venezuela, despite repeated requests to DHS officials that they be transported with her. In parallel, Walter Thompson, outreach pastor at First Presbyterian Church, provided housing for and worked to reunite two other young girls with their mother after she, too, had been deported to Venezuela without them. By the time they were finally able to reunite them with their mother in April 2026, the pastor and his wife had been working for almost **six months** to untangle some complications getting the younger girl's U.S. birth certificate authorized for use in Venezuela so she could receive Venezuelan citizenship.

Once completed, two adults with dual citizenship accompanied the girls and other children in similar circumstances to be reunited with their parents, as American citizens are not able to travel to Venezuela.



## Family Separation's Impact on Spouses



Photo: Florence and Pascal, a married refugee couple from Rwanda and DR Congo.

Results show that an estimated **272,000 U.S. citizens** nationwide would be separated from their spouse under the administration's detention and deportation policies by the end of President Trump's second term. An estimated **244,000 U.S. citizen children** in these households would lose one parent. The deported, undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens have, on average, lived in the U.S. for **14 years**. These couples have been married, on average, for a decade or longer.

“  
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”

### reference

Appendix E: Separated U.S. Citizen Spouses by 2029, by State

Appendix F: Separated U.S. Citizen Spouses by 2029, by Metro Area



## STORY

### Alfredo + Isabel

Alfredo and Isabel represent many families whose lives are deeply rooted in the U.S. but whose mixed immigration status has forced them to make incredibly difficult decisions. They were born in Mexico and have been in the U.S. for **over 25 years**. They met in 2001, and for **22 years**, they shared a life and family in Chicago.

Despite Isabel's status as a naturalized U.S. citizen, their marriage does not ensure a path to a green card for Alfredo because in 2004 he had to return to Mexico for a family emergency. By leaving and reentering, he triggered a legal technicality that disqualifies him from a spouse-sponsored green card.

When the two of them came to faith in Jesus Christ in 2004, they felt a renewed conviction to untangle Alfredo's immigration status and get right with the law. They worked with immigrant legal services at one of World Relief Chicagoland's offices to understand his options, but it became clear that his options were limited while he stayed in the U.S. For the time being, he opted to remain with Isabel and their family, continuing to be as faithful a resident as he could, paying taxes and contributing. They both became leaders in their church, and he eventually became a pastor.

Initially, the increased rhetoric around immigration enforcement concerned them, leading them to discuss whether it was safe for Alfredo to remain in the U.S. Over time, these concerns deepened as stories of immigrants being detained by ICE and deported — even to third countries — became more common. They made the difficult decision for Alfredo to self-deport, and in June 2025, he returned to Mexico.

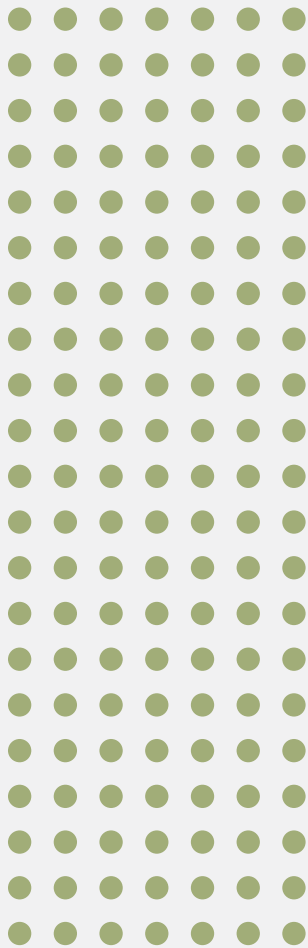


*Photo: A woman stands in Mexico with her hands on the U.S./Mexico border wall.*

The situation is personally challenging, and Alfredo feels caught in between: ejected from Chicago but not belonging in Mexico. He and Isabel fear for others in their congregation facing similar challenges. Isabel now travels monthly between Mexico and their family in the U.S. They continue to search and pray for a path for Alfredo and for the family to be reunited.

While this report quantifies only the number of families who are likely to be actively separated when individuals are forcibly deported, many other families are likely to be separated, as Alfredo and Isabel's family has been, after making the excruciatingly difficult decision for one family member to self-deport.





**73,500**

is the average number of refugees resettled annually in the U.S. since 1980.\*



**7,500**

is the presidential limit on refugee resettlement for FY2026.\*

\*one dot represents 500 individuals

## Policies Passively Generating Family Separation

While the first part of this report covers the individuals and families that would be impacted through proactive targeting, detention and deportation policies, to appreciate the full extent of the impact on families we must also examine the policies that passively restrict families from being reunited. This includes the travel and immigrant visa bans and the halted refugee resettlement program.

### Travel & Immigrant Visa Bans

In [June](#) and [December 2025](#), the administration issued a series of travel restrictions and bans, affecting **39 countries** and Palestine Authority-issued travel documents. Then, in January 2026, the administration [released a list of 75 countries](#) for which it was stopping processing all immigrant visas. This halt on visa applications even applies to spouses and children of U.S. citizens (and initially included internationally adopted children, until they became eligible for case-by-case approval after significant public outcry).

Based on the actual number of new arrivals over the past decade for minor children and spouses of U.S. citizens from these countries, this halt on immigration visas will effectively separate as many as **150,000 spouses and children** living abroad from their U.S. citizen spouse or parent over the next three years, or by the end of the second Trump administration.

### Stymied and Relitigated Refugee Resettlement

Since 1980, more than **3.3 million refugees** have been resettled in the United States, an average of **73,500** per year, even accounting for significant reductions during the first Trump administration. At the outset of his second administration, the resettlement program was paused indefinitely, stranding many refugees who had already been rigorously evaluated, screened and approved. For Fiscal Year 2026, the Presidential Determination for Refugee Resettlement (PD) was set at **7,500**, with a narrow focus on individuals from the Afrikaner ethnic group in South Africa. This means that others seeking safe haven in the U.S. who meet the legal requirements of a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular group will not be considered for resettlement.

