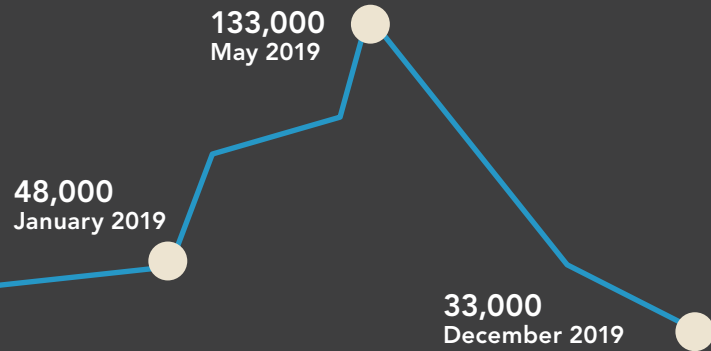


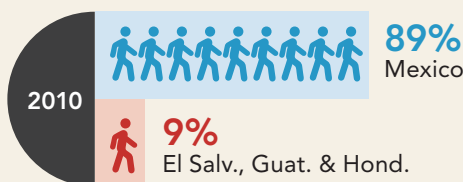
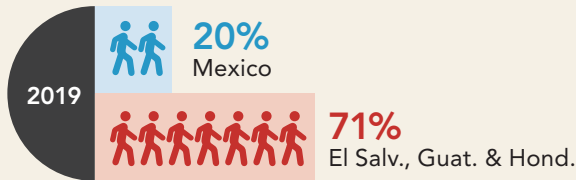
Migrant Apprehensions at U.S.–Mexico Border Spike in 2019

Design: Justin Chavira; Content: Carlee Crocker, Pia Orrenius and Chloe Smith

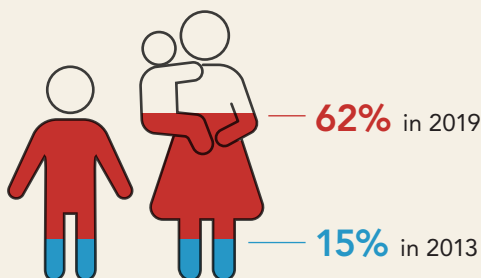
Apprehensions of migrants at the U.S. southern border surged in spring 2019.



In 2019, most migrants apprehended at the border came from Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras), as opposed to Mexico.



In 2019, the share of migrants who are unaccompanied children and families rose.



Why did apprehensions initially rise?



Greater ease of entry and transit via Mexico.



Ongoing violence and lack of economic opportunity in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.



Policies allowing asylum seekers to stay and work in the U.S. while awaiting a decision on their case.

Why did apprehensions then fall?



Mexico cracked down on transit migration, sending thousands of troops to its borders.



U.S. implemented Migrant Protection Protocols, also known as “Remain in Mexico,” returning asylum seekers to Mexico and requesting they wait outside the U.S. for the duration of their immigration court proceedings.

Final Thought

Asylum approval rates are very low: Only 1 in 9 cases from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala was granted asylum in 2019.