While the halt on resettlement of new refugees is a tragedy in itself, it also means that refugees who sought to be reunited with their previously-resettled families will remain separated.

One pathway within the refugee resettlement program, known as the Lautenberg program, was created through renewable legislative action that created an option for previously resettled refugees from Iran and former Soviet Union countries to sponsor family members who are religious minorities from specific contexts where such minorities have experienced religious persecution. While the provision is still legislatively in effect, the infrastructure for it has been dismantled. In February, a key processing center in Vienna was decommissioned, **leaving over 14,000 Iranians** experiencing religious persecution whose families had petitioned to sponsor their resettlement stranded in Iran.

### Interrupted Adoptions

When the new wave of travel bans was issued in December 2025, it went one step further than the previous one from June, halting the processing of international adoptions. This left as many as **300 families** stuck in administrative limbo, as reported by [WORLD](#) and [Baptist Press](#), many of whom were motivated by their faith to expand their families through adoption. CBS News [reported](#) that more than **1,000 children from 40 countries** have been delayed from joining their forever family as a result.

In February 2026, after an outpouring of concern from families and advocates, the Department of State provided a measure of relief, directing families to continue through the application process and indicating it would review applications on a case-by-case basis. Families, advocates and members of Congress [have petitioned](#) the Department of State for additional, permanent categorical exemptions for international adoptions to accelerate families' reunification with their adoptive children.

“  
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## Ghosted: Promised Family Reunification that Hasn't Happened

“After the abrupt U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and the fall of Kabul, the U.S. government and individual sponsors worked night and day to rescue those who had served alongside the U.S. military and allies ... Unfortunately, not everyone was extracted from the region.

After the abrupt U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and the fall of Kabul, the U.S. government and individual sponsors worked night and day to rescue those who had served alongside the U.S. military and allies, knowing that they would face retribution at the hands of the Taliban. Unfortunately, not everyone was extracted from the region, and many remain in Afghanistan and the surrounding region, including siblings, children and spouses of those who were able to get on a plane or receive a Special Immigrant Visa. Some estimates put that number at around **200,000 remaining family members**, which are distinct from and not included in the number of pending cases in other family reunification pipelines tallied in this report's estimates.

In July, the Office of the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts (CARE) **was dissolved** and reassigned within the State Department. To date, no meaningful effort has been made to continue the work to reunite families.



*Photo: An Afghan man stands with two of his children at their home in the United States. Separated from his wife during the fall of Kabul, he now lives as a single father while hoping for their reunification.*

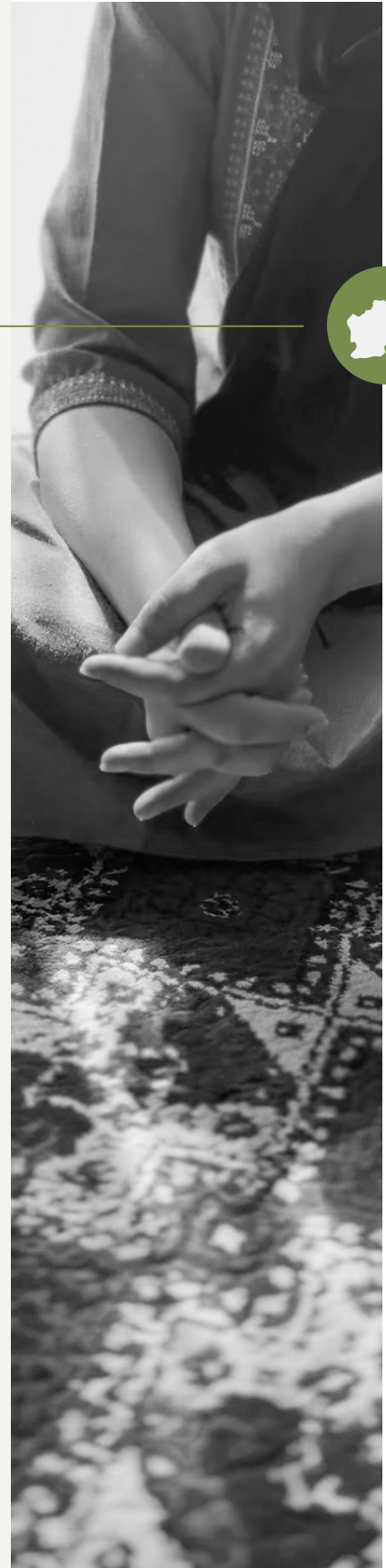
## STORY

### Marwa

For years leading up to the fateful U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021, Marwa worked as a translator for a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration counter narcoterrorism initiative. On August 15, Marwa was called to the airport with her three-month-old son to assist U.S. troops as they evacuated, with the promise of being evacuated herself. At the end of the day, she resisted leaving without her family — her daughter and older son, brothers and parents — but she was denied the option of remaining behind to wait until they could leave together and was escorted onto the plane by U.S. soldiers.

Her mother and her children were able to reach Pakistan through the intervention of the AFL-CIO Union Veterans Council, but her father and older brother were detained and her father later killed by the Taliban while trying to resolve an issue with his documentation that was required for him to leave. Shortly after, her mother and children were returned to Afghanistan because they lacked a male guardian. Eventually, they were able to return to Pakistan with her brother.

Once in the U.S., she began filing for humanitarian parole for her family to be reunited and petitioning the White House, Department of State and members of Congress. She has testified and shared her story, but again and again, promising leads for reunification have collapsed at the last moment. Today, her now teenage daughter and young son are stranded in Pakistan with her mother and brother while she battles MS and advocates for her younger son as he battles brain cancer. She continues to seek reunification while she carries the weight of lost lives, lost time and lost futures for her children.



## Temporary Separation & Politicized Relitigation

A recent troubling trend has emerged: the detention of asylum seekers, and the detention and re-interrogation of refugees.

Previously, asylum seekers have been issued work authorization and asked to return to court for their hearings; detention was rare for individuals not deemed to be a risk to public safety. Now, many are being picked up and detained while their cases are being processed, sometimes as individuals, sometimes as whole family units. In addition to disrupting income streams when a breadwinner is put behind bars, this has also led to traumatizing separation for families who have been trying to follow the law.

“  
The detention of asylum seekers and the detention and re-interrogation of refugees has led to traumatizing separation for families who have been trying to follow the law.  
”

When refugees are resettled in the U.S., they are legally present from the moment that they arrive, and once they have been in the U.S. for a year, they are allowed and required to adjust their status to Lawful Permanent Resident by applying for a “Green Card.” Typically, this is an administrative change that can be processed when a refugee files forms by mail. However, the administration announced in November 2025 that it would begin a process of re-interviewing all refugees resettled by the prior administration. This process began in Minnesota in January 2026, and started with those who had not adjusted their status — notwithstanding the fact that the administration had previously halted the processing of any green card application.

On January 10, 2026, refugees were taken into custody in Minnesota and immediately transferred to holding facilities as far away as Texas. Once in detention, many underwent hours of interrogation, after which some were released, many without the belongings they had had with them when they were apprehended. In some cases, whole family units were taken; in others, just the primary adult in a family’s case.

At the time of the writing of this report, a lawsuit has resulted in a [temporary injunction](#) on detentions of lawfully present refugees not charged with any crime, but re-interviews continue, leading many refugees to feel extremely anxious about their situation.

## STORY

### Operation PARRIS

Immediately after USCIS announced the launch of Operation PARRIS in Minnesota, ICE agents arrived [at the door](#) of T., a Burmese refugee who had arrived in St. Paul with her husband and three children in December 2024. At the end of the summer of 2025, she gave birth to her fourth child, who was five months old in January 2026 and still breastfeeding.

Gaining entry to T.'s apartment building through a propped-open door, ICE agents encountered T.'s husband and one of their children, and were admitted into the apartment when they asked about her. After reviewing her documentation — including confirmation that she had filed for her green card on the required date in December — they asked her to come outside with them and promptly detained her, putting her on a plane to a detention facility in Texas that night — separating her from her infant and the rest of her family.

While in Texas, she underwent rigorous interviews before she was ultimately released, but without her papers. It took three weeks before she was reunited with her family, missing critical bonding time with her new baby.

In the [habeas petition](#) filed on her behalf, her lawyer also notes that during her detention, she missed a critical cardiology appointment for a repair she needed to remedy “right-sided heart failure” that had to be delayed until after the birth of her child.



## Path to Reunification

Once separated, how likely is it for a family to be reunited? It's hard to predict.

“Often, the reunification of families would require the U.S. citizen family members not targeted for deportation to relocate to a situation where they would be denied religious freedom, access to education or health care and/or economic opportunity.”

In cases of deportation, some families will eventually reunite in the deported family member's country of origin, but in many other cases, this is difficult or even impossible. Often, it would require the U.S. citizen family members not targeted for deportation to relocate to a situation where they would be denied religious freedom, access to education or health care and/or economic opportunity. In many cases they would also face heightened risk of criminal violence.

In many cases, following a deported parent or spouse to a foreign country would lead to separation from other family members lawfully residing within the United States, such as when a father is deported but a lawfully present mother and children are left behind. And in some cases, the deported family member's country of origin may not allow the immigration of the relative, such that living together as an intact family in any country is legally impossible.

The U.S.'s relationship with another country may also impact the ease with which a family can be reunited. In situations where a family has a child born in the U.S., there are unique situations where getting the proper documentation to join the rest of the family in the parent's country of origin is made more challenging due to strained relationships with the U.S.

In the case of refugees or other immigrants waiting to be reunited with family already in the United States, the president has the legal authority to resume refugee resettlement and family-based immigrant visa processing from countries currently facing restrictions — but unless and until he does so, or a court finds the suspensions to be unlawful or Congress changes a law, these families will remain apart from one another.

## What can the church do?



Photo: A migrant family is pictured after their release from detention in Texas.

Deportation policies, travel bans and the refugee resettlement ceiling have been set by the administration, but that does not mean things cannot change, both in the administration and also in Congress.

First, the church must meet the human and spiritual needs of its members and those more generally in their communities, within individual congregations, across denominations and throughout the body of Christ. The grief and trauma U.S. citizen spouses and U.S. citizen children are experiencing is unimaginable. Part of the church's responsibility is to come alongside families inside and outside of their congregations.

Second, churches, church leaders, church members, and parachurch organizations can contact the administration immediately and ask to speak to administration officials with decision-making power over deportation policies, travel bans and the refugee resettlement ceiling. In those conversations, they can urge decision makers to adhere to the stated objective of focusing deportation efforts only on those convicted of violent crimes, not on peaceful, contributing members of the community. According to recent [polling](#), fewer than one in thirteen evangelical pastors believe that individuals with a U.S. citizen spouse or child should be deportation priority, but 78 percent believe that the U.S. has a moral responsibility to receive refugees and 97 percent believe that legal immigration has been helpful to the U.S.



- 1** The church must meet human and spiritual needs.
- 2** Contact the administration and urge officials to focus only on those convicted of violent crimes.
- 3** Appeal to Congress for comprehensive, long-term legislative solutions that protect family unity and public safety.

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The passage of such  
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status families.

Third, the church has the opportunity to directly appeal to Congress for a comprehensive, long-term legislative solution that preserves public safety and protects the unity of the family. Several bills, such as the bipartisan Dignity Act, have already been introduced that would allow undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens and/or parents of U.S. citizen minor children to legalize their status once they've met certain criteria and paid a fine. The passage of such legislation would bring great peace to mixed-status families, honor the contributions many have made for decades and reduce the burden on the immigration system.

At times of great crisis, the church is often the first to respond. In this crisis of family separation, the church is also the most affected.

As James makes clear, faith without works is worthless (James 2:17). If the American church is a body of faith, our works, particularly among these groups, must reflect the gospel. Failure to defend and support families and children is not only inconsistent with the teachings of Scripture, but also cheapens and disempowers the very gospel we have been called to proclaim.

As families encounter unimaginable grief, trauma and poverty associated with separation or removal due to current immigration policies, the church needs to be ready to pick up the pieces. At the same time, it must be on the frontlines of advocating for policies that prevent the unnecessary separation of families going forward.



*Photo: A mother stands with her children at a shelter in Tijuana where they live while they await an appointment for consideration of entry to the United States.*

## Methodology

The estimates in this report were prepared by Dr. Phillip Connor, Research Fellow at Princeton University’s [Center for Migration and Development](#) and author of [MAKE RIGHT: Breaking Modern Injustices with the Ancient Compassion Code](#). Views expressed are those of the report sponsors, not those of Princeton University.

Dr. Connor has been an advocate in support of the “stranger” for many years, starting in Montreal, Canada, where he planted churches among immigrant communities. He also led efforts for North American people group research at the North American Mission Board (SBC) and has been an active volunteer in immigrant organizations in his home community of Arlington, Virginia. His Ph.D. in sociology is from Princeton University. He worked for nearly 10 years as a researcher on immigration topics at the Pew Research Center, followed by five years as Senior Demographer at [FWD.us](#).

The [underlying methodology](#) for assessing the immigration status of individuals in the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2024 American Community Survey (ACS) follows Dr. Connor’s methods explained in his [peer-reviewed article](#) in the International Migration Review. In sum, without immigration status asked by the ACS, social, demographic, occupational, and other variables are used to assess the likely immigration status of all noncitizens responding to the survey. This is done through an imputation process that assigns lawful status (lawful permanent residence and lawful temporary immigrants) to noncitizens first, and classifies the residual or remaining portion as undocumented, including those with temporary protections such as DACA recipients, current or former TPS holders, paroled individuals, asylum seekers waiting for a decision on their case, among other protected, yet quasi-legal groups.

For deportation policies, a random selection of a total 4 million undocumented individuals — not including those with more durable protections such as asylum seekers, DACA recipients, Special Immigrant Juvenile status applicants and U-T visa applicants — were identified as impacted by the administration’s priorities, with all undocumented household members considered removed in a particular household if one undocumented member was selected.

For immigration visa policies, the average number of new arrivals sponsored by an immediate relative U.S. citizen for the total 93 countries between 2014 and 2023 were calculated. These totals were then multiplied by the overall share sponsored by a U.S. citizen parent or U.S. citizen spouse. As immigration flows can shift over the years, including the composition of immediate family members, the estimates are likely conservative.

The terms ‘families’ and ‘households’ are used interchangeably throughout, but in the data, the unit of analysis is households which can include non-family members such as friends or roommates. However, the terms “spouses” and “parents/children” do refer to actual direct family links. The family links for spouses or parents are based on those who are a household head or spouse of a household head with children labeled as children of household head. Consequently, the estimates are considered conservative as spousal and parent-child relationships beyond head(s) of households relationships, like those in many multi-generational families, are not always included. Metropolitan areas are Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) as defined by 2013 boundaries. U.S. citizens in mixed-status families were mostly born in the U.S., but some are naturalized U.S. citizens. Spouses are married. Unless stated otherwise, references to children are younger than 18 years old. Ages and years living in the U.S. reflect ages, years in U.S., and years married as of 2024, the most recent year of the ACS data. Poverty thresholds are 2024 family poverty levels at the 100 percent level in local communities as calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau. Those pushed into poverty reflect the change in family income after the removal of the deported spouse and/or parent, and how their removal changes the family’s placement at the 100 percent poverty level.

Violent crime rates by race and ethnicity are based on [The Clean Slate Initiative](#) data, as drawn from administrative data for each state. Only charges/convictions considered violent crimes were included in this report’s analysis. All American residents, including those who are vulnerable to deportation, were randomly selected by race and ethnicity rates for each state as being a violent offender. Since these are rates for the entire population, inclusive of both foreign- and U.S.-born, and [research](#) shows that foreign-born violent crime rates are often lower than the U.S.-born, resulting estimates for this analysis are likely higher than reality.

## About World Relief

World Relief is a global Christian humanitarian organization whose mission is to boldly engage the world's greatest crises in partnership with the church. The organization was founded in the aftermath of World War II to respond to the urgent humanitarian needs of war-torn Europe.

Since then, for over 80 years, across 100 countries, World Relief has partnered with local churches and communities to build a world where families thrive and communities flourish. Today, organizational programming focuses on humanitarian and disaster response, as well as community strengthening and resilience.

 [www.worldrelief.org](http://www.worldrelief.org)

## About the National Association of Evangelicals

Founded in 1942, the National Association of Evangelicals seeks to honor God by connecting and representing evangelical Christians in the United States. The NAE includes 40 denominations and thousands of churches, schools and nonprofits, and serves a constituency of millions. The NAE provides resources, connection and influence to help evangelicals foster thriving communities and navigate complexity with biblical clarity.

 [www.nae.org](http://www.nae.org)

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# Appendix A

## Mixed-Status Families, by State

State	Number of Mixed-Status Households	% of All Households	Number of U.S. Citizens in a Mixed-Status Household
Alabama	41,000	2%	98,000
Alaska	5,000	2%	10,000
Arizona	140,000	5%	317,000
Arkansas	34,000	3%	73,000
California	950,000	7%	2,293,000
Colorado	79,000	3%	178,000
Connecticut	61,000	4%	138,000
Delaware	13,000	3%	32,000
District of Columbia	11,000	3%	23,000
Florida	554,000	6%	1,121,000
Georgia	175,000	4%	410,000
Hawaii	24,000	5%	76,000
Idaho	19,000	3%	46,000
Illinois	234,000	5%	524,000
Indiana	68,000	2%	142,000
Iowa	29,000	2%	57,000
Kansas	39,000	3%	86,000
Kentucky	33,000	2%	64,000
Louisiana	32,000	2%	59,000
Maine	7,000	1%	10,000
Maryland	124,000	5%	310,000
Massachusetts	107,000	4%	208,000
Michigan	69,000	2%	153,000
Minnesota	57,000	2%	127,000
Mississippi	10,000	1%	25,000
Missouri	39,000	2%	96,000

State	Number of Mixed-Status Households	% of All Households	Number of U.S. Citizens in a Mixed-Status Household
Montana	2,000	<1%	3,000
Nebraska	29,000	4%	65,000
Nevada	90,000	7%	223,000
New Hampshire	7,000	1%	13,000
New Jersey	266,000	8%	591,000
New Mexico	30,000	4%	77,000
New York	358,000	5%	812,000
North Carolina	164,000	4%	357,000
North Dakota	5,000	2%	3,000
Ohio	67,000	1%	138,000
Oklahoma	44,000	3%	106,000
Oregon	46,000	3%	95,000
Pennsylvania	110,000	2%	229,000
Rhode Island	20,000	5%	42,000
South Carolina	48,000	2%	98,000
South Dakota	6,000	2%	15,000
Tennessee	74,000	3%	166,000
Texas	839,000	7%	1,973,000
Utah	60,000	5%	137,000
Vermont	3,000	1%	5,000
Virginia	122,000	4%	259,000
Washington	135,000	4%	301,000
West Virginia	6,000	1%	9,000
Wisconsin	37,000	1%	80,000
Wyoming	4,000	1%	6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,526,000</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>12,479,000</b>

Source: Augmented 2024 American Community Survey data. See report methodology for more information.

# Appendix B

## Mixed-Status Families, by Metro

Metropolitan Area	Number of Mixed-Status Households	% of All Households	Number of U.S. Citizens in a Mixed-Status Household
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	12,000	4%	29,000
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	126,000	5%	292,000
Austin-Round Rock, TX	65,000	6%	106,000
Bakersfield, CA	18,000	6%	49,000
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	39,000	3%	97,000
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	85,000	4%	163,000
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	26,000	7%	62,000
Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	19,000	6%	44,000
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	54,000	5%	110,000
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	216,000	6%	497,000
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	18,000	2%	40,000
Cleveland-Elyria, OH	10,000	1%	20,000
Columbus, OH	24,000	3%	49,000
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	239,000	8%	571,000
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO	52,000	4%	122,000
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	37,000	2%	83,000
El Paso, TX	25,000	8%	66,000
Fresno, CA	20,000	6%	58,000
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	13,000	3%	24,000
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	267,000	10%	616,000
Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson, IN	32,000	4%	67,000
Jacksonville, FL	23,000	3%	46,000
Kansas City, MO-KS	30,000	3%	74,000
Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	15,000	5%	32,000
Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV	74,000	8%	185,000
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	371,000	8%	881,000
Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN	14,000	3%	27,000
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	46,000	16%	130,000

Metropolitan Area	Number of Mixed-Status Households	% of All Households	Number of U.S. Citizens in a Mixed-Status Household
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	12,000	2%	30,000
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	269,000	11%	544,000
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	14,000	2%	30,000
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	41,000	3%	94,000
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island, FL	14,000	8%	32,000
Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN	34,000	4%	74,000
New Haven-Milford, CT	14,000	4%	36,000
New Orleans-Metairie, LA	15,000	3%	28,000
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	555,000	7%	1,251,000
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	18,000	4%	37,000
Oklahoma City, OK	20,000	4%	50,000
Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	15,000	3%	35,000
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	76,000	7%	136,000
Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, CA	19,000	7%	60,000
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE	81,000	3%	186,000
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	109,000	6%	251,000
Pittsburgh, PA	10,000	1%	16,000
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	31,000	3%	63,000
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA	27,000	4%	56,000
Raleigh, NC	34,000	5%	68,000
Richmond, VA	15,000	3%	26,000
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	99,000	7%	275,000
Sacramento--Roseville--Arden-Arcade, CA	37,000	4%	91,000
St. Louis, MO-IL	17,000	1%	38,000
Salinas, CA	19,000	13%	50,000
Salt Lake City, UT	32,000	6%	67,000
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	48,000	5%	118,000
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA	71,000	6%	178,000

Metropolitan Area	Number of Mixed-Status Households	% of All Households	Number of U.S. Citizens in a Mixed-Status Household
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA	121,000	7%	246,000
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	61,000	9%	119,000
Santa Maria-Santa Barbara, CA	12,000	8%	32,000
Santa Rosa, CA	9,000	5%	17,000
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	87,000	5%	176,000
Stockton-Lodi, CA	19,000	8%	46,000
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	56,000	4%	123,000
Trenton, NJ	13,000	9%	31,000
Tucson, AZ	14,000	3%	30,000
Urban Honolulu, HI	17,000	5%	50,000
Vallejo-Fairfield, CA	7,000	5%	20,000
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA	12,000	2%	22,000
Visalia-Porterville, CA	11,000	8%	33,000
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	169,000	7%	396,000

Source: Augmented 2024 American Community Survey data. See report methodology for more information.  
Note: Metro is Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) according to 2013 boundaries

# Appendix C

## Separated U.S. Citizen Children (SUSCC) by 2029, by State

State	Est # of SUSCC Losing One Parent	Est # of SUSCC Losing All Parents	Est # of SUSCC Without Any U.S. Citizen Adults in the Household	Est # of SUSCC Pushed Into Poverty	Avg. Length of Time in the U.S. of Deported Parents of SUSCC	Avg. Number of SUSCC Per Impacted Household	Average Age of SUSCC
Alabama	1,000	7,000	7,000	6,000	17	2.2	9
Alaska	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
Arizona	4,000	8,000	6,000	5,000	16	2.1	7
Arkansas	<1,000	7,000	7,000	2,000	17	3.2	7
California	39,000	70,000	49,000	57,000	17	2.0	8
Colorado	3,000	8,000	5,000	6,000	15	2.1	7
Connecticut	3,000	9,000	8,000	9,000	14	1.8	8
Delaware	<1,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	14	2.3	7
District of Columbia	<1,000	3,000	<1,000	<1,000	20	2.6	10
Florida	22,000	44,000	35,000	33,000	14	1.9	7
Georgia	10,000	29,000	22,000	24,000	16	2.2	8
Hawaii	1,000	2,000	1,000	2,000	14	2.6	7
Idaho	2,000	3,000	3,000	5,000	21	2.5	10
Illinois	10,000	27,000	16,000	17,000	17	2.3	9
Indiana	4,000	9,000	4,000	7,000	13	2.0	7
Iowa	2,000	5,000	4,000	4,000	18	1.9	8
Kansas	1,000	4,000	3,000	1,000	19	2.3	10
Kentucky	<1,000	4,000	3,000	3,000	14	2.1	9
Louisiana	2,000	10,000	7,000	6,000	12	2.2	7
Maine	1,000	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	5	1.0	n/a
Maryland	6,000	21,000	19,000	19,000	16	1.9	8
Massachusetts	4,000	6,000	5,000	5,000	12	1.6	6
Michigan	3,000	6,000	5,000	4,000	15	2.3	7
Minnesota	3,000	7,000	6,000	8,000	13	2.5	8
Mississippi	1,000	3,000	3,000	1,000	17	2.3	10
Missouri	2,000	4,000	2,000	3,000	11	1.9	5
Montana	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	n/a	n/a	n/a

State	Est # of SUSCC Losing One Parent	Est # of SUSCC Losing All Parents	Est # of SUSCC Without Any U.S. Citizen Adults in the Household	Est # of SUSCC Pushed Into Poverty	Avg. Length of Time in the U.S. of Deported Parents of SUSCC	Avg. Number of SUSCC Per Impacted Household	Average Age of SUSCC
Nebraska	3,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	14	2.5	6
Nevada	6,000	15,000	13,000	13,000	19	2.4	9
New Hampshire	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
New Jersey	11,000	35,000	26,000	25,000	15	2.0	8
New Mexico	2,000	5,000	3,000	2,000	15	2.5	8
New York	10,000	30,000	22,000	27,000	15	1.9	6
North Carolina	9,000	27,000	23,000	19,000	16	2.1	8
North Dakota	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	16	1.3	12
Ohio	3,000	10,000	9,000	10,000	12	1.9	8
Oklahoma	4,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	17	2.7	7
Oregon	1,000	3,000	2,000	3,000	18	2.3	8
Pennsylvania	4,000	12,000	7,000	7,000	15	2.2	9
Rhode Island	1,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	15	1.6	8
South Carolina	2,000	7,000	7,000	4,000	14	2.2	8
South Dakota	1,000	4,000	3,000	4,000	20	3.8	7
Tennessee	5,000	22,000	18,000	15,000	14	2.7	9
Texas	43,000	124,000	105,000	90,000	14	2.0	8
Utah	1,000	9,000	5,000	6,000	11	2.0	8
Vermont	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
Virginia	5,000	22,000	19,000	17,000	15	2.3	8
Washington	7,000	21,000	16,000	17,000	16	2.0	7
West Virginia	<1,000	1,000	<1,000	1,000	20	n/a	n/a
Wisconsin	1,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	14	1.8	11
Wyoming	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>243,000</b>	<b>665,000</b>	<b>519,000</b>	<b>509,000</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>8</b>

Source: Augmented 2024 American Community Survey data. See report methodology for more information. *Note: Losing one parent is for children who have one U.S. citizen parent. Groups may not sum due to rounding. N/A indicates an insufficiently large population to assess characteristics.*

# Appendix D

## Separated U.S. Citizen Children (SUSCC) by 2029, by Metro Area

Metro Area	Est total # of SUSCC	Est # of SUSCC Losing One Parent	Est # of SUSCC Losing All Parents	Est # of SUSCC Without Any U.S. Citizen Adults in the Household	Est # of SUSCC Pushed Into Poverty	Avg. Length of Time in the U.S. of Deported Parents of SUSCC	Avg. Number of SUSCC Per Impacted Household	Average Age of SUSCC
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	5,000	1,000	4,000	3,000	2,000	15	1.8	7
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	27,000	7,000	20,000	16,000	18,000	15	2.1	7
Austin-Round Rock, TX	10,000	5,000	6,000	5,000	8,000	14	2.0	7
Bakersfield, CA	4,000	1,000	3,000	1,000	3,000	14	2.2	8
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	10,000	3,000	7,000	6,000	7,000	16	1.9	9
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	8,000	3,000	5,000	4,000	4,000	13	1.7	6
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	7,000	1,000	6,000	5,000	5,000	15	1.7	8
Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	15	1.9	10
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	13,000	4,000	9,000	7,000	6,000	15	2.1	8
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	38,000	11,000	27,000	15,000	18,000	17	2.3	9
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	6,000	1,000	5,000	4,000	4,000	10	1.8	8
Cleveland-Elyria, OH	1,000	1,000	<1,000	<1,000	1,000	17	2.2	8
Columbus, OH	5,000	<1,000	5,000	4,000	4,000	13	2.2	8
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	51,000	16,000	35,000	26,000	29,000	15	2.1	7
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO	6,000	2,000	4,000	3,000	3,000	12	2.0	7
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	7,000	3,000	5,000	4,000	3,000	14	2.2	7
El Paso, TX	3,000	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	13	2.1	6
Fresno, CA	2,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	18	1.9	10

Metro Area	Est total # of SUSCC	Est # of SUSCC Losing One Parent	Est # of SUSCC Losing All Parents	Est # of SUSCC Without Any U.S. Citizen Adults in the Household	Est # of SUSCC Pushed Into Poverty	Avg. Length of Time in the U.S. of Deported Parents of SUSCC	Avg. Number of SUSCC Per Impacted Household	Average Age of SUSCC
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	14	1.6	7
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	53,000	10,000	43,000	40,000	31,000	14	1.8	8
Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson, IN	7,000	1,000	6,000	3,000	5,000	16	2.0	7
Jacksonville, FL	2,000	<1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	16	2.3	8
Kansas City, MO-KS	3,000	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	16	1.3	8
Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	4,000	<1,000	4,000	3,000	3,000	13	2.7	9
Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV	16,000	5,000	11,000	11,000	8,000	18	2.2	9
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	31,000	12,000	19,000	13,000	15,000	19	1.9	8
Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN	1,000	<1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	19	2.7	9
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	10,000	2,000	8,000	7,000	2,000	17	2.1	9
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	7,000	2,000	5,000	5,000	3,000	11	4.1	8
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	26,000	8,000	17,000	14,000	12,000	13	1.7	6
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	2,000	<1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	14	1.3	10
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	6,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	4,000	16	2.3	9
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island, FL	3,000	<1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	19	2.1	11
Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN	6,000	2,000	4,000	3,000	3,000	11	1.7	7
New Haven-Milford, CT	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	13	2.8	7

Metro Area	Est total # of SUSCC	Est # of SUSCC Losing One Parent	Est # of SUSCC Losing All Parents	Est # of SUSCC Without Any U.S. Citizen Adults in the Household	Est # of SUSCC Pushed Into Poverty	Avg. Length of Time in the U.S. of Deported Parents of SUSCC	Avg. Number of SUSCC Per Impacted Household	Average Age of SUSCC
New Orleans-Metairie, LA	5,000	<1,000	4,000	2,000	2,000	11	2.1	8
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	75,000	17,000	58,000	43,000	47,000	15	1.9	7
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	4,000	1,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	17	1.9	5
Oklahoma City, OK	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	22	2.7	7
Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	6,000	2,000	4,000	4,000	3,000	13	2.6	5
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	5,000	1,000	4,000	3,000	2,000	10	2.0	6
Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, CA	2,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	21	2.5	10
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE	13,000	2,000	10,000	8,000	8,000	14	2.4	9
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	10,000	4,000	6,000	4,000	5,000	16	2.1	7
Pittsburgh, PA	1,000	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	14	2.5	9
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	3,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	3,000	17	1.9	8
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA	4,000	1,000	4,000	3,000	3,000	16	1.6	8
Raleigh, NC	7,000	2,000	6,000	4,000	5,000	15	1.9	7
Richmond, VA	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	14	1.5	8
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	13,000	9,000	4,000	2,000	4,000	16	2.3	7
Sacramento--Roseville--Arden-Arcade, CA	5,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	21	2.3	9
St. Louis, MO-IL	2,000	1,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	13	1.9	5
Salinas, CA	1,000	<1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	18	1.6	8

Metro Area	Est total # of SUSCC	Est # of SUSCC Losing One Parent	Est # of SUSCC Losing All Parents	Est # of SUSCC Without Any U.S. Citizen Adults in the Household	Est # of SUSCC Pushed Into Poverty	Avg. Length of Time in the U.S. of Deported Parents of SUSCC	Avg. Number of SUSCC Per Impacted Household	Average Age of SUSCC
Salt Lake City, UT	4,000	<1,000	4,000	2,000	2,000	8	1.6	8
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	12,000	5,000	8,000	6,000	6,000	15	2.3	7
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA	6,000	1,000	5,000	4,000	3,000	16	2.2	9
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA	15,000	3,000	12,000	10,000	11,000	15	1.6	7
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	9,000	2,000	8,000	5,000	7,000	16	1.6	7
Santa Maria-Santa Barbara, CA	4,000	<1,000	4,000	4,000	3,000	15	2.0	7
Santa Rosa, CA	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	10	1.6	8
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	18,000	6,000	12,000	9,000	10,000	14	2.0	6
Stockton-Lodi, CA	2,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	14	1.5	6
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	11,000	7,000	5,000	3,000	4,000	16	2.3	9
Trenton, NJ	4,000	1,000	3,000	1,000	2,000	15	2.3	6
Tucson, AZ	1,000	<1,000	1,000	1,000	<1,000	12	1.7	8
Urban Honolulu, HI	1,000	<1,000	1,000	<1,000	1,000	14	2.4	7
Vallejo-Fairfield, CA	1,000	1,000	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	22	2.4	8
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA	2,000	<1,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	15	2.4	6
Visalia-Porterville, CA	2,000	<1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	17	2.4	12
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	42,000	8,000	35,000	28,000	26,000	16	2.2	8

Source: Augmented 2024 American Community Survey data. See report methodology for more information. *Note: Losing one parent is for children who have one U.S. citizen parent. Groups may not sum due to rounding.*

# Appendix E

## Separated U.S. Citizen Spouses by 2029, by State

State	Estimated Number of Separated U.S. Citizen Spouses	Estimated Number of Separated U.S. Citizen Children in Impacted Households	Average Years in the U.S. of Deported Spouse of Separated U.S. Citizen Spouse
Alabama	1,000	1,000	10
Alaska	<1,000	<1,000	n/a
Arizona	5,000	4,000	14
Arkansas	1,000	<1,000	15
California	46,000	39,000	17
Colorado	3,000	3,000	17
Connecticut	4,000	3,000	10
Delaware	<1,000	<1,000	n/a
District of Columbia	1,000	<1,000	10
Florida	30,000	22,000	12
Georgia	9,000	10,000	13
Hawaii	1,000	1,000	14
Idaho	2,000	2,000	17
Illinois	10,000	10,000	15
Indiana	4,000	4,000	10
Iowa	2,000	2,000	15
Kansas	2,000	1,000	10
Kentucky	1,000	<1,000	17
Louisiana	2,000	2,000	9
Maine	1,000	1,000	6
Maryland	6,000	6,000	17
Massachusetts	7,000	4,000	14
Michigan	3,000	3,000	14
Minnesota	4,000	3,000	15
Mississippi	1,000	1,000	16
Missouri	2,000	2,000	10

State	Estimated Number of Separated U.S. Citizen Spouses	Estimated Number of Separated U.S. Citizen Children in Impacted Households	Average Years in the U.S. of Deported Spouse of Separated U.S. Citizen Spouse
Montana	<1,000	<1,000	n/a
Nebraska	2,000	3,000	17
Nevada	4,000	6,000	13
New Hampshire	<1,000	<1,000	n/a
New Jersey	15,000	11,000	14
New Mexico	2,000	2,000	12
New York	17,000	10,000	13
North Carolina	7,000	9,000	13
North Dakota	<1,000	<1,000	n/a
Ohio	4,000	3,000	7
Oklahoma	3,000	4,000	14
Oregon	1,000	1,000	15
Pennsylvania	5,000	4,000	14
Rhode Island	<1,000	1,000	n/a
South Carolina	2,000	2,000	10
South Dakota	<1,000	1,000	n/a
Tennessee	4,000	5,000	15
Texas	40,000	43,000	15
Utah	2,000	1,000	16
Vermont	<1,000	<1,000	n/a
Virginia	5,000	5,000	14
Washington	7,000	7,000	17
West Virginia	<1,000	<1,000	n/a
Wisconsin	2,000	1,000	11
Wyoming	<1,000	<1,000	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>272,000</b>	<b>244,000</b>	<b>14</b>

Source: Augmented 2024 American Community Survey data. See report methodology for more information. Note: Groups may not sum due to rounding. N/A indicates an insufficiently large population to assess characteristics.

# Appendix F

## Separated U.S. Citizen Spouses by 2029, by Metro Area

Metro Area	Estimated Number of Separated U.S. Citizen Spouses	Estimated Number of Separated U.S. Citizen Children in Impacted Households	Average Years in the U.S. of Deported Spouse of Separated U.S. Citizen Spouse
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	1,000	1,000	12
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	7,000	7,000	13
Austin-Round Rock, TX	3,000	5,000	13
Bakersfield, CA	1,000	1,000	11
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	3,000	3,000	17
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	5,000	3,000	13
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	1,000	1,000	15
Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	1,000	1,000	13
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	3,000	4,000	11
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	10,000	11,000	15
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	1,000	1,000	5
Cleveland-Elyria, OH	1,000	1,000	6
Columbus, OH	1,000	<1,000	10
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	13,000	16,000	15
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO	1,000	2,000	13
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	2,000	3,000	15
El Paso, TX	2,000	3,000	13
Fresno, CA	1,000	1,000	13
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	2,000	1,000	9
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	12,000	10,000	15
Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson, IN	1,000	1,000	6
Jacksonville, FL	1,000	<1,000	13
Kansas City, MO-KS	1,000	1,000	10
Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	<1,000	<1,000	n/a
Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV	3,000	5,000	15
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	15,000	12,000	18

Metro Area	Estimated Number of Separated U.S. Citizen Spouses	Estimated Number of Separated U.S. Citizen Children in Impacted Households	Average Years in the U.S. of Deported Spouse of Separated U.S. Citizen Spouse
Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN	<1,000	<1,000	n/a
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	2,000	2,000	18
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	<1,000	2,000	n/a
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	15,000	8,000	12
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	1,000	<1,000	5
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	4,000	3,000	16
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island, FL	1,000	<1,000	10
Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN	2,000	2,000	13
New Haven-Milford, CT	<1,000	1,000	n/a
New Orleans-Metairie, LA	1,000	<1,000	11
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	28,000	17,000	14
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	<1,000	1,000	n/a
Oklahoma City, OK	2,000	1,000	13
Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	1,000	2,000	21
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	4,000	1,000	10
Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, CA	1,000	1,000	27
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE	3,000	2,000	11
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	4,000	4,000	16
Pittsburgh, PA	<1,000	<1,000	n/a
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	1,000	1,000	11
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA	1,000	1,000	12
Raleigh, NC	1,000	2,000	17
Richmond, VA	1,000	1,000	19
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	7,000	9,000	17
Sacramento--Roseville--Arden-Arcade, CA	2,000	3,000	18
St. Louis, MO-IL	1,000	1,000	12

Metro Area	Estimated Number of Separated U.S. Citizen Spouses	Estimated Number of Separated U.S. Citizen Children in Impacted Households	Average Years in the U.S. of Deported Spouse of Separated U.S. Citizen Spouse
Salinas, CA	<1,000	<1,000	n/a
Salt Lake City, UT	1,000	<1,000	27
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	5,000	5,000	14
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA	2,000	1,000	16
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA	6,000	3,000	18
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	4,000	2,000	14
Santa Maria-Santa Barbara, CA	<1,000	<1,000	n/a
Santa Rosa, CA	<1,000	1,000	n/a
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	5,000	6,000	18
Stockton-Lodi, CA	1,000	1,000	14
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	4,000	7,000	13
Trenton, NJ	1,000	1,000	11
Tucson, AZ	1,000	<1,000	14
Urban Honolulu, HI	1,000	<1,000	19
Vallejo-Fairfield, CA	1,000	1,000	22
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA	<1,000	<1,000	n/a
Visalia-Porterville, CA	1,000	<1,000	18
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	7,000	8,000	15

Source: Augmented 2024 American Community Survey data. See report methodology for more information. *Note: Groups may not sum due to rounding. N/A indicates an insufficiently large population to assess characteristics.*